

# **FOREST LANDS**

## **Introduction:**

Forest lands comprise more than 90% (572,000 acres) of the total area of Lincoln County. They are the source of raw materials for the county's leading industry: timber and forest products. Forest lands provide the watersheds necessary for municipal water supplies and for recreation, and they are the principal habitat for big game and spawning and nursery areas for anadromous fish. Consequently, forest lands are a valuable aesthetic, economic, and recreational resource. Within the city's urban growth boundary (UGB), however, commercial forestry is neither visible nor desired.

## **Economic Importance:**

The relevance of these holdings to the economic well being and livability of Lincoln County is evident. Forests are a renewable, productive resource of importance not only to the county, but to the state and nation as well. Because of its various interests, the Newport area faces a major challenge in balancing the competing needs for commercial forest uses, outdoor recreation, environmental protection, and urban uses. To this end, Newport has two major tasks in the Comprehensive Plan: First, there must be an identification of those lands that are forest lands; and, second, there must be a determination of the ultimate disposition of those lands during the next 20 years.

## **Forest Lands Identified:**

The criteria for identifying Newport's forest lands are the following:

- > Lands composed of existing and potential forest lands that are suitable for commercial forest uses.
- > Other forested lands needed for watershed protection, wildlife and fisheries habitat, and recreation.
- > Lands where extreme conditions of climate, soil, and topography require the maintenance of vegetative cover irrespectively of use.
- > Other forested lands in urban and agricultural areas that provide urban buffers, windbreaks, wildlife and fisheries

habitat, livestock habitat, scenic corridors, and recreational use.

This task can be further broken down by identifying those forest lands that are commercial and those that are "other" forest lands where the production of trees is not the primary importance (e.g., open space, watershed protection, habitat, recreation, erosion protection, view, aesthetics, etc.).

With these criteria in mind, the City of Newport has identified the following potential commercial forest lands within the UGB:

- 1.) 80 acres just east of the Jefferies Creek City Park (owned by the Beaver State Land Company).
- 2.) 75 acres between Highway 20 and the Bay Road (owned by Dr. Wallace High).
- 3.) 95 acres north of the Newport Municipal Airport (owned Double D Enterprises).
- 4.) 66± acres north of the airport (owned by the City of Newport).
- 5.) 500± acres south of Thiel Creek Road (owned by Double D Enterprises).

(Other forest lands within the UGB are identified and discussed in the Environment, Parks and Recreation, and Yaquina Bay Estuary sections of this plan.)

**Summary and Conclusions:**

The city has determined that all of the above parcels and a number of smaller ones that are privately owned and wooded are either committed to urban development or are needed for urban uses; therefore, because of size, location, proximity to existing or planned public facilities and services, or topography, they are not suitable for commercial forestry uses.

- 1.) Due to location, size, and adjacent conflicting uses, suitable lands are not available for commercial forestry within the City of Newport's urban growth boundary.
- 2.) There are some forest lands within the urban growth boundary that provide aesthetic scenic and environmental qualities.

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## GOALS/POLICIES/IMPLEMENTATION MEASURES FOREST LANDS

**Goal: To conserve where appropriate those forest lands possessing significant aesthetic, scenic and environmental qualities and providing for the conversion of other forested acreage to urban uses.**

Policy 1: The City of Newport will encourage retaining existing trees and woodlands consistent with the needs of urban development.

Policy 2: The city will promote the conservation of existing forest lands having high value aesthetic, scenic, and environmental qualities.

Policy 3: Forest lands within city, county, state, and federal parks shall be managed.

Policy 4: The inclusion of additional commercial forest lands within the UGB shall occur only upon a finding that the land is needed for urban development.

Policy 5: Forested lands in the UGB but outside Newport city limits which may be currently suitable for commercial forest uses may be used for those purposes regardless of current zoning when done in accordance with applicable forest management practices and regulations.

Policy 6: Forest lands within the city limits may be used for forestry purposes; however, conflicts with urban uses shall be minimized and preference given to properly developed urban uses in instances of adverse affects on such urban uses.

Implementation Measure 1: The city will develop and adopt appropriate management regulations for woodlands with the city limits.

Implementation Measure 2: The city will, as a part of reviewing any land use decision before the Planning Commission or City Council, make recommendations for the retention of valued woodlands.

Implementation Measure 3: The city will review and study the advisability of mandatory regulations governing vegetative cover, both natural and restored, on development projects prior to the next regularly scheduled periodic review.

Implementation Measure 4: Appropriate Zoning Ordinance regulations shall be investigated and considered to promote the conservation of high value recreational and scenic woodlands prior to the next regularly

scheduled periodic review.