

Bonnie Blessing-Earl

Hello, my name is Bonnie Blessing-Earl. You could call me a second generation timber worker because my dad had 2 lumber mills in the 1980s and he was fine economically until there was a glut of timber on the market and until they changed the scaling rules and a whole bunch of mills went out of business in the early 80s. I don't know why but it wasn't environmentally, he kept saying that.

But anyways I appreciate that that Ecology did this Tier II analysis because I think there's a lot of benefits to keeping at least a 75-foot buffer. I'm surprised it's that small don't we need more than 75 feet to protect the microclimate, to protect from stream flow changes? I live in that area that's just above a salmon bearing stream. And above us it's like they have this tiny buffer and we have this debris torrent from a rain on snow event that really like, like can we really harvest that much of a watershed that's bigger than 30 acres and not have salmon problems downstream? I don't understand how we can possibly harvest that much of a watershed guys really, and protect the salmon that's downstream. Our steelhead, they're going practically extinct over on the coast. Can you please keep at least a 75 foot buffer? I also as part of a technician job I found Vandyke salamanders in in riparian zones of hard rock areas in big logs like 20 meters out from the stream they really need a moist microclimate down in there. And when it comes to economics I'm kind of curious because like our it's our— the revenue generated from hunting and fishing and outdoor recreation is huge and in 2022 9 billion, maybe during COVID, was spent on hunting, fishing, and wildlife recreation in Washington generating a ton of money to tax revenues in the general fund.

Shouldn't we protect those opportunities? Elk and deer and bear do need proximity to like forest and like the large clear cuts with a tiny buffer really don't protect a lot of our hunting, fishing, and outdoor recreation opportunities and aesthetics it kills people man, it just. Sorry it it's really hard aesthetically for people and then there's fish and intermittent streams that need these big logs that are in there that come from 300 feet out where's this 75-feet, we need at least 100 feet how can we get along with just 75 feet? There's a whole lot of reasons to keep at least 75 feet. Thank you very much.