



ADVENTURE AWAITS

Explore the wonders of Oregon's forests and their many benefits

Nearly half of Oregon is covered in forests. Odds are forests are your favorite places for hiking, camping, fishing and hunting. They're also the scenic part of many of the state's famed drives.

Forests are amazing. They help filter our drinking water, provide habitat for a diverse array of plants, animals and fish, supply oxygen, moderate temperatures, store atmospheric carbon, and provide the raw materials to make wood products. Come explore the environmental, social and economic benefits forests provide to all Oregonians.



WHAT IS FOREST MANAGEMENT?

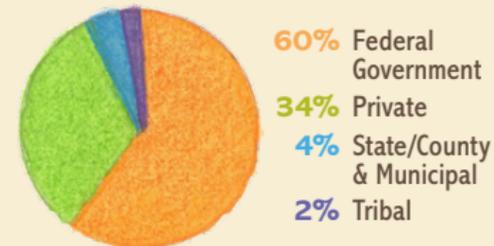
Any work done by humans to alter a forest is considered forest management. Examples include building recreational trails, logging, restoring wildlife habitat and planting trees.

CARING FOR FORESTS

Many different forest landowners care for Oregon's forests. A team of foresters, wildlife biologists and other natural resource experts help landowners manage their forests for multiple uses, including recreation, water, wildlife habitat and timber.

WHO OWNS OREGON'S FORESTS?

Oregon contains more than 29 million acres of forestland. The single biggest forest landowner is the federal government, followed by timber companies and other private owners.





A snag is a standing dead tree that wildlife may use as a place to live or raise their young.

Wildlife across the forest landscape

No matter the age of trees growing in an Oregon forest, you can spot a variety of critters. Different forest animals prefer different types of habitat, depending on the kind of food and shelter they need. Some prefer the tasty, sun-loving plants found in forest clearings. Others seek shelter in the tree cavities or fallen logs of a mature forest. As forests age and the habitat changes, the wildlife that live there change, too.

YOUNG FORESTS
Look for deer, songbirds and butterflies.

MIDDLE-AGE FORESTS
Look for bears, squirrels and woodpeckers.

OLDER FORESTS
Look for bats, owls and salamanders.

Oregon water comes from the forest

Clean water is a basic necessity. Forest soils play an important role in keeping streams clean and water quality high by providing natural filtration. That means forests are an excellent source for drinking water that requires minimal treatment before it's ready to flow from the tap. In Oregon, most of the state's municipal water systems use water sourced from forested watersheds, including privately owned timberlands.

PROTECTING WATER

Keeping forest streams clean and cool is so important that state and federal laws mandate special protections for drinking water sources and fish habitat.

A stream buffer is an area on either side of a forest stream where trees must be left standing to protect aquatic habitat.

Fish need clean, cold water

Fish in forest streams need clean, cold water. State law requires any work in Oregon's private forests such as logging or road-building be done in a way that protects fish habitat. This includes restrictions on logging along streams so trees can shade the water, keeping it cool. Many forest landowners improve stream habitat with voluntary projects such as replacing old culverts so fish can travel upstream, or adding logs to streams.

WOOD IN THE WATER

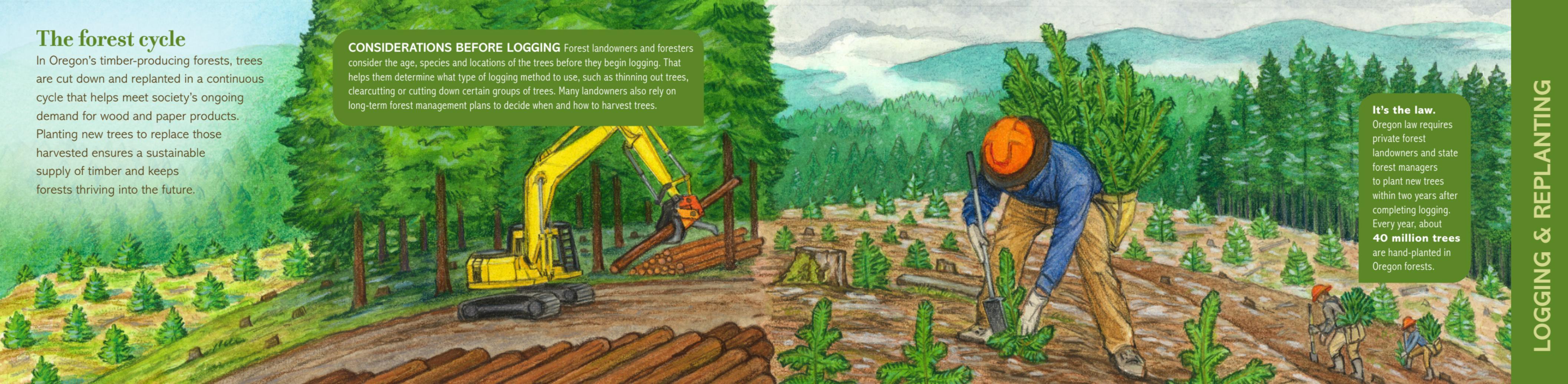
Large logs and woody debris submerged in streams and other water bodies create great fish habitat. They slow the water and provide cover for young fish.

The forest cycle

In Oregon's timber-producing forests, trees are cut down and replanted in a continuous cycle that helps meet society's ongoing demand for wood and paper products. Planting new trees to replace those harvested ensures a sustainable supply of timber and keeps forests thriving into the future.

CONSIDERATIONS BEFORE LOGGING Forest landowners and foresters consider the age, species and locations of the trees before they begin logging. That helps them determine what type of logging method to use, such as thinning out trees, clearcutting or cutting down certain groups of trees. Many landowners also rely on long-term forest management plans to decide when and how to harvest trees.

It's the law. Oregon law requires private forest landowners and state forest managers to plant new trees within two years after completing logging. Every year, about **40 million trees** are hand-planted in Oregon forests.



A renewable resource

The wood that comes from Oregon's forests is a renewable resource, because it literally grows on trees, using the power of the sun. Trees can be planted, harvested and replanted over and over again.

AN ARRAY OF PRODUCTS Oregon is the nation's top producer of softwood lumber and plywood. Other forest products made in Oregon include wooden beams, telephone poles, paper, cardboard, windows, doors, cabinets, furniture, fencing, shipping pallets and more.

LESS EMISSIONS

Making wood products requires less energy and water, and creates fewer emissions, than manufacturing other types of building materials.

Half the dry weight of wood is carbon, sucked out of the atmosphere by trees during photosynthesis.



50% CARBON | 50% OTHER STUFF

CAPTURING AND STORING CARBON

The trees in forests absorb carbon dioxide, a greenhouse gas, straight from the atmosphere, which helps fight climate change. Trees use water, sunlight and carbon dioxide to make the food they need to live and grow, and release oxygen as a byproduct. The carbon remains trapped in wood, even after trees are harvested and made into wood products.

Learn more

To learn more about Oregon's forests and the topics covered in this pamphlet, visit OregonForests.org



Oregon Forest
Resources Institute

OregonForests.org

Follow OFRI on Facebook,
Twitter and Instagram

© 2022

Here are a few ways you can give back to our forests in return for all they provide to us:

PREVENT WILDFIRES – Check out Keep Oregon Green for tips on preventing human-caused wildfires, at keeporegongreen.org

RECREATE RESPONSIBLY – Visit Leave No Trace's website to learn how to explore the outdoors sustainably at LNT.org

REPORT POACHERS – Contact the Oregon State Police Fish and Wildlife Division to report poaching, at **1-800-452-7888** or TIP@osp.oregon.gov

ABOUT THE OREGON FOREST RESOURCES INSTITUTE

The Oregon Forest Resources Institute supports and enhances Oregon's forest products industry by advancing public understanding of forests, forest management and forest products.

Illustrations by Heidi Schultz

