

# GOAL 4: FOREST LANDS

## General Discussion

To encourage conservation of forest lands in Klamath County for forest uses.

Forest land shall be retained for the production of wood fiber and other forest uses. Lands suitable for forest uses shall be inventoried and designated as forest lands. Existing forest land uses shall be protected unless proposed changes are in conformance with the Comprehensive Plan.

## Objectives

Protect forest lands from incompatible uses.

Encourage an increase in timber supply and consequently an increase in manufacturing and employment through intensification of management of both publicly and privately owned forest lands.

## Definitions

- Forest lands are (1) lands composed of existing and potential forest lands suitable for commercial forest uses; (2) other forested lands needed for watershed protection, wildlife and fish habitat, and recreation; (3) lands where extreme conditions of climate, soil and topography require the maintenance of vegetative cover irrespective of use; and (4) other forested lands in urban and agricultural areas that provide urban buffers, wind breaks, wildlife and fish habitat, livestock, scenic corridors and recreation use.
- Forest uses are (1) the production of trees and forest products; (2) watershed protection and fish and wildlife habitat; (3) soil protection from wind and water; (4) grazing of livestock; (5) maintenance of clean air and water; (6) outdoor recreational and related support services; (7) open spaces, buffers from noise, and visual separation of conflicting uses.

**1. POLICY: The following lands shall be designated forestry and shall be subject to the regulations of the Forestry and Forest/Range zones contained in the Land Development Code:**

- (1) Public or private industry forest lands located contiguously in large blocks, i.e., U.S. Forest Service, BLM, U.S. TIMBERLANDS, KLAMATH FALLS, LLC, Crown Pacific timber lands;
- (2) Significant wildlife and fishery habitat areas;
- (3) Land having a predominant timber site productivity rating of I-VI;
- (4) Isolated pockets of land within forest areas which do not meet the above criteria;
- (5) Lands needed for watershed protection of recreation;
- (6) Lands where extreme conditions or climate, soil, and topography require the maintenance of vegetation cover irrespective of use;
- (7) Other lands need to protect farm or forest uses on surrounding designated agricultural or forest lands.

Rationale:

- To preserve the maximum area of productive forest land.

Implementation:

- The land use plan designates forest lands in accordance with this policy. The Land Development Code includes two forest zones (Forest and Forest/Range). Land shall be zoned to be consistent with the designations of the land use plan.

**2. POLICY: Forest lands as identified in Policy 1 above shall be designated Forestry and Forest/Range and shall be subject to the regulations of these zones.**

A. Forestry:

Lands included in this zone are primarily those commercial forest lands owned by the Federal Government and timber companies, generally in very large holdings. Also, in this zone are smaller ownerships which meet the criteria described in Policy 1 (4) above.

Included within this definition is the 655.62-acre parcel of land known as Collier State Park as governed by the 1991 Collier State Park Master Plan.

B. Forest/Range:

Lands included in this zone are primarily those with a vegetation cover of juniper-sagebrush-bitterbrush located in southern Klamath County. Such lands have no forest productivity rating or are predominantly rated as Class VII forest lands and are valued primarily as wildlife habitat.

Included within this definition are lands with the following characteristics:

1. Lands identified as significant "Critical Deer Winter Range;" and,
2. Areas of mixed Bureau of Land Management and private ownership which are predominantly SCS Soil Class VII consistent with findings contained in the Forest/Range discussion of the Resource packet.

Rationale:

- To preserve forest land for forest uses.
- To recognize differences in both forest operations and management.
- To maintain and promote the quantity and quality of the County's forest resources.
- To promote an increase in timber supply and consequently an increase in manufacturing and employment through intensification of management of both publicly and privately owned forest lands.
- To recognize the improvements described in the 1991 Collier State Park Master Plan as permitted nonforest uses within Collier State Park within the Forest zone.

Implementation:

- Forest land in Klamath County shall be identified and zoned consistent with the methods and findings contained in the County's "Planning Process for Designating Resource Lands".

**3. POLICY: Existing forest uses shall be protected unless proposed land use changes are in conformance with the Klamath County Comprehensive Plan.**

Rationale:

- Prevent loss of existing forest uses (as defined above).

Implementation:

- Forest land use is governed by the Oregon Forest Practices regulations. Forest land is designed for forest use.

**4. POLICY: The county shall regulate development of none forest uses in forested areas.**

Rationale:

- To protect the health, safety and welfare of county citizens.
- To reduce fire danger to man-made structures and forest resources.

Implementation:

- Development shall be limited to forestry or agriculture related activities except for such forest dwellings as provided for in the Land Development Code, and except for the uses described for Collier State Park in the 1991 Collier State Park Master Plan.

**5. POLICY: The County will assist the Department of Forestry in establishing a system to inventory ownership of forest land.**

Rationale:

- To develop and maintain an inventory of the disposition of forest lands.

Implementation:

- The County Assessor shall supply data on land ownership.

**6. POLICY: The County shall encourage optimum utilization of existing utility rights-of-way and, whenever possible, shall design all rights-of-way so as not to preclude forest growth.**

Rationale:

- To increase productivity of timber land.
- To reduce visual impacts on scenic corridors.

Implementation:

- The County shall cooperate with appropriate authorities to establish threshold needs criteria to be met before new utility rights-of-way are issued. Appropriate design standards shall be developed.

**7. POLICY: The County shall recognize the Oregon Forest Practices Act.**

Rationale:

- To ensure that both private and state timberland owners (as well as any persons who operate commercial activities relating to the growing, harvesting, or processing of forest tree species), adhere to rules encouraging forest practices that maintain and enhance benefits and qualities provided by Klamath County forest lands.

Implementation:

- The County Planning Department shall work with the State Forestry Board to implement practice rules appropriate to the forest conditions with the eastern Oregon region.

**8. POLICY: The County shall allow for the processing of forest products in forest areas.**

Rationale:

- To reduce the cost of processing forest products.
- Furthers Goal 9, County Economy.

Implementation:

- Processing forest products on a temporary basis is allowed outright in Forestry zones by the Land Development Code.
- Processing forest products on a permanent basis is allowed in Forestry zones under a Conditional Use Permit process by the Land Development Code.