



Oregon Small Woodlands Association  
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**Date:** July 24, 2019  
**To:** Oregon Board of Forestry  
**From:** Mike Barsotti, President, Oregon Small Woodlands Association  
**Subject:** Petition for Rulemaking to Identify and Develop Protection Requirements for Coho Salmon Resource Sites

Oregon's forest natural resources have been well protected through the Forest Practices Act and the voluntary steward activities provided by forest landowners. The Oregon Small Woodlands Association endorses the today's written testimony of the Oregon Forest Industries Council (OFIC).

The FPA rules have historically been updated as empirical data and peer reviewed scientific studies have shown that current rules will not meet the Act's purpose as stated in ORS 527.630 – "Forests make a vital contribution to Oregon by providing jobs, products, tax base and other social and economic benefits, by helping to maintain forest tree species, soil, air and water resources and by providing a habitat for wildlife and aquatic life. Therefore, it is declared to be the public policy of the State of Oregon to encourage economically efficient forest practices that ensure the continuous growing and harvesting of forest tree species and the maintenance of forestland for such purposes as the leading use on privately owned land, consistent with sound management of soil, air, water, fish and wildlife resources and scenic resources within visually sensitive corridors as provided in ORS 527.755 (Scenic highways) and to ensure the continuous benefits of those resources for future generations of Oregonians.

Oregon family forest landowners are proud and reassured that the Board of Forestry's long history of relying on scientific data and additional studies to make changes to FPA rules to best meet the values stated in the Act's statutory purpose, and not be driven by political pressure or the wishes of special interest groups that do not appear to work toward the balancing of our forests' economic, environmental and social products and values.

Multiple studies show that current forest practices are not threatening Coho salmon populations, and the effects of FPA changes to protect streams and water quality have not been in existence long enough to evaluate their effectiveness.

Again, OSWA endorses OFIC in asking the Board to reject the petitioners' request.