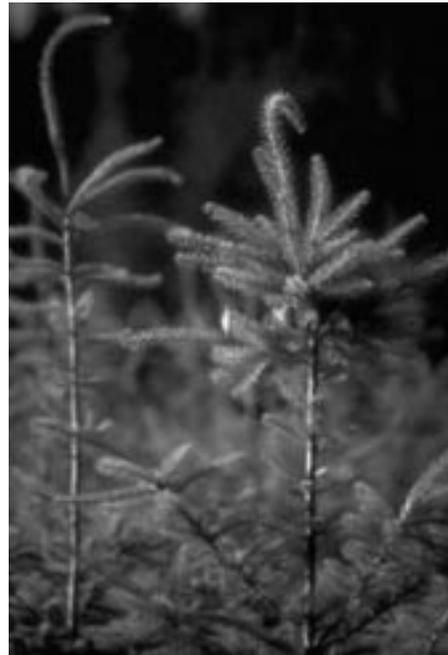


1997 REFORESTATION ACCOMPLISHMENT REPORT

Published Annually by the
Oregon Department of Forestry
Forest Practices Program

July 1999



TO: Oregon Board of Forestry Members and Other Interested Citizens

FROM: Ted Lorensen
Forest Practices Program Director

DATE: July 29, 1999

This is the Forest Practices Program report on the administration of the forest practice reforestation rules during 1997.

The 1997 Reforestation Accomplishment report differs slightly from previous reports because it includes the first units planted under the 1991 statutes that require free-to-grow trees. "Free to grow" means that a tree or a stand of well-distributed trees of acceptable species and good form, has a high probability of remaining or becoming vigorous, healthy, and dominant over competing vegetation. The number of harvest units subject to compliance under the old stand establishment rules are significantly lower. This trend will continue as harvest units completed after 1991 are compliance checked and reported under the free-to-grow rules.

PLANTING ACCOMPLISHMENTS: In 1997, 3,478 units (126,921 acres) required planting under the 1991 reforestation rules. Compliance information is available for 84.4% of the total acres in this category. There is a compliance rate of 99% based on acres checked and 99% based on the number of units checked. Clearcut harvest operations completed after 1991 are required to have reforestation activities, such as site preparation and planting, completed within two years. Planting accomplishments were first reported in 1994.

FREE-TO-GROW ACCOMPLISHMENTS: In 1997, a total of 152 units (6,570 acres) were required to be free-to-grow under the establishment rules. Compliance checks were completed on 66.4% of the acres required to be free-to-grow in 1997. Compliance examinations indicate that based on local government, industrial, and individually owned operation acreage where compliance inspections were made, 100% of the acres and 100% of the units were reforested or had completed land-use changes according to the rules.

On operations completed since 1992, the reforestation rules require landowners to establish a free-to-grow stand by the end of the sixth full calendar year after the completion of the operation or 12-months after tree stocking has been reduced, whichever comes first.

STAND ESTABLISHMENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS: In 1997, 245 units (24,895 acres) were required to be established under the old stand establishment rules. Compliance checks were completed on 77.2% of the acres requiring stand establishment in 1997. Compliance examinations indicate that based on local government, industrial and individually owned operation acreage where compliance inspections were made, 100% of the acres and 100% of the units under the older establishment rules were reforested, or changes in land use were completed, according to the reforestation requirements. On operations which were completed before 1992, the reforestation rules required landowners to establish stands three to six years after harvesting.

Compliance investigations are continuing on the remaining 750 operations (27,638 acres). Inaccessible units and heavy forest practice forester workloads are delaying compliance work. Most of these units are expected to meet the reforestation or planting requirements.

If you have any questions about this report, please contact Jeff P. Peck, Forest Practices Operations Analyst, at 503-945-7474 or Forest Practices staff at 503-945-7470. This report will also be made available on the department's web site (<http://www.odf.state.or.us/>) under Forest Practices .

Initial copy distribution

Distribution FP, FP-E
Regional Forest Practice Committee Members
Ray Wilkeson – Oregon Forest Industries Council (OFIC)
Denny Miles – Oregon Small Woodlands Association (OSWA)
George Brown – Oregon State University (OSU)
Richard Benner – Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD)
Scott Reed – Oregon State Forestry Extension
Leslie Lehmann – Oregon Forest Resources Institute (OFRI)
Geoff Pampush – Oregon Trout
Sara Vickerman – Defenders of Wildlife

1997 REFORESTATION ACCOMPLISHMENT REPORT

The purpose of this document is to provide the Board of Forestry and other interested citizens information about the reforestation accomplishments on private and local government forestlands, resulting from administration of the Oregon Forest Practices Act during 1997. This report provides information on stand establishment accomplishments achieved under the forest practice rules, and planting accomplishments achieved under statutory and administrative rule requirements in 1997, and information on Oregon Department of Forestry administrative procedures.

Oregon's Reforestation Requirements

Forest practice rules in effect prior to 1995 required reforestation of economically suitable forestland whenever, as a result of an operation, the stocking was reduced below a specific minimum level. "Economically suitable" forestlands were defined as Class I or Class II lands in eastern Oregon and lands capable of a mean annual production of at least 50 cubic feet per acre per year at culmination in western Oregon. The number of harvesting units subject to the former stand establishment rules will continue to significantly diminish over time as these units continue to meet their compliance obligations.

In 1991, the Oregon Legislature amended the Oregon Forest Practices Act through SB 1125. These changes included shortened time frames for planting and required additional stand establishment compliance standards after planting.

In 1991, the Oregon Legislature amended the Oregon Forest Practices Act through SB 1125. These changes included shortened timeframes for planting and required additional stand establishment compliance standards after planting. The 1991 statutes required that reforestation efforts must start within 12 months after completion of harvest, and that, where required, planting must be completed within two seasons. These planted stands must meet free-to-grow standards by the end of the fifth growing season after planting or seeding. These statutes applied statewide with no regional or subregional differences. This reporting year, 1997, is the first year that free-to-grow compliance checks are reported for harvest unit operations completed after 1991.

New forest practice reforestation rules adopted by the Board of Forestry in 1994 replace the former administrative rules and supersede the 1991 statute requirements. Free-to-grow compliance has changed from the end of the fifth growing season after planting to the end of the sixth full calendar year after the completion of the operation. Reforestation of harvest units completed after January 1, 1995, are regulated under these rules.

Administrative Procedures

For all reforestation requirements, administrative procedures direct the department to:

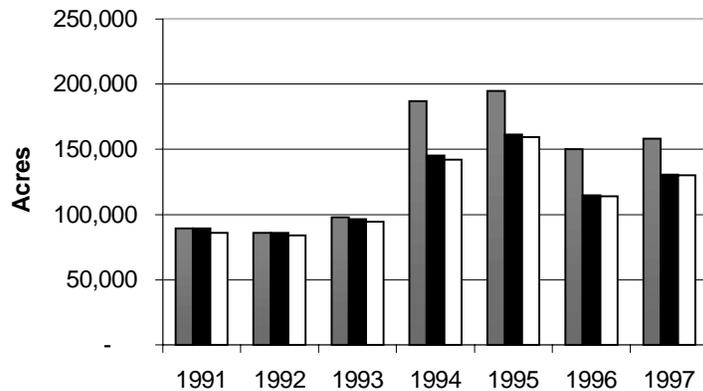
1. Notify each landowner, at the time of notification, that reforestation will be required if stocking is reduced below specific minimums as a result of the operation.
2. Inform each landowner, upon completion of an operation, of which portion of the operation is subject to the reforestation requirements, the minimum number of trees per acre that must be established and the deadline for establishment.
3. Make compliance examinations to determine whether the reforestation effort resulted in established stocking within the required time period.

Table I. Reforestation Accomplishments, 1991 – 1997

Year	Total Acres ¹ Requiring Compliance	Acres on Which ODF Made Determinations	Acres Determined to be in Compliance	% of Acres Checked that are in Compliance
1991	89,526	89,526 (100.0%)	85,959	96%
1992	85,689	85,689 (100.0%)	82,030	95.7%
1993	98,078	96,495 (98.4%)	92,714	96%
1994	186,903	145,291 (77.7%)	141,376	97.3%
1995	194,607	153,808 (79.0%)	151,994	98.8%
1996	150,115	112,902 (75.2%)	111,695	98.9%
1997	158,386	130,748 (82.6%)	130,129	99.5%

¹Data for 1994-1997 includes compliance acres for establishment and planting accomplishments.

Chart I. Reforestation Compliance Examinations



Acres Requiring Compliance
 # Acres ODF Made Determinations
 # Acres Determined to be in Compliance

Results of Compliance Examinations

Field examinations continue to indicate planting standards (trees/acre) are usually significantly higher than the minimum requirements of the Forest Practices Act.

Of the 3,478 units (126,921 acres) requiring "planting" under the clearcut reforestation statute in 1997, 2,626 units (102,573 acres) were determined to be in compliance; 31 units (619 acres) were in violation; 10 units (321 acres) had timelines for compliance extended for special circumstances; 604 units (19,760 acres) remained in an undetermined status; and 207 units (3,648 acres) had completed or initiated land use changes. Field examinations continue to indicate planting standards (trees/acre) are usually significantly higher than the minimum requirements of the Forest Practices Act. Compliance information is available on 84.4% of the total acres. There is a compliance rate of 99.4% based on these acres and 89.9% based on the number of units checked. See Table III, page 5.

Of the 152 units (6,570 acres) requiring free-to-grow compliance in 1997, 73 units (4,363 acres) were found in compliance; 0 units (0 acres) are in violation of the rules; 78 units (2,206 acres) remain in an undetermined status; and 1 unit (1 acre) have completed or initiated land use changes. Based on data gathered by department forest practices foresters, compliance information is available on 66.4% of the total acres. There is a compliance rate of 100% based on these acres and 100% based on the number of units checked. See Table IV, page 6.

Of the 245 units (24,895 acres) requiring "stand establishment" under the older regional reforestation rules in 1997, 177 units (19,223 acres) were found in compliance; 0 units (0 acres) are in violation of the rules; 68 units (5,672 acres) remain in an undetermined status; and 0 units (0 acres) have completed or initiated land use changes. Based on data gathered by department forest practices foresters, compliance information is available on 77.2% of the total acres. There is a compliance rate of 100% based on these acres and 100% based on the number of units checked. See Table V, page 7.

Violations

Violations have a variety of causes. These occurred almost exclusively on non-industrial private lands and involved small acreage units.

Violations have a variety of causes. These occurred almost exclusively on non-industrial private lands and involved small acreage units. Landowners who have operations which are in violation of the reforestation requirements either have been or will be cited and given repair orders.

Landowners may face additional enforcement actions if the repair orders are not complied with in a timely manner. The average annual number of reforestation violations prior to 1994 was approximately 33. The increase to 145 in 1994 has been followed by decreases in 1995 to 63, 53 in 1996 and 31 in 1997. The department continues to implement a number of pro-active prevention activities to further reduce reforestation violations.

Changes in Land Use

Reforestation is not required when the purpose of the harvesting operation is to convert the operation area to a land use that precludes the continued growing and harvesting of forest tree species. Of the operations in compliance in 1997, 208 (3,649 acres) involved a land-use change activity.

Table II. Land-Use Change Activity (LUC), 1991-1997

	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997
LUC Units	87	106	109	115	100	178	208
LUC Acres	1,327	1,588	2,030	2,207	954	1, 629	3,649
% of Acres Requiring Compliance	1.5%	1.9%	2.1%	1.2%	0.5%	1.1%	2.3%

In stands affected by brush competition or animal damage, service foresters provide landowners with management assistance.

In addition to making rule compliance determinations, forest practices foresters continue to coordinate with the department's Service Forestry Program. They alert service foresters when non-industrial plantations are identified which may meet the minimum forest practices reforestation standards but which also may be in jeopardy from brush competition, animal damage or other problems. Service foresters can then make early contacts with the affected landowners and offer assistance in managing these young timber stands so they will reach maturity.

Tables III, IV and V summarize the 1997 reforestation accomplishments by Oregon Department of Forestry districts, areas and for Oregon as a whole.

This report was prepared by Forest Practices staff in cooperation with Oregon Department of Forestry field units.

**TABLE III
1997 PLANTING ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

DISTRICT	PLANTING REQUIRED		PLANTING ACCOMPLISHED		IN VIOLATION		COMPLIANCE EXTENDED		PLANTING STATUS UNDETERMINED		LAND USE CHANGE	
	OPS	ACRES	OPS	ACRES	OPS	ACRES	OPS	ACRES	OPS	ACRES	OPS	ACRES
ASTORIA	157	6,802	115	6,171	0	0	0	0	17	522	25	109
CLACKAMAS-MARION	270	5,422	184	3,464	3	44	1	8	75	1,833	7	73
FOR. GROVE/COL. C.	706	14,862	372	10,025	3	56	1	18	251	4,210	79	553
TILLAMOOK	103	3,201	94	2,969	1	12	1	112	2	98	5	10
WEST OREGON	388	15,066	264	10,095	0	0	0	0	119	4,944	5	27
NW OR AREA	1,624	45,353	1,029	32,724	7	112	3	138	464	11,607	121	772
COOS	710	24,181	648	22,942	11	321	2	22	13	420	36	476
DOUGLAS	284	13,444	225	10,097	1	45	2	77	39	1,430	17	1,795
EASTERN LANE	213	10,375	199	9,415	0	0	0	0	13	950	1	10
LINN	165	6,504	146	6,117	2	70	1	10	7	237	9	70
SOUTHWEST	49	4,313	41	4,119	0	0	1	12	7	182	0	0
WESTERN LANE	252	7,740	202	6,480	10	71	0	0	32	1,142	8	47
SW OR AREA	1,673	66,557	1,461	59,170	24	507	6	121	111	4,361	71	2,398
KLAMATH-LAKE	78	3,862	59	2,992	0	0	0	0	6	442	13	428
CENTRAL OREGON	49	7,785	40	6,284	0	0	0	0	9	1,501	0	0
NORTHEAST	54	3,364	37	1,403	0	0	1	62	14	1,849	2	50
EASTERN OR AREA	181	15,011	136	10,679	0	0	1	62	29	3,792	15	478
STATE TOTAL	3,478	126,921	2,626	102,573	31	619	10	321	604	19,760	207	3,648

07/07/1999

TABLE IV
1997 FREE-TO-GROW ACCOMPLISHMENTS

DISTRICT	FREE-TO-GROW COMPLIANCE REQUIRED		FREE-TO-GROW COMPLIANCE ACCOMPLISHED		IN VIOLATION		STATUS UNDETERMINED		LAND USE CHANGE	
	OPS	ACRES	OPS	ACRES	OPS	ACRES	OPS	ACRES	OPS	ACRES
ASTORIA	6	416	6	416	0	0	0	0	0	0
CLACKAMAS-MARION	2	32	0	0	0	0	2	32	0	0
FOR. GROVE/COL. C.	79	2048	8	192	0	0	71	1,856	0	0
TILLAMOOK	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
WEST OREGON	1	2	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	0
NW OR AREA	88	2,498	14	608	0	0	74	1,890	0	0
COOS	41	2,460	41	2,460	0	0	0	0	0	0
DOUGLAS	2	127	2	127	0	0	0	0	0	0
EASTERN LANE	5	67	4	66	0	0	0	0	1	1
LINN	1	14	1	14	0	0	0	0	0	0
SOUTHWEST	9	560	7	440	0	0	2	120	0	0
WESTERN LANE	1	106	0	0	0	0	1	106	0	0
SW OR AREA	59	3,334	55	3,107	0	0	3	226	1	1
KLAMATH-LAKE	5	738	4	648	0	0	1	90	0	0
CENTRAL OREGON	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
NORTHEAST	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
EASTERN OR AREA	5	738	4	648	0	0	1	90	0	0
STATE TOTAL	152	6,570	73	4,363	0	0	78	2,206	1	1

TABLE V
1997 STAND ESTABLISHMENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

DISTRICT	STAND ESTABLISHMENT REQUIRED		STAND ESTABLISHMENT ACCOMPLISHED		IN VIOLATION		STATUS UNDETERMINED		LAND USE CHANGE	
	OPS	ACRES	OPS	ACRES	OPS	ACRES	OPS	ACRES	OPS	ACRES
ASTORIA	1	92	1	92	0	0	0	0	0	0
CLACKAMAS-MARION	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
FOR. GROVE/COL. C.	81	2,828	46	1,953	0	0	35	875	0	0
TILLAMOOK	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
WEST OREGON	4	91	4	91	0	0	0	0	0	0
NW OR AREA	86	3,011	51	2,136	0	0	35	875	0	0
COOS	13	639	13	639	0	0	0	0	0	0
DOUGLAS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
EASTERN LANE	16	638	14	530	0	0	2	108	0	0
LINN	8	336	8	336	0	0	0	0	0	0
SOUTHWEST	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
WESTERN LANE	1	44	0	0	0	0	1	44	0	0
SW OR AREA	38	1,657	35	1,505	0	0	3	152	0	0
KLAMATH-LAKE	56	13,360	43	10,555	0	0	13	2,805	0	0
CENTRAL OREGON	39	4,350	31	2,972	0	0	8	1,378	0	0
NORTHEAST	26	2,517	17	2,055	0	0	9	462	0	0
EASTERN OR AREA	121	20,227	91	15,582	0	0	30	4,645	0	0
STATE TOTAL	245	24,895	177	19,223	0	0	68	5,672	0	0

07/07/1999