

Forest Resource Trust
2009 Oregon Administrative Rule (OAR) Changes
http://arcweb.sos.state.or.us/rules/OARS_600/OAR_629/629_022.html

General Provisions (All Programs) – New and Amended Rules
Stand Establishment Program – Amended Rules Creating Loan Program
Cost-Share Program – New Rules

www.forestresourcetrust.oregon.gov

What – New and amended Oregon Administrative Rules (OAR) for the Forest Resource Trust (OAR 629-022-0030 through OAR 629-022-0850) were adopted by the Oregon Board of Forestry on January 7, 2009 with an effective date of February 1, 2009. The amended rules created general provisions for all Forest Resource Trust programs and generalized the former Stand Establishment Program to the Loan Program. The adopted rules also implement through new rules statutory direction for the Forest Resource Trust to create a Cost-Share Program.

Amended and New Rule Highlights – General Provisions

- Sets as a high priority for funding by the Loan and Cost-Share Programs projects consistent with conservation plans and strategies of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife such as the Oregon Conservation Strategy and the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds.
- Allows Forest Resource Trust programs to fund environmental restoration practices; such practices are eligible consistent with furthering the purposes of the Trust. This change benefits other resources besides trees. Examples include rocking a road to benefit water quality, replacing a culvert to benefit fish and vegetation management practices that benefit fish and wildlife habitats.
- Establishes provisions for the State Forester to grant exceptions to the rules to:
 1. Address unique situations where a landowner could get assistance to meet reforestation obligations under the Forest Practices Act
 2. Allow for environmental restoration practices that lead to desirable non-forest habitats such as Oak savannas and prairies.

Amended Rule Highlights – Loan Program Created

- Generalizes the Stand Establishment Program (now called the Forest Establishment Program) rules as the Loan Program by including as eligible for funding any practices that lead to the improved management of forestland beyond stand establishment and seedling protection practices adopted in the prior rules.
- Adds private and local government landowners as eligible for applying for financial assistance under the Loan Program. State and federal forestland owners are not eligible to apply for Loan Program funds.

2009 Oregon Administrative Rule (OAR) Changes – Forest Resource Trust

- Clarifies the intent of a 2007 administrative rule change that a final harvest of only a portion of the project area triggers full payment of a pro-rated balance of monies due under the Loan Program based on the percent of area harvested.

New Rule Highlights – Cost Share Program Created

- Establishes the new rules for the Cost-Share Program as a tried and true way to provide financial and technical assistance to family forest landowners.
- The new rules follow the Department's existing federal cost-share program delivery system so funds received through the Forest Resource Trust's cost-share program look and feel like funds received through other federally funded cost-share programs.
- Allows the Forest Resource Trust flexibility in setting the scope and the percent of cost-share to specific funding sources. The Forest Resource Trust is currently seeking funding for the Cost-Share Program.

Status of Program Funding

- The old Stand Establishment Program is now called the Forest Establishment Program -- a specific program area under the Loan Program.
- The Forest Establishment Program continues to offer financing up to 100% of the project costs including the cost of hiring a consulting forester to manage the project. ***Funds are available and applications (Westside, Site IV ground or better) are being accepted. Go to: www.forestresourcetrust.oregon.gov.***
- Other program areas for the Loan Program will be developed when new funding sources for the Loan Program are secured.
- The Forest Resource Trust is currently seeking funding for the Cost-Share Program. Specific program areas for the Cost-Share Program will be developed based on the scope and needs of obtained funds.