

## FOREST OPERATOR RECOGNITION PROGRAM

**PURPOSE:** This directive establishes guidelines for the Forest Practices Forest Operator Recognition Program.

**OBJECTIVES:**

- A. To publicly recognize operators that consistently exceed the Oregon Forest Practices Act and Forest Practice rules.
- B. To improve public understanding of the Forest Practices Act and its accomplishments.

**AUTHORITY:** ORS 527.630 It is the "...policy of the State of Oregon 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...."

**SCOPE:** This directive is to be applied statewide.

**STANDARDS:**

- A. Levels of Recognition (or categories).
  - 1. Forest Operator of the Year. The Oregon State Board of Forestry will present three "Forest Practices Forest Operator of the Year" awards to operators selected by each of the three regional Forest Practice committees. Selected operators will be individuals/companies that consistently exceed the Forest Practices Act and Forest Practice rules.
  - 2. Merit Awards. Merit award winners shall be selected from Forest Operator of the Year nominees. Winners must consistently exceed the Forest Practices Act and Forest Practice rules.
  - 3. Letters of Commendation. Districts should give Letters of Commendation to operators that have shown concern for the environment during an operation, regardless of the degree of operation difficulty or past operator performance.

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### **STANDARDS:** (Cont.)

- B. Size of Operation to Recognize. Any size operation may be recognized.
- C. Type of Operation to Recognize. Either companies, contractors or individuals may be recognized. Awards are not limited to harvesting operations. Generally, landowners will not be considered for recognition as operators except in cases where the landowner is conducting the operation.
- D. Nomination Screening Criteria. Only operators who meet the following criteria will be considered for Operator of the Year or merit awards.
  - 1. Consistency of the Operator. The operator can be counted upon to consistently do an outstanding job.  
  
"Consistently" is defined as no violations of the Forest Practices Act within the last two years, and recognition by the Forest Practices forester of "exceeding rules" often. "Exceeds" is defined to mean that the operator prevents resource damage, and results go beyond the rules and the minimum required results.
  - 2. Degree of Difficulty. The operator faced a difficult operation. (For example, most operators could do a good job on flat ground with no running streams involved.)
  - 3. Innovation and Extra Effort. The operator used innovations, extra effort or other creative solutions in conducting operations while protecting or enhancing resources.
  - 4. Results. The operator achieved resource protection results on the ground which exceed the intent of the rules, or otherwise enhanced protected resources as described in Board of Forestry policy.
  - 5. Financial Risk. The operator assumed some financial risk in conducting the operation. (Money, time, or equipment, as opposed to the landowner paying the operator for cost plus profit.)

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### **STANDARDS:** (Cont.)

- E. Weighing Factors. Operators who met all the nomination criteria will be considered for recognized Operator of the Year awards. The operator may have done an excellent job on one operation, but adequate at other times. In such cases, the operator should be considered for a Letter of Commendation or a Merit Award. The operator who consistently does an excellent job of exceeding the Act on several operations (either the same or different types of operations) should be considered for regional Forest Operator of the Year. An operator who does an excellent job on a few operations can still be nominated for regional Forest Operator of the Year, but more weight would go to the operator that does an excellent job on several operations.
- F. Number of Awards.
  - 1. Forest Operator of the Year -- One award each for the Eastern Oregon, Southwest Oregon, and Northwest Oregon Forest Practices Regions.
  - 2. Merit Awards -- No more than one award per district except when the area director believes circumstances warrant otherwise.
  - 3. Letters of Commendation -- No limit.

### **PROCEDURES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:**

- A. In mid-May, the Forest Practices staff will send reminder notices and annual instructions to area offices to begin the process of evaluating and nominating operators as well as work with the regional committees to form selection subcommittees.
- B. In June, districts should ask Forest Practices foresters, local Association of Oregon Loggers chapters and local company representatives to nominate operators for Forest Operator of the Year and Letters of Commendation. Nominations should be submitted on a form similar to Attachment 1. Photographs, maps, and other helpful documents should accompany the application for illustrating the operation.
- C. On October 1, nominations cease.

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### **PROCEDURES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:** (Cont.)

- D. By mid-October, area staff and districts should jointly screen nominations as needed. Local industrial representatives may be asked to participate in the screening process. Area staff should recommend Forest Operator of the Year, Merit Award winners and Letter of Commendation recipients to the appropriate selection subcommittee appointed by each regional committee.
- E. By November 1, area staff should arrange a field tour for the regional committee subcommittees to review area recommendations. Photographs will be taken for future publicity.
- F. By December 1, the regional subcommittees should make their selections and report their recommendations to the full regional committees. Areas should write short narrative summaries for each Forest Operator of the Year candidate. The forest practices staff will send the narratives to the respective regional committees for final approval of the Forest Operator of the Year. Attachment A, page 3 is a sample rating form that committees can use to help rank nominees.
- G. By mid-December, the Forest Operator of the Year and Merit Award trophies are ordered by forest practices staff.
- H. By January 1, area or district offices should prepare and mail letters to inform Forest Operator of the Year, Merit Award and Letter of Commendation winners of their selections. Areas or districts should also prepare narratives to be read when the awards are presented. Copies should be sent to forest practices staff and public affairs staff by December 15.
- I. The department's Public Affairs staff, in consultation with the Forest Practices staff will develop a publicity plan that can be implemented annually to promote public recognition of award winners. In mid-December, Forest Practices staff will brief Public Affairs staff on recipients of all awards. Public Affairs arranges to take pictures of Forest Operator of the Year presentations and make statewide news releases.
- J. In March, the Board of Forestry will present the Forest Operator of the Year Awards at its regular meeting.

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### **PROCEDURES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:** (Cont.)

- K. Merit Awards should be presented in February or March by each regional committee chair at regional committee meetings or other appropriate events at the discretion of the respective area director and the regional committee chair. Awards should be timely and close to March Board of Forestry meeting.
- L. Letters of Commendation should be presented between February 1 and March 31 by districts at local operator meetings or other appropriate events. Letters will be signed by the respective regional committee chair.
- M. Districts, with assistance from the Public Affairs staff if needed, should arrange local publicity for Forest Operator of the Year, Merit Award and Letter of Commendation recipients. Letters outlining the recipients and importance of the award should be written to landowners on whose land the winners conducted the operations.

## OPERATOR RECOGNITION NOMINATION FORM

**OPERATOR OF THE YEAR** ( )  
**LETTER OF COMMENDATION** ( )

### Section A. Nomination Information:

District \_\_\_\_\_ For. Pract. Region E. S.W. N.W.  
Nominated by \_\_\_\_\_ Operator Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Company Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### Section B. Operation Information

Activities Harvest ( ) Site Prep ( ) Reforestation ( )  
Stand Management ( ) Road Construction ( )  
Other ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Dates of Operation \_\_\_\_\_

Location of Operation (Legal Desc. and by Landmark) \_\_\_\_\_

Generally Describe the Operation (or attach narrative) \_\_\_\_\_

What were the protected resources involved and how was the operator concerned about resource protection \_\_\_\_\_

### Section C. Nominating Criteria

1. Describe the operator's consistency in performance over the years (use examples)

2. Describe the difficulty and complexity of the operation in regard to protection of forest resources\_\_\_\_\_

3. Describe how the operator was innovative (including matching equipment to the job) or used extra effort on this operation\_\_\_\_\_

Past Operations?\_\_\_\_\_

4. Describe results in resource protection and forest management benefits\_\_\_\_\_

5. Describe the financial risk assumed by the operator as well as how much influence the landowner had on this operation\_\_\_\_\_

6. Other comments not covered in 1-5\_\_\_\_\_

Please Attach if Available:

Location Map ( )

Operation Map ( )

Aerial Photo ( )

\_\_\_\_\_  
Forest Practices Forester

\_\_\_\_\_  
Nominator (if different)

\_\_\_\_\_  
District Forester

\_\_\_\_\_  
Area Screener

OPTIONAL RATING FORM  
OPERATOR RECOGNITION  
OPERATOR OF THE YEAR

| CRITERIA                | POINTS POSSIBLE | SCORE |
|-------------------------|-----------------|-------|
| CONSISTENCY             | 20              |       |
| DIFFICULTY              | 15              |       |
| CONCERN FOR<br>RESOURCE | 20              |       |
| INNOVATION/EFFORT       | 15              |       |
| RESULTS                 | 30              |       |
| TOTAL SCORE             |                 |       |