

Thursday, March 30, 2017 Time: 8:00 AM
Hearing Room D
900 Court St. NE,
HR-D
Salem, OR 97301

Public Testimony

Please accept this public testimony for HB 3226.

I live in Williams Oregon a section of the Applegate river drainage of Southern Oregon. Williams valley is surrounded by private and federal forests with over 150 miles of potential fish habitat.

HB 3226 is important legislation to modify the Oregon Forest Practice Act (OFPA) for the welfare of our streams, fisheries, economics and public health.

Please note the following as supportive evidence for passage of HB 3226

- The Coho salmon, which spawn in Williams creek, has been listed as federally threatened species and are threatened by clear cutting and pesticides.
- Our private forests are regularly sprayed aerially or by hand with atrazine 2,4-D hexazinone and others to mitigate the competing vegetation as required by OFPA. For example atrazine is “immunotoxic,” disrupting the function of the immune system by decreasing the production of interferon, a molecule that fights viral infection. Exposure to atrazine also disrupts hormone systems in humans and amphibians.
- Fish and other aquatic organisms are particularly vulnerable to pesticide contamination of water. Aerial spray drift easily contaminates the streams.
- The typical private forest management of clear cutting damages the ecosystem by increasing erosion and silt deposits, which subsequently disrupts salmon recovery.

- Stream borders required by OFPA are inadequate for fish survival.
- Oregon fishing industry is important for tourism, a large component of industry in rural areas and is at risk due to lower salmon counts.
- Recreation, which is deterred by clear cutting, is an important attraction for tourism and bringing newcomers to Oregon
- Williams, known for its CSAs, organic farms, and seed farms, is at risk due to the pesticide contamination of streams and ground water.
- Clear cutting releases into the atmosphere large amounts of carbon dioxide currently stored in the trees, roots and soilscontinued increases will lead to more frequent and more severe droughts, floods, storms, insect infestations, wildfires and heat waves. Current estimates of the monetary damage per ton of carbon dioxide suggests these effects range from at least \$25,000 to \$85,000 or more per logged acre.
- Logging older bigger trees produces not just dirtier water but less water. The overall impact can be as much as 20 inches of water a year. The cost over time to irrigators, fisherman, municipal water users and others is equivalent to a one-time payment today of about \$1000 per acre.

Please understand the personal loss to our health and livelihood by the sanctioned Oregon Forest Practice Act of clear cutting and pesticide use.

Thank you

Cheryl Bruner

williamscommunityforestproject.org