

**NEW: State Forests Division Tillamook Forest Restoration Initiative**

This initiative focuses on strategies to restore portions of the Tillamook State Forest, currently dominated by Swiss Needle Cast (SNC) and low-value alder stands, to a healthy condition and put the forest on a better path to provide economic, social, and environmental benefits over the long term. The story of the Tillamook State Forest is well documented. The forest was burned in four large catastrophic fires between 1933 and 1951 known as the Tillamook Burn. The lands had no value, many timber owners defaulted on their property taxes, and ownership went to the County. Salvage logging took place on some lands during this time along with felling snags and constructing fire breaks. Road building was done throughout the forest to salvage timber and provide access for future firefighting efforts.

The counties deeded the forest to the Department of Forestry and Oregonians approved bonds to begin what was the largest reforestation effort of its time. Reforestation was done by aerial seeding and hand planting. In 1973 Governor Tom McCall renamed the Tillamook Burn to the Tillamook State Forest (Forest). The Forest encompasses 348,970 acres and supports important habitat for native fish and wildlife, provides recreation opportunities, supports timber-related economies, and provides essential revenues to county governments.

However, today, approximately 26% of the Tillamook District is dominated by low-value alder due to the challenges of reforestation following the Tillamook Burn. SNC is affecting 46% of Douglas-fir stands. Aerial surveys, research plots, and stand growth evaluations show a significant loss of growth on SNC-impacted stands. These stand conditions, combined with operational constraints such as steep slopes lead to costly logging and have a significant impact on the ability to generate revenue. Investing in forest restoration now is a good business decision that will have immediate benefits to local communities and establish a healthy and productive forest for future generations.

Given the value of the forest to local communities and the financial implications of harvesting low-value stands, the Division is designing a “SNC Adaptive Management Strategy” and developing “Economic Analysis Tools” to guide business decisions that contribute to forest health and improve financial viability for the Division.

SNC Adaptive Management and Strategies

Establish strategies that identify SNC severity and the range of silvicultural techniques to improve forest health and productivity. The silvicultural prescriptions will depend on long term goals, stand conditions, and economic decisions-making.

Economic Analysis Tool

The department is developing economic analysis tools to support silviculture decisions. The tool will identify the relationship between the costs to harvest low value stands relative to the revenue generated to the county and to the Division.

**Draft: BOF WORKPLAN ITEMS**

This strategic initiative is still under development. As this initiative comes into focus, the Division will structure associated concepts into a BOF work plan.