



# FACTS

## AT YOUR FINGERTIPS

### *OREGON FORESTRY*

Managing healthy  
forests for all

### *SUSTAINABLE SALES*

Timber harvests  
the right way

### *FOREST SHUFFLE*

The history of  
O&C lands

The Bureau of Land Management Oregon & Washington

# Managing Forests in Western Oregon

New plans will guide timber harvests, conservation and recreation

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**Fact:**

*The Douglas fir is the state tree of Oregon.*

**Fact:**

*Last year the BLM planted almost 3 million tree seedlings.*

**Fact:**

*Forests cover over 30 million acres of Oregon, almost half the state.*

**Fact:**

*Most common trees: Doug fir to the west, ponderosa pine to the east.*

The 2016 Resource Management Plan for western Oregon is designed to provide balanced oversight for 2.5 million acres of forest. The plans outline how BLM lands will further the recovery of threatened and endangered species, provide for clean water and recreation, restore fire-adapted ecosystems and produce a sustained yield of timber products.

The majority of the 2.5 million acres are predominantly known as O&C lands, managed under the Oregon and California Railroad and Coos Bay Wagon Road Grant Lands Act of 1937. These lands lie in a checkerboard pattern through 18 western Oregon counties.

The O&C Act provides that 50 percent of receipts from the sale of timber on those

lands be distributed among the counties. The receipts are distributed by a formula based on the acreage of O&C land in each county.

The RMP is designed to produce a sustained yield of timber while meeting the conservation needs of species listed under the Endangered Species Act, protecting clean water as required by the Clean Water Act and increasing fire resiliency in the dry forest landscape.

The full cycle of a sustainable timber program, from proper harvesting to replanting, supports local communities and working landscapes, and fulfills obligations under the O&C Act.

## Timber Sales 101

How to produce sustainable Oregon timber

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Timber sales allow for the sustainable harvest of timber for commercial purposes on public land. The availability of timber for harvest depends on the age and condition of the trees, land status, and public demand, among other land use considerations.

The Allowable Sale Quantity is defined as the amount of timber that a sustained-yield forest unit can produce continuously under the specific management protocols established for that area.

Only the trees harvested from those lands allocated for permanent timber production, which is known as the Harvest Land Base, count towards the ASQ.

The 2016 Resource Management Plan for western Oregon calculated an ASQ based on the acreage of the Harvest Land Base and the intensity of forest management

practices applied, for example, selection harvest or regeneration harvest.

For the past decade, the BLM on average offered approximately 214 million board feet of timber per year. It takes approximately 16,000 board feet of lumber to frame a 2,000-square-foot home.

The BLM timber harvest program provides substantial economic contributions to rural Oregon economies. For every million board feet of timber harvested on BLM lands, about 13 local jobs are created or maintained and about \$647,000 of employment income is introduced into local economies. In fiscal year 2016 BLM timber management produced over \$600 million in total economic output in Oregon.



# Oregon and California Railroad lands

A long history of checkerboard  
forestry ownership

**Fact:**  
Oregon be-  
came a state  
in 1859.

**Fact:**  
The Civil War  
ended in 1865.

The history of the O&C lands goes back to 1866 when Congress established a land grant to promote rapid completion of a stretch of Oregon railroad that was to connect Portland to San Francisco. The Oregon and California Railroad company was deeded about 12,800 acres per mile of track, providing incentive to complete the railroad.

The land grant required the company to sell 160 acre parcels at no more than \$2.50 an acre to qualified settlers. In 1916, Congress took back the title on more than 2 million acres of these lands after the company failed to sell the land to settlers. Three years later, Congress revested 93,000 acres of Coos Bay Wagon Road grant lands due to similar circumstances.

The Oregon and California Railroad lands contain more than 2.4 million acres of forests with a diversity of plant and animal species, recreation areas, mining claims, grazing lands, cultural and historical resources, scenic areas, wild and scenic rivers, and wilderness. Most of the O&C lands are administered by the BLM.

After 1937, the O&C lands were classified by the U.S. Department of Interior as timberlands to be managed for permanent forest production. The timber was to be sold, cut and removed with the principle of sustained yield.



## By the Numbers

Your monthly stats, facts and more.



**Facts at Your  
Fingertips**  
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[blm.gov](http://blm.gov)

Cover Photo/Richard O'Neill

201.2 million  
board feet  
harvested in 2017

That much  
timber can build  
12,675 homes

The BLM manages  
2,439,000 acres of  
forest in the NW