

nancy zahn

I would like to comment on the forest practices type Np buffer rule

I believe the expansion of stream buffers for type Np streams is a necessity. I have lived in Washington for more than 30 years, and frequently go out in the forests for recreation. I have witnessed first hand the negative effects of clearcut logging without adequate stream buffers. A fish bearing stream cannot be managed without managing its tributaries as well. If the water upstream is warmed by cutting trees to the edge of non-fish bearing streams, that water will contribute to higher temperatures further downstream. Studies have shown that this is the case. In fact, I have neighbors who live by waters downstream from heavily clearcut areas, and they have observed fish die off after clearcuts upstream. I have been to areas that were clearcut with inadequate buffers and small buffers inevitably result in the few trees that are left dying or falling from inadequate protection from a surrounding forest. Any current buffers, therefore, are completely inadequate and need to be expanded greatly.

I have also noted the presence of wildlife around and in Np streams - wildlife that is not even considered under the present regulations, but will become endangered and disappear without Np stream buffers. I frequently see amphibians, such as salamanders and frogs in or near these streams, as well as insect larvae upon which many species of wildlife depend for food. There are always a variety of birds who use forests near uncut Np streams, and these birds are totally absent in logged areas.

These streams have gone unprotected for too long. Timber companies should not be the deciders of what regulations are put in place. They are only in it for profit and don't care if ecosystems are destroyed in the process. I have a voice, too, and many like me deserve to be heard. I agree with the necessity of expansion of the stream buffers to save important Washington ecosystems and wildlife.

Sincerely, Nancy Zahn