# EVOLVING LAWS

# protect water and habitat

Oregon forest practice regulations have evolved in response to scientific research. On the left of the timeline are just a few of the hundreds of scientific studies that informed the rule changes. On the right is a selection of rule changes, focusing on streams and fish habitat.

The way timber is harvested today is far different than it was two or three decades ago. This is not only because of forest practice rules but also because of technological advances that have helped loggers operate with a lighter footprint.





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#### 2006-16

Alsea Paired Watershed Study Revisited

#### 2006-16

Trask Paired Watershed Study

### 2002-10 Oregon Department of

Forestry's RipStream study examines stream temperatures and streamside conditions

## 2001-10

Hinkle Creek Paired Watershed Study

1998-2002 Study on effectiveness of the Forest Practices Act rules by the Oregon Departments of Forestry and Environmental Quality calls for more research in some areas and new rules on use of wet roads

#### 1991

Legislature calls for revision of stream protection rules

**2013** Rule analysis underway, examining whether RipStream study and others indicate need for changes to ensure protection of cold water

**2007** Rules designed to identify steep, landslide-prone stream channels and leave trees in these areas to provide fallen trees to streams

2010

2000

1990

**2007** Buffer protections extended to streams where fish have been excluded due to a humanmade barrier

**2003** Rules restrict logging on steep slopes where there is a public safety risk

**2002** Rules regulate forest road use during wet weather and installation of cross-drains on roads to reduce sediment delivery to streams

1996 New rules governing chemical application

1995 Reforestation requirements expanded

**1994** New or rebuilt road crossings must allow fish passage; protection for streams, lakes and wetlands; domestic-use and nonfish streams also receive stream buffer protections

**1992-94** New rules on size and spacing of clearcuts, wildlife habitat retention and stream buffers, the latter aimed at growing larger streamside trees over the long term and meeting state water quality standards

**1987** Mandatory buffers required on streams with salmon or trout

**1987** Protection for threatened and endangered species

**1985** Rules added to minimize soil erosion after harvest

**1983** Road and harvesting rules added in response to severe storm-triggered landslides

1980

**1978** 15-day notice required for forest operations, giving state time for oversight

**1978** Comprehensive revision in response to 1977 federal Clean Water Act; administrative oversight added

**1974** Regulation of tractor skidding and drainage to prevent erosion and sediment delivery; protection added for water sources and wetlands

**1972** Act takes effect; rules require reforestation and set standards for roads and streamside buffers

**1971** Oregon Legislature passes the Forest Practices Act

1970

#### 1959-73

Original Alsea Paired Watershed Study

