



Providing Opportunity to Family Forestland Owners

July 23, 2015

Testimony to Board of Forestry

My name is **Jim James**, Executive Director of Oregon Small Woodlands Association. The actions taken by the Board today on new Riparian Rules can have a huge impact on Oregon's family forest owners. OSWA has a panel of speakers to remind the board of important topics related to your decision.

- The PCW lacks any credible scientific justification for its restrictive policy
- Science clearly shows the minor and temporary stream temperature increases resulting from current FPA rules have no negative impact to fish. Attached to my testimony is three pages of research on openings, temperature, and fish. They clearly show the relationship of temperature increases and no harm to fish. After reviewing the science, there is no other conclusion.
- Models from the RipStream research have limitations in their usefulness in selecting a rule modification
- Economic harm to landowners must play a role in determining the practicality of any rule change
- If adopted, any of the three options prepared by ODF will have huge economic harm to family forest owners
- The Regional Forest Practices Committee has done a good job of recommending practices that when implemented will mitigate increases in stream temperatures. The department's Matrix, relying only on a model, does not accurately reflect the contribution these recommendations will make to stream temperatures.
- In the aggregate, any new rule must be the least burdensome to landowners
- Oregon's forest owners are already, as a normal course of business, leaving substantially more trees in the riparian areas than RipStream suggests.
- Washington and California riparian rules are not practicable as some have suggested and Salmon returns and fish responses in Oregon are basically the same as neighboring states.

Whatever you do, do not let a poor PCW policy trump all the great science we have on the relationship between minor and temporary temperature increases and fish habitat and populations.

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(Murphy and Hall, 1981, Murphy et al, 1981; Hawkins, et al, 1982, 1983; Sedell and Swanson, 1984; Wilzbach et al, 1986, 2005; Johnson et al, 1986; Gregory et al, 1987; Hetrick et al, 1998a; Hetrick et al, 1998b; Kiffney et al, 2003, Wipfli and Musslewhite, 2004, Newton and Cole, 2005, Leach et al, 2012),

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