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**Subject:** FW: Protect Oregon's Waterways Today

**From:** Christy Splitt, OLCV [<mailto:bounce@bounce.myngp.com>] **On Behalf Of** Christy Splitt, OLCV

**Sent:** Monday, November 02, 2015 4:32 PM

**To:** Doug Decker <[doug.s.decker@state.or.us](mailto:doug.s.decker@state.or.us)>

**Subject:** FWD: Protect Oregon's Waterways Today



Hi Doug,

Back in July, I wrote you about an important decision facing the Board of Forestry. This Thursday, the Board will be making a big decision on the size of stream buffers needed to protect clean water and healthy watersheds from clearcuts. [We need your help today to make sure they make the right choice.](#)

For the first time in 20 years, two proposals to keep forest streams cool are before the Board. One proposal, from a timber industry employee clearly won't comply with the Clean Water Act. The other proposal has a stronger basis in science and will do more to protect our streams.

The Board of Forestry needs to hear your support for the more conservation-minded approach. Please [send an email to the Board today](#) telling them **we need at least 90 foot buffers on fish-bearing streams in all of Western Oregon.**

It's the Oregon way to find balance between environmental protections and economic activity. The Board can strike that balance this week, but only with your voice as part of the conversation.

Thank you,



Christy Splitt, OLCV External Affairs Director

Hi Doug,

The legislative session is over, but our work is never done...

Next week, on July 23, the Oregon Board of Forestry will **consider new rules to protect water quality on some of the state's most important waterways**. These new rules – if done right – will protect our salmon and trout by leaving trees in place to grow mighty and shade the smaller streams that many Oregon fishes call home, as well as along the upstream reaches that deliver cool water to fish habitats. **Please email the Board of Forestry – and the Governor – in support of effective new rules by clicking here.**

For years, citizens, conservation and **fishing groups, scientists, and federal agencies have criticized Oregon's logging rules for failing to protect water quality and fish habitat** on 10.6 million acres of private timberland. The scientific evidence that we need more trees next to streams has grown stronger over time, and it's become more certain that voluntary restoration projects can't substitute for stronger statewide stream protection policies. Native salmon, trout and other aquatic species are still fighting just to survive, let alone recover.

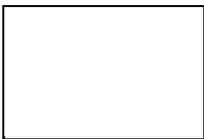
Other states responded years ago by adopting logging rules that are far more effective at keeping water cool and promoting recovery of fish habitats. Oregon has fallen behind. **Clearcutting still is allowed to within 20 feet of most streams -- even when they are home to federally protected salmon, steelhead or trout, and most streams without fish have no buffer at all.** That means too little shade to prevent the sun from heating streams beyond legal limits. Cutting trees next to streams also deprives fish of critical pool habitats and enables more sediment from roads and clearcuts to enter those same streams.

The state's most recent analysis clearly shows that **we need 100-120 foot mandatory buffers** to keep the streams as cool as the law requires. Yet, Board members still are considering just minor, voluntary tweaks to current buffers, applying new buffers on just a small subset of streams in parts of western Oregon, and may decide to consider a buffer to be adequate if it only prevents unlawful stream warming 50% of the time.

Climate change adds even greater urgency to the Board's action. The higher than usual air and stream temperatures across Oregon this summer are a trend likely to continue and which may now be largely beyond our control. But it is both feasible and in our power to ensure that streams and fish are well-protected from avoidable harmful logging.

Stronger rules are necessary to protect stream ecosystems that belong to and benefit us all. **Please email your Board of Forestry – and your Governor - today to make sure that they aren't just hearing from the logging industry that benefits from clearcutting along Oregon's waterways.**

Thank you for your advocacy,



Christy Splitt  
External Affairs Director, OLCV

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