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4 - FOREST LANDS

GOAL:

To conserve forest lands for forest uses.

Forest land shall be retained for the production of wood fibre and other forest uses. Lands suitable for forest uses shall be inventoried and designated as forest lands. Existing forest land uses shall be protected unless proposed changes are in conformance with the comprehensive plan.

In the process of designating forest lands, comprehensive plans shall include the determination and mapping of forest site classes according to the United States Forest Service manual "Field Instructions for Integrated Forest Survey and Timber Management Inventories - Oregon, Washington and California, 1974."

FOREST LANDS--are (1) lands composed of existing and potential forest lands which are suitable for commercial forest uses; (2) other forested lands needed for watershed protection, wildlife and fisheries habitat and recreation; (3) lands where extreme conditions of climate, soil and topography require the maintenance of vegetative cover irrespective of use; (4) other forested lands in urban and agricultural areas which provide urban buffers, wind breaks, wildlife and fisheries habitat, livestock habitat, scenic corridors, and recreational use.

FOREST USES--are (1) the production of trees and the processing of forest products; (2) open space, buffers from noise, and visual separation of conflicting uses; (3) watershed protection and wildlife and fisheries habitat; (4) soil protection from wind and water; (5) maintenance of clean air and water; (6) outdoor recreational activities and related support services and wilderness values compatible with these uses; and (7) grazing land for livestock.

GUIDELINES:

A. PLANNING:

1. Forest lands should be inventoried so as to provide for the preservation of such lands for forest uses.
2. Plans providing for the preservation of forest lands for forest uses should consider as a major determinant the carrying capacity of the air, land and water resources of the planning area. The land conservation and development actions provided for by such plans should not exceed the carrying capacity of such resources.

B. IMPLEMENTATION:

1. Before forest land is changed to another use, the productive capacity of the land in each use should be considered and evaluated.
2. Developments that are allowable under the forest lands classification should be limited to those activities for forest production and protection and other land management uses that are compatible with forest production. Forest lands should be available for recreation and other uses that do not hinder growth.
3. Forestation or reforestation should be encouraged on land suitable for such purposes, including marginal agricultural land not needed for farm use.
4. Road standards should be limited to the minimum width necessary for management and safety.
5. Highways through forest lands should be designed to minimize impact on such lands.
6. Rights-of-way should be designed so as not to preclude forest growth whenever possible.
7. Maximum utilization of utility rights-of-way should be required before permitting new ones.
8. Comprehensive plans should consider other land uses that are adjacent to forest lands so that conflicts with forest harvest and management are avoided.