

Timber/Environmental MOU

February 2020

Environmental and fish conservation interests and the forest industry have reached a historic and mutually respectful agreement to cooperatively pursue forest policy rather than ballot initiatives. As background, environmental advocates filed six forestry related initiative petitions last summer, and the forest industry filed competing measures. After multiple conversations, participants on both sides agreed that they were looking for a better path. Everyone is fatigued with the costly political fights that accomplish little.

In mid- January, with the support of the Governor's office, environmental representatives and the timber industry began meeting together. On Sunday, February 9th, the parties reached agreement on a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and pesticides legislation for the 2020 session.

The overarching goal of the MOU is to engage in a mediated process over the next 18 months. The objective is to finalize a plan to prepare an application to the federal services through changes to Oregon's Forest Practices Act and implementing regulations that will provide a rational basis for an approvable Habitat Conservation Plan, or other mechanisms for federal regulatory assurances, covering listed salmonids and other aquatic and riparian-dependent species.

The forest industry coalition agreements:

- Agreed to pursue/support changes to the aerial pesticide application notification, reporting, and home, school, drinking water intake and stream buffer statutes. Legislation will include new penalties failing to provide 24-hour electronic notice of application, report timely completion of application, failing to provide daily spray records, and for interfering with helicopter chemical application. This legislation will apply only to forestry application of pesticides by helicopter.
- Provided that agreed-upon pesticide legislation passes this session, forestry will engage in a post-session mediated process to pursue changes to Oregon's forest practices laws and regulations that are driven by science, have federal assurances, and are therefore durable.
- Agreed to request that the Board of Forestry extend current rules for salmon, steelhead and bull trout streams to streams in the Siskiyou region.
- Agreed to stand-down from pursuing industry-sponsored initiative petitions.

The environmental community agreements:

- Agreed to support the 2020 pesticide and MOU enabling legislative package outlined in the MOU. And provided the agreed-upon pesticide legislation passes this session.
- Agreed to a stand-down from pursuing their initiative petitions.
- Agreed not to support any new petitions for resource site protection rulemakings (these are typically brought before the Board of Forestry) for aquatic species, during this process.
- Agreed to request that the Board of Forestry table further consideration of last summer's environmental org petition for resource site protection for Coho salmon.

The MOU was joined by the following organizations

Forest Industry Coalition:

Campbell Global
Greenwood Resources
Hampton Lumber
Hancock NR Group
Lone Rock Resources
Oregon Small Woodlands Association
Pope Resources
Port Blakely
Roseburg Forest Products
Seneca Sawmill Co

Starker Forests

Stimson Lumber
Weyerhaeuser

Environmental & Fish Coalition:

Audubon Society
Beyond Toxics
Cascadia Wildlands
Klamath Siskiyou Wildlands Center
Northwest Guides and Anglers

Oregon League of Conservation Voters

Oregon Stream Protection Coalition
Oregon Wild
Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Associations
Rogue Riverkeepers
Trout Unlimited (Oregon Council)
Umpqua Watersheds
Wild Salmon Center

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