



Promoting and practicing sustainable forestry

2009-2011 BACKGROUNDER



Oregon's State Forests

An Overview

The state owns and manages 848,000 acres of forestland, about 3 percent of Oregon's forests. State forests provide many benefits – timber revenue, wildlife habitat, and places for recreation, relaxation and renewal. This is accomplished with the recognition that these diverse economic, environmental and social values are connected and interdependent.

Nearly 80 percent of state-owned forestland is in northwest Oregon. The Tillamook and Clatsop State Forests – at more than 500,000 acres combined – comprise the primary block of state land. Other state forests: Santiam State Forest (48,000 acres) east of Salem, Elliott State Forest (93,000 acres) in Coos and Douglas counties, Gilchrist State Forest (68,000 acres) and Sun Pass State Forest (20,000 acres) in Klamath County. Additional state-owned lands are scattered throughout western Oregon.

Two types of state forestland

Board of Forestry Lands (724,000 acres) were deeded to the state by counties.

Common School Lands (124,000 acres) owned by the State Land Board were granted by the federal government at statehood.

Ownership determines how timber harvest revenue is distributed.

To counties. Two-thirds of the timber revenue from county-deeded lands goes to the counties where timber harvesting occurred.

To Common School Fund. Revenue from Common School Lands, minus the cost of management, goes to the Common School Fund and is used to support education programs throughout Oregon.

| ODF State Forests Revenue Distribution 1998 through 2007 (in \$millions) | | |
|---|---------------|---------------|
| Year | County Share | Net to CSF |
| 1999 | \$36.2 | \$13.3 |
| 2000 | \$43.5 | \$20.2 |
| 2001 | \$36.5 | \$12.6 |
| 2002 | \$42.7 | \$ 9.4 |
| 2003 | \$49.8 | \$ 4.1 |
| 2004 | \$47.9 | \$10.7 |
| 2005 | \$48.6 | \$14.0 |
| 2006 | \$58.0 | \$ 4.4 |
| 2007 | \$57.3 | \$ 7.2 |
| 2008 | \$51.2 | \$ 4.6 |
| 5-yr Average | \$52.6 | \$ 8.2 |
| 10-yr Average | \$47.2 | \$10.0 |

County Share – revenue from Board of Forestry lands, going to counties where harvest activity occurred.
CSF – revenue from Common School Lands transferred to the Common School Fund, minus management costs.

Revenue goes to schools and counties, and supports forest management

Multi-year timber sales affect revenue. The amount of revenue counties and the Common School Fund receive varies from year to year because purchasers of timber sales have two to three years to complete the harvests. They typically try to time their harvesting to take advantage of market conditions.

No General Fund tax dollars used. On Board of Forestry lands, counties retain a percentage and redistribute most of the revenue to local schools and taxing districts, such as rural fire departments. A third of the revenue is used by the Department of Forestry to manage the lands and protect them from fire. This revenue fully supports the State Forests Division.

State Land Board (SLB) owns Common School Lands. The Department of Forestry manages Common School Lands for the State Land Board through an agreement with the Department of State Lands and the SLB. Forestry is reimbursed for its expenses.

State timber sale revenue has dropped sharply during the recession, affecting all recipients, and prompting cuts in the State Forests program.



October 2010

Backgrounder Oregon's State Forests

Oregonians want balanced forest management

Contribute to quality of life. A 2006 public opinion poll indicated Oregonians want state forests to provide clean water and air, fish and wildlife habitat, wood products, jobs, revenues and recreation. They want all the benefits and values of our forests to contribute to quality of life in a balanced way – now and for the future.

Recognize diverse values. The Board and Department of Forestry’s balanced approach for managing all these state-owned lands recognizes the diverse values Oregonians have for their forests.

Forest plans guide management to develop native habitat and generate revenue

Forest management plans represent a long-range look for state forests. They project a forest many decades into the future over a wide geographic area. They foresee a forest with diverse stand structures – from relatively young simple stands to complex old-growth-like stands.

Revenue and habitat. The strategies within the plans are designed to create a managed forest that emulates a historic forest. The forests generate timber revenue and develop a diversity of stand structures for a broad range of ecosystems and native fish and wildlife habitats.

Performance measures help to evaluate the effectiveness of management strategies, which evolve over time in response to new information and changing public interests and needs.

Timber sales designed for economic, environmental, social benefits

Actively managed forests. Oregon law requires state-owned forestland to be “actively” managed to reach economic, social and environmental goals. The most common form of active management in these forests is timber harvesting – regularly planned variations of thinning or clear cuts. The revenue from these activities supports other investments that provide environmental and social benefits, such as recreation, education, road improvements, and research and monitoring.

Outdoor activities await forest visitors

Growing interest in recreation. In addition to the environment and economy, state forests are managed to address Oregonians’ growing interest in these forests for recreation.

Many choices. Careful planning allows the use of these forests for camping, hiking, horse riding, mountain biking, fishing, hunting, boating and riding motorized off-highway vehicles.

- **Campgrounds:** 14
- **Campsites:** 247
- **Trails:** 186 miles non-motorized; 248 miles motorized



Timber revenue covers cost. The cost of building and maintaining these recreation facilities comes from timber revenue, an example of the interdependence of the economic, social and environmental values.

Learning about forests. The Tillamook Forest Center on Highway 6 is a unique place for learning, recreation and reflection. Phone toll free: 1-866-930-4646. Web: www.tillamookforestcenter.org. In-school classes and forest field trips also are offered.

For more information

ODF Agency Affairs
503-945-7200