

OREGON: A LEADER IN SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT



Oregon is blessed with nearly 28 million acres of forestlands – some of the most productive in the world. Oregonians have many reasons to be proud of the visionary commitment that their state and its public and private forestry leaders have made to the long-term sustainability of the benefits these forests provide.

Looking back, as urban growth in Oregon was booming during the 1960s and 1970s, values of urban citizens were not always aligned with the needs of rural communities. People were increasingly concerned about the effects of forest practices on the environment. Today, Oregon's forests benefit from greater public support for the economic and social contributions of a stable forest sector in combination with protection of environmental values. This is largely an outcome of the state's growing reputation for leadership in sustainable forestry.

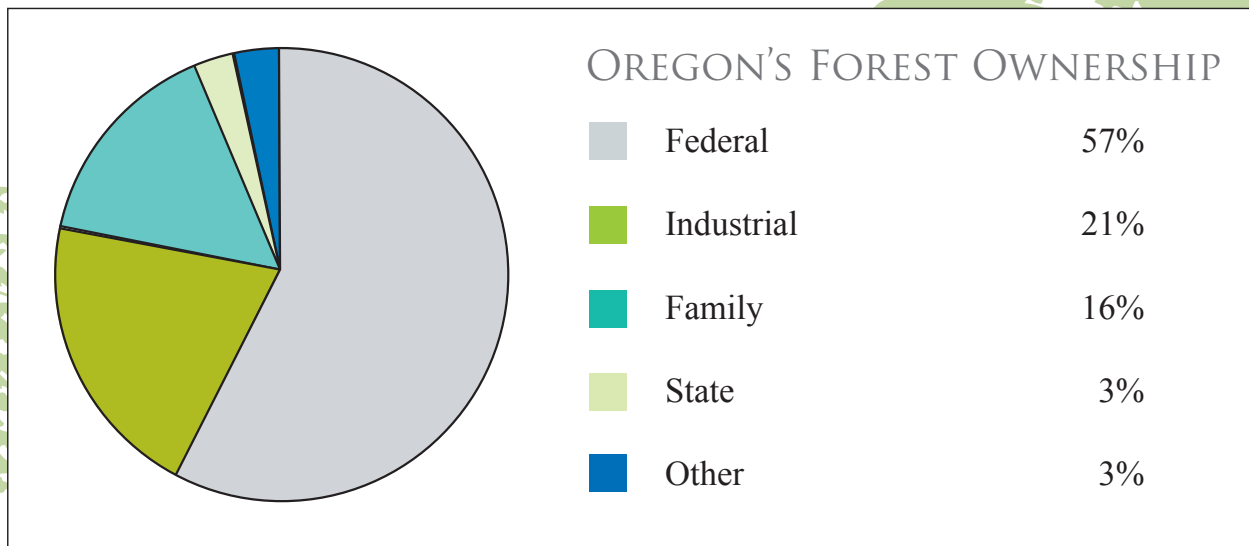
In 1971, Oregon became the first U.S. state to enact comprehensive forest practices rules and regulations. Today, the landmark Oregon Forest Practices Act continues to set the standard for ensuring both reforestation after harvest and the protection of forest streams, fish and wildlife habitat.

Oregon also was the first state to undertake a comprehensive statewide evaluation of forest

conditions according to the standards of sustainability that emerged from the Montréal Process. This assessment and findings of Oregon's equally comprehensive *State of the Environment Report* confirm high levels of protection for the state's forest resources while identifying where additional improvement opportunities might be found.

Since Europeans first visited what is now Oregon more than 400 years ago, the amount of forestland in the state has remained fairly constant, with only about 8 percent lost to human development – agriculture, urban growth, highways, etc. For more than three decades, Oregon's prudent land use laws have had a large role in preventing the further loss of forestland through conversion to non-forest uses in which environmental benefits might be permanently lost.

Adding to the state's vision for sustainable forest management, Oregon's governor has called for a forest sector strategy that integrates environmental priorities with actions needed to enhance rural and statewide economic prosperity. In addition, Oregon's forest sector is committed to collaborative solutions to potential environmental and economic conflicts. One example is the unique Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds, a public/private sector



collaboration that provides for voluntary measures by forest and agricultural landowners to protect and recover salmon and watersheds. Forest landowners have been leaders in this effort. The State of Oregon also is developing a statewide conservation plan to enhance habitat for priority wildlife species.

Oregon's forest sector has contracted over the last two decades, due largely to a decline in timber harvest levels on federal lands. This has been particularly hard on rural communities and counties, yet the forest sector remains important to local economies, reducing poverty and creating wealth through well-paying jobs.

Today the forest sector is lean, resilient and competitive. It has a strong transportation and utility infrastructure and strong market links. It produces high-quality wood products in efficient high-tech, low-waste mills from timber grown primarily on private forestlands. And it meets tough federal and state air emission standards and other environmental laws. The forest sector employs more than 85,600 men and women in Oregon.

Finally, besides its magnificent forest resources, strong and balanced forest protection laws, solution-driven forest landowners and enlightened state leadership, Oregon has world-class forest research and forestry education capabilities. These include undergraduate and graduate programs at the Oregon State University College of Forestry – among the nation's best forestry schools – as well as associate degree programs at Mount Hood and Central Oregon community colleges.



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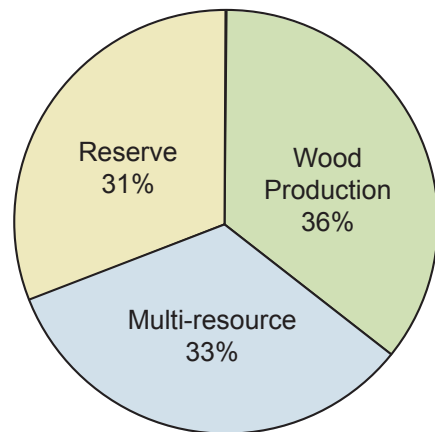
OREGON'S RESERVE FORESTS

	Oregon % of U.S. Share	U.S. % of World Share
People	1.2 %	4.7 %
Forestland	3.7 %	5.8 %
Reserve Forest	11.4 %	9.0 %

About 9% of the world's reserve forestlands are in the U.S.

While Oregon has only 1.2% of the U.S. population and 3.7% of its forestland, some 11.4% of U.S. reserve forests are in Oregon.

About 31% of Oregon's forestland is managed under a reserve strategy where timber production is not allowed, yet the state produces about 8.3% of the nation's annual softwood harvest.



Percentage of Oregon's forests in each management classification

BALANCE IN OREGON'S FORESTS

Oregon's forest management philosophy encompasses a balance of three major strategic approaches, each with a different intensity of management and directed at yielding a different set of outcomes. Together these approaches work toward achieving sustainability across the forest landscape. Forests managed under the "reserve" strategy are not open for timber production. Under the "multi-resource" strategy, restricted timber production is allowed, and the land is managed for other objectives as well. The "wood production" strategy is applied to lands where wood production is the primary objective. All forestlands must meet the environmental protection standards of the Oregon Forest Practices Act for reforestation and protection of forest streams, fish and wildlife.