

# Committee for Family Forestlands

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To: Oregon Department of Forestry, Board of Forestry

From: John Peel, Eastside Forest Representative, Committee on Family Forestlands

Subject: Eastern Oregon/Siskiyou Monitoring Streamside Protections

Date: March 7, 2018

Good morning Board Members, Chair Imeson, and State Forester Daugherty. I am John Peel, Swindells Professor of Music at Willamette University. I am here today as the Eastern Oregon landowning representative for the Committee for Family Forestlands.

The Committee for Family Forestlands is a standing committee established by the Board of Forestry to assist the State Forester and the Board on issues relevant to some 70,000 family forestland owners in the state, including the formulation of policy and evaluation of effects that changes in forest policy have or will have on those lands. The Committee provides recommendations to the Board and the Oregon Department of Forestry regarding strategies and actions to improve services and provides an avenue to raise public awareness of the role that family forestlands play in maintaining an economically, socially and ecologically healthy forest environment.

Our committee has followed the streamside protection review with interest. These discussions have been informed by presentations from Department of Forestry members Marganne Allen, Manager, Forest Health and Monitoring and Terry Frueh, Monitoring Coordinator, Private Forest Division. In addition, Kyle Abraham, Deputy Chief, Private Forests Division and Lena Tucker, Division Chief, Private Forests have kindly provided on-going summaries of the survey questions, survey results, ranges and matrices of options being presented to the Board of Forestry regarding the extension of riparian consideration as we move into Eastern Oregon and the Siskiyou region.

From the document presented today to the Board of Forestry, *Information and Decisions: Analyses, Considerations, and Department Options*, the CFF strongly supports Option 2, the Modified Siskiyou Alternative (page 9). We agree that a review of peer-reviewed publications and research that is found relevant to and consonant with the climate, forest types and desired outcomes of the study is a logical and finite first step.

The sentiment that I hear from some CFF members (including myself) in our discussions of the Eastern Oregon and Siskiyou riparian forests is that as a goal, we are concerned about the ensemble of issues and questions—the interactions of attributes and conditions, especially as the sequence, research techniques and management lessons from the Siskiyou study are enacted on the east side of

the Cascades. Some of these factors, along with the obvious questions of buffer size, tree and plant density within buffer zones, logging practices and the control of runoff and sediment, etc., include:

- Climate change—in already drier sites of eastern Oregon the effects that changing climate, especially warming could bring to stream temperatures and flow and ultimately even to domestic water sources
- Fish habitat—what are the boundary conditions for water clarity and temperature required for the survival of chub, resident trout (redband, cutthroat) and anadromous salmonids that inhabit Oregon's eastside streams
- Seasonal streams—managing those streams, even fish-bearing streams that go dry for two to three months per year
- Alternative uses of the land—in particular, cattle wading in and grazing along streams and the effect on stream health and streamside vegetation

We understand that the department is sympathetic with this holistic management vision. However, we also realize that the drafting, measuring and creating of baseline conditions, then the monitoring of all these variables would require years of study and millions of dollars. Because of the expense and complexity, the literature review outlined in Option 2 strikes us as an ideal place from which to begin—we should hope that existing studies and modeling in the literature can form the basis upon which further research and monitoring strategies can proceed. Progressing from the literature review to a concomitant set of questions, further data gathering, model building and constructing monitoring protocols could involve not only the department's field professionals but also partners from academe, state and federal wildlife and natural resource agencies. Given the richness, complexity and importance of the topics, not only would a robust set of management guidelines be developed for forested riparian areas but perhaps also a thesis, dissertation or major publication would result from the Oregon Department of Forestry in collaboration with university, government or tribal researchers.

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