



Hood River County forest: stewardship in action



County forest facts

- Hood River County owns and manages over 34,000 acres of forestland for timber revenue, recreational opportunities and wildlife habitat.
- 3,200 acres of the County Forest are set aside to protect threatened and endangered species, streams and riparian areas, and provide road access.
- In 2014 alone, over 50,000 people visited County forests for their world-class multi-use trails, hunting, fishing and wildlife viewing opportunities.

Did you know that Hood River County's multi-use public forest serves the people of Hood River and beyond?

Each year, forest managers carefully balance the goals of providing income for the County's general fund, ensuring sustainable forest growth, protecting wildlife and water quality, supporting the local economy and recreational activities that Hood River is famous for.

The County forest is central to Hood River's quality of life. It provides up to 40% of the County's annual budget, paying for core services such as law enforcement, 911, emergency services, public health, roads, bridges, youth and veterans' services and community infrastructure. Many local businesses also depend on the forest's economic activity. Jobs are created in mills, forestry, recreation and hospitality. In 2014, more than 50,000 people visited the magnificent County forest and 175 permittees harvested firewood for home heating.

Hood River County forestlands are certified through the American Tree Farm System and meet or exceed sustainable and exemplary forest management standards and all aspects of the Oregon Forest Practices Act. For a free OHV trail map to help you plan your next forest trip, stop by Hood River County Forestry office.



For more information, including how to bid on timber sales, acquire a trails map, or purchase a firewood cutting permit, contact:

Hood River County Forestry Department

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Hood River, OR 97031
(541) 387-6888
www.co.hood-river.or.us

Hood River County is a nonprofit government organization that provides core services to support a healthy, thriving community.

The Tree Growing Cycle:

Each year, annual harvests leave 300-400 acres of forestland open to start the forest growing cycle. These lands are planted with a minimum of 400 seedlings per acre.

15-20 years into the growing cycle, young stands are pre-commercially thinned to allow the strongest trees to grow fast and healthy.

At 45-70 years, stands may be commercially thinned, allowing the County to capture valuable wood volume that may otherwise be lost to natural mortality. It also creates room for remaining trees to maintain growth rates, and it helps extend the average rotation age to 90 years.

When stands are mature, diseased or damaged, foresters will restart the growing cycle using regeneration harvests. This tree growing cycle ensures the County Forest provides a sustainable supply of timber for today and for the future—and maintains the high quality of life residents expect.

More Fast Facts

The County Forest is certified by the American Tree Farm System. This designation ensures sustainable management and protections for the land and wildlife. Forest managers also comply with the Oregon Forest Practices Act to protect water quality and reduce the risk of wildfire.

Annual harvests are tailored to match annual growth rates – roughly 9.5 million board feet per year.

At 60-120 years, our rotation length is up to twice as long as comparable tree farms. This extra time provides more mature habitat and better recreational opportunities.



Forestry Department staff partner with recreation and volunteer groups to ensure safe, long-term access for a range of recreational interests.

Hood River County actively works to develop new opportunities for resource stewardship including utilization of biomass energy from wood that would otherwise be burned as waste.