

## Association of Northwest Steelheaders

6641 SE Lake Rd. • Milwaukie OR 97222

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Established 1960

April 25, 2018

Chair Imeson and Members of the Board,

Thank you for your public service, and for the opportunity to testify.

My name is Ian Fergusson. I am representing the Association of Northwest Steelheaders. The Northwest Steelheaders have been advocating for fish and their habitats since 1960. We view steelhead and salmon as forest products, and we have a serious interest in forest management.

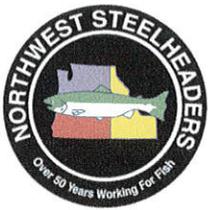
To thrive, fish need healthy streams. Complex stream channels, provided in part by large woody debris, are a key component of healthy streams. A 2011 study (Anlauf et al., 2011) found that on the North Coast, instream large wood volume had decreased over the 10-year period of the study. Wood was being exported out of stream systems by high flows faster than it was being recruited. Even though we have spent millions of dollars on projects to place large wood structures in streams, there is a net loss. The scarcity of large wood jams contributes to more severe floods, which in turn more effectively move wood out of the systems. This is a problem that is not easily solved in the short term. In the long term, enlightened forest management must provide for large trees that can be recruited to stream channels by natural processes. In this context, large trees are hundreds of years old, large enough to persist long enough to have real effects. Protecting riparian buffers is not sufficient to grow the needed trees, because not all large wood comes from the immediate riparian zone. A 2003 study (Reeves et al., 2003) found that nearly half of the large wood volume in an unmanaged coastal stream came from outside the riparian zone. This means that the Forest Management Plan's large wood strategy must also provide for growing large trees on slopes outside the immediate riparian zone. Again, just to be clear, a 60 year old tree is small and inadequate when the need is to anchor flood-resistant debris jams.

Terrestrial species depend on a wide range of habitat types, from early seral through old growth and eventual senescence. On the North Coast, it falls to State Forests to provide that range of habitat types. An HCP developed in consultation with fish and wildlife experts is a logical way to provide that range, and I urge the Board and Department to seriously pursue an HCP as a key part of the new Forest Management Plan.

Key components of an intelligent, forward-thinking FMP include monitoring, a commitment to science-based decisions, strategies for carbon sequestration, and strategies for resiliency to climate change.

Personally, I have spent many years fishing, hunting, and hiking in State Forests and other public lands. I value public lands because they are public – they belong to all of us. Public lands

*Anglers dedicated to enhancing and protecting fisheries and their habitats for today and the future.  
The Association of Northwest Steelheaders is a 501(C)3 corporation: 91-1031100*



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should be managed for the wide range of values that are important to the public. These values include forest jobs, clean water, fish and wildlife habitat, hiking, fishing, hunting, wildlife watching, biking, horseback riding, ATV riding, mushroom hunting, firewood, camping, peace and quiet, and scenery. This is a complex challenge. Those values cannot coexist on every acre.

The current funding mechanism is not sufficient to meet this complex challenge. With 98% of Department revenues coming from timber sales, the pressure to cut is enormous, and will only increase as staff costs go up. This complete dependence on timber sales is an impediment to long-range comprehensive planning. The current funding model cannot realistically provide the full range of values demanded by the public. Public funds should be used to help provide those values, and I urge the Board to pursue public funding, similar to what we saw with the Elliott State Forest.

Thank you.

Ian Fergusson  
Resources Director  
Association of Northwest Steelheaders

Kara J. Anlauf , William Gaeuman & Kim K. Jones (2011) Detection of Regional Trends in Salmonid Habitat in Coastal Streams, Oregon, Transactions of the American Fisheries Society, 140:1, 52-66

Gordon H. Reeves, Kelly M. Burnett, & Edward V. McGarry (2003)  
Sources of large wood in the main stem of a fourth-order watershed in coastal Oregon, Can. J. For. Res. 33: 1363–1370

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