

## Testimony of Ted Lorensen to Board of Forestry

Thursday, July 23, 2015

Chair Imeson and Members of the Board of Forestry:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify to you on this important matter. You have a challenging task in front of you. The process has until now focused upon science and now you are at the point where policy and science must be integrated to produce an effective and efficient solution to the “problems” that you perceive.

As you look at the science it is important to keep in mind the difference among fact, the range of interpretation of the facts, scientific opinion and the opinion of scientists. Different parties have interpreted the facts gathered through RipStream differently using in one case modeling (ODF) and in the other through site-specific analysis (Regional Forest Practice Committees).

You have a range of different opinions among the scientists whom were asked to provide input by the Department about the impacts of the effects of the temperature and shade changes found under RipStream. Notwithstanding that range of opinions and the different assumptions applied, there are considerable empirical data from a large body of research that are unequivocal about the effects of harvest under the rules within the range of conditions found on forestland. The research has consistently found increased growth and overall more biomass of salmonids within the temperature range found on the RipStream sites when sunlight increases due to disturbance. There is consistency in the research that temperature increases similar to those found under RipStream do not have adverse effects on salmonid growth or abundance.

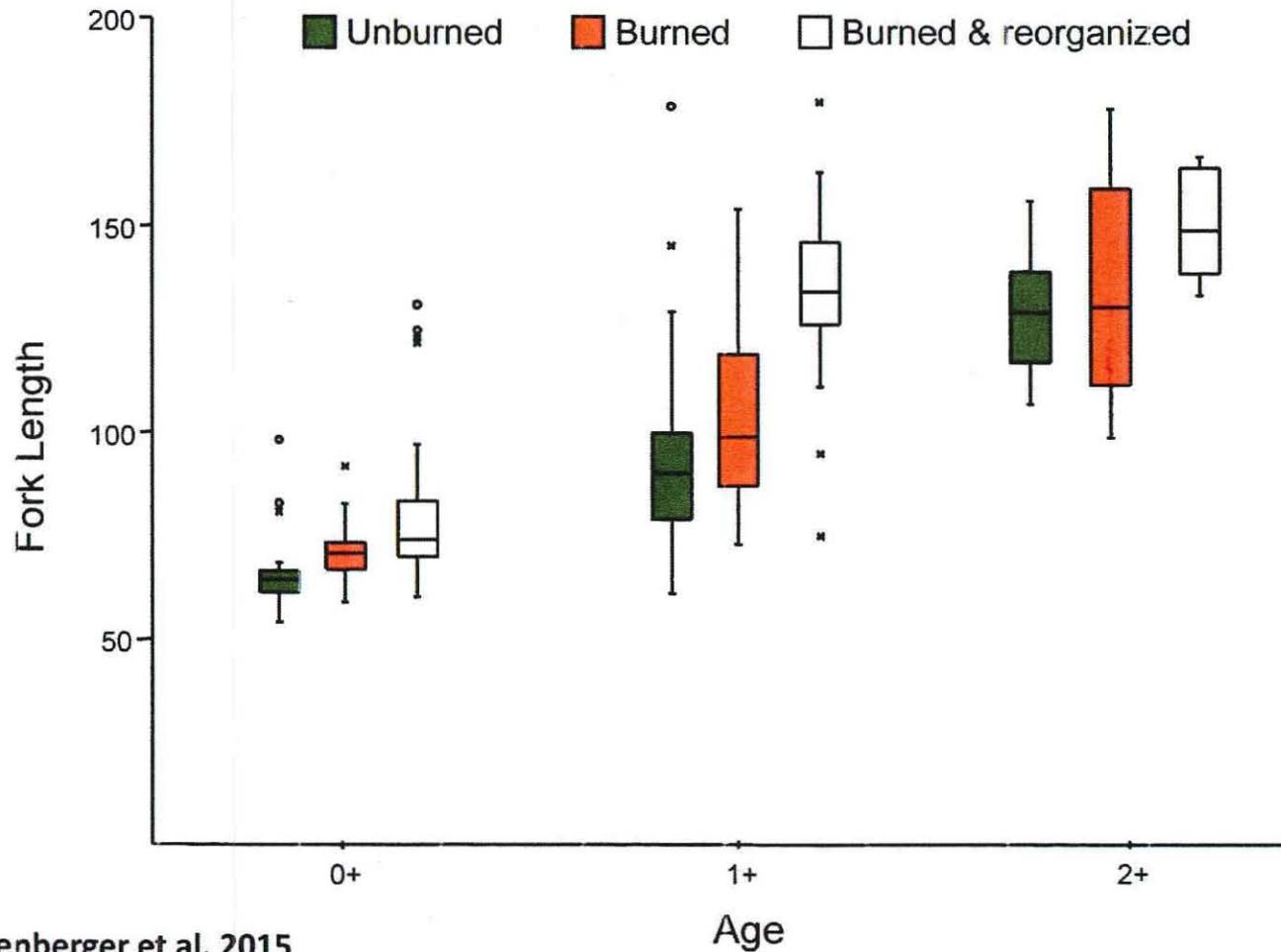
Recent research on post-wildfire effects to salmonids has found very similar results, even when the fire severity and post “reorganization” of channels was much more severe than the disturbance caused by harvesting under current rules. Attached are two pages summarizing some of the results that were presented at a Federal Caucus Fire Science Workshop on May 13, 2015 in Portland, Oregon. I encourage you to review the results of these studies that can be found at <http://goo.gl/WkNSv2>.

One strength of the Oregon Forest Practices Act is that it is outcome based. During the development of the current “1994” rules it was recognized that it made the most sense to address stream protection holistically and that we needed research and monitoring that connected the physical changes to the biological outcomes. You have lots of information that now connects the kind of temperature changes found under RipStream to the outcomes related to fish. To be effective and efficient you need to scale any solution to these outcomes.

Respectfully Submitted:

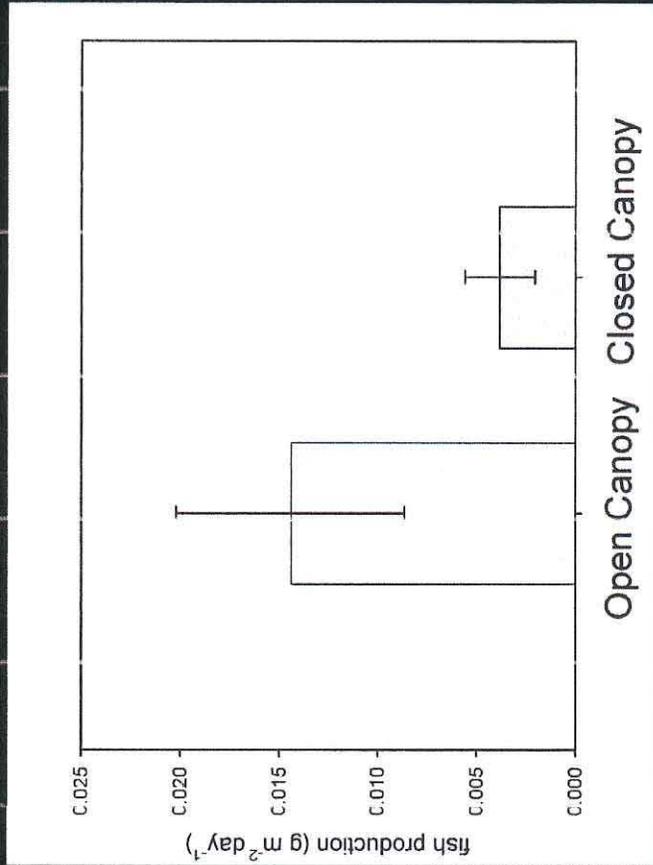
Ted Lorensen  
Consultant, OFIC

# Faster growth in warmer streams



Rosenberger et al. 2015

High salmonid production in streams that burned severely 15 yrs ago, but retain high light



Schenk, Lyon & Baxter. *In prep.*

