



Frequently Asked Questions | Port Blakely Stewardship Agreement

Date: Dec. 9, 2019

Background on the agreement

- Port Blakely is voluntarily seeking to enter into a stewardship agreement to fulfill two purposes:
 - To ensure long-term regulatory certainty, and therefore economic stability, for Port Blakely's customers, employees, and family owners.
 - To demonstrate Port Blakely's commitment to sound forest stewardship by protecting and enhancing fish and wildlife habitat as the company manages its forestlands.
- The proposed stewardship agreement assures long-term operational flexibility for Port Blakely to continue operating in a sustainable way while providing for the long-term needs of fish and wildlife.
- The proposed stewardship agreement contains forest management and conservation measures that provide enhanced protection for fish-bearing streams and other aquatic features. The measures also aim to create and sustain a mosaic of diverse habitats to meet the habitat requirements of many land-based species over their life cycle.
- Measures within the proposed stewardship agreement improve the habitat for 20 named species, including both listed and unlisted species protected by the Oregon and federal Endangered Species Acts.
- Port Blakely's forest management plan reflects the company's commitment to forest stewardship, managing their forestlands for economic, environmental, and community benefits. Their U.S. forestlands have been certified through the Sustainable Forestry Initiative every year since 2002. The plan embodies the company's multi-value approach to land management. It is intended to ensure that there can be ongoing and frequent management while also enhancing habitat conditions for many fish and wildlife species over the long term. A stewardship agreement affords a more stable regulatory environment when managing for a variety of goals. Examples include retaining more wildlife trees than are required under the Forest Practices Act, retaining wider buffers on water bodies, retaining upland habitat patches, creating downed wood piles that can function as wildlife dens, retaining legacy features that are relics from past forests, and placing large woody debris into small and medium fish-bearing streams to enhance aquatic habitat.
- Stewardship agreements are a long-standing method for landowners to gain assurances of regulatory stability in exchange for voluntarily agreeing to exceed existing forest resource protections. A number of such agreements are in place in Oregon. Covering 30,000 acres, the

Port Blakely stewardship agreement would be the largest in Oregon to date in terms of forest area involved.

Frequently asked questions

1. How long will this stewardship agreement last?

Similar to other stewardship agreements entered into by ODF, this agreement covers a period of 50 years.

2. What is the process for a landowner to obtain a stewardship agreement?

To be considered for a stewardship agreement, forest landowners must submit an application along with a written land management plan to the State Forester. Two avenues exist to give interested parties an opportunity to provide input on the proposed agreement. A public comment period of at least 21 days is required with an optional public hearing to be held at ODF's discretion.

3. What are some examples of resource protection and enhancement that Port Blakely will be doing to exceed current requirements under the Forest Practices Act?

Under this agreement, Port Blakely agrees to enhance wildlife habitat by leaving more downed wood throughout its clearcut units and providing additional stream protection measures including wider (no harvest) buffers on both large and small fish-bearing, domestic use, and perennial streams than is currently required under the Forest Practices Act. It will also retain at least double the number of standing trees scattered or in clumps in harvest units (4 versus the minimum 2 required under the Forest Practices Act) to provide perches and habitat for birds and other wildlife. Strategies mentioned above along with retention and creation of dead wood (snags and downed wood) during thinning operations and retention of legacy trees (e.g., big old trees and snags) will also increase suitability of habitat conditions for spotted owls.

4. What gives ODF the authority to enter into such agreements?

In 1997 the Oregon Legislature created stewardship agreements under Oregon Revised Statute (ORS) 527.662 to implement more efficient provisions of the Oregon Forest Practices Act (FPA) and to serve as an incentive for forest landowners to further enhance and restore forest resources. The Board of Forestry then adopted administrative rules for implementing Stewardship Agreements. The idea was to provide responsible and knowledgeable forest landowners with an opportunity to plan and operate forest



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management activities with reduced regulatory oversight by ODF in exchange for adopting specific plans and prescriptions that lead to the restoration and enhancement of fish and wildlife habitat, water quality, soil and other forest resources at levels that exceed requirements of the FPA.

In 2007 at the direction of the Legislature ODF added regulatory certainty as a benefit of stewardship agreements, where landowners who voluntarily agreed to exceed regulatory requirements would be exempt from more restrictive future standards for the same rule. House Bill 2214-B also added priority consideration for cost-share or grant assistance to landowners who have entered into Stewardship Agreements.

5. Where else in Oregon does ODF have stewardship agreements in place?

There are 13 existing stewardship agreements in Douglas, Lane, Washington and Yamhill counties covering a total of just under 3,500 acres.

6. Where can members of the public leave comments about the proposed stewardship agreement?

Public comments can be emailed until Thursday, Jan. 9 to PRIVATEFORESTS.PUBLICCOMMENT@oregon.gov. Written comments can also be mailed to Nate Agalzoff at Oregon Department of Forestry, 2600 State Street, Salem, OR 97310. Comments can also be provided in person at a public hearing from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Molalla Fire Station #82, 320 N. Molalla Ave., in downtown Molalla.

7. What is the process for a landowner to obtain a stewardship agreement?

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About stewardship agreements

- Stewardship agreements are voluntary land management agreements available to landowners under Oregon's Forest Practices Act rules. They were established by the Oregon Legislature in their current form through House Bill 2114-B in 2007.
- The Legislature recognized that in a time of dynamic change in scientific information and social values, improvements to fish and wildlife habitat and water quality cannot be achieved through laws and government actions alone. The program was developed to enhance what the legislature described as a characteristically Oregonian "spirit of volunteerism and stewardship".
- Under a stewardship agreement, a landowner agrees to exceed ODF regulatory requirements designed to protect natural resources, such as water quality and fish and wildlife habitat, in exchange for long-term regulatory certainty under Forest Practices Act rules. About 13 such agreements are in place in Oregon.
- Landowners and the State Forester collaborate to create long-term agreements that consider natural resource conservation and routine forest management from a property-wide perspective. Rather than focus on a single project or harvest, landowners apply their management tactics to create a net benefit across the ownership's landscape.
- Stewardship agreements may not meet the objectives of all landowners. Landowners who don't choose to enter into one are still considered to be adequately protecting forest resources by adhering to Forest Practices Act rules.
- The proposed stewardship agreement with Port Blakely would be one among a number the agency has entered into with different forest landowners in Oregon. This agreement would cover the largest area of forest compared to past stewardship agreements.

Background on Port Blakely

Port Blakely is a family-owned company whose forestry roots run five generations deep. Port Blakely grows and markets renewable forest products around the globe, owning and managing 149,000 acres of sustainable working forests in Washington and Oregon and 93,000 in New Zealand. They ship logs from across the Pacific Northwest, southeastern United States and New Zealand to domestic and international markets, operating three business units: US Forestry, NZ Forestry and PLS International. Most of the land managed by Port Blakely in Oregon is in the western foothills of the Cascades, consisting of second and third-growth forests dominated by Douglas-fir. Since 2002 Port Blakely's U.S. forestlands have been certified through the Sustainable Forest Initiative, earning recertification every year since.



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Port Blakely is proposing to enter into a voluntary stewardship agreement with the Oregon Department of Forestry that would cover about 30,000 acres. This is all of the company's forestland in Clackamas County and represents about one-fifth of the total forestland the company owns in the Pacific Northwest. The company reports it has previously entered into voluntary federal conservation agreements covering 55,000 acres in Washington state, including a 45,000-acre Safe Harbor Agreement to protect spotted owl and marbled murrelet habitat and a 10,000-acre multi-species Habitat Conservation Plan, both with the USFWS.

More information

- Email: nathan.v.agalzoff@oregon.gov
- Mail: Attn: Nate Agalzoff, Oregon Department of Forestry, 2600 State Street, Salem, Oregon 97310.