

shirley klock <shirleyklock@me.com>

Dear members of the Oregon House Committee on Energy and Environment,

I am the owner of 60 acres in the Coast Range land through which runs a salmon stream, a tributary to the Nehalem River. My family has owned this land for nearly 50 years. When we first moved there the adjoining private land had been recently logged. In the years that followed I was able to see first hand what damage comes from clear-cutting steep slopes, as mud slides and debris washed down, clogging the culverts, changing the course of the stream. It is hard to replant such steep slopes, as the young trees wash out, particularly if the land has been stripped of all vegetation. The result? Algae blooms and turbid waters which diminish fish and crayfish populations.

The steep hills above my home have been clear cut once again recently. Last summer I was treated to the sight of a helicopter aerial spraying what brush had managed to regenerate. Although I could see they were trying to avoid the water sheds, the herbicide drifts over the land like a dark wing. And, indeed, within days, one could see that maples within the "protected" watershed were yellowing and dying. Why, I ask, can we not use selective logging and modern, more environmentally sound logging practices? The reason seems all too clear: we don't care enough about our land and our waters to legislate sound practices.

Please, let's change that! I support the Oregon Safe Waters Act of 2019. HB 2656. Let's make a start at making Oregon an environmental leader again.

Sincerely,

Shirley Klock

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