



## A Summary of the FSC Pacific Coast Standards

The Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) has approved a regional standard for the Pacific Coast Region. The standard contains extensive detail and may be challenging for a non-technical reader. Following are some of the key features of the standard that may have direct bearing on forests in Oregon. The full standard is available from Trout Mountain Forestry and can also be found online at:

[http://www.fscus.org/standards\\_criteria/regional\\_standards.php](http://www.fscus.org/standards_criteria/regional_standards.php)

### Environmental

- Growth rates equal or exceed average harvest rates
- Safeguards protect rare, threatened, and endangered species and their habitats.
- No harvesting in stands of at least 20 contiguous acres that have never been logged (old growth).
- No net decline in the area or the old-growth characteristics of areas that have been logged but nevertheless retain late-successional/old-growth structures and functions.
- A natural mix of species and forest structure is promoted.
- Clear-cut blocks average 40 acres or less; no individual block is larger than 60 acres
- In harvest openings larger than 6 acres, 10 to 30% of pre-harvest basal area is retained
- Rotations approach culmination of mean annual increment (70 years or more for Douglas-fir)
- Transportation system is pre-planned, designed, located, constructed, and maintained to minimize the impact of the system, particularly to water resources.
- On streams that support or can support populations of native fish and/or provide domestic water supply:
  - An inner buffer of 50 feet (slope distance) from active high water mark on both sides, where: native vegetation is maintained or restored; harvesting limited to single-tree selection silviculture; heavy equipment is excluded.
  - An outer buffer extends an additional 100 feet (slope distance), where: single-tree or group selection silviculture is used; post-harvest canopy cover maintains shading to promote fish recovery.
- On perennial streams that do not support native fish or domestic water supplies:
  - Inner buffer of 25 feet, and outer buffer of 75 feet (100 feet total buffer width), managed as above.
- Landowners strive to use non-chemical methods of pest management and to avoid the use of chemical pesticides and herbicides. Silvicultural systems are explored that minimize reliance on chemicals, including diversification of species composition and creation and maintenance of habitat that discourages pest outbreaks.
- A management plan – appropriate to the scale and intensity of the operation – shall be written, implemented, and kept up to date.



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- Monitoring is conducted to assess the condition of the forest and the social and environmental impacts of management.

### Social

- Sites of special significance to indigenous peoples shall be recognized and protected
- Forest work is packaged and offered in ways that create a high-quality work environment for employees and contractors
- Compensation and hiring practices meet or exceed standards within the forest industry in the region
- Large-scale operations provide opportunities for groups and individuals to offer input into management planning

### Economic

- Forest owners are financially able to support long-term forest management, such as planning, inventory, and resource protection.
- Responses to short-term financial factors, such as fluctuations in the market and requirements for immediate cash flow, are limited to levels that enable fulfillment of the management plan
- Forest owners reinvest in the local community and economy