

June 3, 2015, Salem Stakeholder Testimony to the Oregon Board of Forestry

My name is Gilbert Shibley, I have a long-standing interest in both the economics and the ecology of forests. Government rules influence both, so I depend on this Board to understand both.

My family and I own 95 forested acres in Clackamas County. We have had them for 46 years. There are 2900 lineal feet of small fish bearing streams on our property. These streams are nestled under our forest of 65 to 70 years-old trees and are about 30% hardwoods. The current riparian rules encompass 7% of my property with a timber value of about \$91,000. A 100 foot no touch buffer would encompass another \$106,000 of timber value. We aim to be managing this land sustainably, hopefully over the next 150 years, just as my ancestors did for the past 150. My wife and I are using income from the forest to supplement our retirement, to help seven grandchildren with college costs and to invest in ever improving and ever more costly management into the future. I gladly invest in the water and fish under our forest --and under our current Forest Practice Rules. You should not force me to maybe double that investment without science convincing me fish require it.

When my parents bought 315 steep acres of logged off land in the early 1940's cash was tight. Coaxing my mom to agree to the purchase, my dad used the incentive of creek-based recreation, since re-growing timber income was such a distant prospect. When I bought some of it from them I was teaching college students biology, including ecology and animal physiology. Now I practice ecological forestry with an eye out for the fish as well as the timber. My license plate says ECO-4ST. Above I spoke about the econ, so now to the ecol part of my management.

Fish can regulate their body temperature by finding the coolest part of a stream. For RipStream the probes sensing stream temperature were fixed in place like trees, not agile like fish. Cooler water upwells in Oregon's mountain streams. Science clearly shows the small, temporary stream temperature increases after timber harvest do not hurt the fish. Their home is well protected with our current rules. My family's niche in the same ecosystem would be less certain under many of the rule changes you are considering. I support the changes recommended by the Regional Forest Practices Committees. Their method, their interests and their conclusions are like mine. We forest managers are used to studying the land "up close and personal" so to speak, then blending natural science and sound economics. If you have the State's interest at heart, imagine walking in our boots for a time. It might help our woods continue to be worth walking in.

Gilbert A. Shibley, Forest Home Woodlands LLC
24750 S Wallens Rd Estacada, OR 97023

(From 2007 - 2010 I represented Oregon Small Woodlands Association in drafting the Lower Columbia River Conservation and Recovery Plan for Oregon Populations of Salmon and Steelhead. This followed my serving ten years on the Clackamas River Basin Council.)