

Private Forest Accord

November 2021

In February 2020 conservation interests and the forest products industry reached a historic and mutually respectful agreement to cooperatively pursue updates to the Forest Practices Act rather than ballot initiatives. Participants on both sides had grown tired of the “Timber Wars” and were looking for a new path. The parties reached agreement on a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and proposed pesticides legislation. The 2020 legislature passed SB 1602 with nearly unanimous margins in a late June special session.

With SB 1602 the legislature set the stage for this entire process by memorializing the **Private Forest Accord (PFA)** and a mediated process which ensued over the first 10 months of 2021. The goal was to prepare a series of changes to Oregon’s Forest Practices Act based on best available science that would form the basis of an application to the federal services for an aquatic species Habitat Conservation Plan. **Early in the morning of Saturday October 30th, an agreement was successfully reached by stakeholders.**

In the forthcoming legislation, stakeholders are asking the legislature to pass a bill with these proposed changes to Oregon’s forest practices regulations will include...

- **Riparian/Stream Buffers** – New stream buffers are 10% to 100% larger based on stream type and geography. The agreement also includes for the first-time new protections for non-fish streams. Buffers are more flexible for small forestland owners, but they can garner tax credits for voluntarily adhering to stricter rules.
- **Forest Roads** – New standards on road design, inventory/assessment, maintenance, and management as well as culvert replacement prioritization.
- **Unstable Slopes** – Retain trees in the highest hazard locations, so that landslide risk from logging is reduced and when natural landslides occur, there are mature trees available to contribute to aquatic habitat development and moderate sediment transported.
- **Habitat Protected** – Fish (salmon, steelhead, bull trout) and amphibians (Columbia torrent salamander, southern torrent salamander, coastal giant salamander, Cope’s giant salamander, coastal tailed frog) In addition, the PFA addresses reporting requirements for managing beavers.
- **Compliance & Effectiveness Monitoring** – The PFA sets forth an Adaptive Management framework to provide science-based recommendations to assist the Board of Forestry in determining if and when it is necessary to adjust regulations to achieve resource goals and objectives identified in the Habitat Conservation Plan and other guidance.
- **Mitigation Costs** – The agreement includes mitigation payments to fund projects that contribute additional ecological lift beyond the extensive investment in additional buffers. The forest products industry will pay \$5 million per year for mitigation, the State \$10 million.
- **Implementation Costs** - Increased funding will need to come from many sources, including state general fund, federal funds, ARPA and matching funds.

The PFA was signed by the following organizations...

Forest Industry Coalition:

Campbell Global
Greenwood Resources
Hampton Lumber
Lone Rock Resources
Manulife Timberland & Agriculture
Oregon Small Woodlands Association
Port Blakely
Rayonier

Roseburg Forest Products

Seneca Sawmill Co
Starker Forests
Weyerhaeuser
Environmental & Fish Coalition:
Audubon Society
Beyond Toxics
Cascadia Wildlands
Klamath Siskiyou Wildlands Center

Northwest Guides and Anglers

Oregon League of Conservation Voters
Oregon Stream Protection Coalition
Oregon Wild
Pacific Coast Fed of Fishermen’s Associations
Rogue Riverkeepers
Trout Unlimited
Umpqua Watersheds
Wild Salmon Center

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