



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

Department of Forestry

State Forester's Office
2600 State Street
Salem, OR 97310-1336
503-945-7200
FAX 503-945-7212
www.oregon.gov/ODF



"STEWARDSHIP IN FORESTRY"

March 22, 2017

The Honorable Michael Dembrow, Chair
Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources
Room S-411, State Capitol
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Senate Bill 892 – Relating to Notice to Public for Aerial Spray Applications

Dear Chair Dembrow and Members of the Committee:

The Department of Forestry appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony on Senate Bill 892. The Department has no position on this bill.

Forest management activities on non-federal lands are regulated by the Oregon Forest Practices Act (FPA). ORS 527.670(6) requires landowners, timber owners, and operators to notify the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) by submitting a Notification of Operation before they begin forest operations, which include timber harvest, road construction and reconstruction, site preparation, slash treatment, chemical application, and harvesting for land use changes.

The development of a web-based system in which customers can submit Notifications of Operations electronically was identified as a key business improvement need. In response, ODF built and maintains the Forest Activity Electronic Reporting and Notification System (E-Notification). The first release of E-Notification was launched on October 1, 2014. Updates since then include:

- Ability to submit Notifications of Operations and receive Permits to Use Fire and Operate Power Driven Machinery on forest land electronically.
- Electronic communication between ODF and customers.
- Integrated Geographic Information System capability.
- Ability for ODF to capture Forest Practices Inspections and Industrial Fire Inspections in the system and send inspection reports to the notifier.
- Ability to continue a notification from one calendar year to the next.
- Mobile capability to allow ODF field personnel to enter data on both forest practices and industrial fire inspections on their mobile device in the field.

For a variety of reasons, members of the public often want to know when a forest operation may begin in their area. For absentee landowners living out of the area, becoming a subscriber who receives notification of planned operations is an easy way to be informed about forest activities that border their property. Citizens want to know when pesticide applications are planned near their homes. Other citizens want to review and make comments on planned operations in their watershed. Beyond individual citizens, the Oregon Department of Transportation and utility companies are interested in operation safety adjacent to highways and utility corridors.

In 2015, the Oregon Legislature provided funding and directed ODF to develop a web-based subscription service that would make it easier for the general public to receive information about forest operations. This new online service will replace the paper-based subscription process. It allows the public to easily define specific geographic areas and activities of interest, and then receive emails when forest activities are proposed in their designated areas of interest.

ODF has conducted outreach to current subscribers to ensure the new online system will serve their needs.

Subscriber functionality includes the following:

- **Online registration:** An individual account and personalized page for subscribers that allows them to view notifications meeting the criteria they specify.
- **Designated area of interest:** Subscribers designate their geographic area of interest by either mapping their area, selecting a county or multiple counties, or by uploading a GIS shapefile.
- **Choose activities:** Subscribers choose the forest activities for which they would like to receive information.
- **E-mail alerts:** Subscribers receive immediate email alerts when notifications are submitted, based on their subscription preferences and mapped area of interest.
- **View notifications:** Subscribers can view the notification page, map, and written plan.
- **Provide online public comment:** Subscribers can provide formal comments online within 14 days of receiving a notification and written plan.
- **No fees for online correspondence:** If all subscriber correspondence is conducted via the online system, no fees would be assessed.

The new web-based subscriber system is under development with testing of the new functionality scheduled for April and May of 2017. The release of this new system is planned for mid-June 2017.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input on this bill. I'm happy to answer any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Lena Tucker, Division Chief
Private Forests Division
503-945-7482
Lena.L.Tucker@Oregon.gov

c: Jason Miner, Governor's Natural Resources Policy Manager
Lauri Aunan, Natural Resources Policy Advisor
Tom Imeson, Board of Forestry, Chair
Peter Daugherty, State Forester
ODF Executive Team