



May 30, 2019

Oregon Board of Forestry
Board Support Office
2600 State Street
Salem, OR 97310

Dear Board of Forestry:

The Medford Water Commission (MWC) requests that streamside protections for the Siskiyou Region be made consistent with the riparian protections currently in effect for the rest of western Oregon. Protection of the sources of drinking water is essential to ensure clean water for the communities served by MWC, and for all water users in the Rogue River Basin. More than 200,000 people drink water from surface water sources in the Rogue/Siskiyou Region.

Most of MWC's 1,000,000-acre drinking water source watershed is forested, and much of it is privately-owned. Greater protection of riparian zones will help prevent degradation of these invaluable water sources by reducing solar input and warming of streams, and by reducing erosion and sedimentation. Municipal drinking water providers are being held to tighter and tighter standards around temperature and nutrients in our source water, which, when not properly controlled, increase the risk of toxic algae outbreaks and other concerns, and can lead to increased treatment costs.

Strengthening the rules in the Siskiyou Region to the level of the rest of western Oregon is a prudent, protective approach, and one which the Board of Forestry should adopt without hesitation.

Thank you for your consideration of this important request. Please feel free to contact us should you wish for any further discussions.

Sincerely,

Ben Klayman
Water Treatment & Quality Director

Craig Harper
Watershed Administrator

AGENDA ITEM A
Attachment 20
Page 1 of 1

200 S. Ivy Street, Room 177
Medford, Oregon 97501
Phone (541) 774-2430

www.medfordwater.org
water@medfordwater.org
Fax (541) 774-2555