



Green Diamond Resource Company – Oregon Operations  
Testimony before Oregon Board of Forestry  
6.5.19  
Siskiyou Riparian Rules

Chair Imeson, members of the Board:

My name is Patti Case, I represent Green Diamond Resource Company, a privately held forest products firm with roots dating back to 1890. Today we own and manage 1.8 million acres in Washington, Oregon, California and six states in the US South. In Oregon we steward 660,000 acres, including 30,000 acres in the Siskiyou geographic region.

Green Diamond supports the Department of Forestry recommendation that information pertaining to the Siskiyou is insufficient to determine adequacy of current riparian protection. We support the department in its desire to conduct additional research and monitoring which will provide a scientific basis for consideration of riparian rules in the Siskiyou.

At Green Diamond, we stand ready to partner with the Department of Forestry in support of such science-based information. We are not strangers to such an approach. Our California forest lands are managed under the first-ever Habitat Conservation Plan for the northern spotted owl and our company is responsible for a voluminous body of work which informs our collective knowledge about the spotted owl in the Northwest. Also in California, we recently completed a Forest HCP covering multiple species. We operate under a multi-species aquatic HCP in Washington. Earlier this week, our president signed the first Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances (CCAA) for the fisher under the Oregon template. We are working on a Safe Harbor Agreement for the bull trout here in Oregon.

As you know, in the Northwest, riparian rules include wide buffers. In the South, there are no rules although our company joins many forest landowners in implementing voluntary best management practices for water quality. Ours is a worldwide commodity market, and if logs from one region are no longer affordable, fiber will be purchased from another region. We are more interested in the quality of the protection than the quantity and encourage you to think beyond the “w” question – or, how wide the buffer is – to the most appropriate protection for working forest lands.

Ours is a long term business and we are every day focused on doing the right thing for the landscape. Our primary objective in Southern Oregon since we purchased the former JWTR properties in late 2014 has been on rehabilitating the forests that were heavily harvested by previous owners, and we will remain focused on that effort for 15 years before transitioning to a more traditional operational scheme. That means a little bit of sawlog harvest and a lot of thinning and chipping, which is barely a break even proposition. Yes, trees in riparian areas matter to us and we are concerned about profitability, but we believe working collaboratively on a scientific approach to riparian protection in the Siskiyou and elsewhere will provide good outcomes for water quality, fish and for forest landowners. To that end, we stand ready, with our neighbors in the Siskiyou Region and the Department of Forestry, to implement a monitoring plan that will provide necessary data to inform these questions.