

To: The Oregon Board of Forestry
July 23, 2015 public testimony

Re: Tillamook County drinking watershed protection project

From: Meg Eastman Thompson
Oceanside Water Protection Committee
North Coast Basin Coalition

Kudos to EQC Commissioner Ed Armstrong and DEQ Director Dick Pedersen for acknowledging the problems our coastal residents have had in protecting their drinking watersheds. They have authorized Jennifer Purcell of Regional Solutions to work to **protect the surface drinking watersheds in Tillamook County from risk**. The upcoming release of DEQ's Source Water Risk Assessment Handbooks is an opportunity for each community to implement fully protective interventions.

The various agencies, water commissioners, city officials, county commissioners, conservancies, land owners and citizens will convene this fall to discuss site specific goals. DEQ Regional Solutions will provide technical assistance and resource development. for each water district.

Our goal of having full protection for drinking water is one step closer to becoming a reality. The public health of our citizens and the precious resource of our water can both be assured for future generations thanks to the work of the EQC and the DEQ.

The North Coast Basin Coalition asks for full support from the Board of Forestry for this project including the following actions:

1) **Assist with the acquisition of surface drinking watersheds for public and/or conservancy management.** Develop land use arrangements so private forest owners can exchange their holdings of drinking source watersheds for other forestland.

2) Insure that Oregon has state of the art forest practices which **provide Bull Run type protections for all surface drinking watersheds**, including generous riparian buffers, clearcut restrictions, a ban on herbicides, and other protective measures.

3) Minimize the current risks of landslides, turbidity, clearcuts, herbicides, quarry operations and slash burns in drinking watersheds. **Implement a moratorium on these high risk activities in surface drinking watersheds** until each water district can fully implement its Source Water Protection Plan under guidance from DEQ.

Rockaway Beach Municipal Watershed Jetty Creek Watershed



ARCH CAPE DRINKING WATERSHED

