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DEQ
FEB 08 2011
Water Quality

February 3, 2011

Andrea Matzke
Oregon DEQ – Water Quality Division
811 SW 6th Avenue
Portland OR 97204

Dear Ms. Matzke

As a family forest landowner, I have been managing my properties in the Rogue Valley and Illinois Valley since 1999. I have become concerned as to how the proposed Human Health Toxic Pollutants rules will affect my ability to manage my forestland in Oregon.

The Oregon Forest Practices Act has done a good job over the years improving water quality in Oregon and I do not feel added regulation will contribute positively to decrease pollution from non-point forest management operations.

The Oregon Department of Forestry should have sole responsibility of regulation and enforcement of forestry practices. Oregon Statute requires landowners to conduct forest management operations in compliance with the Forest Practices Act. ORS 527.770 states that a forest operator conducting, or in good faith proposing to conduct, operations in accordance with best management practices currently in effect shall not be considered in violation of any water quality standards. As I am not aware of any Oregon law that provides direct enforcement authority over forest landowners to either the EQC or DEQ, **I oppose any proposal to establish such an authority.**

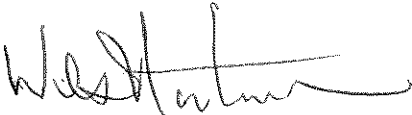
I feel it is critical to the State of Oregon and our forest structure that any water quality regulation that pertains to forestry operations remains under the direction and enforcement of ODF. They have a history based on sound, peer reviewed science. I feel that if the DEQ continues to move forward with the proposed rulemaking language, a significant number of family forest landowners will be

forced to sell their forestlands to avoid unreasonable and economically inefficient rules.

I strive hard to work under established Oregon Law regarding my forestland. **Any attempt by DEQ to directly regulate forestry operations thru any mechanism, particularly TMDLs, would be in direct conflict with Oregon law.** Therefore, I oppose DEQ's establishment of TMDLs on Oregon's forestlands.

As a long-time Oregonian, I support and am concerned with water quality in our state. As a member of the Oregon Small Woodlands Association (OSWA), I support the formal comments and suggested rule language they have submitted regarding this issue. I will continue to work with the OSWA to find a balance between the need to maintain water quality standards in our great state while keeping family forestlands economically viable to ensure families will be able to continue our heritage of forestland ownership.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Wes Hartman', written in a cursive style.

Wes Hartman

Cc: Jim James, Executive Director
OSWA