

GOAL IV
FOREST LANDS

BAKER COUNTY
COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

GOAL IV FOREST LANDS

FOREST LANDS GOAL: To conserve forest lands by maintaining the forest land base and to protect the County's forest economy by making possible economically efficient forest practices. The practices should assure the continuous growing and harvesting of forest tree species as a use on forest land consistent with sound management of soil, air, water, fish, and wildlife resources. The conservation of forest lands shall also provide for recreational opportunities and agricultural uses.

I. FOREST LANDS INVENTORY

A. Ownership of Forest Lands**

1. Federal Forest Lands: 437,500 acres
 - a. U.S. Forest Service: 422,500 acres
 - b. Bureau of Land Management: 15,000 acres
2. Other Public Forest Lands: 2,000 acres
 - a. State: 1,000 acres
 - b. County and Municipal: 1,000 acres
3. Private Forest Lands: 106,388 acres
 - a. Forest industry: 30,500 acres
 - b. Other: 75,888 acres
4. Total Forest Lands: 555,500 acres or 28% of total county land area.

**Wilderness areas are excluded.

B. Forest maps available at Baker County Planning Office

1. Generalized Forest Types, Baker County, 1/79
2. Generalized Forest Productivity, Baker County, 4/79
3. Timber Task Force Maps, Baker County, 11/82

E. Insect damaged trees in Northeastern Oregon

1.24 billion board feet of destruction since 1970.

F. Minimum Acreage to Produce \$10,000 Annual Gross Income Over the Growing Cycle*

The following formula was used to determine the number of acres required to produce \$10,000 annual gross income on Site 5 Timberland over an 80-year rotation for Ponderosa Pine.

$$1. \quad \$10,000 \div \left(\frac{1.018^{80} \times \$200/M \times 21.641/M6t/ac}{80 \text{ yr.}} \right) = 44.36 \text{ acres}$$

Log value Volume grown Rotation
 in 80 yr.

Stumpage value appreciation of 1.8%/yr. 80-yr. rotation

2. Comparative Acreage**

Cu. Ft.	Site Index	Doug Fir/True fir (AC)	Ponderosa Pine (AC)
6	(20-49 cf/ac)	86	67
5	(50-84 cf/ac)	53	44
4	(85-119 cf/ac)	43	36

*Information from Oregon State Forester, November, 1983

**Minimum acreage of the forest operation is sensitive to produce price as delivered by producer. Comparable to the pricing of agricultural products.

G. Sources of Information

1. U.S. Forest Service
2. Bureau of Land Management
3. State Forestry Department
4. USDA Forest Service Resources Bulletin PNW-57
5. County Tax Office Records

II. GOAL IV FOREST LANDS FINDINGS, CONCLUSIONS and POLICIES

A. Goal IV Forest Lands Findings

The County governing body finds that:

1. Forest lands in the county have been inventoried. The inventory includes lands having an annual productive capacity of 20 cubic feet or more of commercial wood fiber per acre of land.
2. Inventoried forest lands are upon Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service's (SCS) Soil Associations 17 through 21 which comprise 44 percent of Baker County (867,000 acres). Of the total, 52 percent (454,300 acres) are listed as SCS Classes VII and VIII. Baker County contains no Oregon Department of Forestry Class I forests.
3. The timber harvest cycle, from seedling to commercial tree, averages 100 years in Baker County. The full range is from 80 to 140 years. A commercial tree is defined as a tree that will produce at least one 16 foot log that is 6 inches in diameter at the smaller end. The slow growth of timber in Baker County increases the economic need of private landowners to manage their timberland for multiple uses.
4. A major portion of the inventoried forest lands are under federal management or are in industrial ownerships.
5. In federal management areas, the land is managed both for timber production and for grazing. In 1991, the United States Bureau of Land Management Vale District, which includes Baker County, permitted out almost half of the state's livestock grazing leases, while planning for only 2.4MM board feet in timber sales. The federal management for multiple use in Baker County focuses on grazing. Timber production is an important secondary use.
6. Most private forest lands are also used for grazing of domestic livestock. This dual-use program is also used on lands owned by industrial forest corporations.
7. A portion of the commercial and noncommercial forest land in Baker County is so interspersed with agricultural land that it is included in the agricultural lands inventory and is protected by Exclusive Farm Use zoning.
8. In 1989, lumber and wood products manufacturing comprised 9.5 percent of Baker County's wages/salaries.
9. Historically, Baker County's economy primarily revolved around the natural resource based industries, including timber and wood products. Although these industries will always represent the majority of jobs in the area, increased efforts are being made to

diversify the economic base. The Regional Strategies Program is focusing on developing tourism.

10. Of the 36 major employers in Baker County, five are forest related industries. These businesses employed 392 persons in 1990.
11. Minimum lot size alone does not determine whether or not forest land will be conserved for forest uses.
12. Proper forest management activity yields greater productivity of marketable wood fiber from forest lands.
13. Proper forest management activity promotes forage production for the grazing of domestic livestock and wildlife.
14. Proper forest management activity enhances watershed storage capacities of the affected ground areas.
15. Proper forest management activity releases oxygen for the environment because of the resultant health and vigor of the remaining, improved stand.
16. Aesthetic values are positively affected by the open spaces and park-like environment resulting from proper forest management.
17. Fire prevention is promoted and fire suppression is assisted by tree farming and practices outlined in Fire Safety Considerations for Developments in Forested Areas, 1978, available from the State Department of Forestry. In addition, the Goal 4 Forest Rule which is implemented in the zoning ordinance, prescribes other methods to protect the forest resource.
18. Small parcels are more affordable to private individuals.
19. Ten acres may qualify for SCS cost sharing for tree farming.
20. Eighty acres is a feasible management unit for the continuing work involved in tree farming.
21. Insect and disease control on forest lands are enhanced significantly by tree farming.
22. Fire retardant roofing materials used in the construction of buildings in forested areas greatly reduce the spread of fire.
23. Equipment and harvesting techniques make small tract logging possible. The

profitability of such an operation is relative to the size of the tract, the obstacles to logging from improvements and the numbers of merchantable trees at current market value.

24. Certain areas of forest land are physically built upon or otherwise committed to development for nonforest uses to a degree warranting continued development within mapped boundaries. Such areas will be more fully described in the Comprehensive Plan under "Exception Areas."

B. Goal IV Forest Lands Conclusions

Based on the above findings, the County governing body concludes that:

1. Eighty-acre ownerships allow forest management practices that will promote betterment of Baker County's forest lands.
2. The initial forest improvements required to receive a building permit will promote fire protection as well as timber growth. Fire suppression materials and site design will minimize adverse effects of the human-introduced forest activities. Effective management and oversight of the forest land will ensure early detection of threats to the timber resource.
3. Forest uses will be retained and enhanced by requiring all nonfarm/nonforest dwellings on inventoried forest land to be on 10 acres of land or more, or on pre-existing parcels of less than 80 acres.
4. Protecting the forested areas will ensure agricultural, aesthetic, recreational and natural values are preserved. Baker County's forest land will always be an important component of its economy.
5. The extended timber harvest cycle in Eastern Oregon requires mixed- use management to allow for development of the forest to its maximum potential. The development of forested areas should take into account the use of the land for the entire cycle.

C. Goal IV Forest Lands Policies

The County governing body declares that:

1. A Timber-Grazing Zone and a Primary Forest Zone will be implemented to retain nonprimary and primary forest lands in Baker County for forest uses. Definitions for the zones are as follows:
 - a. "Primary forest lands" refers to land areas in the County managed for multiple

uses, including commercial timber production by an agency of the federal government. Such lands shall be designated with a "Primary Forest" zone as described in the zoning ordinance.

- b. "Timber-Grazing" shall refer to the zone wherein nonfederally owned forest lands capable of producing 20 cubic feet of commercial wood fiber per acre per year are located. The zone designation denotes the primary uses therein and is more fully described in the zoning ordinance.
 - c. "Forest uses" are those uses defined by Goal 4 and the Goal 4 Administrative Rule found in OAR 660-06-000 through 660-06-060.
 - d. "Proper forest management activities," as referred to in this document and in the zoning ordinance, shall mean timber stand improvements according to the standards of the SCS, performed for the twin objectives of fuel reduction to minimize the threat of wildfire and of growth promotion of commercial species. These objectives are achieved by disposal of dead and down forest fuels, pruning and thinning. Reforestation as a proper forest management activity may be regulated by the Oregon Forest Practices Act. (See Oregon Revised Statutes 527.620 to 527.990).
2. No jurisdiction is assumed by the County for land use decisions within the federally managed Primary Forest Zone.
 3. Except as authorized by the County Zoning Ordinance, divisions of inventoried forest land of less than 80 acres shall be subject to a public hearing and to ordinance criteria.
 4. Nonforest activities on forest land will be allowed, subject to the provisions of the Goal 4 Rule. Nonforest dwelling applications will be subject to a public hearing to assure that the parcel is generally unsuitable for forest use, that the dwelling would not significantly and negatively affect existing forest uses in the area, such as preservation of watershed values and other considerations as defined by Goal 4; that adjacent forest lands are protected from fire hazards through an adequate program of fire proofing and fuel breaks; and that the dwelling will not have an undue adverse impact on timber production and other forest practices on adjacent lands.
 5. Forest related dwellings will be limited to those necessary for and accessory to commercial forest use and to those parcels of an adequate size to support commercial forest use. Consequences to forest uses other than the production and processing of timber shall be considered in the siting of such dwellings.
 6. A Forest Management Plan for commercial development of the parcel will be required for partitions of forest land for the establishment of a forest related dwelling. Planned

access to interior tracts shall be required when dealing with road-front parcels.

7. In addition to other criteria, before a building permit for any dwelling on inventoried forest land will be given zoning approval, each owner shall fully tree farm the land in accordance to Goal 4 specifications.
8. All development on inventoried forest land shall be encouraged to use the protective guidelines of Fire Safety Considerations for Developments in Forested Areas, available from the Oregon Department of Forestry.
9. Home occupations shall be reviewed as a conditional use using the criteria described in C(4) above to assure that they are compatible with forest uses.
10. Before the County grants zoning approval for a land use incompatible with defined forest uses, a Goal 2 exception and plan amendment will be required.
11. As a result of mixed agriculture and forest uses that exist within the Timber-Grazing Zone, the County designates the forest land under its jurisdiction as a mixed-use forest zone.
12. It is the intent of Baker County that the Timber-Grazing Zone shall be constructed and administered in a manner qualifying it for tax assessment under ORS 308 or 321.