

*Arch Cape Domestic Water Supply District
32065 East Shingle Mill Ln.
Arch Cape, OR, 97102*

September 3, 2015

Oregon Department of Forestry
2600 State Street
Salem, OR 97310

Dear Board of Forestry:

The Arch Cape Domestic Water Supply District's Board of Directors strongly recommends changes to Oregon's current Forest Practices Act.

The Arch Cape Domestic Water Supply District provides drinking water to 281 water service connections in the community of Arch Cape, on the Northern Oregon coast. The District's drinking watershed area encompasses 1250 acres, of which over 1100 are owned by private timber companies. The creeks that the community relies upon for its drinking water flow directly through forestland that is routinely managed for timber industry operations.

Over the years, both Shark and Asbury Creeks have been routinely impacted by the effects of timber industry practices which are currently approved under the Oregon Forest Practices Act. The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality's Source Water Assessment Report has identified forest management practices as a potential high impact risk for the contamination of the community's water sources. Arch Cape's delineated drinking water protection area is currently dominated by managed forestland uses.

The potential health effects associated with chemical application, as well as the impacts to water quality caused by erosion and turbidity, are particularly concerning to the District. The Arch Cape Domestic Water Supply District's Board of Directors has a duty to provide clean, safe drinking water to their customers. The current Oregon Forest Practices Act needs to be amended, in order to enable water suppliers to be able to meet this basic duty that the public entrusts them with.

The Arch Cape Domestic Water Supply District urges the Oregon Board of Forestry and Oregon Legislature to bring the Oregon Forestry Practices up to date, and more in line, with forestry laws adopted by neighboring Western states. The current buffer zones established under the Oregon Forest Practices Act can no longer be relied upon to provide the water quality required for domestic use.

The Arch Cape Domestic Water Supply District is asking the Board of Forestry to implement at least 200 foot buffer zones within riparian management areas, for both cutting and chemical application operations, on domestic, fish bearing, and small type N streams that are tributaries to domestic streams. We believe that these changes will afford drinking water sources the protections needed for water suppliers to provide clean, safe drinking water to the people that depend on it.

Sincerely,



Virginia Birkby
President, Arch Cape Domestic Water Supply District



Phil Chick
Manager, Arch Cape Domestic Water Supply District