



SUMMARY OF OREGON'S REFORESTATION REQUIREMENTS

The Oregon Department of Forestry administers Forest Practice rules that require reforestation after trees are harvested. The state law authorizing these rules is the Oregon Forest Practices Act. The rules require reforestation in order to ensure future generations of Oregonians will also benefit from Oregon's many forest resources: timber; water; air; soil; and fish and wildlife habitat. Failure to meet the rule requirements is a violation that can result in a citation and an order to repair the condition. In addition, the landowner is usually assessed a fine that can be up to \$5000. Moreover, the County Assessor can remove forestland converted to other uses from forestland tax deferral and demand back taxes. The Department of Forestry would rather help forest landowners achieve reforestation on schedule and avoid these penalties.

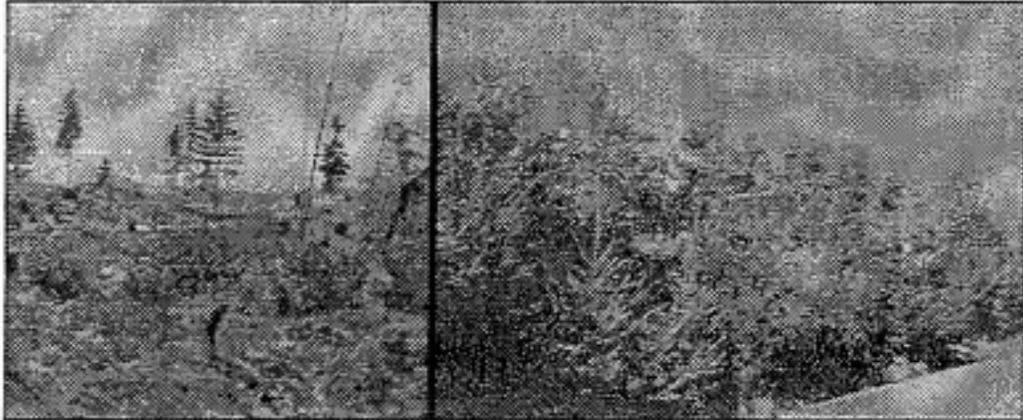
This summary briefly describes the reforestation requirements. It is not intended to cover every detail. Its purpose is to alert timber harvesters and forest landowners to get more details when reforestation requirements apply to their plans for the land. Details are provided by *Forest Practices Note Number 2: Reforestation (revised December 1994)* or the Forest Practice reforestation rules (Oregon Administrative Rules (OAR) 629-610-000 to OAR 629-610-090). These publications are available at any Department of Forestry office.

The Forest Practice rules hold the forest landowner responsible for reforestation, regardless of who cut the trees (OAR 629-610-020). When the land is sold, any uncompleted reforestation obligation transfers to the buyer. By law, the seller must inform the buyer, in writing, of the pending reforestation obligation (Oregon Revised Statutes (ORS) 527.665).

The potential tree-growing productivity of the harvest site determines the stocking level to be re-established after harvest. The statute and rules identify three broad productivity ranges, shown in the "Site Productivity" column of the table below. Reforestation is required whenever after a harvest operation (including salvage harvest) the remaining tree stocking is below these minimum levels:



Forests are a renewable resource.



Pre-harvest planning and intensive management are needed to successfully re-establish a stand of trees to grow fully utilizing the site.



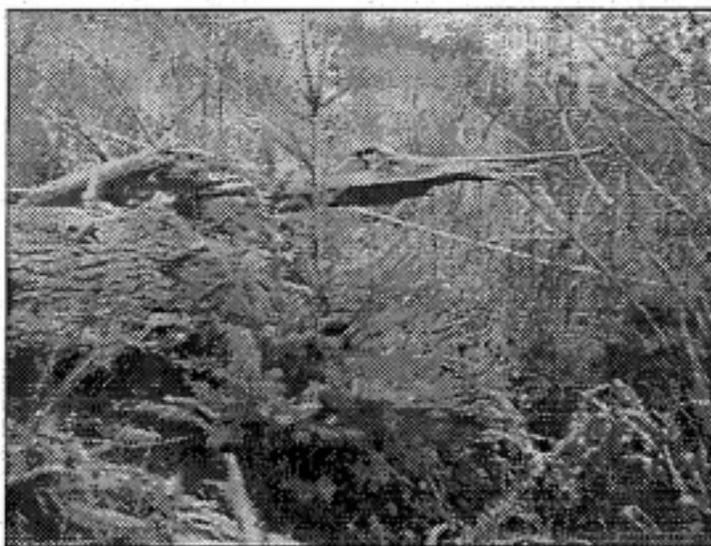
When reforestation is required, it means more than simply planting seedlings or saving residual seedlings, saplings, or trees already on the site. The landowner must see to it that the trees are in "free to grow" condition after six years. This makes it very important for landowners to plan for reforestation before harvesting begins. Planning will minimize the costs of reforestation and ensure its success.

"Free to grow" means that a tree has a good chance of outgrowing undesired competing grass and brush to become part of a vigorous, healthy forest. Trees surrounded by taller vegetation are not free to grow and will be stunted or killed by competition for sunlight, water, and soil nutrients.

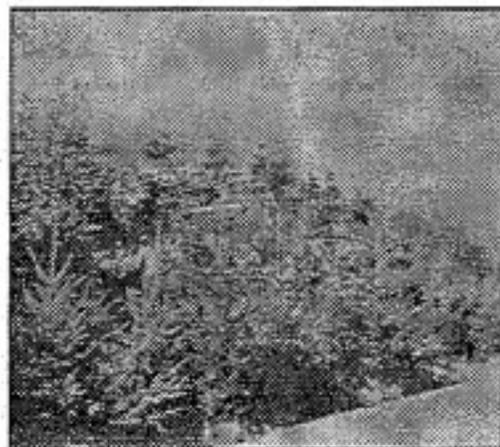
MINIMUM FREE TO GROW TREE STOCKING STANDARDS FOR SINGLE-STORY STANDS

Site Productivity* Cubic Foot Site Class#	Seedlings (less than 1 inch diameter at breast height (DBH), or	Saplings and poles (1 to 10 inches DBH), or	Trees 11 inches and larger
Site Class 1, 2, and 3	200 per acre, or	120 trees per acre, or	80 square feet of basal area* per acre
Site Class 4 and 5	125 per acre, or	75 trees per acre, or	50 square feet of basal area per acre
Site Class 6	100 per acre, or	60 trees per acre, or	40 square feet of basal area per acre

NOTE: *Site productivity can be measured directly or determined from soil surveys available from the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service. Other sources are the USDA Forest Service plant association guides, Oregon Department of Revenue western Oregon site class maps, or professional consulting forester. * Basal area means the area of a cross section of a tree or group of trees at breast height, expressed in square feet. A 14 inch DBH tree is roughly equivalent to 1 square foot of basal area; an 11 inch DBH tree is equivalent to 0.66 square feet. When an area after harvest contains a mixture of free to grow seedlings, saplings, poles, and/or larger trees, the stocking in each size class can be weighted to determine if stocking is adequate. ** Refer to Forest Practices Note 2: Reforestation (1994) for more details.

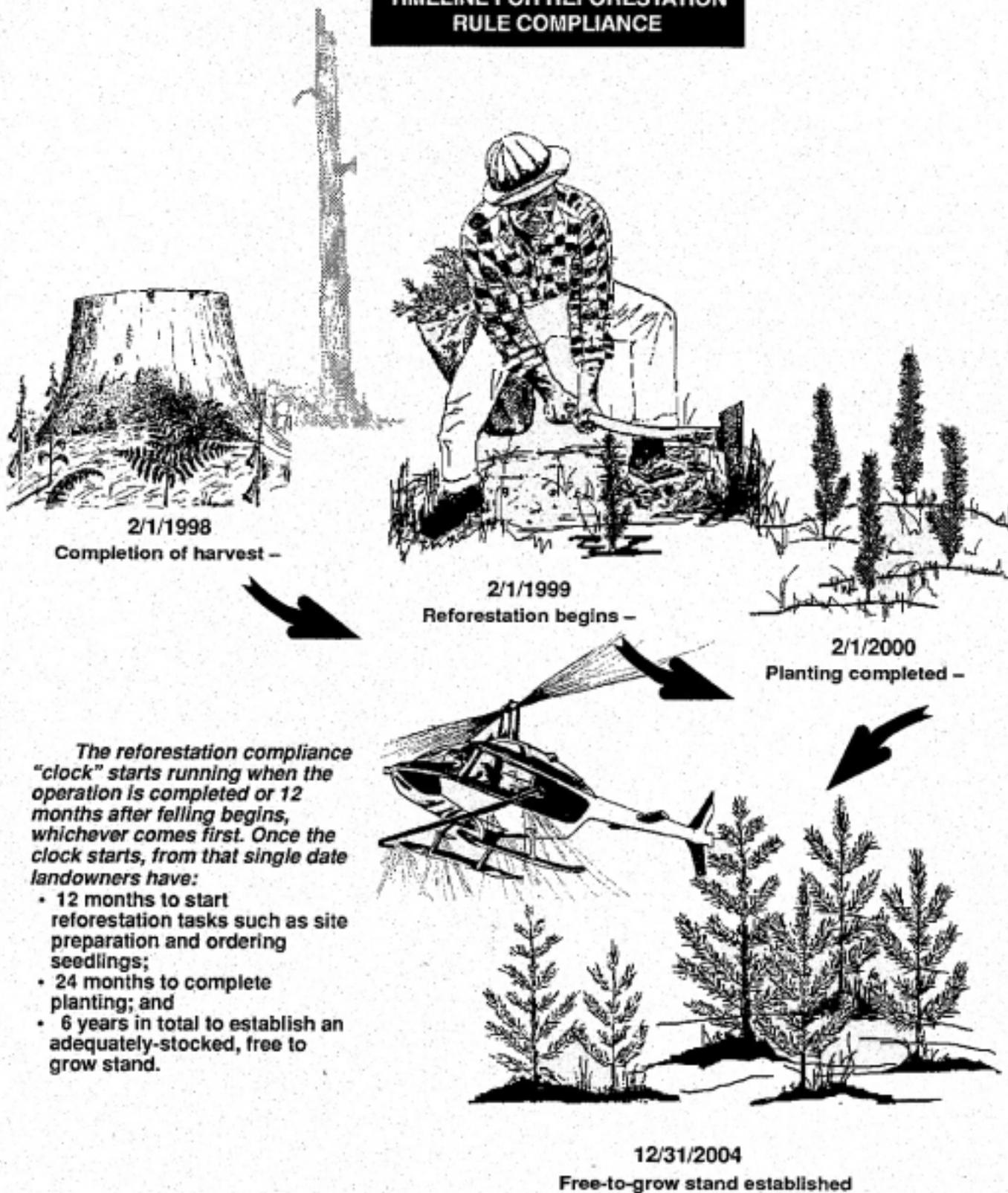


Trees suppressed by competing brush



Free to grow trees become a healthy forest sooner

TIMELINE FOR REFORESTATION RULE COMPLIANCE



Note: Natural reforestation compliance timeline set through approved written plan

(Time extensions may be granted for circumstances beyond the landowner's control.)

Approved written plans are required if natural reforestation methods will be used. Plans for natural regeneration must be submitted no later than 12 months after the completion of the operation.

Any tree species, conifer or hardwood, suited to the growing site and with commercial value, may be used for reforestation. However, on sites that have grown conifers, natural reforestation plans proposing to simply allow hardwoods to grow untended from seed or sprouts will generally not be approved. Active management of such hardwoods, such as inter-planting of unstocked spots or thinning, will be needed to gain plan approval.

An approved written plan is also required if non-native tree species are to be used to reforest.

A harvest unit may be exempted from the reforestation requirements if the landowner is developing the land for a bona fide non-forest use. The landowner must obtain documentation from the county establishing that the new land use is authorized under local ordinances and all necessary permits have been obtained. The land use change must be completed within 24 months of harvest completion and must be maintained for at least 6 years. (OAR 629-610-090)

Landowners are encouraged to obtain a copy of the December 1994 Forest Practice Notes Number 2: Reforestation or the Forest Practice rules from any Department of Forestry office for more detailed information on:

- the reforestation stocking requirements (OAR 629-610-020);
- determining the site's productivity class;
- free to grow requirements (OAR 629-600-100 (28));
- written plans (OAR 629-610-030), (OAR 629-610-060);
- suspension of reforestation in forest incentive program cases (OAR 629-610-070);
- revegetation required for bare soil (OAR 629-610-080); and
- changing land use (OAR 629-610-090).

The Forest Practices Forester at the local Department of Forestry office can answer detailed questions about reforestation.



Homes are a bona fide non-forest land use.

