



- BACKGROUND -

# Oregon's State Forests

Promoting and practicing sustainable forestry

**Oregon's state-owned forests provide a range of benefits to all Oregonians.**

## An overview

**The state of Oregon owns and manages 781,000 acres of forestland, about 3 percent of Oregon's forests.**

State forests provide many benefits to Oregonians – timber revenue, wildlife habitat, and places for recreation, relaxation and renewal. All this is accomplished by recognizing that these diverse economic, environmental and social values are connected and interdependent.

Most of the land – nearly 80 percent – is located in the northwest part of the state. The Tillamook and Clatsop State Forests – at more than 500,000 acres combined – comprise the primary block of state land. Other state forests are the 48,000-acre Santiam State Forest east of Salem, the 93,000-acre Elliott State Forest in Coos and Douglas counties, and the 20,000-acre Sun Pass State Forest in Klamath County. Additional state-owned lands are scattered throughout western Oregon.

## Two types of state forestland

There are two types of state-owned forestland: Lands counties deeded to the state (**Board of Forestry Lands**) and lands granted by the federal government at statehood (**Common School Lands**). There are 657,000 acres of county-deeded lands and 124,000 acres of Common School Land.

Ownership of these lands is important because it determines how timber harvest revenue is distributed.

Two-thirds of the timber revenue from county-deeded lands goes to the counties where timber harvesting occurred.

All of the timber revenue from Common School Lands, minus the cost of management, goes to the Common School Fund and is used to support education programs throughout Oregon.

ODF State Forests Revenue Distribution 1997 through 2006		
Year	County Share	Net Revenue to CSF
1997	\$39,491,154	\$11,784,777
1998	\$28,108,940	\$12,638,067
1999	\$36,186,156	\$13,260,354
2000	\$43,486,541	\$20,200,434
2001	\$36,450,034	\$12,633,905
2002	\$42,690,822	\$ 9,409,563
2003	\$49,801,650	\$ 4,126,664
2004	\$47,918,084	\$10,660,049
2005	\$48,589,600	\$13,970,880
<b>2006</b>	<b>\$57,997,327</b>	<b>\$ 4,430,453</b>
5-yr Average	\$49,399,497	\$ 8,519,522
10-yr Average	\$42,887,595	\$11,311,515

**County Share** – Timber revenue going to counties where harvest activity occurred.  
**CSF** – (Common School Fund) Timber revenue from Common School Lands transferred to the CSF minus management costs.

## Revenue goes to schools and counties, and supports forest management

The amount of revenue counties and the Common School Fund receives varies from year to year because purchasers of timber sales have two to three years to complete the harvests. They typically try to time their harvesting to take advantage of market conditions.

**From July 2005 to June 2006, \$58 million was distributed to counties.** The five-year average is \$49 million. Counties retain a percentage and redistribute most of the revenue to local schools and tax districts, such as rural fire departments. A third of the revenue is used by the Department of Forestry to manage the lands and protect them from fire. This revenue fully supports the State Forests Program. No General Fund tax dollars are used.

**From July 2005 to June 2006, a net of \$4.4 million was transferred to the Common School Fund.** The 5-year average is \$8.5 million. These lands are owned by the State Land Board (Governor, Secretary of State, Treasurer) and managed by the Department of Forestry through an agreement with the Department of State Lands. The Department of Forestry is reimbursed for its expenses.

## Oregonians want balanced forest management

A 2006 public opinion poll indicated Oregonians want state forests to provide clean water and air, fish and wildlife habitat, wood products, jobs, revenues and recreation. They want all the benefits and values of our forests to contribute to quality of life in a balanced way – now and for the future.

Most Oregonians agree that it is sometimes necessary to harvest or thin trees from crowded forests to reduce the risk of wildfire or improve forest health. Nearly all Oregonians believe public forests should be replanted after harvesting. Reforestation is seen as key to sustainable forest management.

**The Department of Forestry's balanced approach for managing all these state-owned lands recognizes the diverse values Oregonians have for their forests.**

## Management plans guide path to forest values

Forest management plans represent a long-range look for state forest. They project a forest many decades into the future over a wide geographic area. They foresee a forest with diverse stand structures – from relatively young simple stands to complex old-growth-like stands.

The strategies within the plans are designed to create a managed forest – one that produces timber and generates revenue – that also more closely emulates a historic forest.

The whole-forest approach uses active management to develop a diversity of stand structures for a broad range of ecosystems and native fish and wildlife habitats.

When harvesting occurs, the lands are replanted. When stands are thinned and snags and downed wood are left behind, the forest provides homes for native fish and wildlife, and diverse, healthy tree stands.

When roads are built or improved, care is taken to reduce or eliminate sedimentation into streams. When bridges or culverts are built or replaced, or rocks or logs are placed in streams, fish passage and fish habitat are improved.

**T**imber sales designed to achieve greatest permanent value

**O**utdoor activities await forest visitors

**F**or more information

The program offers about 100 timber sales a year to private purchasers. The sales are carefully designed to achieve the greatest permanent value on state forestlands.

Oregon law requires state-owned forestland to be “actively” managed. This means harvests – various forms of thinnings or clearcuts – are planned and regularly carried out. While generating timber revenue, this active management also develops diverse types of native fish and wildlife habitat for species that require young, layered and older forest stands.

The forest management plans governing state forestlands describe a variety of benefits from these lands – from native fish and wildlife habitat to water quality, recreation and protection from floods, erosion and fire.

In addition to the environment and economy, state forests are managed to address the growing interest Oregonians have in these forests for recreation.

Careful planning allows the use of these forests for camping, hiking, horse riding, mountain biking, fishing, hunting, boating and riding motorized off-highway vehicles. The cost of building and maintaining these recreation facilities comes from timber revenue, an

Success of State Forests Recreation Program		
	2001	2005
Number of developed campgrounds	7	14
Number of campsites	165	247
Trail miles (non-motorized)	113	186
Trail miles (motorized)	210	248

example of the interdependence the economic, social and environmental values.

The Tillamook, Clatsop and Santiam state forests have detailed recreation plans, developed and implemented with the help of citizen advisory committees.

The new **Tillamook Forest Center** is a unique place for learning, recreation and reflection, just an hour’s drive from Portland on Highway 6. Phone: (503) 815-6800. Web: [www.tillamookforestcenter.org](http://www.tillamookforestcenter.org).

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