



Providing Opportunity to Family Forestland Owners

March 301, 2017

To: Brian Clem, Chairman, House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee
From: Scott Hanson, Past President, Oregon Small Woodlands Association
Re: HB 3226

1. HB3226 changes the current “notification of intent” to harvest timber to an “approval of timber harvest plan”. Bad idea. This timber harvest plan slows down the process for a landowner to harvest timber, increases costs for no gain to the public. The State Forester can take up to 30 days to approve or if delayed longer the land owner can be blocked from harvest.
2. Buffers for fish bearing streams would be at least 150 feet and no harvest allowed within 75 of stream. This is a dramatic increase in riparian management area (RMA) from the recent Board of Forestry decision to increase RMA for small and medium streams. Totally unnecessary and capricious.
3. Forest roads would be subject to new restrictions and regulations which would require significantly higher costs. Any new road would require an existing road to be decommissioned. Bad idea again. Roads are necessary to perform management activities. They are also beneficial to allow large fire trucks to approach a wildfire.
4. In summary HB 3226 is one more attempt by the environmental coalition to chip away at private property rights associated with managing forestland. HB 3226 would be very harmful to a struggling rural economy based heavily on natural resource jobs. Forest landowners are good stewards, and are protecting air, water, soil public goods.

Thank you for considering OSWA’s input.