January 10, 2014

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
U.S. Dept of Commerce and the U.S. Dept. of Environmental Quality

Greetings:

Thank you for accepting comments on the non-point pollution control program for Oregon. At a meeting I attended today in Newport, OR I learned that our local agencies are proposing more stringent forest management programs in order to satisfy Federal Forest guidelines.

Oregon streams are some of the cleanest in the nation and provide suitable water for all manner of aquaculture. Additional stream setbacks will only increase the cost of logging and raise the price of lumber. Every time the price of a house goes up $200, 100,000 people are put out of the housing market.

When the Northwest Forest plan proposed 200 feet setbacks on intermittent streams in the 1990’s, I was on a BLB tour in Coos Bay. BLM had logged a 40 acre unit from one landing with “high lead” uphill away from the stream. For our tour staff had used yellow tape to designate the new proposed setback. Only one third of the unit could have been harvested and it would have taken 3 landings, plus it would have taken 2 more 40 acre harvests to have filled the contract. That is 9 times as much earth disturbance per unit of logs.

This means the government’s share of the revenue would have been much less; also the county would have less for Public Health and Safety.

Coos County does more logging than any county in Oregon and Coos County has more Coho salmon than all the rest of the Pacific Coast all together. Also we have Watershed Counsels using pro-active management on our streams in cooperation with our land owners and managers.

Please do not hinder this cooperation with additional, unneeded regulation.

Respectfully,