NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULEMAKING
INCLUDING STATEMENT OF NEED & FISCAL IMPACT

CHAPTER 629
DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY

FILING CAPTION: Expanding water rules on small and medium salmon, steelhead, and bull trout Siskiyou Georegion streams.

LAST DAY AND TIME TO OFFER COMMENT TO AGENCY: 09/28/2020 5:00 PM
The Agency requests public comment on whether other options should be considered for achieving the rule's substantive goals while reducing negative economic impact of the rule on business.

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541-525-6462 SALEM, OR 97310 Rules Coordinator
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HEARING(S)
Auxiliary aids for persons with disabilities are available upon advance request. Notify the contact listed above.

DATE: 09/23/2020
TIME: 5:15 PM
OFFICER: Private Forests Representative
ADDRESS: Virtual Public Hearing
Hosted by Oregon Department Forestry
2600 State St
Salem, OR 97210

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:
ODF is holding a virtual hearing through Zoom for interested persons to participate and follow social distancing measures during COVID-19. To access this public hearing, visit the ODF web page for registration at, https://www.oregon.gov/odf/aboutodf/Pages/proposedlawsrules.aspx.
Anyone requesting special accommodation to participate in the meeting or require technical assistance, please contact staff at least 72 hours before the meeting, either by email,
NEED FOR THE RULE(S):

Senate Bill 1602, passed in the June 2020 special session of the Oregon Legislature, put into law components of a memorandum of understanding between environmental groups and forest landowners that includes changes to the Oregon Forest Practices Act.

SB 1602 includes several significant changes to protection requirements for non-federal forestlands in Oregon. The bill directs the Board of Forestry to adopt permanent rules in the Siskiyou area of southwest Oregon similar to those already in place in western Oregon for salmon, steelhead, and bull trout streams. These rules are to go into effect Jan. 1, 2021.

DOCUMENTS RELIED UPON, AND WHERE THEY ARE AVAILABLE:


FISCAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACT:

The proposed rule changes will result in increased protection measures for small and medium fish bearing streams adjacent to timber harvesting operations in the Siskiyou Georegion. These protection measures increase buffer distances on approximately 370 miles of the small and medium streams in the Siskiyou Georegion. The buffer width increase on these streams would be 35 feet. There is approximately one-tenth of the estimated miles of salmon, steelhead, and bull trout (SSBT) streams in the Siskiyou Geo-region compared to the estimated miles for the other Georegions west of the Cascades, for which a full economic analysis was conducted for the 2017 SSBT streams rulemaking. Based on the estimates of the previous rule making the department estimates that over the next 20 years .7 to .98 million board feet per year (mmbf/year) could become unavailable for harvest.

It is estimated that 72 miles of the small and medium SSBT streams will be on private industrial owned lands, 294 miles will be on private non-industrial owned lands, three miles on County owned lands and one mile of state owned lands. The magnitude of the economic impact will vary by the landowner based on their management objectives and how they choose to manage their property. The potential negative economic impact comes from the loss of the ability to harvest some or all of the trees in this additional 35 feet of buffer. Therefore, the overall, impact, positive or negative, and the magnitude of the impact will vary based on the landowner’s goals and objectives for the property.
For landowners who are disproportionately impacted, greater than eight percent of the forested acreage of the parcel impacted by this buffer, the landowner can apply for a reduced set of prescriptions to limit the impact.

COST OF COMPLIANCE:
(1) Identify any state agencies, units of local government, and members of the public likely to be economically affected by the rule(s). (2) Effect on Small Businesses: (a) Estimate the number and type of small businesses subject to the rule(s); (b) Describe the expected reporting, recordkeeping and administrative activities and cost required to comply with the rule(s); (c) Estimate the cost of professional services, equipment supplies, labor and increased administration required to comply with the rule(s).
(1) There will be a slight increase in administrative costs for the Oregon Department of Forestry to implement the new rules. Local government and the public should not see an increase in the cost of compliance.

(2)(a) There are approximately 191 small businesses associated with forestry, logging, wood product supply and forestry support activities that may be subject to these rule changes. However, identifying small businesses that may be directly tied to the extension of the riparian management area rule changes is difficult. Additionally, there are approximately 17,500 family forestland owners (small businesses), who own between two and 5000 acres in the region where this rule applies. 1,919 (or 11 percent) of these owners are affected by the rule. There may be some overlap in the number of small businesses accounted for in these two groups.

(2)(b) Reporting, record keeping and other administrative activities (including professional services) required for compliance with these revised rules are expected to be unchanged. This rulemaking effort will not change any administrative activities associated, other than clearly identifying where the new rules apply.

(2)(c) While the new rules follow the approach of previous rules, there will be an increase in rule complexity that potentially could create a small increase in the costs of compliance. There will be a small increase in costs for the small businesses administration related to compliance when the buffers are actively managed. However, compliance should improve for all rules associated with water protection.

DESCRIBE HOW SMALL BUSINESSES WERE INVOLVED IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THESE RULE(S):
Several members of the Siskiyou Advisory Committee represented small business interests to provide evaluation and input on the analysis of these proposed rules.

WAS AN ADMINISTRATIVE RULE ADVISORY COMMITTEE CONSULTED? YES

RULES PROPOSED:
629-642-0105, 629-642-0110

AMEND: 629-642-0105

RULE SUMMARY: The purpose of this proposed rule amendment adds the Siskiyou Georegion to the existing OAR 629-642-0105(2) that provides for streamside shade buffers with Salmon, Steelhead or Bull Trout streams.

CHANGES TO RULE:

629-642-0105
General Vegetation Retention Prescriptions for Type SSBT Streams

Page 3 of 10
The purpose for the vegetation retention prescriptions in this section is to ensure that, to the maximum extent practicable, forest operations will not impair the achievement and maintenance of the protecting cold water criterion described in OAR 340-041-0028(11).

The vegetation retention requirements for Type SSBT streams apply to harvest type 2 or harvest type 3 units in the following Geographic Regions as described in OAR 629-635-0220: Coast Range, South Coast, Interior, and Western Cascades, and Siskiyou. Use rules in OAR 629-642-0100 for Type 1 harvests along SSBT streams.

Operators shall apply the vegetation retention requirements described in this rule to the riparian management area of the following streams:

(a) Type SSBT streams.

(b) The main stem of any Type F stream upstream of the mapped end of SSBT use to the higher of:
   (A) The upstream boundary of the harvest unit containing SSBT, or
   (B) The upstream boundary of any adjacent upstream harvest unit commenced within a year of completing harvest of the unit containing SSBT.

For the purpose of this rule, "main stem" means the stream with the largest annual average flow at a confluence of two or more streams. The State Forester shall determine average annual flow by indexing average annual flow to the upstream drainage area and average annual precipitation as described in Forest Practices Technical Note 1 dated April 11, 1994. The State Forester may substitute field evaluations of average annual flow for the calculated flows described in the technical note.

Segments of Type SSBT streams that are different sizes within an operation shall not be combined or averaged together when applying the vegetation retention requirements.

Trees left to meet the vegetation retention requirements for one stream type shall not count towards the requirements of another stream type.

Operators shall retain:

(a) All understory vegetation within 10 feet of the high water level;

(b) All trees within 20 feet of the high water level; and

(c) All trees leaning over the channel.

Operators shall retain all downed wood and snags that are not safety or fire hazards within riparian management areas and streams. Snags felled for safety or fire hazard reasons shall be retained where they are felled unless used for stream improvement projects.

Notwithstanding the requirements of section (6) of this rule, vegetation, snags and trees within the riparian management area of the stream may be felled, moved or harvested as allowed in other rules for road construction, yarding corridors, temporary stream crossings, or for stream improvement while maintaining required basal area and live conifer tree count.

When harvesting in the riparian management area of a Type SSBT stream, an operator shall apply one of the following prescriptions, except as noted for Type SSBT Prescription 3 in section (12).

(a) Operators may apply Type SSBT Prescription 1 on any Type SSBT riparian management area as described in section (10) of this rule.

(b) If the basal area of trees six inches or greater DBH within the riparian management area but more than 20 feet from the high water level of the Type SSBT stream exceeds the total basal area target shown in Table 5, the operator may apply Type SSBT Prescription 2, described in section (11) of this rule.

(c) If a Type SSBT stream segment at least 200 feet in length meets the standards in Type SSBT Prescription 3, the operator may apply that prescription on the north side of the stream segment, as described in section (12) of this rule.

(d) If live conifer basal area within the riparian management area of a Type SSBT stream is less than half the standard target for a small or medium Type F stream in Table 2, the operator may apply the appropriate Alternative Prescription described in OAR 629-642-0600.

(e) For the riparian management area of any Type SSBT stream, the operator may propose a site-specific prescription in a plan for an alternate practice. Plans for alternate practices are subject to the review and approval
of the State Forester. Site-specific prescriptions are described in OAR 629-642-0700.

10) Type SSBT Prescription 1:
(a) Retain all trees within 60 feet of the high water level of a small stream.
(b) Retain all trees within 80 feet of the high water level of a medium stream.
(c) Where SSBT Prescription 1 is applied, operators may count as wildlife leave trees all trees that meet wildlife leave tree requirements:
   (A) Within 20 feet of the high water level.
   (B) In the remainder of the riparian management area, up to 50 percent of the basal area trees used to meet the basal area target in Table 5.
   (C) Any trees within the area described in (B) in excess of the basal area target in Table 5.

11) Type SSBT Prescription 2:
(a) Operators shall retain trees that are well-distributed by length and width of the riparian management area beyond 20 feet of the high water level of the stream, minimize the creation of large gaps, favor small openings in the canopy, and leave residual trees in a manner that promotes understory as well as diameter and crown growth. Operators shall satisfy these requirements by meeting the following minimum standards:
   (A) For small Type SSBT streams, the riparian management area length will be measured in 500-foot segments. Within each 500-foot segment at least 25 percent of the required basal area target, rounded up to the nearest whole number, and 50 percent of the required live conifer trees, rounded up to the nearest whole tree, shall be located between:
      (i) 20 feet and 40 feet of the high water level, see Table 5; and
      (ii) 40 feet and 60 feet of the high water level, see Table 5.
   (B) For medium Type SSBT streams, the riparian management area length will be measured in 500-foot segments. Within each 500-foot segment at least 25 percent of the required basal area target, rounded up to the nearest whole number, and 50 percent of the required live conifer trees, rounded up to the nearest whole tree, shall be located between:
      (i) 20 feet and 50 feet of the high water level, see Table 5; and
      (ii) 50 feet and 80 feet of the high water level, see Table 5.
   (b) For stream segments that are less than 500 feet, the required basal area and live conifer trees are reduced proportionally.
   (c) The operator shall provide a description in the written plan and map where the measurement for the 500-foot stream segments begin and end.
   (d) Operators shall retain live conifer trees:
      (A) For small Type SSBT streams, at least 8 live conifer trees per 500 feet along the stream, located between 20 feet and 60 feet from the high water level. Live conifer trees must be at least 8 inches DBH to count toward these requirements, see Table 5.
      (B) For medium Type SSBT streams, at least 15 live conifer trees per 500 feet along the stream, located between 20 feet and 80 feet from the high water level. Live conifer trees must be at least 8 inches DBH to count toward these requirements, see Table 5.
   (e) Operators shall retain hardwood and conifer trees and snags six inches or greater DBH to meet the following basal area requirements:
      (A) For small Type SSBT streams, conifer and hardwood basal area target is shown in Table 5.
      (B) For medium Type SSBT streams, conifer and hardwood basal area target is shown in Table 5.
      (C) Up to 10 percent of the basal area requirements may be comprised of sound conifer snags at least 30 feet tall.
   (f) Where Type SSBT Prescription 2 is applied, operators may count as wildlife leave trees all trees that meet wildlife leave tree requirements:
      (A) Within 20 feet of the high water level.
      (B) In the remainder of the riparian management area, up to 50 percent of the basal area trees retained to meet the basal area target in Table 5.
      (C) Any trees within the area described in (B) in excess of the basal area target in Table 5.
(12) Type SSBT Prescription 3:
(a) This prescription applies to Type SSBT streams where the stream valley direction is between 60 and 120 degrees east and 240 and 300 degrees west on a compass bearing of 0 and 360 degrees as north. Operators shall:
(A) Retain all trees within 40 feet of the high water level on the north side of a Type SSBT stream where the stream valley direction criteria are met.
(B) The operator shall describe in a written plan and map where the alternative prescription is intended to be implemented.
(b) Where Type SSBT Prescription 3 is not applied, the operator shall apply either Type SSBT Prescription 1 or 2.
(c) The State Forester shall maintain a map showing stream valley direction for applying Type SSBT Prescription 3.
(d) The State Forester may substitute field evaluations of stream valley direction instead of the map.
(A) The field-based evaluation shall measure the stream valley direction with a minimum of 200-foot stream segments.
(B) The stream segment must meet the stream valley direction criteria listed above to apply SSBT Prescription 3.
(e) Where Type SSBT Prescription 3 is applied, operators may count all trees that meet the wildlife leave tree requirements retained within 40 feet of the high water level as wildlife leave trees.
(13) Notwithstanding the requirements indicated in this rule, operators may conduct pre-commercial thinning and other release activities to maintain the growth and survival of conifer reforestation within riparian management areas. Such activities shall contribute to and be consistent with enhancing the stand's ability to meet the desired future condition.
(14) When determining the basal area of trees, the operator may use the average basal area for a tree's diameter class, as shown in Table 4, or determine an actual basal area for each tree. The method for determining basal area must be consistent throughout the riparian management area.
(15) When applying the vegetation retention requirements described in this rule to the riparian management areas, if an operator cannot achieve the required retention without leaving live trees on the upland side of a road that may be within the riparian management area and those trees pose a safety hazard to the road and will provide limited functional benefit to the stream, the State Forester may approve a plan for an alternate practice to modify the retention requirements on a site specific basis.
Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 527.710, 527.630(3), 527.714, 526.016(4)
Statutes/Other Implemented: ORS 527.630(5), 527.674, 527.714, 527.715, 527.765, 527.710, 527. 919(9)

RULE ATTACHMENTS DO NOT SHOW CHANGES. PLEASE CONTACT AGENCY REGARDING CHANGES.
Table 5. Type SSBT Prescription 2. Vegetation Prescription for Type SSBT Streams: Streamside Tree Retention for Harvest Type 2 or Type 3 Units (OAR 629-642-0105(11)).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Geographic Region</th>
<th>BASAL AREA TARGET: Square feet of basal area per each 500-foot stream segment, each side of the stream (any combination of conifers and hardwoods 6 inches or greater DBH)</th>
<th>LIVE CONIFER TREES (8 inches or greater DBH) per each 500-foot stream segment, each side of the stream</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Coast Range, South Coast, Interior, Western Cascades, and Siskiyou</td>
<td>0 to 20 feet = Retain all trees. Trees in this area do not count toward meeting the basal area or live conifer tree requirements in this table.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>20 to 50 feet: minimum 18 sq. ft.</td>
<td>20 to 50 feet: minimum 7 trees</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>50 to 80 feet: minimum 18 sq. ft.</td>
<td>50 to 80 feet: minimum 7 trees</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>RMA Total (20 to 80 feet) = 69 sq. ft.</td>
<td>RMA Total (20 to 80 feet) = 15 trees</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>RMA Total (20 to 60 feet) = 37 sq. ft.</td>
<td>RMA Total (20 to 60 feet) = 8 trees</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Notes for Table 5
1. Distances are measured from the high water level of the Type SSBT stream.
2. Up to 10% of the basal area requirement may be comprised of sound conifer snags six inches or greater DBH and at least 30 feet tall.
AMEND: 629-642-0110

RULE SUMMARY: Add Siskiyou to the list of Geographic region on table 6 of OAR 629-642-0110.

CHANGES TO RULE:

629-642-0110
Relief for General Vegetation Retention Prescriptions for Type SSBT Streams ¶

(1) Upon written request from a landowner, relief is available if the additional encumbered forested stream area due to Type SSBT classification is 8% or more of the forested portion of any parcel. The additional encumbered forested stream area is measured by the increase in acres of the Type SSBT vegetation prescription over the vegetation prescription for Type F streams. To determine the additional percentage forested stream area encumbered, the increase in acres is divided by the forested parcel acres. ¶

(2) "Parcel" as described in this section means a contiguous single ownership recorded at the register of deeds within the county or counties where the property is located, including any parcel(s) touching along a boundary, but a railroad, road, stream, or utility-right-of-way may intersect the parcel. Single ownership is defined in ORS 527.620(14). ¶

(3) If a landowner qualifies for relief, the landowner may utilize: ¶
(a) Type SSBT Relief Prescription 1 which is Type SSBT Prescription 1, as described in OAR 629-642-0105(10), within a reduced riparian management area of 50 feet or 70 feet for small and medium Type SSBT streams, respectively; or ¶
(b) Type SSBT Relief Prescription 2 which is Type SSBT Prescription 2, as described in OAR 629-642-0105(11), within a reduced riparian management area of 50 feet or 70 feet for small and medium Type SSBT streams, respectively. See Table 6 for reduced basal area targets and live conifer tree requirements. ¶

(4) Type SSBT Relief Prescription 1: ¶
(a) Retain all trees within 50 feet of the high water level of a small stream. ¶
(b) Retain all trees within 70 feet of the high water level of a medium stream. ¶
(c) Where Type SSBT Relief Prescription 1 is applied, operators may count as wildlife leave trees all trees that meet wildlife leave tree requirements: ¶
(A) Within 20 feet of the high water level. ¶
(B) In the remainder of the riparian management area, up to 50 percent of the basal area trees used to meet the basal area target in Table 6. ¶
(C) Any trees within the area described in (B) in excess of the basal area target in Table 6. ¶

(5) Type SSBT Relief Prescription 2: ¶
(a) Operators shall retain trees that are well-distributed by length and width of the riparian management area beyond 20 feet of the high water level of the stream, minimize the creation of large gaps, favor small openings in the canopy, and leave residual trees in a manner that promotes understory as well as diameter and crown growth. Operators shall satisfy these requirements by meeting the following minimum standards: ¶
(A) For small Type SSBT streams, the riparian management area length will be measured in 500-foot segments. Within each 500-foot segment at least 25 percent of the required basal area target, rounded up to the nearest whole number, and 50 percent of the required live conifer trees, rounded up to the nearest whole tree, shall be located between: ¶
(i) 20 feet and 35 feet of the high water level, see Table 6; and ¶
(ii) 35 feet and 50 feet of the high water level, see Table 6. ¶
(B) For medium Type SSBT streams, the riparian management area length will be measured in 500-foot segments. Within each 500-foot segment at least 25 percent of the required basal area target, rounded up to the nearest whole number, and 50 percent of the required live conifer trees, rounded up to the nearest whole tree, shall be located between: ¶
(i) 20 feet and 45 feet of the high water level, see Table 6; and ¶
(ii) 45 feet and 70 feet of the high water level, see Table 6. ¶
(b) For stream segments that are less than 500 feet, the required basal area and live conifer trees are reduced proportionally.

(c) The operator shall provide a description in the written plan and map where the measurement for the 500-foot stream segments begin and end.

(d) Operators shall retain live conifer trees:
(A) For small Type SSBT streams, at least 6 live conifer trees per 500 feet along the stream, located between 20 feet and 50 feet from the high water level. Live conifer trees must be at least 8 inches DBH to count toward these requirements, see Table 6.
(B) For medium Type SSBT streams, at least 13 live conifer trees per 500 feet along the stream, located between 20 feet and 70 feet from the high water level. Live conifer trees must be at least 8 inches DBH to count toward these requirements, see Table 6.

e) Operators shall retain hardwood and conifer trees and snags six inches or greater DBH to meet the following basal area requirements:
(A) For small Type SSBT streams, conifer and hardwood basal area target is shown in Table 6.
(B) For medium Type SSBT streams, conifer and hardwood basal area target is shown in Table 6.
(C) Up to 10 percent of the basal area requirements may be comprised of sound conifer snags at least 30 feet tall.

(f) Where Type SSBT Relief Prescription 2 is applied, operators may count as wildlife leave trees all trees that meet wildlife leave tree requirements:
(A) Within 20 feet of the high water level.
(B) In the remainder of the riparian management area, up to 50 percent of the basal area trees retained to meet the basal area target in Table 6.
(C) Any trees within the area described in (B) in excess of the basal area target in Table 6.

(6) The State Forester will identify those parcels that potentially qualify for relief.
(7) The State Forester will make the final determination on whether a parcel qualifies for relief.

Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 527.710, 527.630(3), 527.714, 526.016(4)
Statutes/Other Implemented: ORS 527.630(5), 527.674, 527.714, 527.715, 527.765, 527.710, 527. 919(9)

RULE ATTACHMENTS DO NOT SHOW CHANGES. PLEASE CONTACT AGENCY REGARDING CHANGES.
**Table 6.** Type SSBT Relief Prescription 2. Vegetation Retention for Type SSBT Streams: Streamside Tree Retention for Harvest Type 2 or Type 3 Units (OAR 629-642-0110).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Geographic Region</th>
<th>Medium Type SSBT RMA = 70 feet</th>
<th>Small Type SSBT RMA = 50 feet</th>
<th>Medium Type SSBT RMA = 70 feet</th>
<th>Small Type SSBT RMA = 50 feet</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Coast Range, South Coast, Interior, Western Cascades, and Siskiyou</td>
<td>0 to 20 feet = Retain all trees. Trees in this area do not count toward meeting the basal area or live conifer tree requirements in this table.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>20 to 45 feet: minimum 15 sq. ft.</td>
<td>20 to 35 feet: minimum 7 sq. ft.</td>
<td>20 to 45 feet: minimum 6 trees</td>
<td>20 to 35 feet: minimum 3 trees</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>45 to 70 feet: minimum 15 sq. ft.</td>
<td>35 to 50 feet: minimum 7 sq. ft.</td>
<td>45 to 70 feet: minimum 6 trees</td>
<td>35 to 50 feet: minimum 3 trees</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>RMA Total (20 to 70 feet) = 58 sq. ft.</td>
<td>RMA Total (20 to 50 feet) = 28 sq. ft.</td>
<td>RMA Total (20 to 70 feet) = 13 trees</td>
<td>RMA Total (20 to 50 Feet) = 6 trees</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Notes for Table 6**
1. Distances are measured from the high water level of the Type SSBT stream.
2. Up to 10% of the basal area requirement may be comprised of sound conifer snags six inches or greater DBH and at least 30 feet tall.