

THE News Note

The Forest Practices Program NEWS NOTE



Sidebar:

Trees are considered "free to grow" if:

- a) they are not severely damaged by insects, disease, fire, wildlife, weather, or logging;
- b) They exhibit the potential for continued height growth, consistent with the normal growth for the species on similar sites;
- c) They have at least one-third of the tree height in full, live crown; and
- d) They are taller than, and out-competing any grass, shrubs, or other trees growing within a ten-foot radius from the tree.

"Adequate stocking" of trees for a stand of forest trees is based upon the productivity of the growing site and landowner objectives. The Forest Practice rules on reforestation establish acceptable stocking levels ranging from 100 to 200 seedlings per acre or an equivalent in saplings or trees larger than 11 inches in diameter. The rules or Forest Practices Note Number 2 (Revised) describe requirements in more detail. (Most forest landowners plant many more than the minimum number of trees per acre to offset natural losses and ensure full site productivity.)

EXEMPTION FROM SOME TREE RETENTION REQUIREMENTS TO ENCOURAGE AFFORESTATION

IF YOU HAVE SOME LONG-STANDING NONFOREST LAND THAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO PLANT TO COMMERCIAL TIMBER, THERE IS AN ADDITIONAL BENEFIT TO YOUR CONVERTING THE LAND TO A PRODUCTIVE FOREST.

A 1995 Oregon law, ORS 526.490, encourages landowners to plant and grow merchantable stands of timber on previously nonforested lands where the landowner chooses commercial forest production as an objective.

The incentive is the State of Oregon's assurance that no state forest practices regulation will prohibit harvesting most of the planted timber established and grown in the first crop rotation. This is an exemption from most tree retention requirements. The only limitation is that trees must be left alongside certain streams. Harvesting remains restricted within 20 feet of large or medium streams of Type F, Type D, or Type N and small Type F or Type D streams. Additionally, all Forest Practice rules applying other practices that don't require tree retention must be followed as usual. A parcel or portion thereof may qualify for the tree retention exemption only one time.

Qualifying parcels with stands established since the September 9, 1995 effective date of this law may qualify for certification provided by this law immediately. The parcel qualifies if: a) it has not been used to grow an adequately-stocked commercial forest since July 1, 1972; b) it carries less than 25 square feet of basal area per acre in forest tree stocking; and c) there are at least five contiguous acres established in timber.

To participate, a forest landowner must request certification between two and five years after establishing a new stand and supply the following information to the Oregon Department of Forestry office responsible for the area.

1. Supply a State Forester's representative with an accurate plat map locating the parcel or portion thereof that had timber trees established on it.
2. Provide photographs of the area showing that in its pre-establishment condition it was not used for commercial forest production.
3. Provide written permission for a State Forester's representative to enter the property as necessary to inspect the new stand for certification.

A State Forester's representative will inspect the plantation. If the young trees are adequately stocked and free to grow (see sidebar), the forester will issue the landowner a certificate. It will certify that the young trees are free to grow and that the plantation is accurately located on the map supplied by the landowner. The State Forester may charge the landowner a fee for inspecting and certifying these parcels. The certificate must be presented to the State Forester whenever first rotation trees are to be harvested to activate the tree retention exemption.

The State Forester encourages landowners to record their certificates for parcels with the county clerks in their counties. This will ensure the certificate can be located for presentation to the state when the timber has matured and harvesting is desired.

SO if you have a qualifying parcel to plant, YOU CAN BE ASSURED A CHANCE TO COLLECT A PROFITABLE RETURN ON THE INVESTMENT! If you have planted such a site since September 9, 1995, or plan to plant a site, just do the following.

1. HAVE SOME PICTURES OF THE SITE'S CONDITION BEFORE TREES ARE ESTABLISHED . . .
2. DO A GOOD JOB OF SITE PREPARATION, PLANTING, AND VEGETATION CONTROL SO THE PLANTATION IS WELL-STOCKED AND FREE TO GROW, AND WITHIN TWO TO FIVE YEARS OF ESTABLISHING THE NEW STAND. . .
3. BRING STATE FORESTRY AN ACCURATE MAP OF THE SITE LOCATION, AND . . . AFTER INSPECTION AND APPROVAL, YOUR SITE CAN BE CERTIFIED FOR THE STATE'S AFFORESTATION INCENTIVE!!

WHEN THE FIRST ROTATION TREES ARE READY TO HARVEST, SHOW STATE FORESTRY YOUR CERTIFICATE DURING THE NOTIFICATION PROCESS AND COLLECT ON YOUR INVESTMENT!!

If you have questions call the nearest Oregon Department of Forestry office from the list provided in this note, and ask for the Forest Practices Forester or Service Forester.

<u>Office Address</u>	<u>Area Code/Phone Number</u>	<u>Office Address</u>	<u>Area Code/Phone Number</u>
Eastern Oregon		Northwest Oregon	
Prineville, 3501 E 3rd, 97754	541-447-5658	Forest Grove, 801 Gales Creek Rd, 97116	503-357-2191
The Dalles, 3701 W 13th, 97058	541-296-4626	Astoria, Rt 1, Box 950, 97013	503-325-5451
John Day, 400 NW 9th, 97845	541-575-1139	Columbia City, 405 E St, 97108	503-397-2636
Klamath Falls, 3200 DeLap Rd., 97601	541-883-5681	Tillamook, 4907 E 3rd St, 97141	503-842-2545
Lakeview, 2290 North 4th St, 97630	541-947-3311	Molalla, 14995 S Hwy 211, 97038	503-829-2216
LaGrande, 611 20th St, 97850	541-963-3168	Santiam, 22965 N Fork Rd SE, Lyons, 97358	503-859-2151
Pendleton, 1065 Airport Rd, 97801	541-276-3491	Philomath, 24533 Alesia Hwy, 97370	541-929-3266
Wallowa, 802 W Hwy 82, 97885	541-886-2861	Dallas, 825 Oak Villa, 97338	503-623-8146
		Toledo, 763 NW Forestry Rd, 97301	541-336-2273
 <u>Office Address</u>		 <u>Area Code/Phone Number</u>	
Southern Oregon			
Roseburg, 1758 NE Airport Rd, 97470	541-440-3412		
Coos Bay, 300 5th St, Bay Park, 97420	541-267-4136		
Gold Beach, PO Box 603, 97444	541-247-6241		
Sweet Home, 4690 Hwy 20, 97386	541-367-6108		
Springfield, 3150 E Main, 97478	541-726-3588		
Veneta, 87950 Territorial Hwy, 97487	541-935-2283		
Florence, PO Box 460, 97439	541-997-8713		
Medford (Central Point), 5286 Table Rock Rd., 97502	541-664-3328		
Grants Pass, 5375 Monument Dr, 97526	541-474-3152		

For more information about the Oregon Forest Practices Act or the Forest Practice Rules, please contact your local Oregon Department of Forestry office listed or the headquarters office at 2600 State Street, Salem, Oregon 97310. (503) 945-7470.