

Oregon Environmental Quality Commission Meeting

August 28, 2014

Self-Introduction – Dave Schmidt

2<sup>nd</sup> VP OSWA – OSWA represents forestland owners of <5,000 acres.

Tree Farm Owner, Professional Forester 52 years

Any regulatory public policy deliberation is supposed to include analyzing the various costs associated with creating or modifying a “beneficial use” such as cold water limits for fish. My purpose today is to describe the immense financial impact any expansion of the RMA will have on our family forest landowners who own over 3 million acres of western Oregon forestland. This analysis does not involve the majority of private forestland which is managed by owners with over 5,000 acres.

This Spring OSWA asked its membership to voluntarily survey their forest properties and submit salmon and non-salmon stream size and length information along with other site data. 30 landowners owning 5,395 acres across 11 western Oregon counties responded with their specific case information – which I would like to share.

This survey showed a total of 105,235 lineal feet (19.93 miles) of salmon and non-salmon streams. There is current riparian protection on 335 of the total 5,395 acres, or 6.2% of the total sample. Forest site quality estimates 217 acres as high site, 114 acres as medium and 4 acres as low site quality. Based on the site classes and ODF’s “Forestland Value Estimator” the total mature harvest value of conifer timber for the 335 protected acres would be an estimated \$1,768,000, or \$328 per acre for the total 5395 acre sample.

Most non-industrial forest properties have some stream protection under the FPA, but not all have streams. If one assumes that 50% of small forest properties do not have small or medium fish bearing streams and the 30 OSWA survey properties represent the average with streams, the harvest value on the forestland under current FPA rules for small and medium fish streams is estimated at:

$\$328 \text{ per total ownership acre} \times 1,507,000 \text{ acres (50\% of western Oregon family forestland)} = \$494,296,000$  under current FPA rules.

Therefore, for every 1% increase, not 1 foot but 1%, in acreage of regulated riparian protection, it will cost western Oregon family forest owners, their heirs or successors another \$4,943,000 in value of timber at age 50.

I thank the Commission for receiving this testimony today. I urge you to carefully read Dr. John Westall’s review of the history behind the current PCW rule which you have received today

. I sincerely hope that we will continue a thoughtful conversation about this critical issue.

