



Oregon's forest practices **RULES ARE CHANGING**

As a result of the Private Forest Accord, a compromise agreement signed in 2021 by 13 conservation and fisheries groups, 11 timber companies and the Oregon Small Woodlands Association, the Oregon Forest Practices Act is changing. The aim of the upcoming changes is to achieve key goals that should allow Oregon to receive federal approval of a private forest Habitat Conservation Plan for certain fish and amphibian species. The new forest practice regulations are designed to avoid, minimize and mitigate the effects logging and other forest management activities on private forestlands may have on water quality and aquatic habitats.

The most significant changes to the Act will include new rules for logging in riparian areas and on steep slopes, and upgrading roads and culverts on private forestland. Most of these rules are slated to go into effect for all private forestland owners in 2024, although some of the rules will go into effect for large forestland owners sooner. Small forestland owners, who are defined as owning fewer than 5,000 acres of forestland and harvesting fewer than 2 million board feet of timber over three years, will qualify for alternative compliance plans or financial impact mitigation to offset the disproportionate impact these regulatory changes may have on them.

Upcoming changes

to Oregon's forest practices rules include:

Riparian areas: Required no-cut stream buffers will be 10% to 100% larger, depending on the stream type and its location, including new protections for non-fish-bearing streams. There will be a standard practice for stream buffer widths designed for large forestland owners, and a minimum option as an alternative for qualified small forestland owners.

Steep slopes: There will be new rules related to logging on steep slopes, such as retaining trees in certain areas, with the intention to provide high-quality habitat to support long-term conservation of stream habitats. Modeling is being developed to identify the locations of potentially unstable slopes and streams that channelize debris flows.

Forest roads: New standards will be required for fish-bearing-stream culvert sizes and culvert installation procedures. Some road-building rules will be modified to focus on minimizing sediment in streams. Large forestland owners will be required to complete a forest road inventory assessment within five years and update all roads to new standards within 20 years. Small forestland owners will need to complete a less rigorous road condition assessment when filing notice with the state of plans to harvest timber.

Adaptive management: All future changes to Oregon's forest practices rules regarding forested riparian areas will be coordinated through a new Adaptive Management Program, with diverse stakeholder input that will use a science-driven process to analyze the need for any changes.

PRIVATE FOREST ACCORD-RELATED LAW CHANGES



PROPOSED WESTERN OREGON RIPARIAN MANAGEMENT AREAS (RMAS)

Large Type F (fish stream) +SSBT (salmon, steelhead or bull trout stream)	110 feet no timber harvest
Medium Type F +SSBT	110 feet no harvest
Small Type F +SSBT	100 feet no harvest
Large Type N (non-fish stream)	75 feet no harvest
Medium Type N	75 feet no harvest
Small Type Np (perennial non-fish stream), tributary to SSBT	75-foot-wide, no-harvest RMA from the confluence with the SSBT stream for the first 500 feet. 50-foot-wide, no-harvest RMA on the next 650 feet.
Small Type Np, tributary to Type F	75-foot-wide, no-harvest RMA from the confluence with the Type F stream for the first 600 feet.
Type N seasonal	35-foot logging equipment limitation zone

The Private Forest Accord proposed expanding the width of no-cut stream buffers, also called a riparian management areas or RMAs, required under the Oregon Forest Practices Act. This chart shows the proposed RMA widths for western Oregon forests. For the proposed RMA widths for eastern Oregon forests, see the full Private Forest Accord report ([link below](#)).

Learn more

[2022-odf-private-forest-accord-report.pdf](#)
oregon.gov/odf/pages/private-forest-accord.aspx
OregonForests.org/private-forest-accord

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SMALL FORESTLAND OWNER CREDIT

The new forest practices rules include special considerations for small forestland owners. This includes a new tax credit program to compensate small forestland owners for lost revenue if they agree to exclude timber harvest in the expanded stream-buffer zones, which means using the new standard practice for riparian areas instead of the small forestland owner minimum option, for the next 50 years.

ASSISTANCE FOR SMALL FORESTLAND OWNERS

The Oregon Department of Forestry will also establish a small forestland owners office to assist small forestland owners in understanding and following the state's new forest practices regulations. There will also be a special program for small forestland owners where they can receive state funding to replace all fish-bearing culverts and make other necessary road repairs on their property to meet the new forest road standards.

Proposed timeline

In 2022, the Oregon Legislature passed and Gov. Kate Brown signed into law Senate Bill 1501, which directs the Oregon Board of Forestry to adopt updates to the Oregon Forest Practices Act based on the recommendations of the Private Forest Accord agreement. These changes will be adopted and go into effect under this anticipated timeline:

July 2022 – The Oregon Department of Forestry completes the draft rules.

Aug. 2022 – A special Board of Forestry meeting to open a public comment period for the new rules.

Oct. 2022 – A special Board of Forestry meeting to consider the final rules.

Nov. 30, 2022 – The Board of Forestry adopts the new rules.

July 1, 2023 – Expanded stream-buffer requirements go into effect for large private forestland owners, defined as owning 5,000 or more acres of forestland.

Jan. 1, 2024 – All new rules go into effect for all private forestland owners.