

Tethered Logging Rulemaking

Board of Forestry Meeting
March 4, 2026





Context & History

“Pursuant to the authority granted by ORS 527.710 and subject to the procedures set forth in ORS 527.714 for rules described in ORS 527.714 (1)(c), not more than three years after the effective date of this 2022 Act, the State Board of Forestry shall initiate rulemaking concerning tethered logging.”

- *Senate Bill 1501, Sec. 7 (2022)*

3/5/25 BOF Mtg

Rulemaking was initiated through a briefing on the practice of tethered logging, intersections with forest practice rules, and the available science.

3/4/2026 BOF Mtg

The Board considers the Department analysis and determines next steps.

9/4/25 BOF Field Tour

Active tethered logging operations were observed, and information was presented by ODF field staff, landowners, operators, representatives from Oregon State University and the Associated Oregon Loggers on the use and impacts of tethered equipment.

Background



Tethered logging is the use of cable winch systems on ground-based equipment to stabilize and assist equipment operations on steep slopes. Currently a standard practice under the forest practice rules, not requiring a Plan for Alternate Practice (PFAP), except when:

- 1) locating compacted or excavated skid trails within 100 feet of stream channels on steep or erosion-prone slopes per OAR 629-630-0150 or
- 2) operating on high landslide hazard locations (HLHL) per OAR 629-630-0500 which prohibits any ground-based equipment on HLHL.



9/2025 BOF Field Tour Stop #1

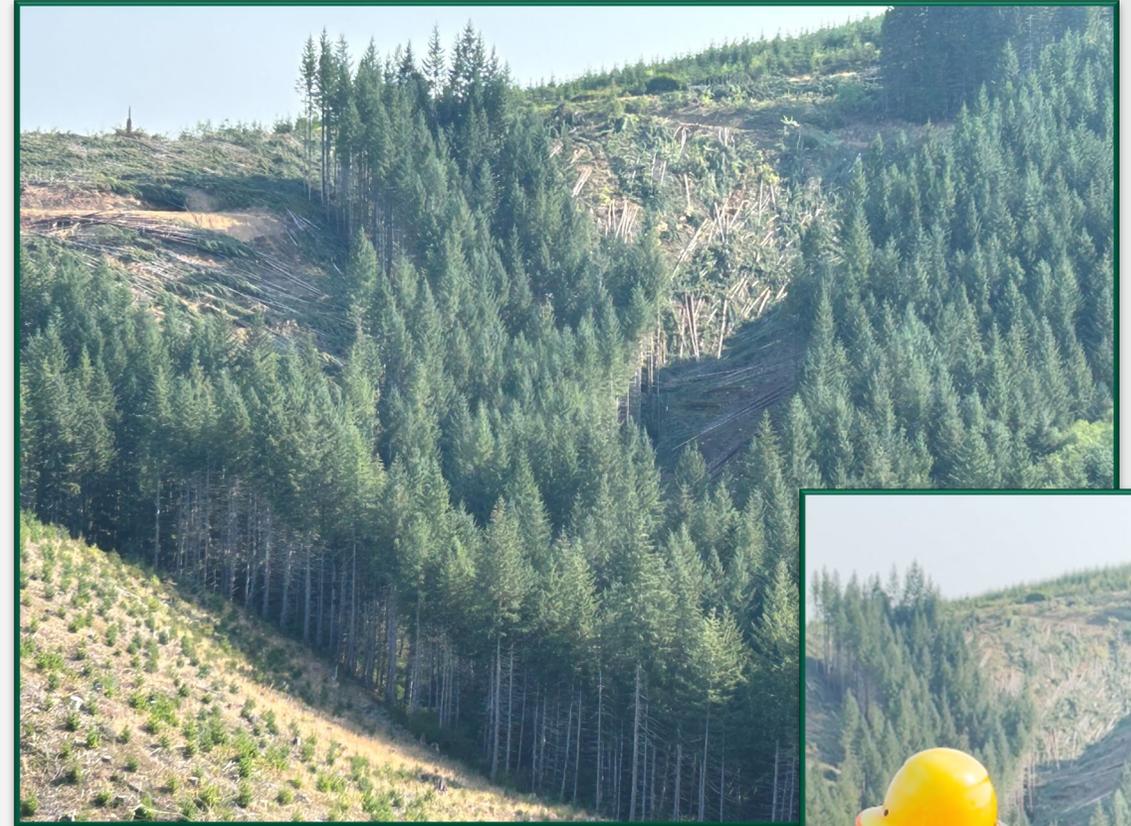


Operations within 100 feet of a stream channel on steep or erosion-prone slopes

Board Options:

- a) Determine no further Board action is needed at this time and close rulemaking related to OAR 629-630-0150.

- b) Determine it is necessary to continue rulemaking related to OAR 629-630-0150 and provide direction on the desired impact of continued rulemaking.



9/2025 BOF Field Tour Stop #1

Operations on High Landslide Hazard Locations



Board Options:

- a) Determine no further Board action is needed at this time and close rulemaking related to OAR 629-630-0500 and direct the Department to return to the Board if a future need for action is identified.
- b) Determine it is necessary to continue rulemaking related to OAR 629-630-0500 and provide direction on the desired impact of continued rulemaking.



9/2025 BOF Field Tour Stop #2

Staff Recommendations



100 feet of a stream channel on steep or erosion-prone slopes

Option a: The Board determines no further Board action is needed at this time and closes rulemaking related to OAR 629-630-0150.

Impact: Closes rulemaking and ends the automatic need for a PFAP when within 100 feet of a stream channel on steep or erosion prone slopes.

Operations on High Landslide Hazard Locations

Option a: The Board determines no further Board action is needed at this time and closes rulemaking related to OAR 629-630-0500 and directs the Department to return to the Board if a future need for action is identified.

Impact: Closes rulemaking and continues the need for a PFAP. The Department will track the volume and consistency of these PFAPs to inform whether future action is needed.