What Is Included in The Forestland Classification?

A map that identifies timberlands and grazing lands that meet the definitions set forth in Oregon Revised Statutes and Administrative Rules. Timberland (Class 1 & 2) is defined as all forestland primarily suitable for joint use of timber production and the grazing of livestock. Grazing lands (Class 3) are defined as all forestland that is primarily suitable for grazing or other agricultural uses. Grazing lands may contain undeveloped grasslands if such grasslands are in close proximity and intermingled with timberland. Developed areas and agricultural lands are exempt from classification.

Once the timberland areas are classified, intermingled and adjacent grazing lands are also classified. The purpose of this approach is to allow firefighters a reasonable chance to suppress fires at small sizes regardless of where they originate and to create logical control points.

Oregon Forestland-Urban Interface Fire Protection Act SB 360

The Forestland-Urban Interface Fire Protection Act, better known as Senate Bill 360, is an unique and effective means of protecting rural properties that are located in fire prone areas of our state. The recommended treatment prescriptions are new, fostered on retaining trees around the home, maintaining healthy landscapes, and enhancing curb appeal. Each home protected by the Oregon Department of Forestry received a certification form, which we hope you filled out and returned once the fire defense work is complete. The certification process renews every five years, wherein we will send out new forms and treatment information.

If you are new to the area, misplaced your original documents or just need additional information please call our district office at 541-447-5658.

What is Forestland Classification?

**STATE OF OREGON STATUTE FOR FORESTLAND CLASSIFICATION**

Forestland classification is a process by which a committee studies all lands within the fire protection boundary to determine which lands are "forestlands". Once lands have been determined to meet the definition of forestlands (ORS 526.005(5)(a)), they are further classified as lands primarily suitable for timber production, grazing use, or a combination of the two.

"Forestland" means any woodland, brush land, timberland, grazing land or clearing that, during any time of the year, contains enough forest growth, slashing or vegetation to constitute, in the judgment of the forester, a fire hazard, regardless of how the land is zoned or taxed.

**complete and coordinated system**

**HOW LANDOWNERS FUND ODF**

Oregon Department of Forestry provides wildland fire protection on private forest and rangelands within their Fire Protection District boundaries. The landowner contribution is termed the Fire Patrol Assessment. Currently, the General Fund and the landowner’s assessment each contribute approximately 50% of the funding.

**WHY IS CLASSIFICATION DONE?**

The Forestland Classification process is done to improve the accuracy and equity of the Fire Patrol Assessment to ensure the appropriate acres are being assessed at the appropriate rate for protection from wildland fire. For some landowners this process will create a change for several reasons. The differences in the accuracy of the mapping technology in the 1960’s (the last time Deschutes County classification was completed) today is enough to create small changes even if the timber and grazing lands are exactly as they were in the 1960’s. Other reasons include, land use changes since the last classification designation, areas that may have been assigned the wrong classification and potential data entry errors.

**DUAL ASSESSMENTS**

Some lands may pay an assessment for fire protection to both ODF and the local Fire District. An example is an assessment from ODF for wildland fire protection of the forestlands on that parcel and an assessment from a Rural Fire Protection District on the value of the structures and up to five acres for purposes of structure protection.

**EFFECT ON ODF FUNDING**

If more lands are included through the Forestland Classification process, the rate per acre paid by landowners is reduced due to being spread across more acres being protected, assuming the level of protection stays the same. The level of protection is determined by ODF and the District Budget Committee which is composed of landowners throughout Central Oregon.