

March 22, 2017

Mark Gourley, Forester at Starker Forests, Inc.; 38 years managing forest vegetation in Benton, Linn, Lincoln and Polk Counties.

Eleven years chairman of Oregon State University Vegetation Management Research Cooperative.

Mentored 30 plus Master and PhD students.

#### Oregon Forest Practices Rules

Requires 200 trees per acre in a Free to Grow status within four years of harvest. Free to Grow status is 200 well distributed trees which will be vigorous and healthy and expected to eventually dominate vegetative competition.

#### VMRC – Growth Benefit

At age 16

Douglas-fir – page 14 38% volume increase

Western hemlock – page 18 61% to 184% volume increase

Western red cedar – page 20 almost 500% volume increase

Grand fir – page 21 240% volume increase

#### Water Stress and Survival – page 62

Dr. Benecke and Dr. Dinger study, find, and reinforce the importance of competing vegetation management on soil water availability, plant water stress, and stand growth for young seedlings. On most Oregon forest sites, survival and growth of young seedlings is poor without early weed control.

#### Noxious & Invasive Weeds

Dozens of new invasive weeds, insects and fungi arrive in Oregon each year. Scotch broom laced with Himalaya blackberry occurring on steep slopes can only be treated by aerial spraying.

Fog, wind, rain, and mechanical breakdowns make 48 hour notice impossible.

Please oppose Senate Bill 892 a BLT<sup>V</sup> (Bureaucratic Logistical Train Wreck)





**Starker Forests, Inc.**  
**Bond Starker      Mark Gourley**

**Douglas - fir**  
**From seed to 9ft 7in. in 2 years and 10 months.**