

March 6, 2013

Testimony regarding use of studded tires

Hello, I am Peter Dinsdale, 7455 Skyline Rd, Salem, Oregon 97306. I have lived in Oregon since 1953, 60 years now. I own Blue Heron Farm, growing berries, nursery stock, grass and beet seeds and Christmas trees. Most of our land is close by in the Salem and Corvallis area, but one farm is between Sisters and Tumalo in Central Oregon.

I have never purchased studded tires and believe them to be both unnecessary and very damaging to our state highways. I cross Santiam Pass frequently, often with my wife Leslie, sometimes alone, driving a variety of vehicles, from cars to pickups, even semis. I have never felt the need for studs and believe I can adapt my driving to the conditions present. How is it that most can do without studs while some say they can't do without them?

I would like to see the use of studs outlawed in Oregon because of the damage to our roads. Lacking that, requiring users to pay the full cost of the damage they inflict is a first step. The harsh grating noise of hundreds of tiny jackhammers tearing up the pavement as a car passes on dry pavement is an unpleasant reminder of studs' destructive power.