

Members of the Board and State Forester Decker, I am Mike Barnes Chair of the NW Regional Forest Practices Committee.

In addition to the specific recommendations submitted to the Board at your request the committees discussed the importance of a viable monitoring program to evaluate the implementation of regulatory and voluntary riparian measures. We recommended to the Department that they utilize the online FERNS notification system to track the implementation of riparian protection and improvement measures. I would point to the most recent Department of Forestry Magazine that contained an article on the importance of voluntary measures under the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds. The recommendations presented to the Board by the Regional Committees are consistent with maintaining a viable volunteer effort.

I would emphasize that the Regional Committees considered the charge to make recommendations that would be least burdensome and to the maximum extent practicable. The Regional Committees recommendations should not be considered as minor. A doubling of basal area on small streams and a 1/3 increase on medium streams is not minor.