

My name is Dave Schmidt and I am a 2<sup>nd</sup> VP representing Oregon Small Woodlands Association and its 1500 members who each own less than 5,000 acres of Oregon's non-industrial forestland. Of the 10.6 million acres of private forestland in Oregon we own nearly 4.67 million acres, or 44% of private forest land in Oregon. We harvest about 8% of Oregon's annual timber production and provide a huge amount of uncompensated ecosystem services to Oregon's citizens. Our membership reflects a great variety of reasons for owning forestland and, therefore, the consequential uses of their family forests are quite varied. However, virtually all have a very deep love for their land and appreciate the many products and amenities provided by their families' properties.

Our OSWA families deeply support the Oregon Forest Practices Act, as their experience on the ground and the many forestry classes and field tours that demonstrate the Act's practical effectiveness with science-based regulations have engaged a committed following. To this point many, many owners have consciously and voluntarily enhanced their forestland well beyond the FPA minimums and often with their own resources. This success story is reflected in the good operation audits even in the face of reduced ODF field staff.

With your indulgence I would like to use my own family certified forest as an example of how many other family forest enterprises manage their forestland. On the scale of non-management to intensive management we are toward the intensive end of the scale with our 5 tracts totaling 550 acres. Unlike those families not managing their forestland, we are able to generate enough revenue to not only pay necessary costs, but invest in enhanced management and infrastructure well beyond that required by the FPA. We have generated a living management plan that outlines our goals and addresses over 25 areas of business, environmental and forest science topics. This plan and our field activities are 3rd-party audited every five years to maintain certification.

Our family forest contains 5,850 feet of Type F streams, 6,500 feet of small Type N streams and 3 small ponds. All our Type F streams are shaded and over half of the Type N streams were left shaded voluntarily for wildlife enhancement. In addition we cooperate with federal and state agencies with annual fish surveys and with placing fish logs and root wads in Little Lobster Creek. We work with the Luckiamute Watershed Council to eradicate Japanese Knotweed followed by planting riparian plant species along the Luckiamute River. Of the 7.4 miles of forest roads on our land, we have placed drainage structures and rocked 5 miles to minimize soil erosion. We constructed a 153' flat car bridge in 1993 to eliminate a river ford across the Luckiamute River. We have gates on all public access points together with owner ID signage to minimize fire and vandalism risk. We do allow identified responsible persons to legally hunt and fish on our forests. Water quality, fish and wildlife are extremely important to my family

and those we allow to use our property. Because of these reasons we embrace the Oregon Forest Practices Act and try to go well beyond its science-based requirements.

It should NOT be a surprise to the Board of Forestry that the current review of riparian management rules related to water temperature has generated a tsunami of interest within our family forest owners and others. This decision process time-line has been unduly compressed without adequate conversation with the major stakeholders as well as the forest science community. Our membership steadfastly believes that all regulation must be driven by current science and that any regulatory change should not be allowed without clear scientific support and then only after thorough cost to benefit evaluation. Certainly, a healthy long term future of Oregon's family forests and rural communities depends on a fair science based decision by the Board of Forestry.

I want to close with a quote (page 156) from The 2012 Forest Report authored by experts from Mason, Bruce and Girard Inc., Forest Econ Inc., Northwest Economic Research Center (PSU), Dept. of Forest Engineering, Resources and Management (OSU), and The Beck Group:

“The Board of Forestry should continue to insist that any changes to the Forest Practices Act be based on the full body of contemporary science and experience. Regulations that represent political compromise would not be regarded as credible and would promote more controversy.”