

July 24, 2019

Oregon Department of Forestry
2600 State Street
Salem, Oregon 97310RE: Testimony from Meghan Tuttle, Weyerhaeuser Company Western Environmental Affairs Manager
on Forest Practices Act Rule Enforcement Policy Review

Chair Imeson, State Forester Daugherty and board of forestry (BOF) members, thank you for the opportunity to testify today.

My name is Meghan Tuttle and I am the Western Environmental Affairs Manager for Weyerhaeuser Company. At Weyerhaeuser sustainability is a core value and all of our timberlands are certified under the forest management standards of the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI; www.sfiprogram.org). We focus on environmental stewardship because it's the right thing to do, and because our long-term success depends on a healthy, sustainable supply of trees. I started a career in forestry because I believe in our voluntary efforts to improve water quality, support ecosystems and implement BMPs based on scientific research.

My first forestry job was dedicated to improving fish habitat by replacing culverts, reducing or eliminating fine sediment from entering streams and abandoning or stabilizing existing roads. I learned through this early work that successful habitat improvement projects depend on collaboration with state and tribal biologists, foresters, and regulators.

That type of collaboration is exactly how the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds (Oregon Plan) has been successful. In fact, it has been so successful that it makes little sense for the BOF to accept the petition for rulemaking or to identify coho resource sites.

As an example of the work that occurs under this voluntary, collaborative program, Weyerhaeuser has replaced over 420 blockages to improve fish passage. We are proud of our engineers and foresters that participate in watershed councils and implement habitat enhancement projects from the North Coast to Coos Bay. In Coos Bay alone we have improved 26.4 miles of fish habitat over 35 project sites, since 2013. 8 of these projects are collaborative cost share efforts funded partially through the Oregon Water Enhancement Board (OWEB), with multiple partners like the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management and local watershed councils.

The Oregon Water Resources Institute (OWRI) started collecting information on habitat improvements in 1997 as part of the Oregon Plan. OWRI data shows that private landowners in Oregon have implemented 10,443 improvements for fish passage in peak flows: replacing non-fish passable culverts, installing bridges and modifying existing structures. Landowners have contributed \$99.9 million for Oregon Plan projects, as shown in our attached handout, these projects have improved 4,003 miles of road, 2,994 riparian management areas and 903 stream enhancement sites.

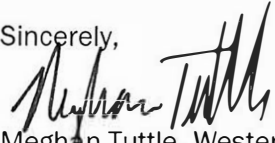
Furthermore, OWEB has invested nearly 85 million dollars for watershed enhancement projects just in the 2015-2017 biennium with funding from the Oregon Lottery, Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund and salmon license plate revenues. OWEB documents and monitors past habitat enhancement projects and recognizes the importance of voluntary collaboration with other state agencies, landowners and local

communities. As you've heard already today, these efforts, coupled with fisheries management through ODFW and efforts in the agriculture sector, are having a positive impact on coho population resiliency and size.

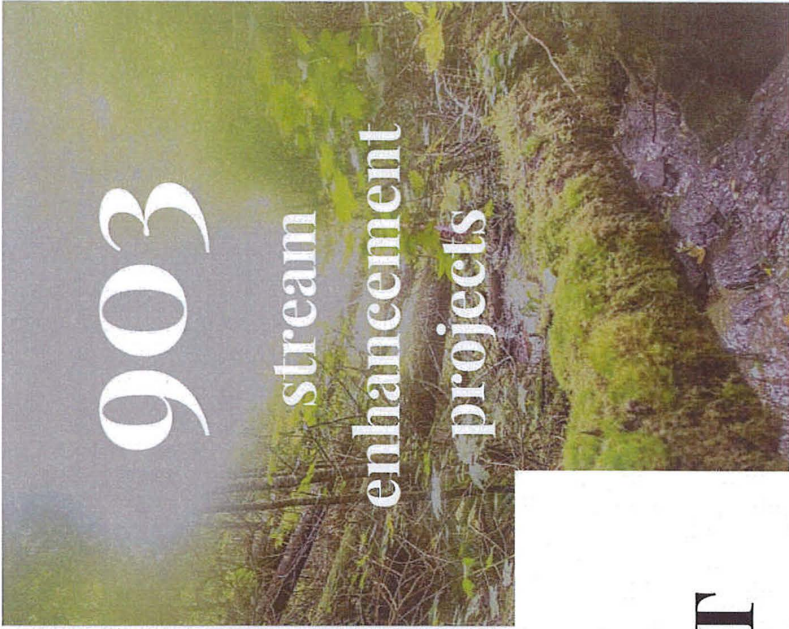
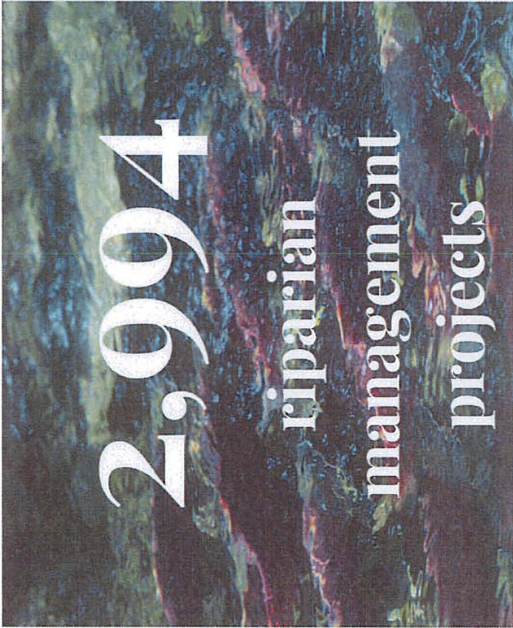
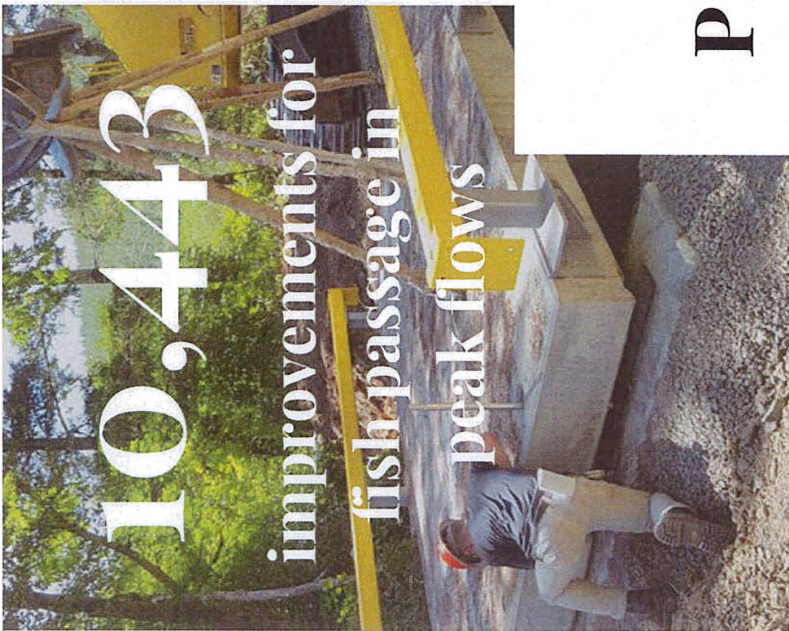
The manner in which the petition characterized these efforts across Oregon was extremely disappointing to those of us on the front lines implementing these projects. Any action taken today by the BOF, except rejecting the petition, will not support Oregon's collaborative and cross agency approach to salmon recovery or acknowledge the impact of landowner voluntary efforts on salmon recovery.

In closing, the BOF should reject this petition for rulemaking.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Meghan Tuttle', written over the printed name.

Meghan Tuttle, Western Environmental Affairs Manager
Weyerhaeuser Company



**OREGON PLAN
PRIVATE FOREST
ACCOMPLISHMENTS
(1997-2017)**
Source: OWRI

