

June 17, 2002

Dear Agency Director and Commission/Board Chair:

Enclosed is the Statewide Riparian Management Policy, developed by the Governor's Natural Resources Office and the Oregon Plan Core Team over the past two years to guide state agency policy and rulemaking as they relate to riparian areas. This policy was developed in response to Executive Order 99-01 and the Independent Multidisciplinary Science Team (IMST) recommendations regarding the need for landscape approaches to watershed management in Oregon.

This Riparian Policy, which has been reviewed by the directors of the natural resource agencies, represents informal direction from me to state agencies. It is not an executive order, nor is it a rule, and it is not intended to be self-executing. My expectation is, however, that each agency, board and commission with responsibilities that relate to riparian areas, in coordination with other appropriate agencies, will carry out the following steps in response to this direction:

- First, review the agency's existing statutory authorities to determine if they are adequate to allow the agency to carry out the Riparian Policy;
- Second, if the statutory authorities are not adequate, report to me regarding what statutory changes are needed;
- Third, if the statutory authorities are adequate, review the agency's existing rules and policies to determine whether they are consistent with the Riparian Policy; and
- Finally, where the agency's existing programs, rules and policies are not consistent with the Riparian Policy, report to me regarding any inconsistencies, and formally consider implementing measures necessary to make the agency's programs, rules and policies consistent with the Riparian Policy.

Agencies should complete the steps outlined above as soon as practicable, but in any event by October 31, 2002.

Sincerely,

John A. Kitzhaber, M.D.

JAK/NR/sm

Enclosure – Statewide Riparian Management Report