

5927 S. E. 74<sup>th</sup> Ave.  
Portland, OR 97206-5819  
February 18, 2011

Dear Andrea Matzke,

The Forest Practice Act does now address a lot of issues concerning protecting the environment to the extent that the Department of Environmental Quality does not need to fear that the public might face human health concerns from toxic pollutants that originate in Oregon's private forests. As an Oregon small woodland farmer I have kept and referred to the 160 page book, Oregon's Forest Protection Laws, as well as hired a professional forest consultant to oversee the process when any work was done in the woods that necessitated a permit from the Oregon Department of Forestry.

The Oregon Forest Practice Laws are among the strictest forest practice laws in the nation. These laws address slopes, drainage, erosion issues, riparian and wetland areas, and wildlife habitat among many other issues. More specifically the Oregon Forest Practice Laws address: forest management planning, stream classification, armored road ditches and armored culvert outlets, various stream crossings, water bars to divert water runoff, road construction and design layout, areas prone to landslides, reforestation requirements concerning site preparation after timber harvest, site classes, number of trees per acre, brush and grass competition, use of herbicides, buffer zones concerning herbicides, different logging types (tractor and cable), construction of logging roads, suitable log landings, layout of skid trails, down log requirements, leave trees, slash removal, slash burning, and fire prevention rules.

You can see from the extensive and comprehensive above list of issues addressed by the Oregon Forest Practice Act, any additional water quality standards imposed by the Department of Environmental Quality in order to protect the public are excessive and unnecessary. Forest landowners who conscientiously in good faith, conduct operations in the woods in accordance with best management practices currently in effect and compliance with the Forest Practices Act, do strive to protect soil and water quality. To claim otherwise, is to demonstrate that that the Department of Environmental Quality really doesn't understand what is involved in the Forest Practice Act and amounts to saying that the Forest Practice Act is not looking out for protecting the environment or the public. That position also undermines and shows a lack of appreciation for the dedicated efforts of forest tree farmers like me, whose woods provide many benefits for the general public and are most often unrecognized.

Sincerely,



Barbara Eigner