

Oregon Small Woodlands Association News

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January 30th, 2014—
 • Oregon 2014 Short Legislative Session—The 2014 Short Legislative session begins next week and will run for up to 35 days.

An OSWA major priority in 2014 is to monitor how the legislature plans to pay for the \$40 million due to ODF for excess costs related to the 2013 fire season. These monies should have come out of general funds by the Emergency Board in December, but the decision was passed to the legislature. The legislature will likely fund the \$40 million, but at concern is what will be the source.

Two bills OSWA is following include:

House Bill 4101—Imposes severance tax on harvest of timber from forestlands in Oregon at rate of \$15 per thousand feet, board measure, to fund income tax credit for milling of logs in Oregon and for distribution to counties. (Opposed)

Senate Bill 1513—Establishes cost assistance program for twenty-five percent of reforestation costs of small woodlands following loss from catastrophic fire event. (Support)

• OSWA is tracking the Board of Forestry actions in developing new stream rules for small and medium

fish bearing streams.

A recent research study, titled Rip-Stream, indicated that when the basal area is reduced to the lowest level allowed by the Forest Practices Act, forty percent of the time there was on average a 0.7 degree Celsius increase in temperature from the top of the unit to the bottom of the unit during the summer for small and medium fish bearing streams. The state's cold water standard allows only a 0.3 degree increase from human-caused activities. The Board of Forestry is in a rulemaking process to address the new information. Proposed changes to the Forest Practices Act are scheduled to be discussed by the Board at the April meeting.

In December, two federal agencies— Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

(NOAA)—announced their plan to disapprove Oregon's program to address polluted runoff along the Oregon Coast. Their letter suggests changes are needed in riparian protection, landslide prone areas, and legacy forest roads. A comment period runs through March 12.

OSWA's position is that the minor change in stream temperature does not mean we need a major overhaul of stream rules. If new measures are required, woodland owners would prefer voluntary measures be undertaken.

Please continue to follow these fast evolving legislative bills and Board of Forestry rule-making issues by talking to your OSWA representatives, participating in government advisory calls, and reading the most recent newsletter, *Oregon Family Forests News*. As always, feel free to contact me by email scotthanson@ccgmail.net or phone 503-631-2734. ■