

Submitted via e-mail, January 3, 2007

Dear Gayle,

Stephen Fitzgerald informed me that I should submit my "public comment" to you for presentation at tomorrow's (Jan. 3rd) Board of Forestry meeting. I wish to comment on the topic concerning Florence becoming an SSRA.

To the Board:

I would like to request that Florence be designated an SSRA. As a smoke sensitive individual I have suffered greatly from smoke impacts caused by slash burning from logging companies and burns regulated by the ODF on numerous occasions. This is a severe health issue and not merely a dislike of smoke. It may be difficult for many individuals to understand the magnitude of suffering that smoke intrusions cause a smoke sensitive person like myself. I relocated to Florence specifically for the clean air which is continually being compromised during the burn season.

When I take a breath of air polluted by slash burning my first reaction is severe burning and extreme pain in my bronchial tubes. Since I do not have asthma, but an allergy to smoke, there is no inhaler that stops this sudden reaction. Then I began to experience difficulty breathing and must be put on oxygen. It is difficult to escape the smoke even going inside as it comes inside under the doors and around the windows. I have been on oxygen with two air cleaners going at once and still had to put towels under the doors. Smoke knows no barriers. You might shrug this reaction off if it happens to someone you don't personally know but imagine if it were your mother or father or child. It is devastating. After my initial reaction, I then have a heaviness in my chest for days or weeks depending of the severity of the onslaught. This limits my activities as it makes it difficult to take a breath. In addition I must take costly prescription medication to stop the pouring of fluids from my ears, eyes, nose and throat. I also develop a severe sore throat from the drainage which then requires additional medical care and causes much pain. As an outdoor person and being under 50 years of age the emotional impact of this suffering is unspeakable. I enjoy yard work, walking and biking but once the smoke has entered my airways all of this is impossible. To add to the depression that comes with these attacks, just when I am beginning to recover from the effects of one smoke intrusion, another smoke intrusion occurs.

The public is educated to a large degree concerning the health risk associated with breathing smoke and many have moved to Florence like myself, for the clean air. Please do not deprive us of our right to clean air. I again request that Florence be protected from this health hazard and be designated a Smoke Sensitive Receptor Area (SSRA).

**Thank you,
Stephanie Oman
Florence, Oregon**