

I am NEUTRAL on [HB 2998]...

Taken from the Summary of [HB 2998], "SECTION 1. (1) The Water Resources Department and Department of Environmental Quality shall jointly study the impacts of wildfire on the water quality of streams and tributaries, in consultation with any other relevant state agencies. (2) At minimum, the study must assess how the first rains after a wildfire affect the water quality, and whether levels of turbidity and sediment change after a wildfire, paying particular attention to the potential infilling of colder, deeper salmon habitat pools and to any subsequent effects on spawning gravel and beds from changes in fine sediment deposits and coverage.

These inquiries depends on: the types of foliage consumed by wildfires, seasonal prevailing winds direction, proximity to streams and tributaries, the seasonal flow rates of the same, the size and nature of the particulates that enter the receiving waters and so on and so on.

The heavier particles depending on the flow rate of the stream or tributaries, will find rest in the interstices of the gravel unless, there is a ton of this material which could cover quite a distance of the gravel bed.

Obviously, the first rains (first flush) depending on the severity and duration of the first rain event, much more solids are going to be flushed into the streams and tributaries depending up variables listed above.

Should the worst case pertaining to the aforementioned occur during the salmon migration, for example, bad news. As the Salmon wiggle around on the gravel bed, particulate matter will be back in solution.

The heavier particulates will be a problem in the deeper pools. Here sediments will not be readily removed except possibly during excessively heavy flows.

What is also to be highly concerning is the concentration of Dissolved Oxygen (DO) throughout the above.

All of this is pretty basic stuff and I do not see spending any money on it. Why, the information already exists unless, you want an approximations per wildfire area (which is somewhat inane).

***Now if you really are concerned about the salmonid fishes, all cities and small municipalities that discharge into Oregon Rivers or waters where salmonid fishes thrive, the temperature of the water is increasing due to the cumulative temperatures of POTW discharges.

David S. Wall
Mr. Oregon Concur...Restoration of Riparian habitats is a good idea.

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