



Forest Facts

FOREST PRACTICES

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The Oregon Department of Forestry regulates forestry operations on non-federal land. Landowners and operators are subject to the Forest Practices Act and Rules when they perform commercial activity to establish, manage or harvest forest trees species. The rules of the Oregon Forest Practices Act went into effect in July 1972 in order to:

encourage economically efficient forest practices that assure the continuous growing and harvesting of forest tree species and the maintenance of forestland for such purposes as the leading use on privately owned land, consistent with sound management of soil, air, water, fish and wildlife resources and scenic resources within visually sensitive corridors as provided by ORS 527.755 that assures the continuous benefits of those resources for future generations of Oregonians. (ORS 527.630 Policy, Oregon Forest Practices Act)

The Oregon Board of Forestry develops and enforces statewide and regional Forest Practices Act Rules.

These rules address the resource issues identified in the Forest Practices Act. The Forest Practices Act and Rules are also considered a Best Management Practices Program. Best management practices are defined as practical and effective ways to reduce water pollution from a variety of sources to meet water quality standards and goals.

Forest management policy in Oregon dates back to the Conservation Act of 1941. Viewed as the forerunner of

the current Forest Practices Act, the Conservation Act was the first of its kind in the nation. The Act has had numerous major revisions since its inception in 1971, which have strengthened the Act. These revisions reflect the discovery of new scientific information and changing social needs.

The Private Forests Program administers the Forest Practices Act Rules.

The mission of the Private Forests Program is to develop and promote effective and efficient forest practices that sustain healthy forests, maintain continuous growing and harvesting of forest tree species on non-federal lands, protect forest productivity, fish and wildlife habitat, air and water quality, and foster other forestland values and benefits.

Administration of the forest practice rules is done through a balanced program of rule education, technical assistance, incentives, and enforcement. Through a series of inspections and field visits, stewardship foresters work with landowners and operators to help them implement and comply with the Forest Practice Rules. They are stationed in 46 unit and district offices throughout the state. (Visit oregon.gov/ODF/PRIVATE_FORESTS/odfsf.shtml for locations.)