



SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY INITIATIVE

SFI-00001

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Stuwix Resources Joint Venture

November 4, 2015

Mr. Tom Imeson, Chair
Oregon Board of Forestry
2600 State Street
Salem, OR 97310

Dear Chair Imeson and Members of the Board of Forestry,

I am writing on behalf of the Sustainable Forestry Initiative® (SFI) Inc. in regards to rulemaking being considered by the Oregon Board of Forestry pertaining to increased buffer widths for certain headwater streams in portions of Oregon.

SFI® Inc. is an independent, non-profit organization responsible for maintaining, overseeing and improving the internationally recognized SFI Program. Across the U.S. and Canada, approximately 270 million acres are certified to the SFI forest management standard. In addition, the SFI Program's unique fiber-sourcing requirements promote responsible forest management on all suppliers' lands. SFI works to ensure conservation of water quality, wildlife habitat and other critical forest attributes through application of the standards, through its unique research requirements, and through grants made in support of conservation and community-related objectives. SFI on-product labels identify both certified sourcing and chain-of-custody claims to help consumers make responsible purchases. SFI Inc. is governed by a three-chamber Board of Directors representing environmental, social and economic sectors equally.

In regards to the Oregon Board of Forestry proposed rulemaking regarding increased buffer widths, I understand that consideration is being given to voluntary measures, with a discussion regarding landowner willingness to participate in such measures. In this context it may be important for you to know that the Oregon SFI Implementation Committee (SIC) is among the largest within the United States. SFI has 34 SICs representing close to 1,000 volunteers in 43 states and provinces. They are a critical part of SFI's work promoting the SFI Standards, collaborating on the training of harvesting professionals and connecting people and communities to the forest.

Oregon has experienced widespread participation in the SFI program for many years. Currently there are 3.3 million acres certified to the SFI forest management standard in Oregon. Millions more acres in Oregon are positively impacted by the SFI fiber sourcing standard. Certification to the SFI standards is completely voluntary, requires a strong commitment, and is backed by third-party independent audits. It has been our experience that many forest landowners in Oregon are indeed willing to commit to high levels of voluntary follow-through in order to practice sound stewardship on their lands.

SFI will continue to work with landowners across Oregon to ensure a high level of demonstrated stewardship. Forests certified to the SFI standard are a living laboratory that shows how environmental, economic and social interests can coexist. I appreciate the opportunity to provide this perspective and information and hope that it is helpful to you in your deliberations.

Sincerely,



Nadine Block
COO and VP Government Affairs