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Oregon's Statewide Planning Goals & Guidelines

GOAL 4: FOREST LANDS

OAR 660-015-0000(4)

To conserve forest lands by maintaining the forest land base and to protect the state's forest economy by making possible economically efficient forest practices that assure the continuous growing and harvesting of forest tree species as the leading use on forest land consistent with sound management of soil, air, water, and fish and wildlife resources and to provide for recreational opportunities and agriculture.

Forest lands are those lands acknowledged as forest lands as of the date of adoption of this goal amendment. Where a plan is not acknowledged or a plan amendment involving forest lands is proposed, forest land shall include lands which are suitable for commercial forest uses including adjacent or nearby lands which are necessary to permit forest operations or practices and other forested lands that maintain soil, air, water and fish and wildlife resources.

USES

Forest operations, practices and auxiliary uses shall be allowed on forest lands subject only to such regulation of uses as are found in ORS 527.722.

Uses which may be allowed subject to standards set forth in this goal and administrative rule are: (1) uses related to and in support of forest operations; (2) uses to conserve soil, water and air quality, and to provide for fish and wildlife resources, agriculture

and recreational opportunities appropriate in a forest environment; (3) locationally dependent uses; (4) dwellings authorized by law.

IMPLEMENTATION

Comprehensive plans and zoning provide certainty to assure that forest lands will be available now and in the future for the growing and harvesting of trees. Local governments shall inventory, designate and zone forest lands. Local governments shall adopt zones which contain provisions to address the uses allowed by the goal and administrative rule and apply those zones to designated forest lands.

Zoning applied to forest land shall contain provisions which limit, to the extent permitted by ORS 527.722, uses which can have significant adverse effects on forest land, operations or practices. Such zones shall contain numeric standards for land divisions and standards for the review and siting of land uses. Such land divisions and siting standards shall be consistent with the applicable statutes, goal and administrative rule. If a county proposes a minimum lot or parcel size less than 80 acres, the minimum shall meet the requirements of ORS 527.630 and conserve values found on forest lands. Siting standards shall be designed to make allowed uses compatible with forest operations, agriculture and to conserve values found on forest lands.

Local governments authorized by ORS 215.316 may inventory, designate

and zone forest lands as marginal land, and may adopt a zone which contains provisions for those uses and land divisions authorized by law.

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.