

Understanding the Private Forest Accord

Riparian Conservation: Westside

Importance: Riparian management affects stream temperature, wood supply for habitat, sediment type and volume, and more. Riparian conservation is the core of any freshwater conservation system.

Current Law/System: The Oregon Forest Practices Act is much weaker than in WA and CA. Oregon protects less of the stream network with generally smaller buffers, and Oregon allows more harvest in the buffers. Small streams without fish that flow all year (Non-Fish Perennial -- NP) are virtually unprotected in Oregon, though the SB 1602 provisions limited aerial spray in many cases.

Proposed Change: The new system provides significant changes across the vast majority of the stream network.

Fish Streams

- No harvest buffers of 110 feet for large/medium streams and 100 feet wide for small streams. Functionally 2x to 4x larger than current standards.

Large and Medium Non-Fish Streams (rare)

- Expanded to 75 feet

Small Non-Fish Streams (these streams currently have little or no buffer, and they are common)

Non-Fish Perennial that flow directly to Salmon Steelhead Bull Trout (SSBT) streams

- 75 feet wide for the first 500 feet and then 50 feet wide for 650 feet. 1150 linear feet

Non Fish Perennial that flow to other fish streams without salmon species

- 75 feet wide for 600 feet

Non Fish Perennial not otherwise protected

- 35 foot equipment exclusion, retention of trees under 6 inches and all shrubs.

Debris Torrent Channels

Key non-fish and seasonal streams that provide large wood

- 25 feet wide for varying distances, often around 1000 feet

Seasonal

- 35 foot equipment limitation

Stream Adjacent Active Failures

- For (1) Steep slopes (>70%) adjacent to fish streams and actively failing and delivering sediment, or (2) Unstable slope immediately adjacent to a fish stream where the toe of the unstable slope interacts directly with the erosive forces of a stream, 170' or slope break, whichever is less.

Seeps and springs:

- If occur within buffer, then extend them by 35'

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Discussion: Overall this strategy is similar to WA, though the addition of debris torrent protections is different. This package will dramatically increase protection for cold water, better regulate sediment, and recruit more wood.