



FORESTRY

Forests provide significant environmental, social, and economic benefits, in addition to the direct benefits of jobs and wood products. They enhance air and water quality, provide habitat for fish and wildlife, and offer varied recreational opportunities. In Oregon 35 percent of all forest land is privately owned and contributes about 80 percent of the state's timber harvest.

The majority of the county's forestlands are located in eastern Marion County in the Willamette National Forest. The most common commercial tree species in the county are mixed-conifer, primarily Douglas fir. With proper management our forest resources can produce harvestable timber far into the future. It is this goal that drives sustainable forest management practices and reflects one of the many amazing and vital characteristics of our forests.

SECTIONS

7.1 Small Woodland Management

7.2 A Healthy Forest

7.3 Fire Prevention

7.4 Backyard Burning





SMALL WOODLAND MGMT.

It starts from the roots up

Forest management is a challenge because it involves more than just trees. Good management requires the consideration of every aspect of the forest habitat – including shrubs, herbs, grasses, fungi, insects and wildlife. Active woodland management can help protect your home from wildfires and the forest from unwanted pests and diseases.

OREGON'S FOREST PRACTICES ACT

The Forest Practices Act was implemented in 1971, the first act of its kind in the nation. It outlines management practices that foresters must consider when planning timber harvests on state or private lands. The act regulates written plans, reforestation,

clear-cutting, road construction and maintenance, and the protection of water resources and wildlife habitat. Forest regulations and practices are updated regularly based on scientific research, so stay informed.

NOTIFICATION OF OPERATION/APPLICATION FOR PERMIT

A Notification of Operation/Application for Permit is required when conducting any activity related to growing or harvesting forested tree species including spraying, road construction, and use of machinery. You must file an application if you intend to sell or barter trees that you cut or if your activities are related to forestry production for profit. The application must be filed with the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) 15 days prior to starting work. The application is then electronically sent to the Department of Revenue by ODF for tax purposes.

Application to Operate Power-Driven Machinery: This permit is encouraged if you are working within 1/8 mile of, or in a forest protection district, even if the forestry practices being conducted are not related to for-profit forestry. This permit reduces an individual's liability when doing any type of work with power-driven machinery in these areas. If this application is not filed and you cause a forest fire, you are 100 percent liable for all damages.

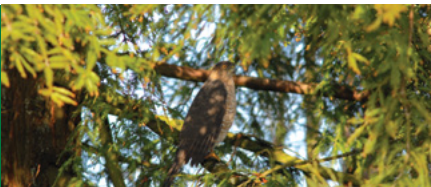
“It takes roughly 4 years after planting, for a tree to be able to grow on its own.”

FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN

If you plan on engaging in forestry, you should first develop a management plan. A current forest management plan can help you qualify for grants and conservation programs through ODF and other agencies. ODF can provide assistance in developing a plan. Private consultants are another option to landowners for developing a plan. They can also assist you in marketing logs, or overseeing a logging operation. Professional assistance can help save you money and minimize mistakes.

HIRING A FORESTER

When having work done on your property it is very important to know who you are hiring before they come onto your property with a chain saw. Landowners should ask for credentials and references from the logger, and ask to see some past work prior to having any work done. The Association of Oregon Loggers (AOL) provides a list of certified loggers. There are many forestry operations that can cause damage and expose you to liability.



*Cooper's
Hawk*



OSU: Ties to the Land
www.tiestotheland.org/

SUCCESSION PLAN

Developing a property succession plan will aid in the process of passing woodland property to the next generation. Without a plan, the new landowner will be obligated to pay the federal inheritance tax that is roughly 50 percent of the appraised property value. This can put great pressure on the family to sell the land to a developer or harvest the wood resource to pay the tax. "Ties to the Land" is an organization that works to educate families on planning for property succession.

RE - PLANTING

After trees have been harvested from a site the landowner is required to replant within two years. Once the trees are planted it is up to the landowner to maintain those trees for the next four years. After four years a tree is considered "free to grow" on its own. When buying property that appears to have been harvested without any new planting, check with ODF for the current status of the site.

Additional Resources

Oregon Department of Forestry

egov.oregon.gov/ODF/

Oregon Forest Practices Act

www.oregon.gov/ODF/privateforests/fpaKeys.shtml

Oregon Forest Resources Institute

www.oregonforests.org

Oregon Association of Loggers

www.oregonloggers.org



A HEALTHY FOREST

A priceless commodity

A healthy forest has trees that are resistant to disease, insect infestation and animal damage. There should be a diverse mix of plant species in the forest, with healthy vegetation at all levels of the vertical area, with trees being spaced far enough apart to minimize nutrient competition between them.

TREE DIVERSITY

By maintaining a diversity of trees appropriate to the site, you will encourage the overall health of the forest. Tree species should be selected based on soil and climatic conditions. Soil information can be found on the Web Soil Survey. (*see Soil section.*)

New trees require protection from competing vegetation to help improve their survival rate. In addition to species diversity, forests should also have trees of various ages.

THINNING

Thinning is the process of removing trees to improve your forest's growth, health and vigor. Thinning creates more light, water and nutrients for the remaining trees. It reduces the loss of trees due to pathogens, increases resistance to wildfire, drought, and insect infestation. Thinning also offers an opportunity to encourage species diversity.

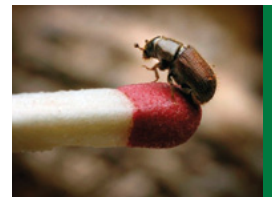
Stewardship Foresters : ODF

They provide services encouraging and supporting landowners in improving forest health, fish and wildlife habitat, soil and water quality, recreation opportunities and aesthetics of private forests through information, technical assistance, financial incentives and regulation.

DISEASES AND PESTS

Depending on the health of your forest, it could be susceptible to disease and pests. Being able to identify problems in the forest is important for treatment because most problems require different treatments. Root disease, beetles, and sudden oak death are some of the most common issues in this region that can spread to neighboring trees and destroy a stand. If you think that your forest is diseased, contact a local forester or ODF for assistance in identifying the problem and taking the proper actions for eradication.

*Douglas-fir
Beetle*





FIRE PREVENTION

Even an ember can start a fire

Research has shown that reducing fuel sources around a structure can greatly increase the chance of it surviving a wildfire. Fire needs three elements to occur; fuel, oxygen and heat. Remove anyone

of them and the fire will die out. Fuel is defined as anything that can burn. Landowners should systematically arrange trees and shrubs in a way that makes it difficult for fire to spread on your property. Many fires start from a single ember that lands on a fire fuel source. Fires should be covered and never left unattended.

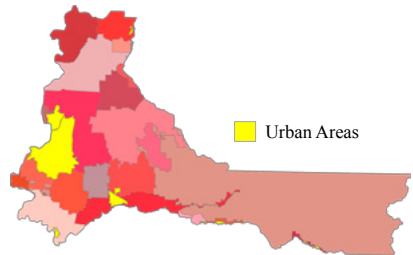
IMPORTANCE OF FIRE

Fire is mostly seen as a destructive undesirable occurrence, but it is actually a necessary part of a healthy forest's ecosystem. Fire helps remove unwanted invasive species, parasites, diseases and insects, while the remaining ash provides needed nutri-

ents to the soil. Fire also helps reduce the amount of fuel in the forest resulting in smaller, less severe wildfires. Some trees require the high temperature of fire to open their cones for seed dispersal and reproduction.

FIRE DISTRICTS

If you live outside of the Salem/Keizer urban growth boundary, there is a good chance that you rely upon a volunteer-based fire district for your fire needs. The fire districts and ODF work cooperatively to enforce fire laws and respond to fires in Marion County. Marion County also has ambulance districts that function in the same manner as fire districts.



Map 1: Shows all of the different fire districts in Marion county, each denoted by a red hue.

“All outdoor burning is prohibited during the fire season.”

Fire Season

Fire Season is normally June - October, depending on the weather. During this time ALL outdoor burning is prohibited.

Call for up-to-date burning conditions

Santiam Canyon | 503.769.3400

Silverton Area | 503.873.3138

HOME AND PROPERTY FIRE PREVENTION

A fire break is a gap in vegetation or other combustible material that works to stop or slow the progress of a brush or wildfire. Rivers, lakes, canyons, roads or gravel trails are examples of both natural and man-made fire breaks.

Developing a yearly schedule can help speed up implementing and maintain fire prevention measures on your property.

- To create a firebreak, remove combustible vegetation from 30 feet around the house, a 100-foot buffer is ideal. Short green lawn is OK.
- Prune tree branches to at least 10 feet above the ground.
- Keep limbs at least 15 feet away from the roof and chimney.
- Clear roofs and gutters of debris.
- Have a shovel, rake, axe, saw, bucket, roof ladder and hose ready for use during the fire season.
- Replace flammable building materials and vegetation with more fire-resistant ones.
- When burning, have a good water source near by.

EVACUATION

Prepare an evacuation strategy with two different paths from your property. Create a portable supply kit filled with the essentials: food, water, tools, and appropriate clothing. If you have a gas or propane tank on site, shut them off prior to evacuation. It is also a good idea to shut off the elec-

tricity at the circuit breaker box starting with individual breakers before pulling the main breaker. Gas lines should also be shut off at the meter as well as tanks. Most importantly, follow the instructions of your local fire or police officials during a fire event.

Additional Resources

Marion County: Community Wildfire Protection Plan

www.co.marion.or.us/NR/rdonlyres/E3E3CF51-7A28-4B9A-B62D-0869E5E07F66/10785/FinalforMarionCountyCWPP010209.pdf

ODF: FireWise Communities

www.firewise.org



BACKYARD BURNING

Don't burn garbage

Backyard burning is allowed in rural Marion County, with certain limitation. Garbage burning is prohibited. Garbage must be properly disposed of curbside or at a local transfer station. If not done properly, backyard burning can cause public and environmental harm and could result in a fine. Residents are encouraged to use proper containment and control measures when conducting backyard burning. The Oregon Department of Forestry and local fire districts are the entities which enforce these laws.

WHAT YOU CAN BURN

Rural Marion County residents outside of the restricted burn area are allowed to burn with permission from the local fire district:

- Yard Debris
- Clean and Untreated Wood
- Paper and Cardboard
- Woody Debris

Residents who live outside of the restricted burn area must get permission from their local fire department before burning. Burning during the fire season is prohibited.

RESTRICTED BURN AREA

Marion County has designated areas directly outside of urban areas as special control areas for burning. Within these areas residents are only allowed to burn **YARD DEBRIS** on designated "Burn Days". Burn Days historically occur in the Spring (March - June) and during the Fall (October - December). Burning on days not classified as a Burn Day, is subject to a fine. Contact your local fire district to find out when these days occur.

Restricted Areas

- Within 3 miles of the city limits of an urban area with a population between 1,000 - 45,000.
- Within 6 miles of the city limits of an urban area with a population of 45,000 +.

Additional Resources

Marion County: Backyard Burning Information

www.co.marion.or.us/PW/ES/disposal/backyard.htm

Marion County: Environmental Services

www.co.marion.or.us/PW/ES/