

Anonymous Anonymous

Greetings, as a young person, I thank you for your work. I care about supporting our watersheds and ecological forestry! Please protect riparian buffers. Buffers, also called riparian areas, refer to the width of forest land from a stream that remains uncut. To protect cool water and prevent temperature pollution, the proposed rule would require more trees around streams. Expanding stream buffers means:

Clear cutting can't occur as close to streams anymore.

25 more feet of trees to shade the streams and keep the water temperatures cool for fish and other aquatic life

This helps watersheds to better filter and deliver water downstream.

Improves water quality for all – human and non-human alike.

Let's prioritize the following:

Increased habitat for all forest creatures

Buffers also help filter out pollutants, reduce erosion, provide nutrients for aquatic life, and can help minimize the impacts from flooding.

Fire resistance - Riparian buffers play a vital role in slowing or stopping the spread of wildfires, enhancing overall fire resistance in the landscape. The larger the buffer, the greater the protection.

*The proposed rule calls for an expansion of buffer zones around non-fish-bearing stream, from where it connects to one with fish, to improve river water quality. While these streams, by definition, do not contain fish, they play a crucial role in maintaining water quality. Cooler shaded streams will support a variety of aquatic life, including amphibians, insects, and other invertebrates, and contribute to the ecosystem. I support this strongly.

Thank you for your time!