

Conversations on the Forest

2012.1001

A series of fireside chats delving deeply into facts and futures of the forests of Lane County and the Pacific Northwest.

The forest is central to our regional identity, ecology, and economy. Competing public and private interests have driven growth, decline, and political division for decades. In a series of five discussions, Lane County Commissioner [Rob Handy](#), public interest forester Roy Keene, and ArchitectureWeek editor-in-chief [Kevin Matthews](#) will explore the past, present, and future of our forests with a depth and openness rarely seen.

Who owns Lane County's forests, and how have they changed over time? How does forest management, on both public and private land, benefit and impact Lane County residents? Can we sustain the forest, and all its many benefits?

First Mondays • 6:00-7:30pm — February 6, March 5, April 2, May 7, June 4

Cozmic Pizza, 199 W. 8th Ave. in Eugene

For more information: <http://www.conversationsontheforest.org>

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Series Topics

Spring 2012: [Forest Facts](#) • [Forest Economics](#) • [Public Goods and Ecology](#) • [Rural Communities](#) • [Forest Futures](#)

Fall 2012: Oregon Forest Practices Act • Economics Revisited • and more to be announced

Facts about Lane County, Oregon

Total Area = 3,022,080 acres (4,722 sq mi)

Land = 2,913,920 acres (4,553 sq mi)

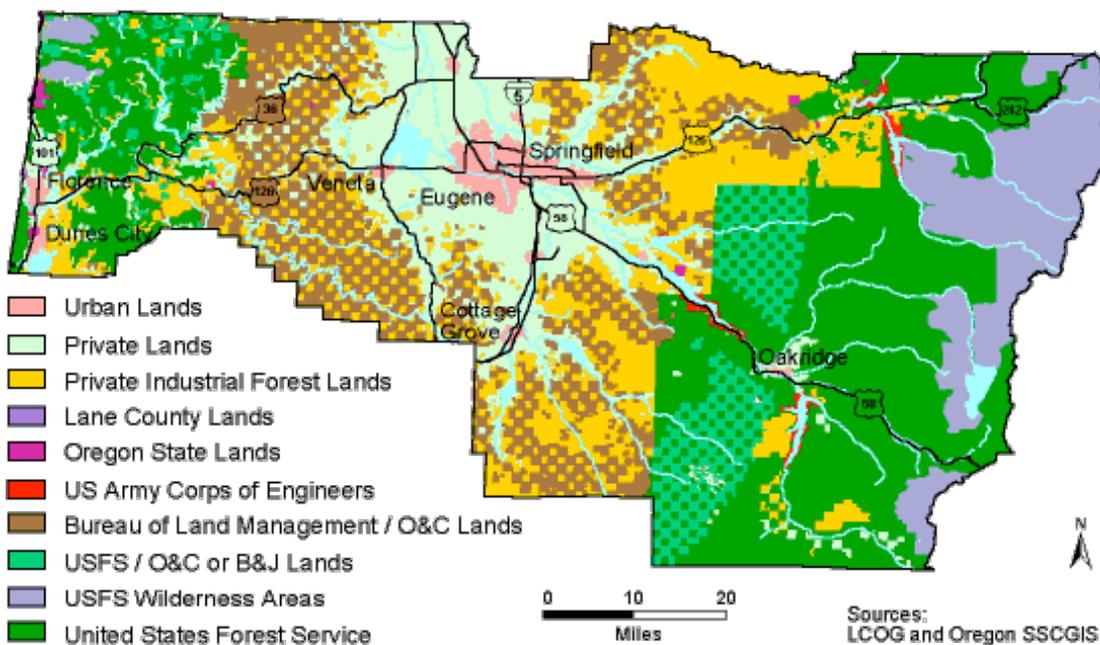
• Forest = 2,439,182 acres (3,811 sq mi) = about 80% of total land area

• Old Growth Forest = about 250,000 acres (390 sq mi) = about 10% of total forest area

Water = 107,520 acres (168 sq mi) = 3.55% of total area

• Official total population in 2010 = 351,715

LAND OWNERSHIP



Lane County, Oregon

M. Forest, 1999; T. Stopa and C. Grey 1998

• Eugene & Springfield = 215,588 = 61% of Lane County

Lane County Land Ownership

Total publicly owned land = 58% = 1,752,819 acres
Total privately owned land = 32% = 1,269,261 acres

Privately owned industrial timberland = 20% = 597,600 acres

U.S. Forest Service = 48% = 1,450,598 acres (parts of the Willamette and Umpqua National Forests)

U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM), State of Oregon, Lane County and other public entities = ~10% of total area = about 300,000 ac.

• Privately owned industrial timberland, at 597,600 acres is about twice the area of non-Forest Service public land — in other words, about twice the area of O&C forest.

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Comparison Between the Forest Practice Acts of Oregon and California

	Oregon	California
Goals	"The leading use on private forestland is the growing and harvesting of trees..."	"It is the policy of this state to encourage prudent and responsible forest resource management calculated to serve the public's need..."
Planning	Typically requires no plan, just simple notification of intention to operate machinery	Each operation requires a detailed Timber Harvest Plan
Herbicides	Separate notification of herbicide actions	Timber Harvest Plan must include need for herbicide use, possible impacts, and mitigation measures
Flooding and Erosion	Unaddressed	Requires cumulative impact assessment
Public Involvement	Allows no neighbor protest or public involvement	Neighbors can protest and the public can call a hearing
Enforcement	Little enforcement, no professional chain of command	Real enforcement and layers of professional accountability
Seed Tree Retention	Minimal	Encourages retaining more and larger trees
Reforestation	Requires rapid regrowth of marketable conifer species, which prohibits competition by other species and requires herbicide use	Allows more options for regrowing marketable trees
Riparian Buffers	Gives headwaters and streams without fish or domestic use zero buffer. Allows logging in buffers	All riparian zones get buffered. No logging in any riparian buffer
Carbon Storage	Not updated to address carbon storage	Updated to address carbon storage
Other Considerations	Little attention to site quality, forest type, or slope	Detailed attention to site quality, forest type, and slope
50-Year Volume Change	20% decrease in standing timber	73% increase in standing timber
Who Benefits	Protects only industry and the "right to log"	Protects the public and their forest resources