

Oregon Forest Practices Act and Water Protection

Drinking Water Workshops

October 15-17, 2024



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ODF Mission

To serve the people of Oregon by protecting, managing, and promoting stewardship of Oregon's forests to enhance environmental, economic, and community sustainability.





1971 - Oregon Forest Practices Act

The Oregon Forest Practices Act reflects Oregonians' desires to use and enjoy Oregon's forests and protect its natural resources. It was the first law of its kind in the U.S. when the state Legislature passed it in 1971, and the Act and its rules have been changed many times in response to new scientific findings and evolving public needs and interests



Accord & the Forest Practices Act Rules

- New Water Protection Rules
- New Road Construction & Maintenance Rules
- New Harvesting on Steep Slopes Rules
- Increased Penalties and New Enforcement Rules
- Increased Training Capacity





Streams and Water Protection



Stream Classification

- Multiple changes resulting from the Private Forest Accord
- Adopted fish distribution model for initial fish use stream classification
- Added processes for identifying perennial flow
- Identify the beneficial use – fish, SSBT, or domestic
- Designate stream size base on average flow – 3 sizes in FPA



Identifying Fish Streams



- Published new stream classification map July 1, 2023.
- Incorporated a fish distribution model for identifying stream with potential fish use.
- Valid historic field surveys for fish use were used to override the model for fish and non-fish streams.



Identifying Perennial Streams

Multi-Phase Approach as we go through time

Operational Field Surveys - now

Comprehensive map to identify end of perennial flow

Adaptive Management

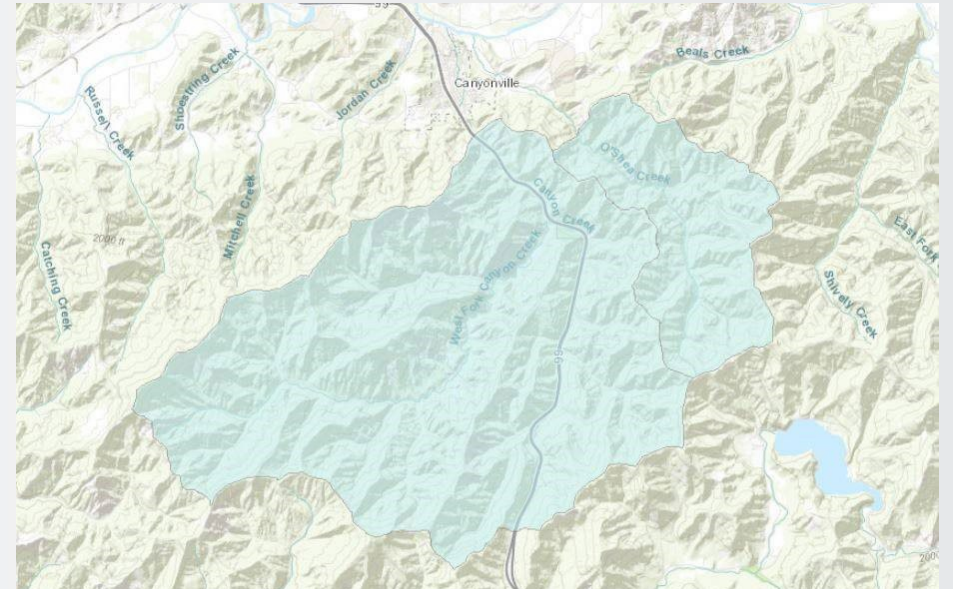


Identifying Domestic Streams

Type D streams are those that do not have fish use and are located upstream of any domestic water intake and has been issued a permit by the **Water Resources Department**.

2 scenarios for Type D classification on a stream:

- **Community Water System**
- **Point of Diversion (surface flow and permitted) upstream of designated water intake**



Community Drinking Watershed



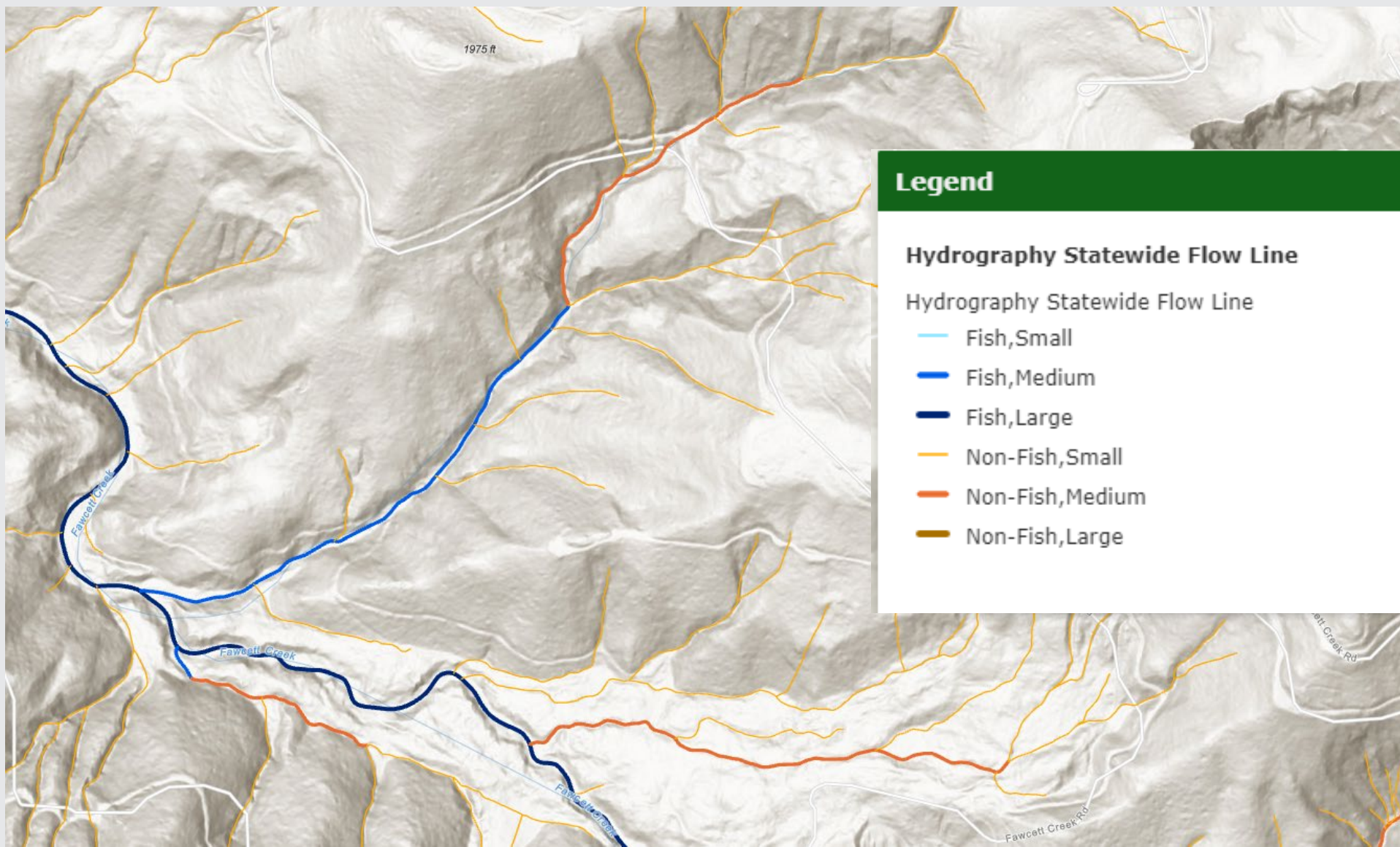
Stream Sizing

- 3 size designations in rule
- Small, Medium, and Large
- Based on the average annual flow for each stream segment
- Stream size determines appropriate vegetation retention and other protections
- Protection requirements generally increase on larger streams





Regulatory Stream Data





Applying Protections

- Combination of stream size and beneficial use determines protections for each water body.

Beneficial use + size = protection

- Streams, lakes, and wetlands are emphasis in rules
- Generally, includes all Waters of the State



Equipment Limitation Zones

Areas where equipment and log removal disturbance shall be minimized

R-ELZ

Minimize equipment disturbance &
**Retain trees under 6-inches DBH
and shrubs**

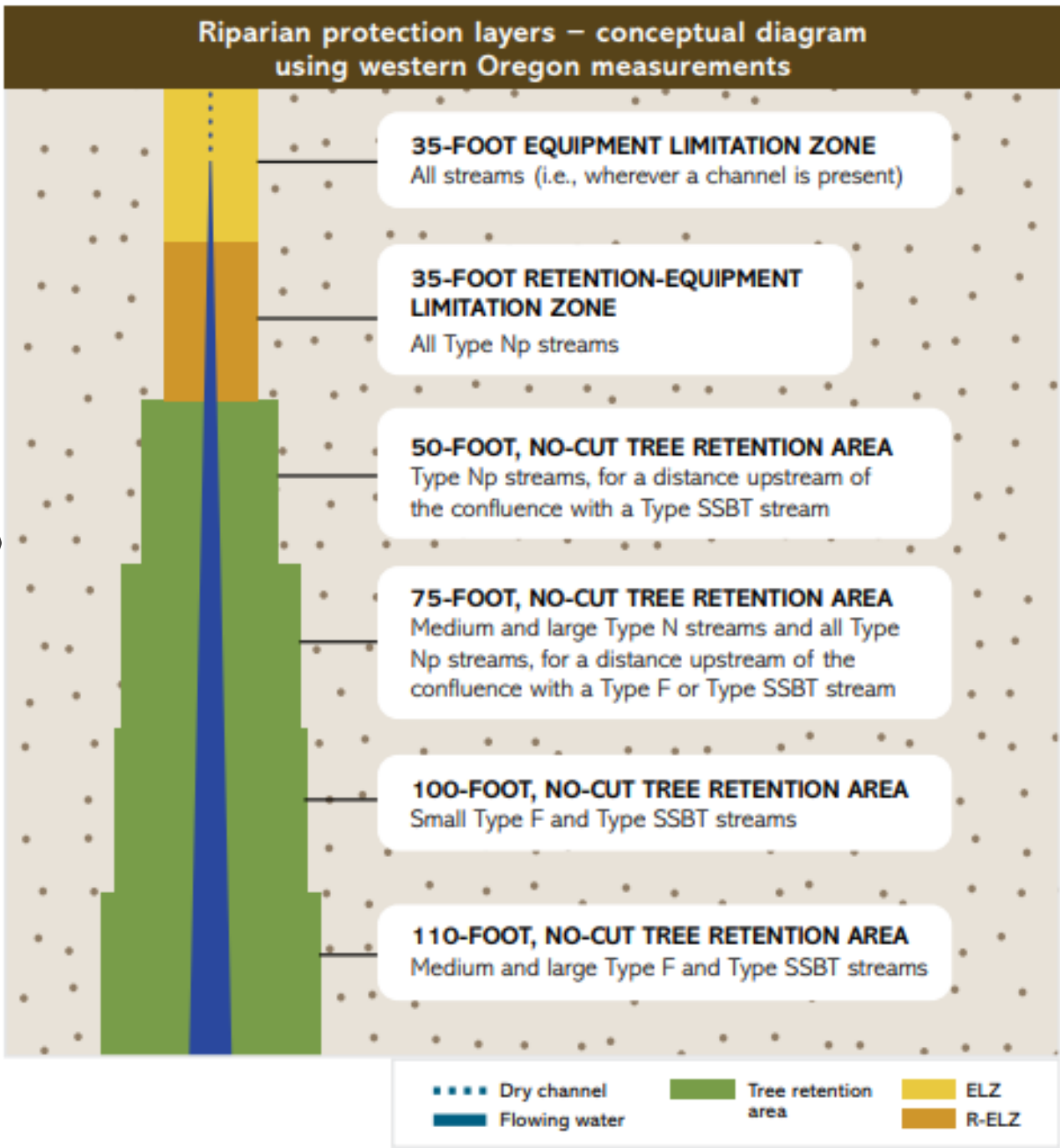
ELZ

Limit equipment disturbance
**No tree or shrub retention
requirement**

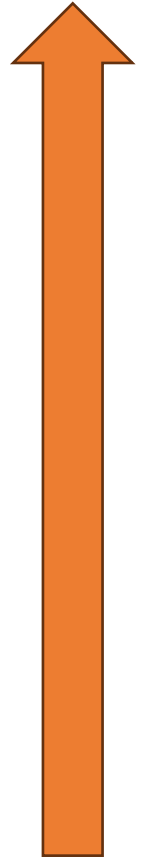




Riparian area vegetation retention



Smaller Streams



Large Streams



Example of Protections

- Large Fish = 110 feet
- Medium Fish = 110 feet
- Medium N = 75 feet
- Small Np = 75 or 50 tree retention for up 1,150 feet
 - with 35' R/ELZ above
- Small Ns = 35 feet ELZ





Chemical Application



Protections

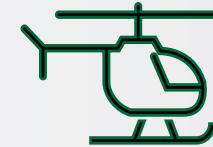
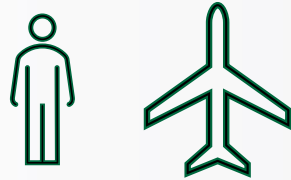
- All waters of the state and other forest resources by following the product label
- Except where the label is more stringent, the FPA has set buffer distances for streams, wetlands and other bodies of water.

The label is the law





Buffer distances by application method



Ground & Aerial (non-helicopter)

- 10' for ground application
- 60' for aerial around fish and domestic streams, homes and schools

Helicopter

- 75' for fish and domestic streams
- 50' for surface water present
- 300' radius for qualified water intake
- 300' for school or inhabited dwelling
- Requires advance notice prior to spray
- Requires completion reporting
- Nearby residents may register to receive notices



Helicopter Spray Buffer Example





Steep Slopes

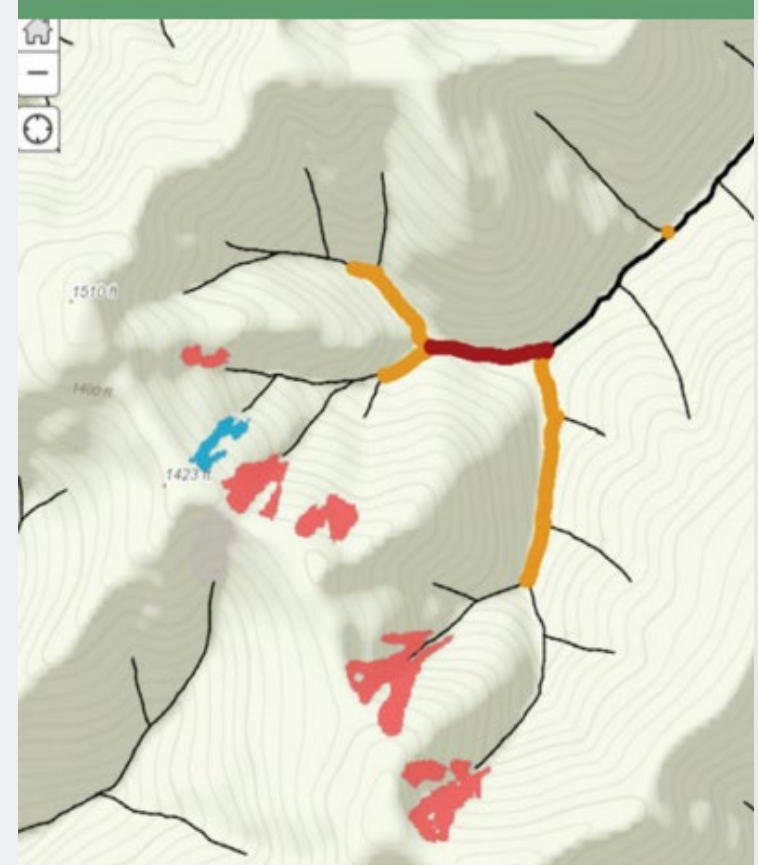




Steep Slope Rule Objectives

Leave trees:

- In slopes model designated areas to deliver materials for fish stream habitats and provide non-fish stream habitats for covered species.
- In field identified areas to reduce timber-harvest-related mass wasting events to fish streams and to contribute large wood to fish streams.
- On unstable steep slopes next to fish streams to provide slope stability and large wood for habitats of covered species.





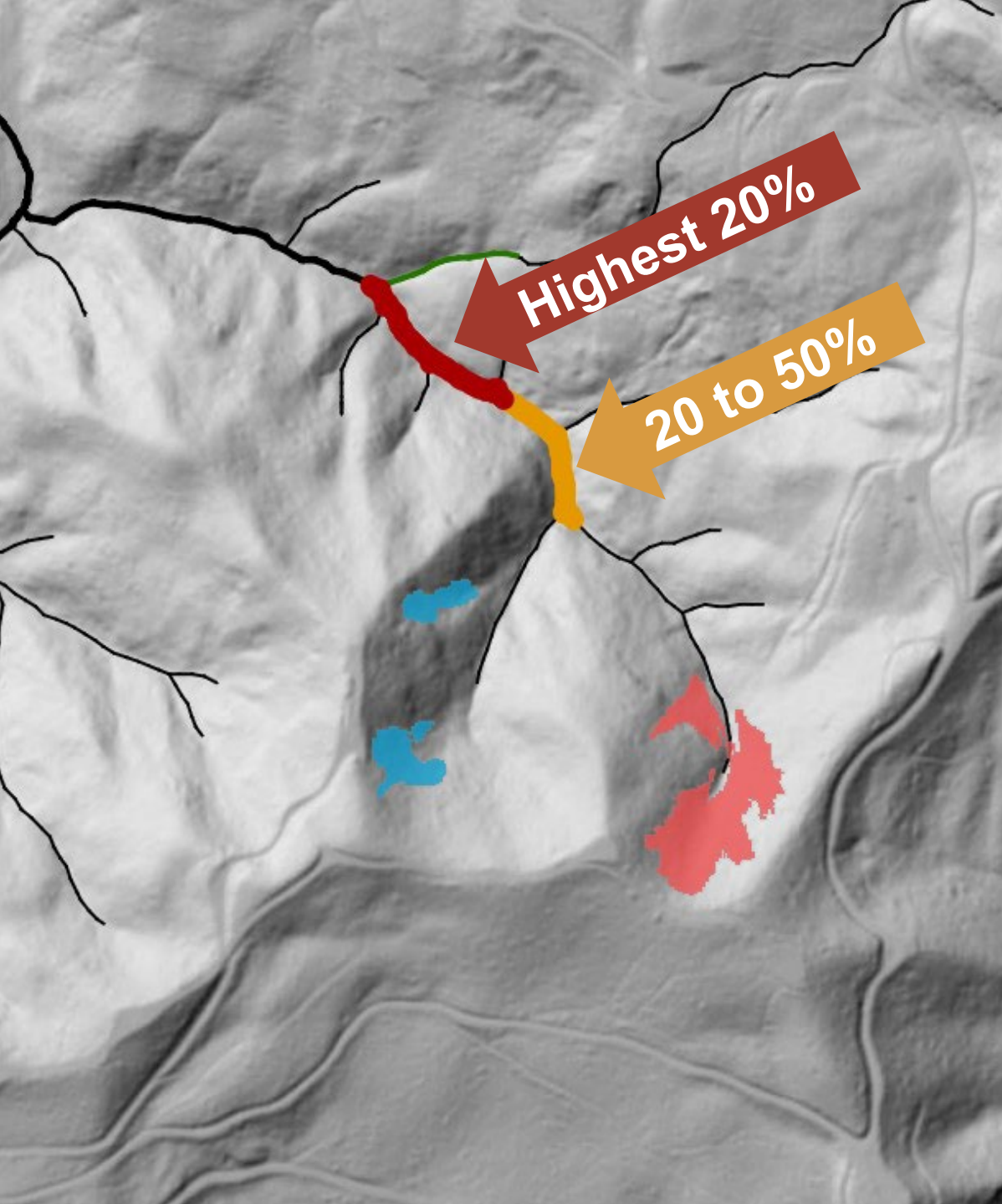
Retain more trees on steep slopes

- Leave trees in Designated Flow Traversal Areas to help create and maintain high-quality habitat.
- Leave trees in Slope Retention Areas
- Leave trees on a subset of steep (>70%) slopes immediately adjacent to specific stream types.





Designated Debris Flow Traversal Areas (DDFTA's)



- DDFTA's are designated along certain Type N streams
- Leave trees are required along the Type N streams designated as a DDFTA.
 - Length is dependent on risk category (higher vs. lower which max is 1000')
- Trees are to be retained for **25 feet** on either side of the active channel

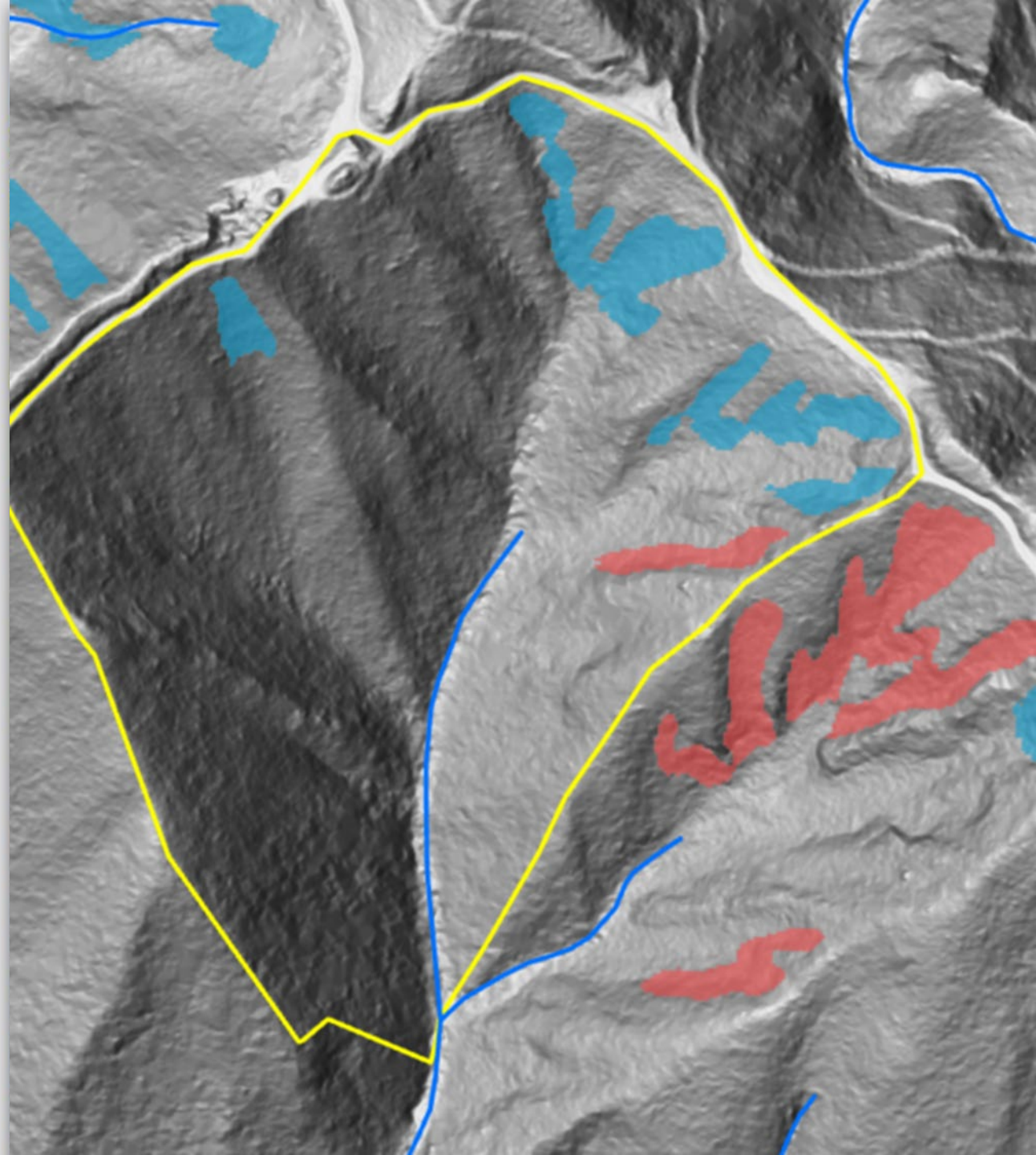


Slope Retention Areas

- 50% of Designated Sediment Source Areas
- **Field identified** and prioritized areas
- Required to take Certified Steeps Slopes Training

[certified-steep-slopes-training.pdf](#)
[\(oregon.gov\)](#)

- *Not required for those who qualify as Small Forestland Owners*





Roads & Water Quality



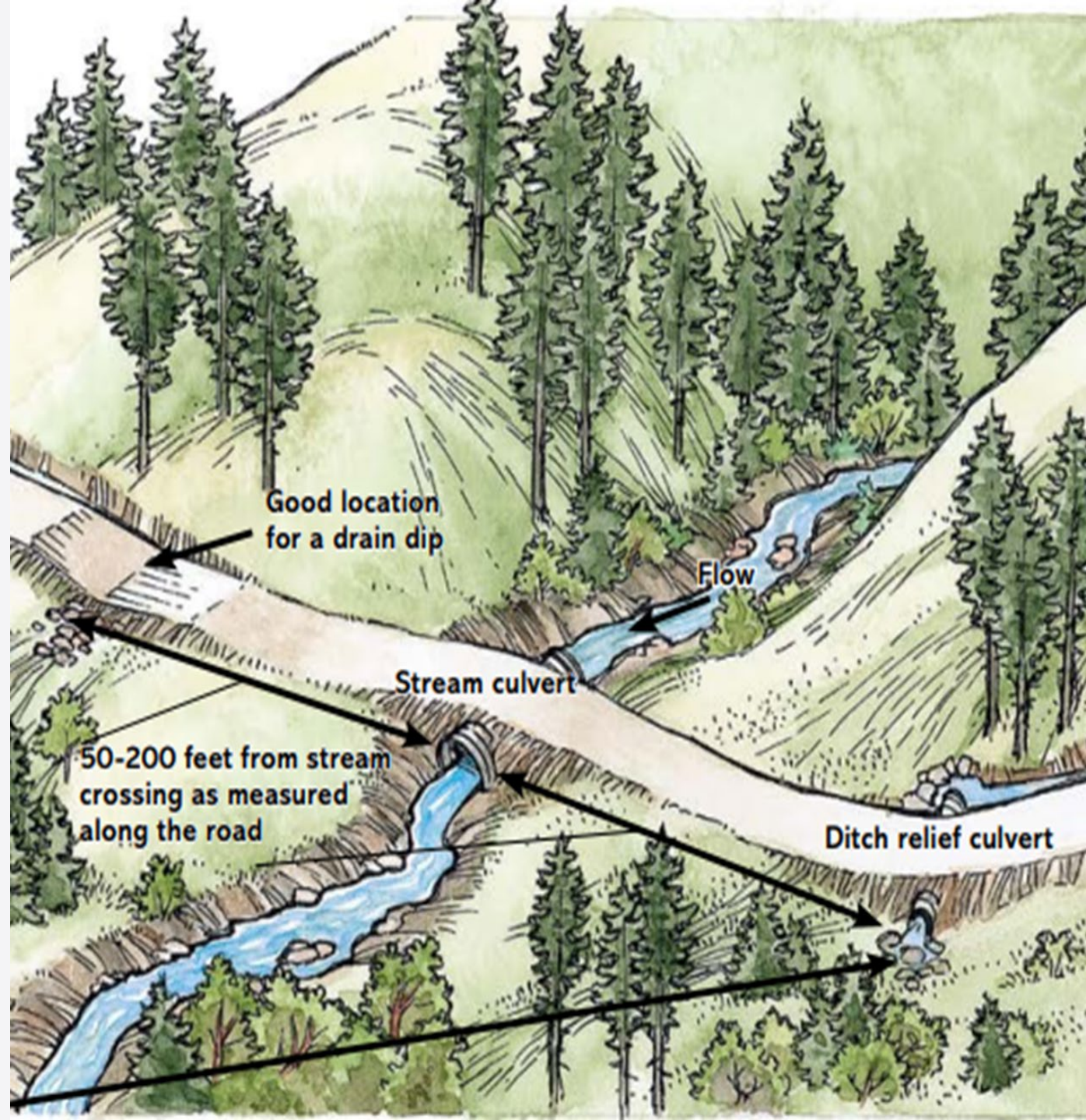
New design standards for forest roads requires written plans for:

- All stream crossings
- All construction in 9 identified critical locations:
 - Near streams
 - Near wetlands
 - Near steep slopes
- Constructing a road in a riparian management area (RMA)



Hydrologic Connectivity

- The goal for all active, inactive and vacated forest roads and landings shall be **hydrologically disconnected** to the maximum extent practicable from waters of the state....





Forest Road Inventory and Assessment (FRIA) A 20-year plan

- First five years will create a comprehensive network inventory
- Following 15 years to correct road-related issues.
- Applies to large forestland owners.

