

Submitted: May 16, 2019

I am deeply concerned about southern Oregon's stream buffer standards for our waterways. There absolutely needs to be more than a 20 foot buffer for clearcutting in riparian zones. The science is clear that removing trees near streams results in warmer stream temperatures which affect threatened salmon and steelhead and other native fish. Additionally, the warmer temperatures increase algae bloom making the waterways less healthy and nitrate levels higher which contaminates the water supply for all species that depend on water. We all live downstream! I urge you to find that Protecting Coldwater Criterion is not being met under the current forest practices rules in the Siskiyou and to move forward with a rulemaking process to improve stream buffer protections for southern Oregon streams under the Oregon Forest Practices Act.

Thank you,
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