

What is the

PRIVATE FOREST ACCORD?

The Private Forest Accord is a compromise agreement made between representatives from Oregon's timber industry, the Oregon Small Woodlands Association, and prominent conservation and fishing organizations, to modify portions of Oregon's forest practice laws and regulations in a way that expands protections for fish and amphibians. The changes to the Oregon Forest Practices Act are aimed to avoid, minimize and mitigate the effects timber harvests and other forest management activities on private forestlands have on these species and the aquatic habitats they depend on.

The Accord, which was signed in 2021 by 13 conservation and fisheries groups, 11 timber companies and the Oregon Small Woodlands Association, outlines key goals that should allow Oregon to receive federal approval for a Habitat Conservation Plan on private forestlands, and an accompanying incidental-take permit for these species.

Following 16 months of facilitated negotiations, the signatories of the Private Forest Accord proposed state legislation that passed and was signed into law in 2022, setting new standards for forest roads and culverts to remove barriers to fish passage, and expanding the width of required no-cut buffers along streams to help keep water cold and clean, among other regulatory changes aimed to enhance protections for aquatic habitat.

Goals of the Private Forest Accord

The overall goals pursued during the Private Forest Accord process were:

Provide greater business certainty. Provide a greater level of certainty for forestland owners and industries that depend on Oregon's privately managed forests for wood products and revenue.

Provide greater environmental certainty. Provide a greater level of certainty for the survival and recovery of threatened and endangered species, and the protection of aquatic resources.

Provide greater regulatory certainty. Submit a supportable Habitat Conservation Plan to the appropriate federal agencies, which will yield the issuance of an incidental-take permit for the covered species of fish and amphibians. This permit will offer assurances to landowners that there will be no additional restrictions to ongoing and planned forest management activities as defined under the Oregon Forest Practices Act and the Habitat Conservation Plan.

Provide a science-driven adaptive management process. Establish an Adaptive Management Program with diverse stakeholder input that will examine the efficacy of newly established water-related state forest practices regulations.

Provide alternatives for small forestland owners. Address the disproportionate impacts regulatory changes might have on small forestland owners, and provide alternative compliance plans and/or financial impact mitigation for those potential impacts.

PRIVATE FOREST ACCORD SUMMARY



HOW DO THE NEW LAWS AFFECT FOREST MANAGEMENT?

The Private Forest Accord has led to new state forest practices rules for logging in riparian areas and on steep slopes, as well as for updating roads and culverts on private forestland. These new rules are slated to go into effect in 2023 and 2024.

ASSISTANCE FOR SMALL FORESTLAND OWNERS

The new forest practices rules include special considerations for small forestland owners, who are defined as owning fewer than 5,000 acres of forestland and harvesting fewer than 2 million board feet of timber over three years, to offset the disproportionate impact these regulatory changes will have on them. This includes a new tax credit program to compensate small forestland owners for lost revenue if they agree to exclude timber harvest in the expanded stream-buffer zones for the next 50 years. The Oregon Department of Forestry will also establish a small forestland owner assistance office to assist small forestland owners in understanding and following the state's new forest practices rules.

Learn more

[2022-odf-private-forest-accord-report.pdf](#)

oregon.gov/odf/pages/private-forest-accord.aspx

OregonForests.org/private-forest-accord

The Oregon Forest Resources Institute (OFRI) supports and enhances Oregon's forest products industry by advancing public understanding of forests, forest management and forest products.

OFRI produced this fact sheet in collaboration with the Partnership for Forestry Education. Learn more about OFRI at OregonForests.org, and the Partnership at KnowYourForest.org.

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Proposed timeline

In February 2022, Private Forest Accord representatives proposed that the Oregon Legislature make certain changes to the Oregon Forest Practices Act. The following month, the Legislature passed and Gov. Kate Brown signed into law Senate Bill 1501, which directs the Oregon Board of Forestry to adopt updates to the Oregon Forest Practices Act; Senate Bill 1502, which creates a new tax credit program for small forestland owners; and House Bill 4055, which establishes future funding through the Forest Products Harvest Tax.

The Oregon Board of Forestry is now tasked with integrating the regulations outlined in the new laws into the Oregon Forest Practices Act and establishing new forest practices rules for private forestland owners under the following timeline:

July 2022 – The Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) completes the draft rules.

Aug. 2022 – A special Board of Forestry meeting to open a public comment period for the new rules.

Sept. 7, 2022 – A presentation to the Board of Forestry on the Habitat Conservation Plan for private forestlands in Oregon.

Oct. 2022 – A special Board of Forestry meeting to consider the final rules.

Nov. 30, 2022 – The Board of Forestry adopts the new rules.

Dec. 31, 2022 – ODF submits a draft Habitat Conservation Plan to the federal government.

July 1, 2023 – Expanded stream-buffer requirements go into effect for large private forestland owners, defined as owning 5,000 or more acres of forestland.

Jan. 1, 2024 – All new rules go into effect for all private forestland owners.

Dec. 31, 2027 – Federal government either approves the Oregon private forestland Habitat Conservation Plan and issues an incidental take permit, or the new rules sunset.