Oregon Forest Practices Act

Sauvie Island, Oregon
February 4, 2017

Govern how forest management activities are conducted on private forestland.

The Oregon Department of Forestry enforces the Forest Practices Act on private land.

Dynamic, evolving rules. Modified based upon new science and technology.

Primary focus is water protection.
Oregon Department of Forestry
Forest Practice Administrative Rules and
Forest Practices Act

CHAPTER 629
Forest Practices Administration

January 2014

This publication includes the text of the Forest Practices Act and the Forest Practice Administrative Rules as they exist on September 1, 2013.

Divisions 674 through 680 of the forest practice rules are not included in this publication, but are available as separate publications upon request. The rules in these divisions address access to notifications and written plans, regional forest practice committees, and the resource site inventory and protection process.

The Secretary of State publishes the official administrative rules.

The rules and statutes are also available on the Oregon Department of Forestry’s website at: http://www.oregon.gov/odf/privateforests/docs/lpamrulebk.pdf as well as the Oregon Secretary of State’s website at http://arcweb.sos.state.or.us/pages/rules/oars_600/oar_629/index.html and the Oregon State Legislature at http://www.leg.state.or.us/bills_laws/laws/statutes/2011ors527.html.

Rule and statutory language changes made since the January 2010 publication are indicated by underlined text and are listed below.

Changes:

The following rules were amended or adopted with effective dates in 2013. Only major changes are underlined.


The primary rule change in 2013 was within OAR 629-605-0170 Written Plans to allow the Oregon Department of Forestry to waive written plans near certain streams and wetlands under specified conditions. That rule change was authorized by House Bill 2165 (amended ORS 527.670), passed by the 2011 Oregon Legislative Assembly. The rule amendments included associated supporting edits within the adopted administrative rules.

The 2013 amendments also included general housekeeping edits to a number of rules. These changes corrected grammatical errors and updated outdated references and did not change the intent or effect of any existing rules adopted under the Forest Practices Act.

In 2012, the Oregon Legislative Assembly passed Senate Bill 1546, which amended ORS 527.745 to allow the Oregon Department of Forestry to waive reforestation requirements after timber harvest along state highways in areas deemed to be unsuitable for reforestation by the Oregon Department of Transportation in order to maintain motorist safety and to protect highways, bridges and utility lines.

The table of contents for the administrative rules is on the inside cover page. The table of contents for the Forest Practices Act is on page 74.
What does ODF require prior to a timber sale?
A Notification of Operations must be submitted at least 15 days prior to activity. Notifications or a NOAP can be submitted on-line through the ODF e-Notification system (FERNS) or at an ODF office.

An operator, consulting forester, landowner or timberowner may submit the NOAP.
The Stewardship forester with ODF reviews the NOAP and contacts the operator if he or she has concerns about the operation.

There are 51 Stewardship foresters throughout the state and each have a geographical area they are responsible for.

They make periodic on-site inspections to make sure the forest practices rules are being complied with. They also insure the land is properly reforested.
The operator is responsible for complying with the forest practices rules that apply to the activity.

During fire season the operator must also have specific fire equipment and provide a watchman service.

The landowner is responsible for reforestation.

The Stewardship forester can issue citations and civil penalties to the operator if there is a violation of the rule and or damage to the resource.
How to submit a Notification
E-Notification

The Oregon Forest Practices Act requires a notification to be filed before beginning any forest operation.

- Submit notifications to ODF at least 15 days before starting the operation
- Obtain a permit for any operation that uses fire or power driven machinery

E-Notification allows forest landowners, timber owners, and operators to submit a Notification of Operation or Permit to Use Fire or Power Driven Machinery online.

The system combines the following steps into one simple process:

- Notifying the State Forester about the forest operation
- Applying for a permit to operate power driven machinery or use fire
- Notifying the State Forester and Department of Revenue about the intent to harvest timber

File a Notification

Subscribe to E-Notification

Anyone can subscribe to receive copies of Notifications of Operations submitted to ODF. This may be useful for citizens who want to be informed about neighboring forest activities or submit official comments about planned operations. Subscriptions are issued on a yearly basis.
Welcome to FERNS

Forest Activity Electronic Reporting and Notification System
Oregon Department of Forestry

FERNS will allow you to Notify the Oregon Department of Forestry prior to conducting an operation or forest practice. You must file a Notification of Operation at least 15 days before starting the operation. FERNS will also allow you to notify the Oregon Department of Revenue of the intent to harvest timber.
Learn More

FERNS will allow you to apply for a Permit to use Fire or Power-Driven Machinery (PDM). You must obtain this permit for any operation that uses fire or power driven machinery.
Learn More

FERNS will allow you to Subscribe to receive notifications of operations and information alerts.
Learn More

REGISTER ➤
Welcome, Derek Krause

Create a new Notification of Operations / Application for Permit to Use Fire or Operate Power Driven Machinery (NOAP)

Create NOAP
A specific number is assigned to each NOAP.

NOAP Summary

OPERATION NAME: February 1 2017
SUBMIT DATE: 01-26-2017

NOAP ID: 2017-532-00004

Apply for Permit to Use Fire or Power Driven Machinery (PDM) (ORS 477.625)
Notify the State Forester of operations on lands described in this NOAP (ORS 527.670)
Notify the State Forester and Department of Revenue of the intent to harvest timber (ORS 321.550)

Oregon Department of Forestry Contact Information

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STEWARDSHIP FORESTER
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When a Stewardship forester conducts an inspection or makes formal comments, the operator and landowner will receive an email.
Let me demonstrate how to submit a NOAP