

Post-Disturbance Harvest Rules (Alternative Vegetation Retention Prescriptions)



The post-disturbance harvest (PDH) rulemaking made changes to the alternative vegetation retention prescriptions with minor technical changes to the purpose statement of the water protection rules in the Forest Practices Act (FPA). The new alternative prescription rules may be applied to qualifying riparian management areas (RMAS) or harvest units experiencing **stand level mortality** which means 50% or more dying or recently dead trees due to a catastrophic event such as wildfire, wind, ice, insect or disease damage. Alternative vegetation retention prescription options are available for the following resources:

Effective Date: March 1, 2026

- **In Western Oregon**
 - Type F and Type SSBT RMAS
 - Operators may harvest dying or recently dead trees within the RMA but outside 75' slope distance from the edge of the active channel or channel migration zone.
 - Equipment Limitation Zones (ELZs) apply from 75 feet to the edge of the RMA. The PDH ELZ corrective action requirements differ from the standard practice.
 - Small Type Np RMAS
 - Operators may harvest dying or recently dead trees within the RMA.
 - Operators shall apply an R-ELZ where tree removal occurs.
 - Slope Retention Areas (SRAS) within a harvest unit experiencing stand level mortality
 - Operators may harvest dying or recently dead trees within SRAS if certain conditions are met.
 - Reforestation Standards
 - Reduced stocking requirements for Type F and SSBT RMAS. Standard stocking requirements for Small Type Np RMAS and SRAS.
 - Encouragement of hardwood sprouting through limited chemical application for Type F and SSBT RMAS.
- **In Eastern Oregon**
 - Small Terminal Type Np RMAS
 - Operators may harvest dying or recently dead trees within the outer zone of small terminal type Np RMAS.
 - Reforestation Standards
 - Standard reforestation stocking requirements apply.
- **Small Forestland Owner** harvest units experiencing stand level mortality are exempt from the fifth field watershed cap described in the FPA.

Large and small forest landowners may choose to apply the alternative prescription or apply standard or minimum options, respectively, if preferred. Statutory written plan requirements still apply for any activity occurring within 100' of a Type F/SSBT stream. Non-statutory written plan requirements still apply for any activity occurring outside 100' of a Type F/SSBT stream but within the RMA, for units that contain features identified in the steep slopes model, or for operating within the outer zone of small terminal Type Np RMAS in Eastern Oregon.

