



Woodland Owners Who Love Their Land

January 9, 2019

Testimony of Jim James, Executive Director, Small Woodlands Association

Re: Siskiyou Region Stream Protection Review

My name is Jim James, Executive Director, Small Woodlands Association (OSWA).

OSWA has 3200 family forest members.

First, I would like to compliment the Department of Forestry, Marganne Allen, Terry Frueh, and their staff for the outreach they have made to family forest stakeholders through this Siskiyou Region Riparian Protection Review process. OSWA appreciates the openness of our discussions and the professionalism they have displayed.

My comments will not surprise anyone at ODF.

Throughout this new process, I encourage the board to focus on all the factors influencing riparian health, especially the well-being of fish species that use the streams. Focusing only on a single item, like stream temperature, as in the previous riparian review will not facilitate the complete picture for the right outcome. Actual impacts to fish from management activities is more important than focusing on a possible minor, short lived, temperature increase that is completely erased a short distance downstream. There is overwhelming science from paired watershed studies that clearly shows the minor increase in stream temperature that can occur when harvesting near a small or medium fish bearing stream following the old FPA rules in Western Oregon resulted in no negative impacts to fish in Western Oregon. Similar studies in the Siskiyou Region must include impacts to fish to provide adequate information for the board to evaluate the need for any changes should harvest near a stream following FPA rules result in a similar minor temporary increase. The conditions in the Siskiyou Region may not have the same temperature results, but if it does, there needs to be a clear understand to answer the question, so what?

I encourage the board to be more concerned about all the factors that impact riparian health not just one and do not forget, the legal mandate for private forests in Oregon is to grow and harvest trees while also considering impacts to the environment, not the other way around like on some public lands. I look forward to working with the department as they continue their review process.