| | |
|---|---|
| **From:** | SEEDS Joshua |
| **To:** | Wu, Jennifer; Henning, Alan; Labiosa, Rochelle; Leinenbach, Peter |
| **Subject:** | FW: Materials for today"s meeting with OFIC |
| **Date:** | Thursday, May 15, 2014 11:22:41 AM |
| **Attachments:** | Responses to PCW Concerns Raised by OFIC_May14th2014_All.docx<br>Responses to Concerns Raised by OFIC_May14th2014_figures.pptx<br>DEQ Notes_Responses to PCW Concerns Raised by OFIC_May14th2014_draft.docx |

## FYI

**From:** SEEDS Joshua
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 14, 2014 12:24 PM
**To:** WHITMAN Richard M * GOV; BROWNSCOMBE Brett * GOV; PEDERSEN Dick; ALDRICH Greg; FOSTER Eugene P; MICHIE Ryan; DAUGHERTY Peter; ALLEN Marganne; FRUEH Terry; ABRAHAM KYLE; GROOM Jeremy; MCINTOSH Bruce A; 'Jepsen, David'
**Cc:** SEEDS Joshua; BOROK Aron; STURDEVANT Debra; WIGAL Jennifer
**Subject:** Materials for today's meeting with OFIC

Hi all. On DEQ's behalf, I have prepared responses for the concerns raised by the Oregon Forest Industry Council with the Governor's Natural Resource Office. The "Responses to PCW Concerns…All" document and the "Responses to Concerns…figures" PowerPoint will be handed out at the meeting this afternoon to all attending, OFIC representatives included. I will bring enough copies for all attendees. The third attachment "DEQ Notes_Responses to PCW…" are notes and additional information for my use that I am making available to state agencies and the GNRO only. These notes are subject to change and expansion at a later time.

Many thanks to DEQ, ODFW, and ODF staff for their help pulling this information together.

Please let me know if you have any comments or questions.

Thanks,

Josh

Joshua Seeds
Nonpoint Source Pollution Analyst
Drinking Water Protection Program
Oregon Department of Environmental Quality
811 SW 6th Ave.
Portland, OR 97204
Phone: 503-229-5081 Fax: 503-229-6037
Email: seeds.joshua@deq.state.or.us

# Notes for Responses to Questions/Concerns Raised by OFIC Re: Protecting Cold Water Criterion of the Temperature Standard

Oregon Department of Environmental Quality

Date: 5/14/2014

Questions/Assertions from Forest Industry Representatives:

1. Paired watershed studies alleged to show no correlation between temperature and salmon, steelhead, and bull trout (SSBT) population metrics.
    a. What was the temperature response in these studies?
        i. Hinkle Type-N stream-adjacent harvest (Kibler *et al* 2013):
            1. Flow increases on streams post-harvest (76-161%).
            2. Shaded due to logging slash.
            3. One stream (Fenton) had insignificant shade change (-4%), change in maximum temperature was -1.6°C.
            4. Three streams had shade decreases (-22 to -29%), change in maximum temperatures were +0.6, +0.7, +1.1°C.
            5. Pooled results for all Type-N streams indicate no significant change in maximum, mean, or minimum temperatures: No overall change.
            6. No significant temperature changes at watershed outlet (South Fork Hinkle Creek).
        ii. Hinkle Type-F stream-adjacent harvest (Arne Skaugset, *personal communication*, compiled by Terry Frueh(ODF)):
            1. Average changes of +0.4°C for stream temperature, -9.5% canopy cover on average.
            2. Temperature probes align with tributaries, not necessarily harvest units.
        iii. Alsea stream-adjacent harvest (Jeff Light, *personal communication*, compiled by Terry Frueh(ODF) & Paired Watershed Research Symposium (April 2013):
            1. Small Type-N stream: Stream temperature change was +0.5°C.
            2. Small Type-F (bottom of harvest unit): Stream temperature change was +0.7°C, -14% for shade.
            3. Small Type-F (bottom of unharvested reach downstream of harvest unit): Stream temperature change was +0.3°C.
        iv. Comparing Hinkle and Alsea Type-F stream-adjacent harvest with RipStream results (Compiled by Terry Frueh(ODF)):

DRAFT

**Table 1.** Summary data on changes in temperature, shade, and basal area for two WRC studies (Alsea and Hinkle) and RipStream.

| Study (n=# of sites) | ΔT ( ºF) (n=# of sites) | ΔShade (%)(n=# of sites) | Pre-harvest total basal area (ft.$^2$/ac.) within 100 feet of stream (n=# of sites) | Post-harvest basal area (ft.$^2$/ac.) within 100 feet of stream (n=# of sites) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Alsea (n=1)** | +1.3 (+0.7°C) | -14 | NA | 37[2] |
| **Hinkle** | (n=3): +0.7[1] (+0.4°C) | (n=3): -9.5 | Mainstem (n=4): 186 | Mainstem (n=4): 149 |
| | | | Type F tributary(n=2): 172 | Type F tributary(n=2): 127 |
| **RipStream (n=18)** | +1.3 (+0.7°C) | -7 | Small Type F (n=4): 187 | Small Type F (n=4): 87[2] |
| | | | Medium Type F (n=14): 207[2] | Medium Type F (n=14): 128 |

[1]Change in temperature was measured at junctions with tributaries, which does not necessarily correspond with the downstream end of a harvest unit.
[2]Total basal area excluding that of alders.

b. Did studies examine SSBT? What was general response? **[ODFW]**
   i. Hinkle did not look at SSBT, did look at resident cutthroat trout.
      1. Cutthroat: Small increases in size & total biomass (continuation of pre-harvest upward trend?).
   ii. Alsea did look at coho salmon & resident cutthroat.
      1. Coho: No response.
      2. Cutthroat: Adult biomass increased, juvenile size decreased, no response otherwise.
c. Are resident cutthroat a good proxy for SSBT? **[ODFW]**
   i. While sea-run cutthroat have similar temperature requirements as other salmonids, resident cutthroat do not have to undergo smoltification in order to survive ocean conditions. As a result, increased feeding in areas with higher temperature would not affect timing of smoltification as it does with anadromous fish (Trotter 1989).
   ii. Resident cutthroat trout have shorter lives & mature more quickly than sea-run cutthroat trout (Trotter 1989).
   iii. Irrespective of potentially different physiological needs, research indicates that cutthroat populations are found in lower abundance in secondary forest than in clear cuts or old growth (Murphy *et al* 1981).
d. What is the appropriate inference for the studies, with regard to fish? **[ODFW]**
   i. Reach level acute effects on fish population are the appropriate inference.

DRAFT

ii. Short-term (ecologically speaking), local examination of population dynamics, primarily for cutthroat trout.
    1. Shows no acute damage to local cutthroat populations.
    2. Limited inference for SSBT.
    3. Limited inference for long-term local population effects.
    4. Limited inference for watershed, sub-basin, and basin level effects.

iii. Therefore, cannot draw conclusions about SSBT at Evolutionarily Significant Unit (ESU) or sub-population level.

e. Is this assertion relevant to the purpose & construction of the temperature standard?

i. The purpose of the standard is maintenance and restoration of natural thermal regimes. Diversity in habitat conditions enhances ecosystem resiliency.

ii. The Protecting Cold Water (PCW) & Human Use Allowance (HUA) criteria restrict anthropogenic warming in waterbodies below & above the biologically-based numeric criteria (BBNC), respectively, & implement the purpose of the standard. The BBNC are primarily thresholds for identifying impaired waterbodies. The standard protects cold-water aquatic communities, including amphibians, macroinvertebrates, & native fish of all types.

iii. The BBNC are set at the high end of the optimal temperature range for salmonids (US EPA 2001).

iv. Meeting the standard preserves the capacity of waterbodies to assimilate natural fluctuations in temperature due to year-to-year climate variations & to better maintain cold-water communities in a warming climate.

v. While the standard can be used to restrict activities that cause immediate, acute harm at the reach level, it is a regime standard designed to protect entire aquatic ecosystems from both acute & chronic anthropogenic impacts.

vi. Therefore, the assertion ignores the larger purpose of the standard to focus on short-term, reach-level effects.

2. Alleged that there is no scientific support for the conclusion that small increases in water temperature (in reaches below the numeric criteria) are harmful to SSBT in either a localized or landscape sense, short- or long-term. **[ODFW]**

a. We agree, to an extent, depending on how "small" is defined. That is one purpose of the 0.3°C limit on anthropogenic warming. We have a high degree of confidence that warming at or below this limit will not affect fish or cold-water communities (DEQ 2003: Temperature TAC Summary Report).

i. Effects are on a continuum; the further we increase temperature from the natural thermal potential, the higher risk there will be for the fish.

ii. The BBNC are set at the high end of the optimal temperature range for salmonids (US EPA 2001).

iii. Consideration of accuracy of measurement is another reason for the 0.3°C limit. The State's policy on stream temperature is that natural thermal regimes should be protected and, where necessary, restored.

DRAFT

iv. Under the Clean Water Act, existing high quality waters cannot be degraded unless it is necessary to accommodate important economical or social development in the area in which the waters are located, and BMPs are achieved for nonpoint sources.

b. Heating of headwaters reduces the extent of downstream waters at optimal growth & optimal physiological temperatures & increase the extent of downstream waters at high-risk & lethal temperatures for rearing & migration.

c. Fish are poikilotherms, so metabolic rates & processes are regulated by the temperature of their environment (US EPA 2001).
    i. Faster metabolism results in faster growth up to the optimum growth temperature provided adequate food is available.
    ii. Faster metabolism results in energy stress when adequate food is *not* available.
    iii. Ability to avoid predators adapted to warmer water decreases with increasing temperature. Swimming is less efficient at higher temperatures (US EPA 2001).
    iv. Invasive species often do better in warmer temperatures.
    v. Changes in disease resistance with increasing temperature (US EPA 2001):
        1. Constant temperatures below 12-13°C often reduce or eliminate both infection and mortality;
        2. Temperatures above 15-16°C are often associated with high rates of infection and notable mortality;
        3. Temperatures above 18-20°C are often associated with serious rates of infection & catastrophic outbreaks of many fish diseases.
    vi. If adult fish are exposed to temperatures above 13-15.6°C during the final part of upstream migration or during holding there is a detrimental effect on the size, number, and/or fertility of eggs (US EPA 2001).
    vii. Changes in behaviors can result from increases in temperature below the numeric criteria (US EPA 2001).
        1. Warmer temperatures may lead to earlier out migration in salmon & reduced ocean survival (Holtby 1988).
        2. Smoltification is very temperature sensitive, even to temperatures lower than the BBNC.

d. Multiple stressors in the environment must be considered. By preventing or reducing temperature stress, we reduce the risks due to multiple stressors on fish populations (see Baird & Burton 2001, US EPA 2001).

e. Water quality (particularly summer stream temperature) was identified in the Oregon Coastal Coho Assessment & Oregon Coastal Coho Conservation Plan as the secondary bottleneck for most coastal coho ESUs.

f. When there is uncertainty, DEQ must make conservative choices to ensure protection of the resource.
    i. Uncertainty due to dynamics of the system (stochasticity).
    ii. Uncertainty due to our incomplete understanding of the system.
    iii. Uncertainty due to using sample data to observe the system.

DRAFT

3. Alleged that increases in temperature (at levels seen in RipStream) will diminish to less than 0.3°C within 300m on average. What can we say about downstream effects (in detail)?
    a. Physics of heat gain/loss.
        i. During summer, efficiency of heat loss is much lower than that of heat gain via solar radiation.
            1. In open canopy streams, input of solar radiation typically composes about 50% – 90% of the total heat energy flux (Johnson 2004, Benyahya *et al* 2012) & is the primary driver of heat transfer related to stream temperature change (Figures 1 & 2).
        ii. Added flow (increased mass of water) dilutes heat, but most heat remains in the system (e.g. Hannah *et al* 2008).
            1. Harder to detect the effects of a *single* source as water moves farther downstream.
            2. Temperature is a measure of average thermal energy content, but DEQ also tracks thermal energy loads & fluxes (kcal) in TMDLs & other water quality programs.
        iii. On small streams, DEQ HeatSource modeling indicates long distances (1000 meters +) are required to lose heat energy via evaporation and longwave radiation.
            1. The loss is slow because these fluxes are the primary processes for loss of heat, and they represent a small proportion of the total input from increased solar radiation (Figure 1).
            2. Tributary & groundwater mixing are held constant; only effects of vegetation change are modeled.
        iv. HeatSource modeling on 2 RipStream sites (5556 & 7854):
            1. Agrees well with field measured responses at the end of the harvest units;
            2. Shows persistent temperature increases a kilometer or more from the end of harvest units (Figures 3 & 4);
            3. Harvest of additional downstream unit on 5556 creates greater increase at confluence with Drift Creek (Figure 5).
    b. Trask Study results?
        i. Preliminary results shown in Trask presumably showed privately harvested Type-N streams did not have readily detectable effects at downstream probe.
        ii. Small headwaters (small Type-N) streams often behave differently & have small flows compared to fish-bearing reaches.
            1. There is a great deal of change in heat capacity between harvest reaches & downstream sites, due to greater flows.
        iii. The format of data presented to the GNRO is difficult to understand—need more information to have an interpretation of this data.

DRAFT

1. For example, does not appear to be harvest-related temperature changes on Type-N streams in harvest units. If true, wouldn't expect changes at downstream sites.

iv. Between Type-N harvest units & downstream probe is a RipStream study site.

1. During pre-harvest (2006-2011) period of Trask Study, RipStream site was in post-harvest condition (harvested in 2005, post-harvest year 1 was 2006).
2. RipStream site had challenging-to-interpret temperature behavior. 2W (control) probe had post-harvest increases & there was not much harvest in the Riparian Management Area, so unable to see any effects at 3W (treatment) probe.
3. Does this site confound interpretation of downstream effects from headwaters harvests?

c. Davis *et al* (in review) analyzes temperature behavior downstream of RipStream harvest units (single harvest).

i. Average increase on private lands *as harvested* was 0.7°C. Average case for Davis *et al* travel distance for 0.7°C →0.3°C ≈300m. Minimum case is ≈120m, maximum case ≈1125m.

1. Only 6 of 18 private sites were harvested to or near FPA minimum retention targets.

ii. Average increase on private land *as modeled to FPA minima* is 1.7°C (draft result). Average case for Davis *et al* travel distance for 1.7°C →0.3°C ≈650m. Minimum case is ≈140m, maximum case ≈2700m.

d. Cole & Newton (2013) showed that with uncut units interspersed with harvest units, stream reaches showed overall increases in temperature trends 2 or 5 years post-harvest for 3 of 4 study reaches.

e. If taking a non-conservative approach to the effects of a single harvest, then we must address actual landscape conditions & the effects of multiple harvests.

4. Alleged that 2% of landscape in "early years" of rotation. What is the typical range, and what can we say about that?

a. Two questions:

i. How are the "early years" of the rotation being defined? It appears this figure may be % harvested per year on an even-flow 50-year rotation.

1. An appropriate thermal recovery window is 7-15 years, given the literature on temperature/shade recovery (Johnson & Jones 2000; D'Souza *et al* 2011; Rex *et al* 2012; RipStream data, *unpublished*).
2. Ten years is a reasonable mid-range timespan (See studies above; also Sherri Johnson, *personal communication*).

ii. What spatial scale is being considered? How does ownership vary across space?

b. Answers:

i. 2% harvested per year on average for a 50 year rotation. Rotation length is more often 40 years, so 2.5% of the land harvested per year on average. For a

DRAFT

10 year temperature recovery timespan, 25% of industrial forestlands would be in thermal recovery.

ii. There is high variation in percent ownership of forestlands (federal, state, municipal, private nonindustrial, private industrial) by sub-basin and basin and in harvest patterns.

iii. The average percentage of private forestland (65.1% of total land area) in the MidCoast basin in the 10-yr thermal recovery period is 17% for the time period 1985-2009. The total for all land uses combined is 10%.

1. An additional 5% did not have tree cover before 1985 & has not grown trees subsequently.
2. Varies over time & space.
   a. In 2008, 39.9% of private forestland in the Middle Siletz River watershed was in thermal recovery.
   b. In 1996, 5.3% of private forestland in the Drift Creek watershed was in thermal recovery. [34.9% in 2008]
3. Disturbance is calculated in rolling 10-yr intervals based on change in Landsat land cover from 1985-2009 (Figure 6).
4. Disturbance includes both harvest & fire.
5. Consistent with digitized harvest units area in ODF Vantage database (Kyle Abraham, *personal communication*)

iv. In ODF's landslide study, (Robison *et al* 1999) 17% of study areas were in age class 0-9.

c. Prior to Euro-American settlement, fires created a heterogeneous (patchy) landscape with variable fire severity &varying intervals between fires.

i. Fire return intervals in western Oregon range from 100-400 years. Shorter intervals typically are associated with less severity (Morrison & Swanson 1990).

ii. Agee (1990) estimates that historically an average 0.24% and 0.67% of cedar/spruce/hemlock and Douglas-fir forests, respectively, burned annually.

iii. Cedar/spruce/hemlock average per 10 years=2.4%; Douglas-fir average per 10 years=6.7%.

d. Wimberly (2002) estimates that a median of 17% of Oregon's coastal province would be in early successional condition (<30 years since fire).

i. These fires are not all stand replacement but vary in severity.

ii. Using 10 years as above, Wimberly's estimate gives 5.67% of forestlands historically in thermal recovery.

iii. Swanson *et al* (2011) document the differences between natural early succession and clearcut harvest.

e. High-severity fires leave more wood & live vegetation than clearcut harvest. Fire return for high severity fires is typically 200 years (Wimberly 2002), compared to harvest rotation of 40 years.

f. Temperature 303(d) listings & TMDLs exist across Oregon's landscape.

DRAFT

g. If only 2-6% of landscape were in recently harvested (≤10yrs since harvest) condition at the 6th field scale, then there are significantly reduced risks of water quality impacts & fisheries impacts.

## References:


Agee, James K. 1990. The historical role of fire in Pacific Northwest forests, p. 25-38. *In* Walstad, JD, SR Radosevich, and DV Sandberg (*eds.*) Natural and Prescribed Fire in Pacific Northwest Forests. Oregon State University Press, Corvallis, Oregon. 317pp.

Baird, DJ & GA Burton, Jr. (eds.) 2001. Ecological Variability: Separating Natural from Anthropogenic Causes of Impairment. Pensacola, Florida , USA: SETAC Press. 307pp.

Benyahya, L, D Caissie, MG Satish, and N El-Jabi. 2012. Lon-wave radiation and heat flux estimates within a small tributary in Catamaran Brook (New Brunswick, Canada). *Hydrological Processes* **26:** 475-484.

Cole, E, and M Newton. 2013. Influence of streamside buffers on stream temperature response following clear-cut harvesting in western Oregon. *Canadian Journal of Forest Research* **43:** 993-1005.

Davis, LJ, J Groom, and M Reiter. *in review*. A Newton's Law of Cooling for modeling downstream temperature response to timber harvest.

DEQ. 2003. Summary of the Discussion and Findings of DEQ's Technical Advisory Committee on Water Quality Criteria for Temperature. http://www.deq.state.or.us/wq/standards/docs/temperature/TACsummaryTemp2003.pdf

D'Souza, L, M Reiter, LJ Six, & RE Bilby. 2011. Response of vegetation, shade and stream temperature to debris torrents in two western Oregon watersheds. *Forest Ecology and Management* **261:** 2157-2167.

Hannah, DM, IA Malcolm, C Souslby, and AF Youngson. 2008. A comparison of forest and moorland stream microclimate, heat exchanges and thermal dynamics. *Hydrological Processes* **22:** 919-940.

Holtby, L. B. 1988. Effects of logging on stream temperatures in Carnation Creek, British Columbia, and associated impacts on the coho salmon (Oncorhynchus kisutch). *Canadian Journal of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences* **45**: 502-515.

Johnson, Sherri L. 2004. Factors influencing stream temperatures on small streams: substrate effects and a shading experiment. *Canadian Journal of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences* **61:** 913-923.


DRAFT

Johnson, SL, and JA Jones. 2000. Stream temperature response to forest harvest and debris flows in western Cascades, Oregon. *Canadian Journal of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences* **57(Suppl. 2):** 30-39.

Kibler, KM, A Skaugset, LM Ganio, and MM Huso. 2013. Effect of contemporary forest harvesting practices on headwater stream temperatures: Initial response of the Hinkle Creek catchment, Pacific Northwest, USA. *Forest Ecology and Management* **310:** 680-691.

Morrison, PH, and FJ Swanson. 1990. Fire history and pattern in a Cascade Range landscape. US Forest Service General Technical Report: PNW-GTR-254. 77pp.

Murphy, ML, C P Hawkins, and NL Anderson. 1981. Effects of canopy modification and accumulated sediment on stream communities. *Trans. Am. Fish. Soc*. **110:** 469-478.

Oregon Coastal Coho Conservation Plan. http://www.oregon.gov/OPSW/cohoproject/pdfs/november2007_pdfs/coho_plan.pdf

Reeves, GH, LE Benda, KM Burnett, PA Bisson, and JR Sedell. 1995. A disturbance-based ecosystem approach to maintaining and restoring freshwater habitats of evolutionarily significant units of anadromous salmonids in the Pacific Northwest. *American Fisheries Society Symposium* **17:** 334-349.

Rex, JF, DA Maloney, PN Krauskopf, PG Beaudry, and LJ Beaudry. 2012. Variable-retention riparian harvesting effects on riparian air and water temperature of sub-boreal headwater streams in British Columbia. *Forest Ecology and Management* **269:** 259-270.

Robison, E.G., K. Mills, J. Paul, L. Dent, and A. Skaugset. 1999. Oregon Department of Forestry Storm Impacts and Landslides of 1996: Final Report. Forest Practices Technical Report No. 4. Oregon Department of Forestry, Salem, Oregon.

Swanson, ME, JF Franklin, RL Beschta, CM Crisafulli, DA DellaSala, RL Hutto, DB Lindenmayer, and FJ Swanson. 2011. The forgotten stage of forest succession: early-successional ecosystems on forest sites. *Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment* **9:** 117-125.

Trotter, P. C. 1989. Coastal Cutthroat Trout: A Life History Compendium. Trans. Am. Fish. Soc. 118:463-473.

US EPA, Region 10. 2001. Temperature Project Technical Issue Papers. http://yosemite.epa.gov/r10/water.nsf/6cb1a1df2c49e4968825688200712cb7/5eb9e547ee9e111f88256a03005bd665!OpenDocument

Wimberly, MC. 2002. Spatial simulation of historical landscape patterns in coastal forests of the Pacific Northwest. *Canadian Journal of Forest Research* **32:** 1316-1328.

DRAFT

# Water Quality Program

## Figures for Oregon Forest Industry Council's Questions/Concerns

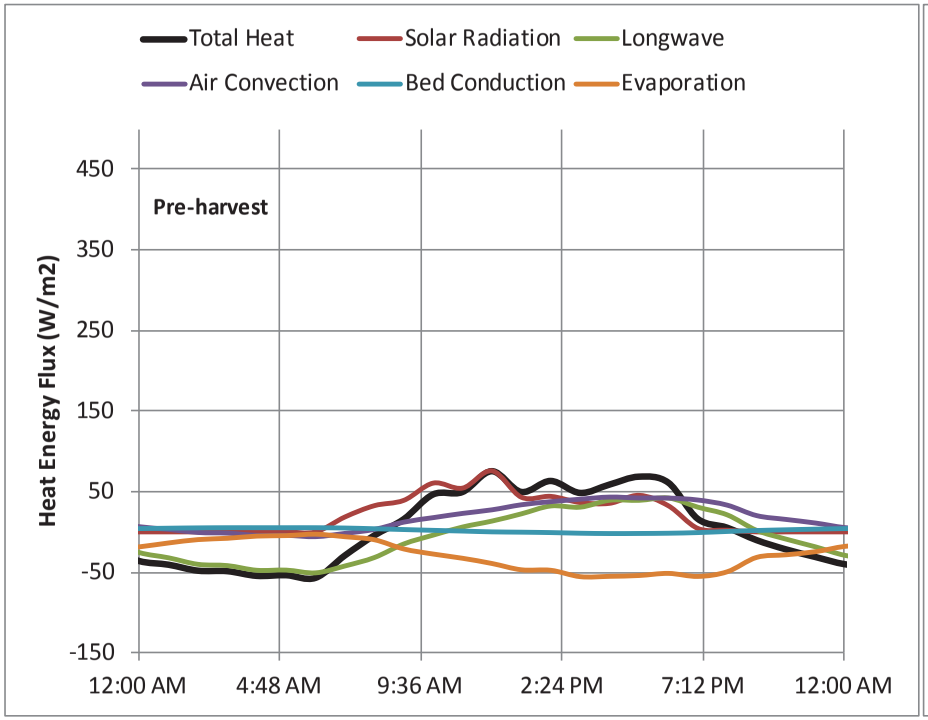
## Re: Protecting Cold Water Criterion

May 14th, 2014

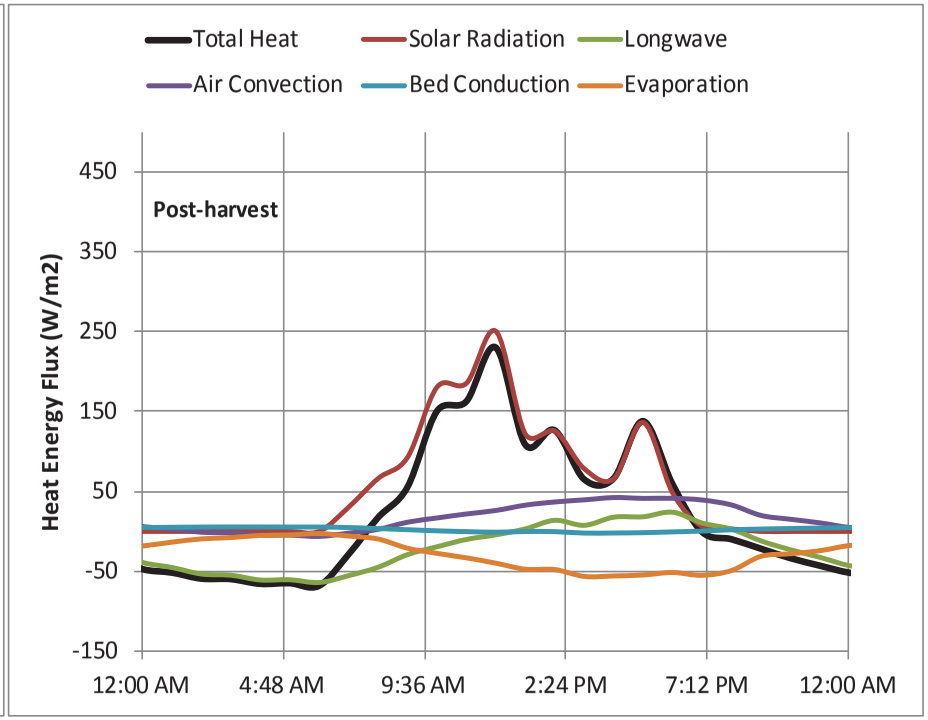


EPA-6822_000357

# Figure 1: Energy Fluxes @ RipStream Site 5556




Modeled heat energy fluxes **pre harvest** at stream km 1.25 in the treatment reach on July 31, 2003.

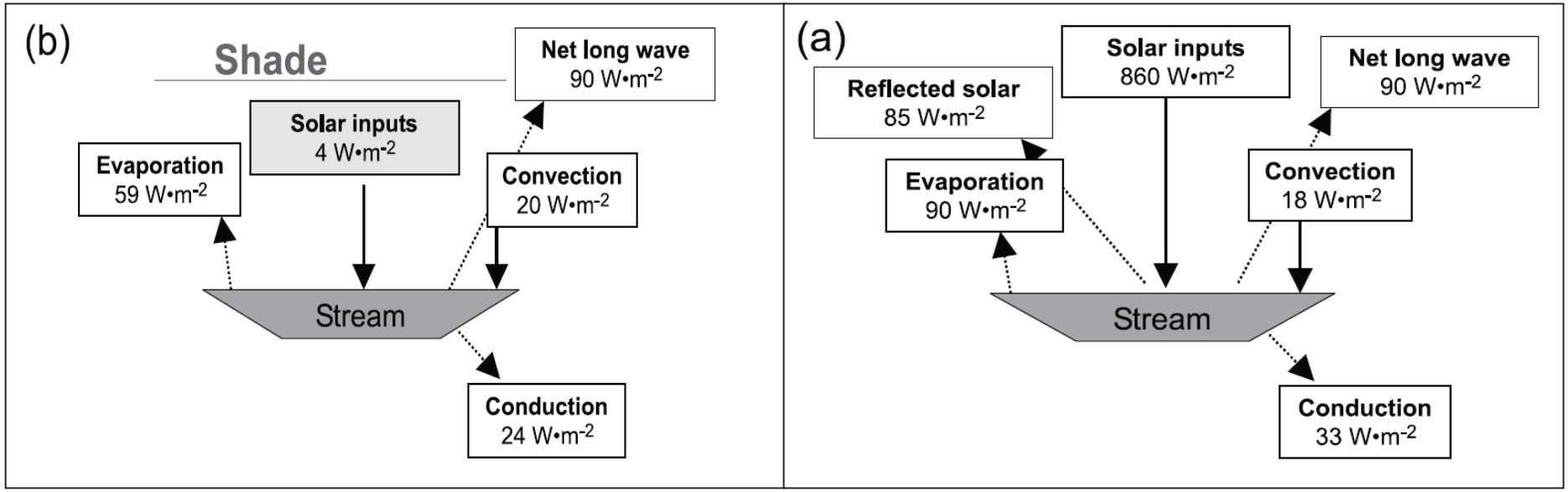



Modeled heat energy fluxes **post harvest** at stream km 1.25 in the treatment reach on July 31, 2003.



EPA-6822_000358

# Figure 2: Field Measured Energy Fluxes




Heat energy fluxes at noon on July 20, 1997 on a **fully shaded** study stream in the H.J. Andrews Experimental Forest. **Heat energy lost is -149 W*m$^{-2}$.**

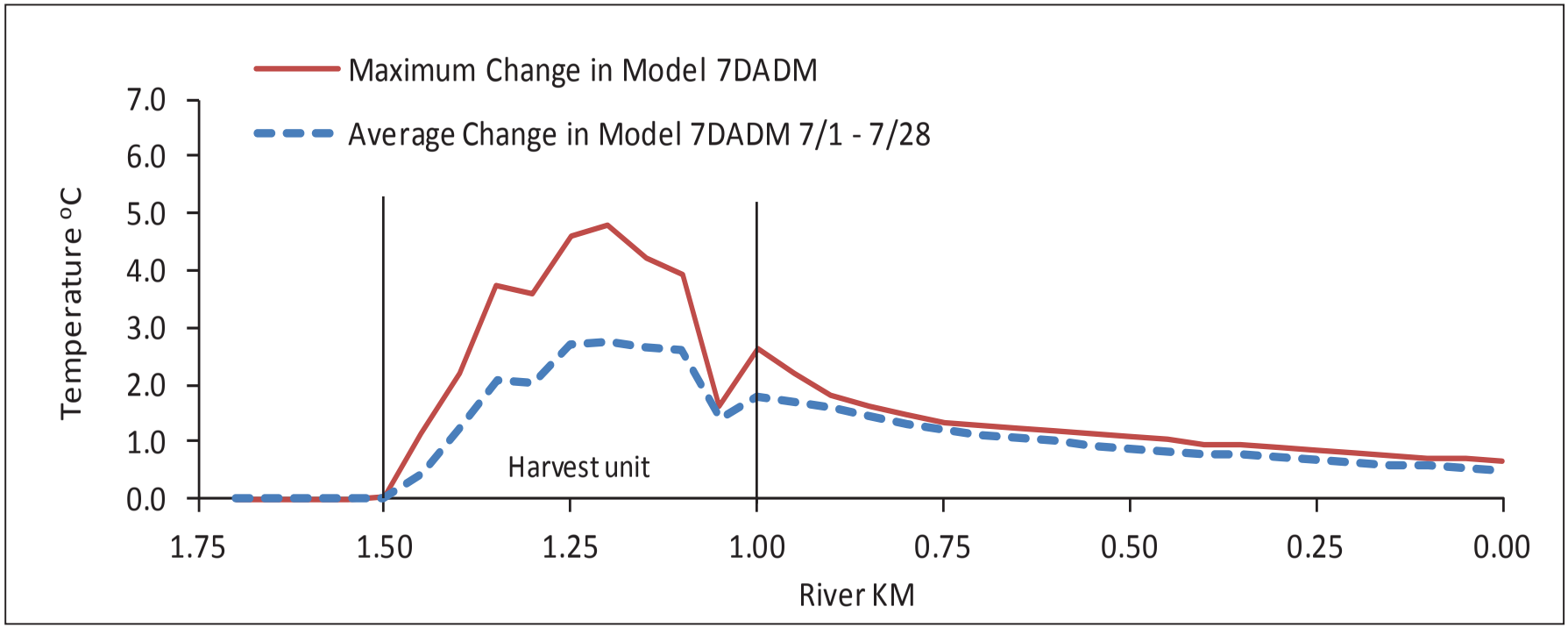
Heat energy fluxes at noon on July 20, 1997 on an **unshaded** study stream in the H.J. Andrews Experimental Forest. **Heat energy gained is 580 W*m$^{-2}$.**

Johnson 2004



EPA-6822_000359

# Figure 3: HeatSource Results for Argue Creek

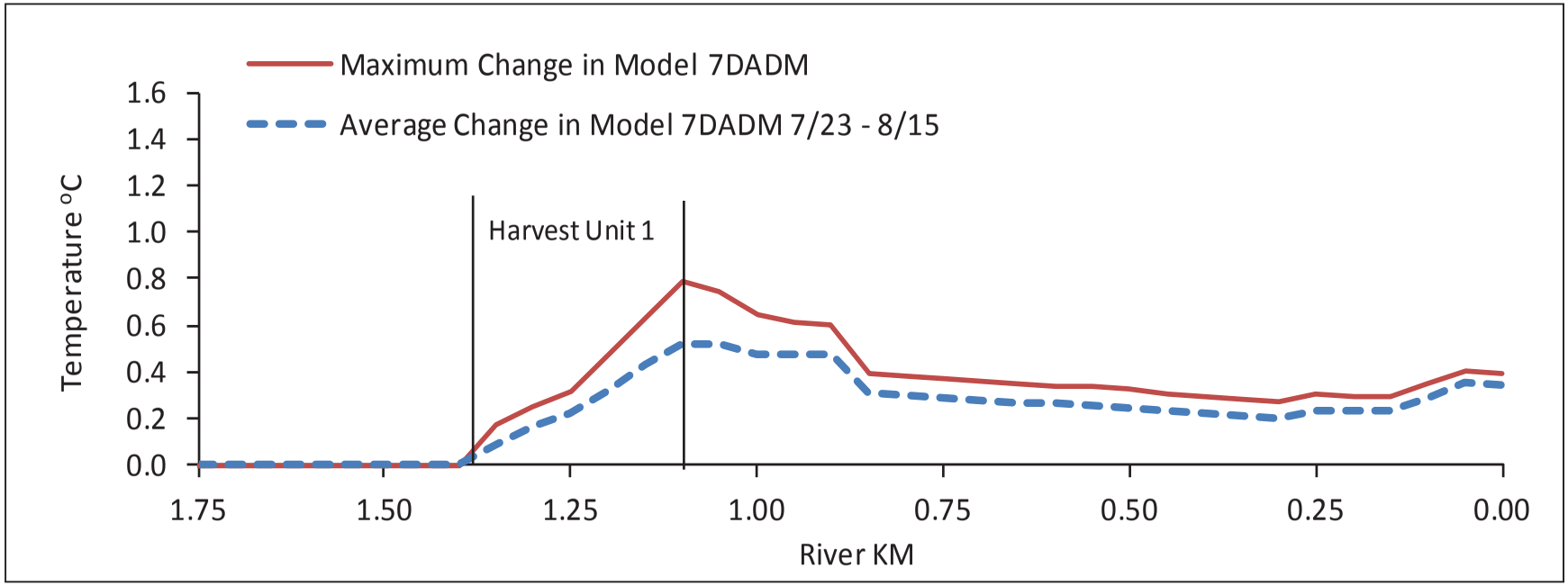



Simulated change in longitudinal 7-day average daily maximum (7DADM) temperatures from harvest at RipStream site 7854, holding all factors constant except vegetation.



EPA-6822_000360

# Figure 4: HeatSource Results for Drift Creek Trib



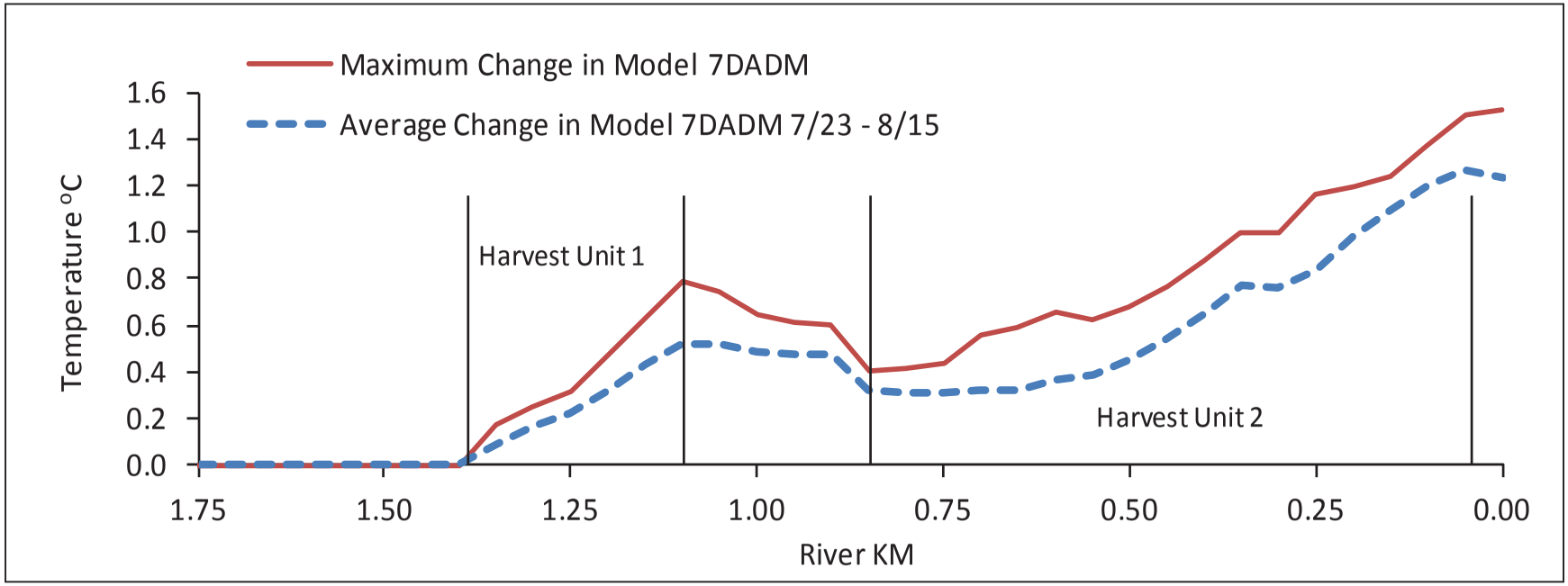

Simulated change in longitudinal 7-day average daily maximum (7DADM) temperatures from harvest at RipStream site 5556, holding all factors constant except vegetation.

Results only include effect of the Harvest Unit 1 in RipStream study area.



EPA-6822_000361

# Figure 5: HeatSource Results for Drift Creek Trib



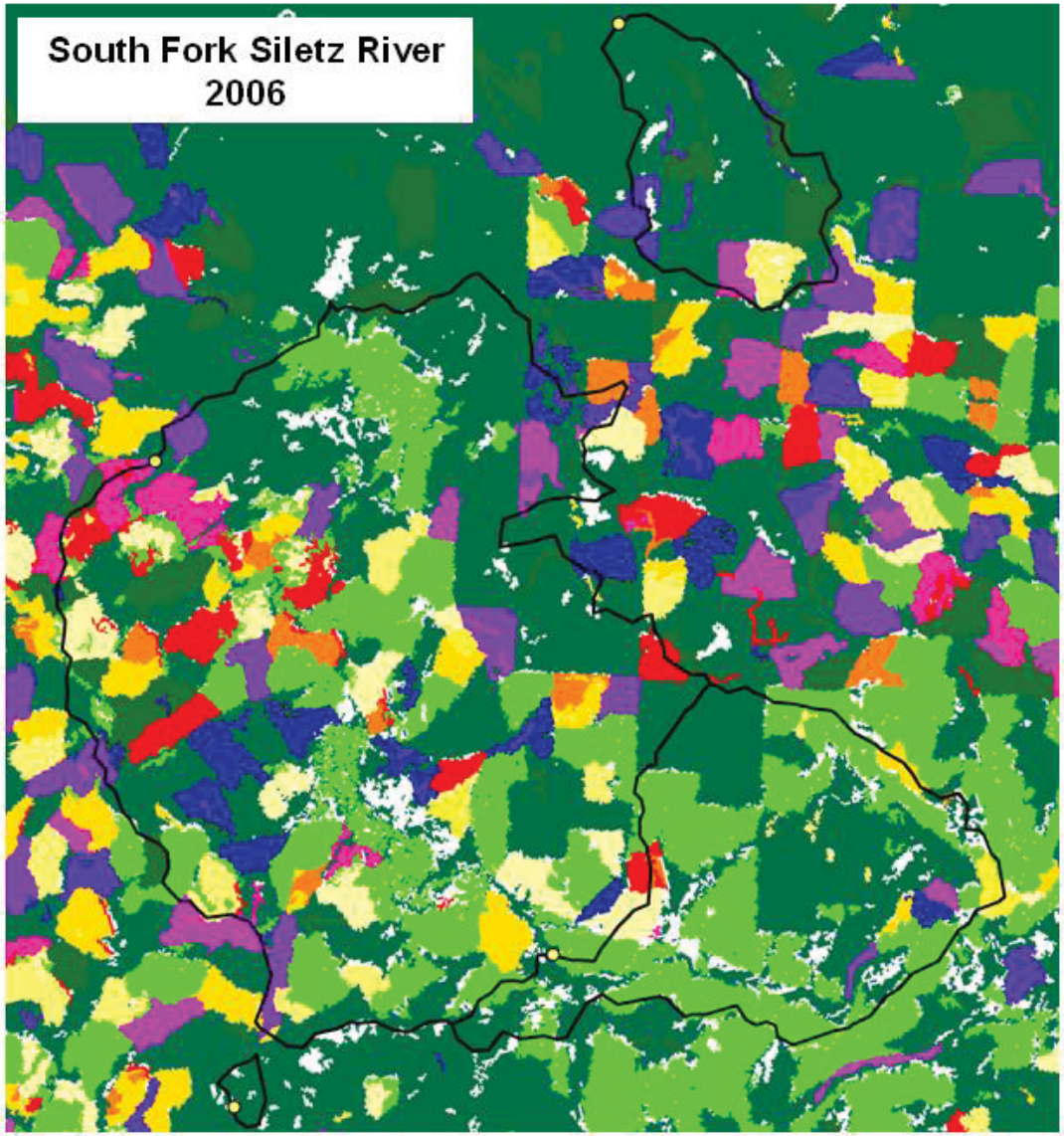

Simulated change in longitudinal 7-day average daily maximum (7DADM) temperatures from harvest at RipStream site 5556, holding all factors constant except vegetation.

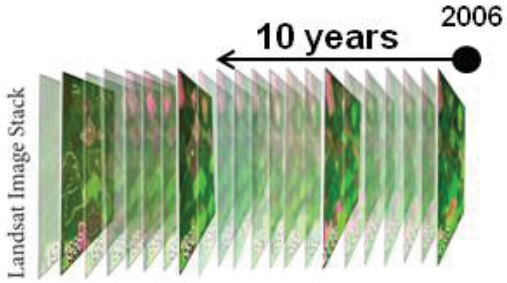
Results include effects from the harvest unit in RipStream study area (Harvest Unit 1) and a second harvest unit downstream of the study area (Harvest Unit 2).



EPA-6822_000362

# Figure 6: Change Detection Analysis




Kennedy et al 2010.

**Percent area disturbed in 2006 = 17%**

Includes any harvest 10 years prior from 1996-2006.

Color = harvested 1996 - 2006

White = Non forested (Ag/Rural residential, meadow)

Dark Green = not harvested 1985 - 2006.

Light Green = harvested 1985-1996. (Not counted in total)



EPA-6822_000363

# Responses to Questions/Concerns Raised by Oregon Forest Industries Council Regarding the Protecting Cold Water Criterion of Oregon's Temperature Water Quality Standard

State of Oregon Department of Environmental Quality

Oregon Department of Environmental Quality
Water Quality Program

Contacts: Josh Seeds 503-229-5081
Ryan Michie 503-229-6162
Gene Foster 503-229-5325

Date: 5/14/2014

## Reasons for a Protecting Cold Water Criterion:

- Natural thermal regime provides best conditions for fish & other native aquatic organisms;*
- Value in diversity of temperatures, including colder than BBNC;*
- Prevent accumulation of heat in fish-bearing reaches;*
- Retain assimilative capacity for climate variation & climate change.

*From Summary of 2003 Technical Advisory Committee findings

## Responses to Forest Industry Questions/Concerns:

1. Paired watershed studies do add to the body of science on fish populations & stream temperature, but not in a way that shows a lack of need for the Protecting Cold Water Criterion.
    a. Hinkle & Alsea studies show increases in fish-bearing streams within the range of responses from RipStream.
    b. WRC studies' inference is short-term, reach-level effects, primarily on resident cutthroat.
    c. The purpose of the standard is maintenance and restoration of natural thermal regimes across the landscape for all aquatic species.
    d. Prevention of short-term, reach level effects to fisheries are a goal to the standard, but are not the primary purpose.
    e. Meeting the standard preserves the capacity of waterbodies to assimilate natural fluctuations in temperature due to year-to-year climate variations & to better maintain cold-water communities in a warming climate.

2. Thermal diversity across the landscape is necessary. Small increases in stream temperature can have negative effects on fish populations, particularly when occurring across the landscape.
    a. Temperature 303(d) listings & TMDLs exist across Oregon.
    b. Temperature effects typically occur on a continuum; increases from natural thermal potential increase risk to fish (US EPA 2001).

c. Heating of headwaters reduces the extent of downstream waters at optimal growth & physiological temperatures & increases the extent at high-risk & lethal temperatures for rearing & migration.
d. Multiple stressors in the environment must be considered. By preventing or reducing temperature stress, we reduce the risks due to multiple stressors on fish populations (e.g. OCCCP bottlenecks).
e. When there is uncertainty, DEQ must make conservative choices to ensure protection of the resource.

3. Thermal loads do move downstream, heat loss mechanisms are much less efficient than heat gain by solar radiation, & dilution of thermal loads is not the same as dissipation, especially with multiple harvests.
    a. In open canopy streams, input of solar radiation typically composes about 50% – 90% of the total heat energy flux (Figures 1 & 2; see Johnson 2004, Benyahya *et al* 2012).
    b. A single source's temperature effects become hard to track downstream, but DEQ calculates thermal loads for TMDLs & permits.
    c. DEQ HeatSource modeling indicates long distances (1000 meters +) are required to lose thermal energy via evaporation & longwave radiation (when tributary & groundwater inputs are held constant).
        i. HeatSource modeling on 2 RipStream sites (5556 & 7854) shows persistent temperature increases a kilometer or more from the end of harvest units (Figures 3 & 4); and
        ii. Harvest of additional downstream unit on 5556 creates greater increase at confluence with Drift Creek (Figure 5).
    d. Davis *et al* (in review):
        i. Average increase on private lands *as harvested* was 0.7°C. Average case for Davis *et al* travel distance for 0.7°C →0.3°C ≈300m. Minimum case is ≈120m, maximum case ≈1125m.
            1. Only 6 of 18 private sites were harvested to or near FPA minimum retention targets.
        ii. Average increase on private land *as modeled to FPA minima* is 1.7°C (draft result). Average case for Davis *et al* travel distance for 1.7°C →0.3°C ≈650m. Minimum case is ≈140m, maximum case ≈2700m.
    e. Cole & Newton (2013) showed that with uncut units interspersed with harvest units, stream reaches showed overall increases in temperature trends post-harvest for 3 of 4 study reaches.

4. The current disturbance regime is very different than the pre-settlement disturbance regime in both frequency & type of disturbance.
    a. Thermal recovery post-disturbance is 7-15 years, with 10 years as a reasonable mid-range value (Johnson & Jones 2000; D'Souza *et al* 2011; Rex *et al* 2012; RipStream data, *unpublished*).

b. With a 40-year rotation (assuming steady yearly harvest rate), 25% of the private industrial forestland base would be in thermal recovery.
c. Based on change in Landsat land cover from 1985-2009 (Figure 6), the average percentage of private forestland (65.1% of total land area) in the MidCoast basin in the 10-yr thermal recovery period is 17% for the time period 1994-2009.
    i. The total for all land uses combined is 10%.
    ii. Varies over time & space.
        1. In 2008, 39.9% of private forestland in the Middle Siletz River watershed was in thermal recovery.
        2. In 1996, 5.3% of private forestland in the Drift Creek watershed was in thermal recovery. [Maximum of 34.9% in 2008]
d. Agee (1990) estimates that historically (prior to Euro-American settlement) an average 0.24% and 0.67% of cedar/spruce/hemlock and western hemlock/Douglas-fir forests, respectively, burned annually.
    i. Gives an average area in thermal recovery estimate of 2.4% for cedar/spruce/hemlock & 6.7% for western hemlock/Douglas-fir.
e. Wimberly (2002) estimates that a median of 17% of Oregon's coastal province would be in early successional condition (<30 years since fire of varying severity).
    i. Using 10 years as above, Wimberly's estimate gives 5.7% of forestlands historically in thermal recovery.
f. High-severity fires leave more wood & live vegetation than clearcut harvest, and there are differences between unmanaged terrestrial & riparian early succession compared to clearcut harvest & replanting methods (Reeves *et al* 1995, Swanson *et al* 2011).
g. Fire return intervals in western Oregon range from 100-400 years. Shorter intervals typically are associated with less severity (Morrison & Swanson 1990).
h. Fire return for high severity fires is typically 200 years (Wimberly 2002), compared to harvest rotation of 40 years.

5. If taking a non-conservative approach to the effects of a single harvest, then we must address actual landscape conditions & the effects of multiple harvests.

## References:


Agee, James K. 1990. The historical role of fire in Pacific Northwest forests, p. 25-38. *In* Walstad, JD, SR Radosevich, and DV Sandberg (*eds.*) Natural and Prescribed Fire in Pacific Northwest Forests. Oregon State University Press, Corvallis, Oregon. 317pp.

Baird, DJ & GA Burton, Jr. (eds.) 2001. Ecological Variability: Separating Natural from Anthropogenic Causes of Impairment. Pensacola, Florida , USA: SETAC Press. 307pp.

Benyahya, L, D Caissie, MG Satish, and N El-Jabi. 2012. Lon-wave radiation and heat flux estimates within a small tributary in Catamaran Brook (New Brunswick, Canada). *Hydrological Processes* **26:** 475-484.

Cole, E, and M Newton. 2013. Influence of streamside buffers on stream temperature response following clear-cut harvesting in western Oregon. *Canadian Journal of Forest Research* **43:** 993-1005.

Davis, LJ, J Groom, and M Reiter. *in review*. A Newton's Law of Cooling for modeling downstream temperature response to timber harvest.

DEQ. 2003. Summary of the Discussion and Findings of DEQ's Technical Advisory Committee on Water Quality Criteria for Temperature. http://www.deq.state.or.us/wq/standards/docs/temperature/TACsummaryTemp2003.pdf

D'Souza, L, M Reiter, LJ Six, & RE Bilby. 2011. Response of vegetation, shade and stream temperature to debris torrents in two western Oregon watersheds. *Forest Ecology and Management* **261:** 2157-2167.

Hannah, DM, IA Malcolm, C Souslby, and AF Youngson. 2008. A comparison of forest and moorland stream microclimate, heat exchanges and thermal dynamics. *Hydrological Processes* **22:** 919-940.

Holtby, L. B. 1988. Effects of logging on stream temperatures in Carnation Creek, British Columbia, and associated impacts on the coho salmon (Oncorhynchus kisutch). *Canadian Journal of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences* **45**: 502-515.

Johnson, Sherri L. 2004. Factors influencing stream temperatures on small streams: substrate effects and a shading experiment. *Canadian Journal of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences* **61:** 913-923.

Johnson, SL, and JA Jones. 2000. Stream temperature response to forest harvest and debris flows in western Cascades, Oregon. *Canadian Journal of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences* **57(Suppl. 2):** 30-39.

Kibler, KM, A Skaugset, LM Ganio, and MM Huso. 2013. Effect of contemporary forest harvesting practices on headwater stream temperatures: Initial response of the Hinkle Creek catchment, Pacific Northwest, USA. *Forest Ecology and Management* **310:** 680-691.

Morrison, PH, and FJ Swanson. 1990. Fire history and pattern in a Cascade Range landscape. US Forest Service General Technical Report: PNW-GTR-254. 77pp.

Murphy, ML, C P Hawkins, and NL Anderson. 1981. Effects of canopy modification and accumulated sediment on stream communities. *Trans. Am. Fish. Soc*. **110:** 469-478.

Oregon Coastal Coho Conservation Plan. http://www.oregon.gov/OPSW/cohoproject/pdfs/november2007_pdfs/coho_plan.pdf

Reeves, GH, LE Benda, KM Burnett, PA Bisson, and JR Sedell. 1995. A disturbance-based ecosystem approach to maintaining and restoring freshwater habitats of evolutionarily significant units of anadromous salmonids in the Pacific Northwest. *American Fisheries Society Symposium* **17:** 334-349.

Rex, JF, DA Maloney, PN Krauskopf, PG Beaudry, and LJ Beaudry. 2012. Variable-retention riparian harvesting effects on riparian air and water temperature of sub-boreal headwater streams in British Columbia. *Forest Ecology and Management* **269:** 259-270.

Robison, E.G., K. Mills, J. Paul, L. Dent, and A. Skaugset. 1999. Oregon Department of Forestry Storm Impacts and Landslides of 1996: Final Report. Forest Practices Technical Report No. 4. Oregon Department of Forestry, Salem, Oregon.

Swanson, ME, JF Franklin, RL Beschta, CM Crisafulli, DA DellaSala, RL Hutto, DB Lindenmayer, and FJ Swanson. 2011. The forgotten stage of forest succession: early-successional ecosystems on forest sites. *Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment* **9:** 117-125.

Trotter, P. C. 1989. Coastal Cutthroat Trout: A Life History Compendium. Trans. Am. Fish. Soc. 118:463-473.

US EPA, Region 10. 2001. Temperature Project Technical Issue Papers. http://yosemite.epa.gov/r10/water.nsf/6cb1a1df2c49e4968825688200712cb7/5eb9e547ee9e111f88256a03005bd665!OpenDocument

Wimberly, MC. 2002. Spatial simulation of historical landscape patterns in coastal forests of the Pacific Northwest. *Canadian Journal of Forest Research* **32:** 1316-1328.