



# Don't Leave Southern Oregon Streams Behind

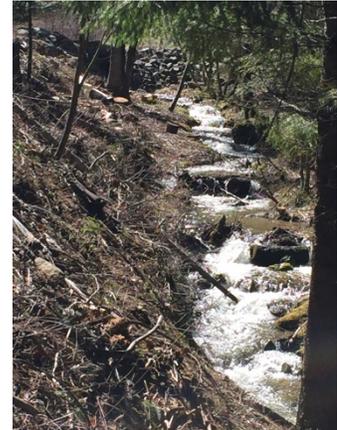
## Strengthening Stream Buffer Standards in the Siskiyou

### Harmful Logging Practices Near Streams

Oregon's current rules don't protect southern Oregon streams from the impacts of logging on private forestlands.

The science is clear that removing trees near streams results in warmer stream temperatures that can harm sensitive fish, such as threatened salmon.

Following a ten-year study in 2011 that demonstrated that existing forest practices would not reliably meet state water quality standards for temperature, the Board of Forestry initiated a rulemaking to update stream buffer standards.



Logging along Lake Creek in the Applegate watershed.

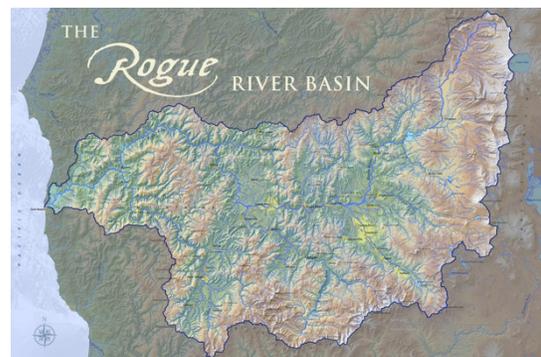
Right now, streams that support salmon and steelhead in southwestern Oregon are left with weaker protections than the rest of western Oregon.

In 2016, the Board made the decision to exclude the Siskiyou Georegion which includes most of the Rogue watershed. New rules were finalized in 2017 with modest improvements for streams that support salmon, steelhead, and bull trout. Currently, the Siskiyou is left under the old, weaker standard which does not reliably meet water quality standards required under the Clean Water Act.

### What does this mean for the Rogue?

Right now, many streams that flow through private forestlands in the Rogue watershed are left with a weaker standard that allows clear-cutting down to 20-feet from streams that support fish. For streams that are designated as not supporting fish or domestic water use, no stream buffer is required at all.

The Rogue supports habitat for threatened Southern Oregon/Northern California Coast (SONCC) coho salmon listed under the Endangered Species Act. There are more than 1 million acres of private forestlands in Oregon that support habitat for SONCC coho, much of which is left with this weak and outdated stream buffer standard.



To learn more about harmful logging practices near streams in the Siskiyou, contact Stacey Detwiler at [stacey@rogueriverkeeper.org](mailto:stacey@rogueriverkeeper.org) | 541-488-9831  
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Oregon already has the [weakest stream buffer standards](#) on the west Coast. And excluding our region from the modest improvements of the new rule puts streams in the Rogue watershed even further at risk.

### What streams are left behind?

The 2017 stream buffer rule effectively adds 10 feet to the Riparian Management Areas for small and medium sized streams that support salmon, steelhead, and bull trout (“SSBT” streams). The Siskiyou region is left with the old standard, which for small and medium fish-bearing streams requires 50 and 70-foot Riparian Management Areas (RMAs), respectively, that often result in harvesting down to the 20-foot no-cut buffer minimum.

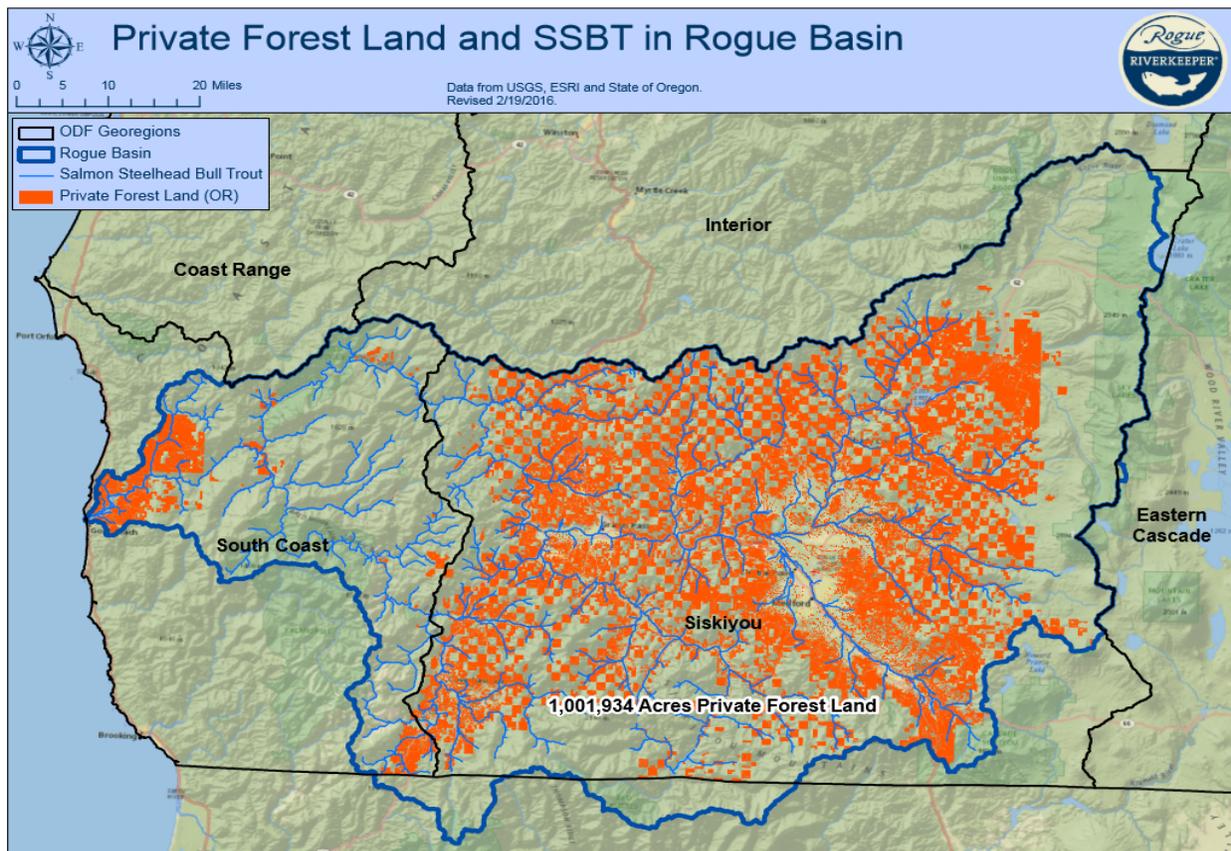


Figure 1. Map of private forestlands under the OFPA and streams that support salmon and steelhead that are left with the old stream buffer standard.

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