

Deborah Harrison

I moved to the Olympic Peninsula for the wild rivers and the forests. I feel strongly that we should increase the buffer zones along streams...for many reasons. The less we clearcut, the better for the overall health of the ecosystem. There will be less runoff, which is so bad for the wild salmon, who are struggling to survive. We have put millions into re-doing the fish passages, to help the salmon....the more forest along the streams, the cooler they will be. Also the more trees we can save from being clearcut, the better hedge against global warming.

I urge you to implement these guidelines (75 ft buffer) as the scientific data supports this choice. (Of course, industry will object: that is to be expected. But I speak for the ecosystem. And I feel it is up to your agency to put the health of the ecosystem before the profits of the timber industry. We need to maintain strong restraints upon the industrial pillaging, and you have that power. Please use it...our children and grandchildren will thank you.