

IV. Oregon's Land Use Planning Program

The state of Oregon was one of the first in the country with a statewide program for comprehensive land use planning. The program is overseen by the Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development and their commission (the Land Use and Development Commission or LCDC). Zoning rules and regulations are implemented and managed by county and local governments. LCDC established a number of statewide goals, some of which directly relate to protecting forest land from being lost to non-forest uses. The overall statewide planning system has been well studied and additional details can be obtained from some key publications (Abbott *et al.* 1994, Knapp and Nelson 1992, Wiley 2001). Two particular goals relate to forests in Oregon and are described in more detail below.

A. Forest Protection (Goal 4)

One statewide planning goal (Goal 4), was designed to protect forests and Oregon's commercial forestry base. This statute, Oregon Administrative Rules (OAR) 660-015-0000 (4) passed in 1973, states the goal as: "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." As a result of working to implement Goal 4, most counties have been able to protect highly productive forest lands. A number of forest land use programs are currently available statewide.

B. Natural Resources Protection (Goal 5)

Goal 5 is a broad statewide planning goal that covers more than a dozen resources, including wildlife habitats, historic places, and aggregate (gravel). It was originally adopted by LCDC in 1974. Goal 5 and related Oregon Administrative Rules (Chapter 660, Divisions 16 and 23) describe how cities and counties are to plan and zone land to conserve resources listed in the goal. Directly related to Forest Legacy are the focus on wildlife habitats, wetlands, riparian habitats, endangered species, and natural areas.

V. Oregon's Key Forest Conservation Programs

A. State and federal programs

Forest Stewardship Program

This is a federal program administered by the USDA Forest Service and implemented by the Oregon Department of Forestry. Its objective is to provide assistance for the improved stewardship of private non-industrial and tribal forestlands. The program encourages landowners and managers to work with a professional forester to identify their land management goals in written forest management plans (also known as forest stewardship plans). Forest stewardship plans identify management opportunities for environmental protection, resource conservation and income consistent with landowner goals.

The Forest Stewardship Program encourages landowners to increase communication and collaboration between citizens and the managers of our public lands to address broader landscape issues including threatened and endangered species, biodiversity,