

Written Comments for the Oregon Board of Forestry regarding the development of Streamside Protections for waters in Southwest Oregon.

Submitted by:

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I ask the Board to direct the Oregon Department of Forestry to develop meaningful rules for logging practices on state and private timberlands in the Siskiyou region. This region is incredibly important to our state at a time when biodiversity and coldwater habitat for salmonids are under grave and certain threat. Coho salmon, spring and fall Chinook, summer and winter steelhead, lamprey, coastal cutthroat, and redband trout are a large part of what makes Oregon meaningful in the minds of most people.

We have the weakest logging regulations for state and private timberlands in the nation. Rather than provide real protections for our cold-water habitats we instead put forward a propaganda campaign that touts how our laws protect our waters. Nothing could be farther from the truth. Our current regulations do nothing to protect the small tributaries that feed our fish-bearing streams. We have ignored logging practices that damage our soils, strip shade from our waters, and promote debris torrents that scour our hillsides to bedrock.

In an age where the effects of climate change are both real and immediate, it is unconscionable that the Oregon Board of Forestry has not developed and enforced timber practices on private and state lands that protect our streams from steadily increasing temperatures. The changes put in place by Forest Practices Act of 2017 were but a cynical nod of the head toward the problem. No one in their right mind really expects these changes to have a meaningful impact on stream temperatures. They are little more than fodder for the next round of Oregon Forest Resource Institute's propaganda campaign.

We know that logging near streams increases water temperature by removing trees and vegetation that create shade and keep streams cool for fish. Of all the factors that affect salmon and trout biology, water temperature is probably the single most important environmental influence to the natural histories of all these species. Every phase of their

life: metabolic rate, migration, spawning, rearing, swimming speed, and competitive advantage over predators are all known to be adversely affected by the logging practices we currently allow. We need stronger buffers.

For our fish, for our streams, and for the future of Oregon, please get to work immediately on Siskiyou Streamside Protections. Make them meaningful and then see that they are adequately enforced by the Department. Thank you.