

# The Private Forest Accord Will Greatly Benefit Oregon's Eastside Forests and Streams

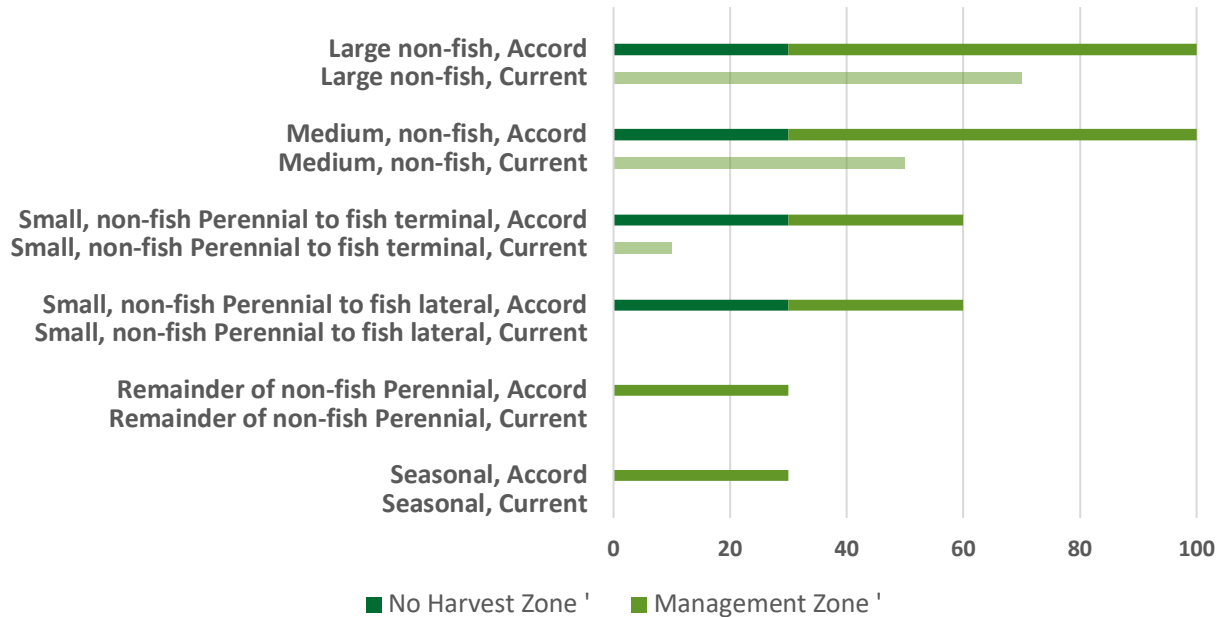
Dry, Eastern Oregon forests have distinct needs. The Private Forest Accord will improve the resilience of Eastside Oregon private forestland by strengthening conservation management near rivers and streams. In all, the Accord will protect about 18,000 miles of Eastside streams.

- **Forest Health.** A fundamental focus of the Private Forest Accord is to improve the resilience of Eastside forests by focusing on forest health and riparian conservation. The Accord tailors stream and forest health standards specific to Eastside conditions to provide the greatest conservation benefit. This intention is most dramatically reflected in the changes to riparian zones – the area bordering streams.
  - **Enhanced Riparian Function.** The Accord's substantial expansions of stream-side buffer zones will provide more shade for cooler water, filter runoff for cleaner water, help recharge groundwater, provide more habitat for species, and help build the aquatic food chain. In all nine categories of streams, ranging from major fish-bearing rivers to small, seasonal non-fish-bearing streams, protection will be increased, either in no-harvest buffer zones or in conservation management zones, or both.
  - The changes will be biggest in the small streams. Looked at in combination of no-harvest and management zones, the buffer area will increase from 43% to 500% or more in eight of the nine categories of streams. The no-harvest buffers on fish and many non-fish perennial streams, regardless of size, will be increased to 30' – the width supported by scientists advising the negotiation.
  - In fish-bearing streams, the no-harvest buffer will increase 50% – from 20' to 30'.
  - In five stream categories, the increase of the no-harvest zone will be even more substantial – from the current 0' to the new 30' standard. Even small non-fish seasonal streams will have protection, by restricting equipment use adjacent to these streams.
  - Similarly, in seven of the nine stream categories the managed zone buffers adjacent to the no-harvest zone will be expanded, in some cases by 40-50%, and in other cases, again even more substantially, from 0' to 30'.
- **Fire and Disease Resilience.** Given the drier and more fire-prone conditions in Eastern Oregon, a crucial feature of the management zones buffering Eastern Oregon streams will be the size and density of trees that will be retained. This existing rule will be extended to all streams to better mitigate potential fuel loading for fires and vectors for disease transmission.
  - The new requirement to retain at least 60 square feet per acre of basal area in managed stream zones is designed to support a healthier and more resilient dry forest ecosystem.
  - Since the no-harvest zones may be denser and thus at more risk to fire and disease, the new rule for retaining larger trees with more spacing in the adjoining management zone not only advances the goal of a healthy forest ecosystem overall, it will better protect the no-harvest area closest to the streams with dominant trees more fire and disease-resilient. This spacing and size requirement will also allow good snow penetration for groundwater recharge and growth of a natural understory.

# No-Harvest and Conservation Management Buffers Will Increase in Eastern Oregon Private Forests

*NOTE: The Management Zone establishes a conservation-based transition between harvestable land and the no-harvest streamside zone. This zone will create a resilient forest condition as measured by forest health objectives, including leaving a set amount of well-established trees and healthy spacing in the range of a forest health restoration.*

## Accord vs Current Regs for Non-fish-bearing Streams



## Accord vs. Current Regs for Fish-Bearing Streams

