

# Felling Forests & Fishy Fact-Finding

## The Story of the Hinkle Creek Paired Watershed Study

### Landslides

- The Pacific Northwest is a high risk spot for landslide occurrence because of its combined coastal and mountainous areas
- Landslides are also common in areas where deep-rooted vegetation, that normally binds sediment and soil to bedrock, is removed
- These landslides can be small and harmless or lead to huge earth-moving events, mudslides, and debris flows
- Modern-day forest practices that include clear cutting and removal of underbrush have the potential to exacerbate these effects by reducing interception and evapotranspiration in forest systems

### Response

#### Controversy in Roseburg

- It was not the direction to take forest management in response to the study that was being disputed but the study itself
- Ken Carloni, an OSU professor of Forestry and Forest Ecology believes that the study "not science for science's sake" and that "were looking for ways to prove what they already believed to be true."

The News Review reported extensively on the study as it unfolded



- Contrastingly, the Roseburg News Review praised the study for its success quoting Arne Skaugset, an OSU Forestry professor, as being convinced Hinkle Creek can be protected while allowing clear-cut logging

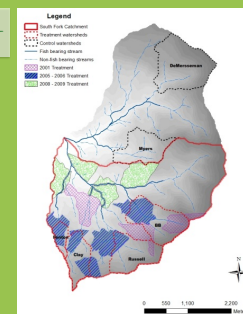
### Hinkle Creek

#### Modern Forest Management

- In 1936, Roseburg Forest Products (RFP) was founded in Douglas County, Oregon
- In the 1990s, the concerns about the impacts that modern forest practices were having on aquatic ecosystems started to become more widespread
- OSU, RFP, and other organizations up the WRC
- Roseburg Watershed Research Cooperative USGS
- RFP responded to these calls by sponsoring the Hinkle Creek Paired Watershed Study (HCPWS) under the Watershed Research Cooperative
- HCPWS (2001-2011) was designed to test the effectiveness of the Oregon Forest Practices Act in protecting ecosystems on land managed for forest practices

#### Outcomes of the Paired Watershed Study

- For almost every discipline, contemporary forest practices resulted in detectable changes in a parameter of interest.
- These changes were often difficult to detect, not acute, were often subtle, and the magnitude of these changes existed well within the spatial variability exhibited within the watershed.



Map of Hinkle Creek, area of study

#### Putting Theory into Practice

- This project was shaped by the four branches of Systematic Environmental Theory (ontology, epistemology, ethics, and politics)
- Theory helps to more closely examine the implicit aspects of issues by asking what forces dictate what is considered "normal"
- Exploring examples like the HCPWS helps to illustrate that familiar environmental problems may not be as straightforward as they seem

#### Role of Roseburg Forest Products

- RFP's goals are to "First, [commit] to being good stewards of our environment," and "second, [manufacture] and sell quality wood products that will help to meet the needs of today's architects, designers and builders."

RFP putting environmental stewardship first



- It is quite remarkable and even odd that a logging company would put their environmental goals at the forefront of their company mission statement and the practices that actually turn a profit second
- RFP sites its sponsorship of the HCPWS to prove its sustainable mindset and has even been presented various awards for its sponsorship of the study.

#### Same Facts, Different Story

- Landslide events can cause huge amounts of physical and emotional damage
- It is possible that the HCPWS was not only intended to examine the Oregon Forest Practices Act but to more importantly prove the RFP would not be the ones to blame in the case of a landslide
- Even though the outcome of the study stated that forest management can continue as usual without ecological consequences, there remains some doubt in this student's mind that this is true

Work Cited

[http://watershedresearch.org/assets/report/WRC\\_Skaugset\\_Hinkle%20Synthesis\\_2013\\_S4.pdf](http://watershedresearch.org/assets/report/WRC_Skaugset_Hinkle%20Synthesis_2013_S4.pdf)  
<http://www.roseburg.com/Company/Message/President/>  
<http://www.nrtoday.com/>

