# NEW FOREST PRACTICES RULES

# **RULES EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2024**

# **TOP THINGS TO KNOW ✓**

- » Road Condition Assessments are required for small forestland owners, and must be submitted along with harvest notifications.
- » Starting in 2024 all landowners must report completion of notified activities by the end of the calendar year or within 90 days for small forestland owners if certain condtions are met.



- » See the ODF Forest Practice Act webpage for training opportunities, rules changes, technical guidance and more.
- » Contact the department's stewardship foresters if you have any questions or need help. The department has stewardship foresters all around Oregon in our more than 30 local offices, and yours is listed below. You can also visit the Find a Forester webpage.

# SPECIAL HELP FOR SMALL FORESTLAND OWNERS

The department has a new Small Forestland Owner (SFO) Office and dedicated SFO foresters to help small forest landowners with their forest management goals. New programs help with fish passage projects on forest roads, tax credits and more. Visit the SFO Office webpage for more information.





ROAD CONDITION ASSESSMENTS



NOTIFIED OF RULE CHANGES









# **SUMMARY OF RULE CHANGES**

### **GEOGRAPHIC REGIONS**

Regions are separated into the western Oregon and eastern Oregon regions at the crest of the Cascade Mountains.

### **FOREST ROADS**

There are new design standards and requirements to inventory, maintain, and manage roads.

## **STEEP SLOPES**

Increased tree retention to reduce harvest-related landslides and ensure fish habitats have enough woody material from naturally occurring landslides.

### STREAM BUFFER INCREASE

Wider stream Riparian Management Areas (RMA) will give more habitat to stream-dependent species. This will help improve water quality and stream health. There are also changes to Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) regulations for managing beavers.

# **FOREST PRACTICES TECHNICAL GUIDANCE**

Will assist landowners and resource professionals to implement the Oregon Forest Practices Act and forest practices rules.

# **LARGE FORESTLAND OWNERS**

» Steep Slopes Western Region: Landowner representatives must complete Steep Slopes certification training to identify slope retention areas.

# **SMALL FORESTLAND OWNERS**

- » Small Forestland Investment in Stream Habitat Program (SFISH) funds will be available to replace culverts on fish bearing streams and improve roads for small forestland owners.
- » Forest Conservation Tax Credit (FCTC)
- » Road Condition Assessment (RCA)
- » Modified Riparian Management Area requirements
- » Stream adjacent failures have expanded buffers on fish bearing streams.

# **ALL LANDOWNERS**

### **NEW ROAD RULES**

- » Forest road inventory assessment (large landowners)
- » Abandoned roads
- » Hydrologic disconnection
- » Critical road locations
- » 100-year peak flow
- » Stream simulation
- » Increased culvert sizing requirements
- » Wetland construction guidelines

### **WATER PROTECTION**

- » New fish use stream classification map
- » Perennial stream flow field determination
- » New perennial stream RMA requirements
- » Increased requirements for all stream types
- » Active management in RMA for eastern Oregon

# FISH STREAM BUFFERS (TYPE F AND TYPE SSBT)

- » Western Region: Increasing RMA width to 100 feet for small streams and 110 feet for medium and large streams.
- » Eastern Region: Increasing RMA width to 75 feet for small streams and 100 feet for medium and large streams with basal area and tree count retention.

# STREAM ADJACENT FAILURES

Added additional protection requirements for field identified areas next to fish use streams that are actively failing or unstable slopes. Leave tree areas are now required upslope of the riparian management area.

# **HARVESTING RULES**

- » All Regions: Equipment limitation Zones (ELZ) & R-ELZ to protect N Type streams.
- » Western Region: Tree RMA on Type N streams modeled as Debris Flow Traversal Areas.

### **COMPLIANCE MONITORING**

» Forestland owners must accommodate property access for compliance monitoring.

# **ENFORCEMENT**

- » Base fines increased from \$5.000 to \$10.000
- » Added a definition of repeat violator
- » Added a definition of significant violation
- » Added the rule for financial assurances



For more information contact smallforestlandowneroffice@odf.oregon.gov