



Providing Opportunities to Family Forest Owners

July 24, 2019

Testimony to Board of Forestry

My name is Jim James, Executive Director of Oregon Small Woodlands Association. I am here today asking the Board to reject the petition to start rulemaking to develop Coho salmon protection sites. Such action is not needed. And here is why:

- Oregon's Forest Practice laws already provide excellent protections for all fish species, including Coho salmon. My career in forestry began in 1970, just before the Forest Practices Act became law. I am proud of the way the FPA has been developed overtime, by following the science of forestry and assuring the forest's ecological values are protected. FPA rules have been designed to effectively and efficiently meet the needs of salmon and compliance with those rules is very high.
- Furthermore, the forest landowner community has always responded when needed. For example, in 1997, in an effort to improve Coho salmon habitat, the Oregon Plan was developed. In collaboration with then Governor Kitzhaber, Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife, and Oregon Department of Forestry a voluntary plan was implemented to improve forest roads, replace non-fish bearing culverts, and place large wood in streams that had been systematically removed for public safety following Oregon's 1964 flood. Since 1997, Over 1.1 billion dollars has been spent on voluntary projects to improve fish habitat. Those voluntary efforts continue today. ODF&W has reported that fish habitat in Oregon's forests is not a limiting factor for Coho salmon.
- In Oregon, FPA rules are part of a larger picture for salmon in Oregon operating in concert with all of the voluntary efforts being done by forest landowners, work in the agricultural sector through Oregon Department of Agriculture, fisheries management through ODF&W, and let us not forget the role land-use planning has in maintaining Oregon's forests overtime.

Bottom Line: The petitioners request is simply not needed to benefit Coho salmon.