

Washington State Tree Fruit Association (Ranie Haas)

Great thank you. My name is my name is Ranie Haas I am with the Washington State Tree Fruit Association and I am commenting on behalf of the Tree Fruit Association. So the Washington state tree fruit association represents the growers, packers, and marketers of apples, pears, cherries, and other tree fruits in Washington state.

As a part of the Ag. industry we pride ourselves on being stewards and maintainers of maintainers of the land. We believe that the formation and implementation of rules to address this issue must be science-based and reasonable without developing new thresholds that are unnecessary. The agricultural industry is currently discussing options to address riparian habitat and water quality on agricultural lands.

These discussions focus on the forests and fish agreement as a template for productive conversation and resolution. How the FPB honors that agreement will either promote or impede cooperation in other sectors. Secondly the department of Ecology 's proposed rule is being put forward to demand more restrictions on forest land even though they are meeting their targets. Demanding higher benchmarks from one party to compensate for inaction in other areas is not a good precedent. The departments' proposed rule is a solution in search of a problem and forcing it through without thought in regard for the agreed upon process will cast doubt on dependable partnership. This will likely lead to more conflict and less progress on salmon recovery.

Furthermore we would like to encourage the FPB to push the pause button on this rule and restore integrity to science-based policy making thank you for the opportunity to comment we will also be making a written comments prior to the August 18th deadline.

Thank you.