

Coast Range Association

*Building just
and sustainable
communities that
provide for people
and the natural world.*

www.coastrange.org

CRA
PO Box 2250
Corvallis, OR 97339

Chuck Willer
Executive Director

Jim Carlson
Marine Program

Board of Directors

Judy Myers
President

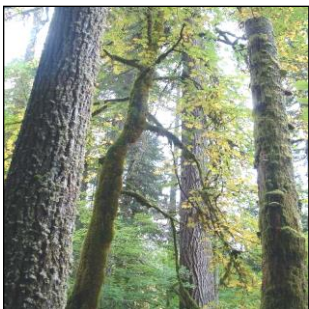
Marie Cole
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To: USDA Forest Service Region 6
From: Coast Range Association (CRA)
RE: Input for March 17, 2015 Northwest Forest Plans Revision Public
Listening Session.

Thank you for opportunity to provide input to the agency for the upcoming forest plans revision process.

Accompanying this document are the following documents:

1. Sample planning process calendar (original in Excel) to help the public understand the schedule of the planning process.
2. Frissell et al. 2014. *Conservation of Aquatic and Fishery Resources in the Pacific Northwest: Implications of New Science for the Aquatic Conservation Strategy of the Northwest Forest Plan.*
3. Swedeen et al. 2008. *An Ecological Economics Approach to Understanding Oregon's Coastal Economy and Environment.*
4. Pollock and Beechie. 2014. DOES RIPARIAN FOREST RESTORATION THINNING ENHANCE BIODIVERSITY? THE ECOLOGICAL IMPORTANCE OF LARGE WOOD₁

Below are a series of science questions we request the Forest Service to address within the plans revision process.

Sincerely,



Chuck Willer
Executive Director

The Coast Range Association (CRA) is concerned about the following planning issues required to be addressed in Statute or the 2012 Planning Rule. As required by the 2012 Planning Rule, we look forward to answers by way of the agency's acquisition and synthesis of Best Available Scientific Information (BASI).

STREAM TEMPERATURE:

What factors determine the temperature of forest streams?

What is the biological importance of conserving or restoring natural temperature regimes in streams and rivers?

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What are the likely effects of climate change on future stream temperatures?

How does the width and downstream continuity of riparian forest buffer zones affect the temperature of surface waters?

How does thinning or other logging within Riparian Reserves and riparian areas affect the temperature of surface waters?

How does thinning interact with natural disturbance processes to affect stream temperature?

What riparian management practices are needed to minimize the adverse impacts of forestry on stream temperature?

EROSION, SEDIMENT DELIVERY, AND SUSPENDED SEDIMENT IN SURFACE WATERS

How does increased erosion caused by logging harm streams and other waters?

What is the role of Riparian Reserves in minimizing erosion from logging roads?

What is the role of Riparian Reserves in minimizing erosion from landslides?

What is the role of Riparian Reserves in minimizing ground disturbance from logging?

What is the role of Riparian Reserves in minimizing gullying and channel expansion as a result of logging?

What are the consequences for erosion and sediment delivery of Riparian Reserve widths on headwater streams?

What are the consequences for erosion and sediment delivery of thinning or other logging within Riparian Reserves?

NUTRIENT DELIVERY AND EUTROPHICATION

Where do nutrients originate on managed forest landscapes?

What is the consequence of increased nutrient delivery to streams, wetlands, rivers and lakes from forestry operations?

Didn't salmon runs in the past contribute large amounts of nutrients to streams?

How do riparian forests mediate nutrient delivery to surface waters?

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How do the width and downstream continuity of riparian forest buffer zones affect nutrient delivery to surface waters?

How does forest harvesting within riparian areas affect nutrient delivery to surface waters?

What configuration of riparian area management is needed to minimize delivery of nutrients from forest disturbances?

What other management practices can help reduce or minimize nutrient delivery associated with forest management?

STREAM HABITAT & LARGE WOODY DEBRIS

How is woody debris important to stream and other freshwater ecosystems?

What is the role of riparian forests in determining the availability of wood to freshwater ecosystems?

Does size matter?

What are the effects of narrowing Riparian Reserves from ACS Standards on woody debris supply for streams?

How does tree tipping thinning affect the supply of woody debris in riparian areas and streams?

What riparian management practices are needed to minimize the adverse impacts of forestry on woody debris?

THE USE OF BEST AVAILABLE SCIENCE INFORMATION (BASI)

We understand that the responsible official in forest plan revisions may choose to subject certain issues to reviews by the scientific community to confirm that the BASI appropriately informs the planning process. Within the planning process, what issues and information does the agency anticipate having reviewed by the scientific community?

Will the Region 6 *Science Synthesis* be independently reviewed by the scientific community?

What has been the Forest Service's past process for fulfilling the BASI mandate?