

1998 REFORESTATION ACCOMPLISHMENT REPORT



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STEWARDSHIP IN FORESTRY™

TO: Oregon Board of Forestry Members and Other Interested Citizens

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DATE: August 14, 2000

This is the Forest Practices Program report on the administration of the forest practice reforestation rules during 1998.

The 1998 Reforestation Accomplishment report, as well as last year's report (1997), differ slightly from previous reports because the format now 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 than previous reports. This trend will continue as harvest units completed after 1991 are checked for compliance and reported under the free-to-grow rules.

PLANTING ACCOMPLISHMENTS: In 1998, 3,300 units (122,639 acres) required planting under statutory and administrative rule requirements. Compliance information was available for 69.5% of the total acres in this category. There was a compliance rate of 98.3% based on acres checked and 99.0% 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 1998, a total of 1,242 units (48,142 acres) were required to meet the free-to-grow standard under the reforestation rules. Compliance checks were completed on 72.7% of the acres required to be free-to-grow in 1998. Compliance examinations indicate that based on local government, industrial, and individually owned operation acreage where compliance inspections were made, 99.5% of the acres and 98.8% of the units were free-to-grow or had initiated or 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. Free-to-grow accomplishments were first reported in 1997.

STAND ESTABLISHMENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS: In 1998, 212 units (11,143 acres) were required to be established under the old stand establishment rules. Compliance checks were completed on 62.5% of the acres requiring stand establishment in 1998. Compliance examinations indicate that based on local government, industrial, and individually owned operation acreage where compliance inspections were made, 94.0% of the acres and 99.2% of the units under the

older establishment rules were reforested, or changes in land use were initiated or 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 1,464 operations (54,697 acres). Inaccessible units and heavy forest practice forester workloads are delaying compliance work. Most of these units are expected to meet the planting or establishment requirement standards of the reforestation rules.

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

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1998 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 1998. 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 1998, 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. 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. These changes included shortened time frames 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 sub-regional differences. Last reporting year, 1997, was the first year that free-to-grow compliance checks were 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:

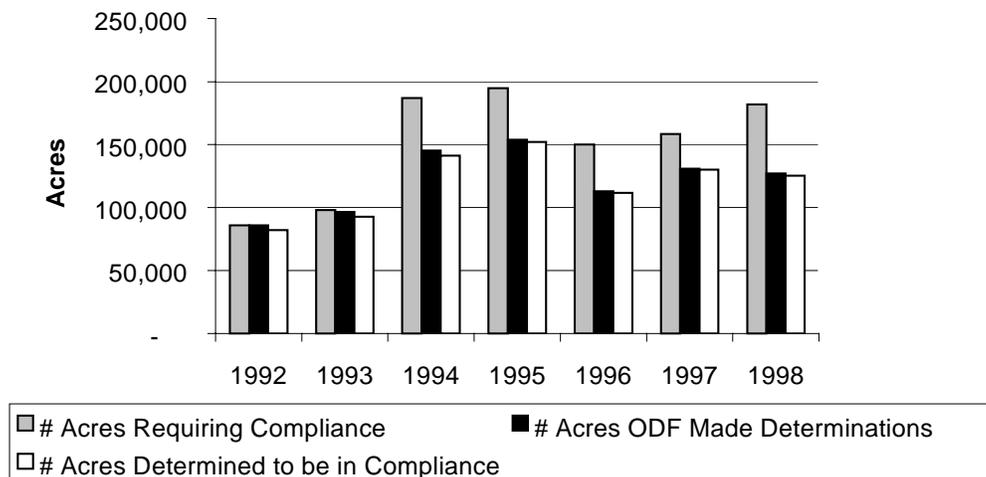
1. Notify each landowner, at the time of notification, that reforestation will be required if stocking is reduced below specific minimums as a result of the operation.
2. Inform each landowner, upon completion of an operation, of which portion of the operation is subject to the reforestation requirements, 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, 1992 – 1998

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
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%
1998	181,924	127,227 (69.9%)	125,240	98.4%

¹Data for 1994-1998 includes compliance acres for establishment and planting accomplishments.

Chart I. Reforestation Compliance Examinations



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 3,300 units (122,639 acres) requiring "planting" under reforestation statutory and administrative rule requirements in 1998, 2,303 units (83,737 acres) were determined to be in compliance; 23 units (1,412 acres) were in violation; 5 units (108 acres) had timelines for compliance extended for special circumstances; and 969 units (37,382 acres) remained in an undetermined status. In addition, 149 of the units (1,688 acres) listed in the categories above had an initiated or completed land use change activity identified. Field examinations continue to indicate planting standards (trees/acre) are usually significantly higher than the minimum requirements of the Forest Practices Act. Compliance information was available on 69.5% of the total acres. There was a compliance rate of 98.3% based on these acres and 99.0% based on the number of units checked. See Table III, page 5.

Of the 1,242 units (48,142 acres) requiring free-to-grow compliance in 1998, 826 units (34,849 acres) were found in compliance; 10 units (160 acres) were in violation of the rules; and 406 units (13,133 acres) remained in an undetermined status. In addition, 9 units (78 acres) listed in the above categories had an initiated or completed land use change activity identified. Based on data gathered by department forest practices foresters, compliance information was available on 72.7% of the total acres. There was a compliance rate of 99.5% based on these acres and 98.8% based on the number of units checked. See Table IV, page 6.

Of the 212 units (11,143 acres) requiring "stand establishment" under the older regional reforestation rules in 1998, 122 units (6,546 acres) were found in compliance; 1 unit (415 acres) was in violation of the rules; and 89 units (4,182 acres) remained in an undetermined status. In addition, one unit (40 acres) had an initiated or completed land use change activity identified. Based on data gathered by department forest practices foresters, compliance information was available on 62.5% of the total acres. There was a compliance rate of 94.0% based on these acres and 99.2% 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 discovered

to be 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, 31 in 1997, and increased slightly in 1998 to 34. 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 landowner converts the operation area to a land use that precludes the continued growing and harvesting of forest tree species. Of the total operational units requiring compliance in 1998, 159 units (1,806 acres) involved a land use change activity.

Table II. Land Use Change Activity (LUC), 1992-1998

	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
LUC Units	106	109	115	100	178	208	159
LUC Acres	1,588	2,030	2,207	954	1,629	3,649	1,806
% of Acres Requiring Compliance	1.9%	2.1%	1.2%	0.5%	1.1%	2.3%	1.0%

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 Forestry Assistance 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 free-to-grow status.

Tables III, IV, and V summarize the 1998 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
1998 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	136	4,313	67	2,246	0	0	0	0	69	2,067	13	45
CLACKAMAS-MARION	230	4,870	210	4,592	2	22	0	0	18	256	1	10
FOR. GROVE/COL. C.	766	16,098	369	10,795	2	11	0	0	395	5,292	83	345
TILLAMOOK	83	2,364	82	2,339	1	25	0	0	0	0	12	85
WEST OREGON	420	15,577	232	8,576	1	80	0	0	187	6,921	2	27
NW OR AREA	1,635	43,222	960	28,548	6	138	0	0	669	14,536	111	512
COOS	584	24,136	505	20,632	7	645	2	55	70	2,804	24	495
DOUGLAS	190	6,994	172	6,353	2	55	3	53	13	533	1	9
EASTERN LANE	208	8,984	161	6,730	3	283	0	0	44	1,971	1	5
LINN	162	6,723	148	6,595	3	21	0	0	11	107	3	121
SOUTHWEST	13	778	8	556	0	0	0	0	5	222	0	0
WESTERN LANE	267	9,110	227	7,924	0	0	0	0	40	1,186	7	56
SW OR AREA	1,424	56,725	1,221	48,790	15	1,004	5	108	183	6,823	36	686
KLAMATH-LAKE	76	3,395	71	3,290	1	20	0	0	4	85	1	485
CENTRAL OREGON	66	12,856	14	700	0	0	0	0	52	12,156	0	0
NORTHEAST	99	6,441	37	2,409	1	250	0	0	61	3,782	1	5
EASTERN ORE AREA	241	22,692	122	6,399	2	270	0	0	117	16,023	2	490
STATE TOTAL	3,300	122,639	2,303	83,737	23	1,412	5	108	969	37,382	149	1,688

* In addition, 149 of the units (1,688 acres) listed in the various categories to the left indicated a completed or initiated Land Use Change activity.
07/25/2000

TABLE IV
1998 FREE-TO-GROW ACCOMPLISHMENTS

DISTRICT	FREE-TO-GROW REQUIRED		FREE-TO-GROW ACCOMPLISHED		IN VIOLATION		STATUS UNDETERMINED		LAND USE CHANGE*	
	OPS	ACRES	OPS	ACRES	OPS	ACRES	OPS	ACRES	OPS	ACRES
ASTORIA	2	194	1	74	0	0	1	120	3	8
CLACKAMAS-MARION	3	128	2	38	0	0	1	90	0	0
FOR. GROVE/COL. C.	448	12,822	244	9,850	2	28	202	2,944	0	0
TILLAMOOK	3	86	2	18	0	0	1	68	0	0
WEST OREGON	180	5,844	163	5,566	3	22	14	256	2	24
NW OR AREA	636	19,074	412	15,546	5	50	219	3,478	5	32
COOS	279	11,043	207	7,985	3	60	69	2,998	1	1
DOUGLAS	12	645	11	585	0	0	1	60	0	0
EASTERN LANE	106	4,939	39	1,303	2	50	65	3,586	1	7
LINN	97	3,720	93	3,645	0	0	4	75	0	0
SOUTHWEST	3	68	3	68	0	0	0	0	0	0
WESTERN LANE	6	86	0	0	0	0	6	86	0	0
SW OR AREA	503	20,501	353	13,586	5	110	145	6,805	2	8
KLAMATH-LAKE	28	4,066	22	2,681	0	0	6	1,385	1	5
CENTRAL OREGON	45	2,029	19	1,433	0	0	26	596	1	33
NORTHEAST	30	2,472	20	1,603	0	0	10	869	0	0
EASTERN OR AREA	103	8,567	61	5,717	0	0	42	2,850	2	38
STATE TOTAL	1,242	48,142	826	34,849	10	160	406	13,133	9	78

* In addition, 9 of the units (78 acres) listed in the various categories to the left indicated a completed or initiated Land Use Change activity.
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TABLE V
1998 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	7	177	3	143	0	0	4	34	0	0
CLACKAMAS-MARION	8	108	7	103	0	0	1	5	0	0
FOR. GROVE/COL. C.	36	1,384	8	196	1	415	27	773	0	0
TILLAMOOK	8	154	8	154	0	0	0	0	0	0
WEST OREGON	4	425	4	425	0	0	0	0	0	0
NW OR AREA	63	2,248	30	1,021	1	415	32	812	0	0
COOS	28	1,500	24	1,395	0	0	4	105	0	0
DOUGLAS	15	1,281	15	1,281	0	0	0	0	0	0
EASTERN LANE	14	647	7	302	0	0	7	345	0	0
LINN	4	172	4	172	0	0	0	0	0	0
SOUTHWEST	2	149	0	0	0	0	2	149	0	0
WESTERN LANE	55	1,422	23	618	0	0	32	804	1	40
SW OR AREA	118	5,171	73	3,768	0	0	45	1,403	1	40
KLAMATH-LAKE	1	315	1	315	0	0	0	0	0	0
CENTRAL OREGON	9	497	9	497	0	0	0	0	0	0
NORTHEAST	21	2,912	9	945	0	0	12	1,967	0	0
EASTERN OR AREA	31	3,724	19	1,757	0	0	12	1,967	0	0
STATE TOTAL	212	11,143	122	6,546	1	415	89	4,182	1	40

* In addition, one unit (40 acres) listed in one of the various categories to the left indicated a completed or initiated Land Use Change activity.
07/25/2000