

Private Forest Accord Rulemaking: Harvesting on Steep Slopes



Summary:

To meet the Private Forest Accord Report's goal to provide high-quality habitats that support the recovery, protection, and long-term conservation of covered species on private forestlands, the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) worked with the Accord authors to develop new rules related to harvesting on steep slopes. The draft steep slopes rules can be found in Division 630, Harvesting Rules.

Many of the new rules for harvesting on steep slopes focus around "leave trees" to reduce timber-harvest related mass wasting events and provide slope stability next to fish streams. Material delivered to fish and non-fish streams from these leave tree areas contribute to habitats for the covered species.

Western Oregon:

The slopes model is being developed for Western Oregon, to be completed by mid-May 2023 and added to the E-Notification soon after. The E-Notification system will display three types of steep slopes that have the highest probability of instability:

- Designated Debris Flow Traversal Areas (debris flow corridors)
- Designated Sediment Source Areas (hillslope areas)
- Trigger Sources (areas within Designated Sediment Source Areas)

Leave trees will be required along the non-fish streams and the length of designated debris flow traversal area. Leave trees will be required in field identified slope retention areas, which represent at least 50 percent of the designated sediment source areas.

When there are stream classification changes, the slopes model will not immediately change. Forest practices technical guidance will be developed to field identify slope retention areas. Certified training will be developed to field identify the slope retention areas.

Statewide:

The stream adjacent failures, located on slopes greater than 70 percent, would apply statewide. These are field identified areas next to fish streams that are actively failing or unstable slopes delivering sediment.

Leave trees are required upslope of the riparian management areas of fish streams with a stream adjacent failure.

All Landowners:

Harvesting on steep slopes requires a written plan and wildlife leave trees may count in these areas toward clearcut standards.

Small Forestland Owners:

ODF will assist landowners in identifying designated debris flow traversal areas. Forestland that is managed under the small forestland owner minimum option would not be required to follow the rules for designated sediment source areas or rules for slope retention areas.

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