

To: Oregon Board of Forestry

July 23, 2019

Board members,

I am a big believer in the old adage, "a picture is worth a thousand words".

What you are looking at is a 2018 satellite image of my watershed. My question, initially, is simple. Who is in charge and what the hell is going on!?

This is no way to treat our temperate rain forest! What I see is the result of private timber companies running amok and someone has to order it to cease! Who has the authority to do so? You do! And you must! If this is an example of Oregon's Forest Practices Act protecting our watersheds, our wildlife and our drinking water then it is quite obvious that a major overhaul of the Act is way overdue.

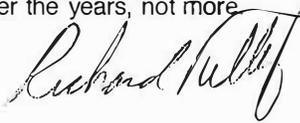
And to add insult to injury, almost every acre of cut forest land is doused with herbicides! This is insane!

Close the loopholes within the Act that benefit so few while negatively impacting so many. Ban or greatly limit clearcutting of steep slopes in high rainfall and slide prone regions. Move to longer rotations and more thinning. Do not allow logging across annual streams and spraying across dry, annual stream beds. You are in charge of protecting these resources for the future, not assuring that a few private land holders can reap rewards in the short term.

I have lived in Tillamook County since 1981. I have worked to help restore salmon habitat and water quality in numerous rivers and streams. I am angry that the forest industry is allowed to cause so much environmental damage essentially undoing so many efforts to clean up waterways and restore fish runs.

I live next to a class 3 spawning stream whose head waters are mostly private forest land and I have watched the water run turbid as a result of smaller and smaller rain events over the years. If the FPA is doing its job, then I should be observing less turbidity over the years, not more.

Sincerely, Richard Felley



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