

Sierra Club (Mike Town)

To whom it may Concern

The Washington Chapter of the Sierra Club and our members have a long history in protecting public lands, and the wildlife dependent on scientifically based watershed management. Therefore, we would like to offer our comments on the draft rule regarding stream buffers on NP streams.

The DOE and the DNR are aware of the importance of stream buffers. Accordingly, the DOE is also aware that the current buffer rules are not adequate for the intended purpose of maintaining cold clear water and lessening sedimentation issues to fish bearing streams.

We feel that the DOE proposal of increasing the buffers to 75 feet is consistent with scientific studies and therefore will have a positive impact on stream temperature and sedimentation levels. Accordingly, this proposal will benefit endangered fish and other organisms in the area managed by the DNR.

Even though we support the DOE proposal, we also feel that the proposed buffers might not be good enough to increase watershed functionality and restore ecosystem dynamic during a time of rapidly changing climate. Therefore, we would recommend that the Forest Board not only adopts the DOE proposal but also requires that vigorous scientific studies be included as a component of this process.