

Conversations on the Forest

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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 ongoing discussions, former Lane County Commissioner [Rob Handy](#), public interest forester Roy Keene, and ArchitectureWeek editor [Kevin Matthews](#) 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?

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

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

Oregon Forest Practices Act • Governor Kitzhaber's Timber Panel • What Are We Trying to Solve? • & more!

Facts about Lane County, Oregon

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

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

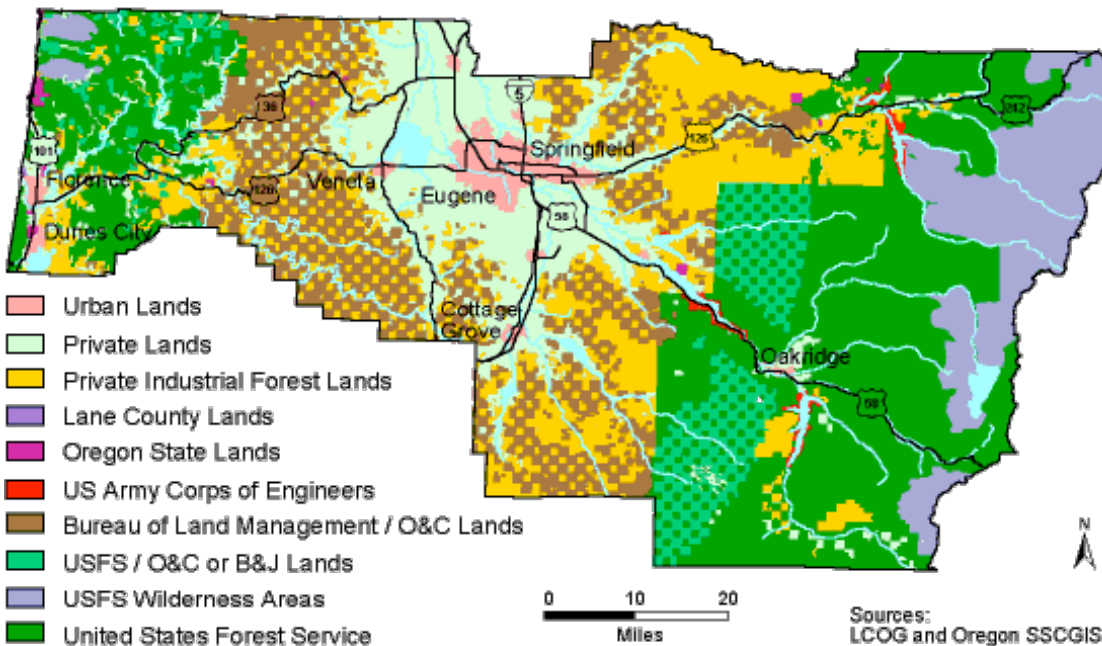
• Forest = 2,439,182 acres (3,811 sq mi) = about 80% of total land area

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

LAND OWNERSHIP



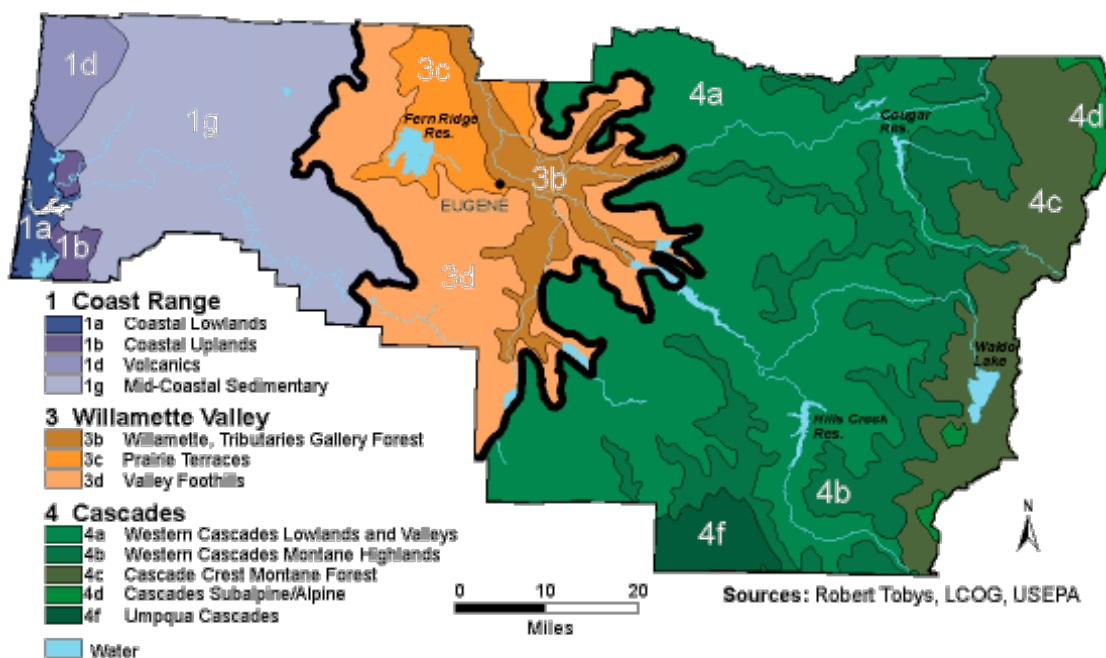
Lane County, Oregon

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

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.



Lane County, Oregon

Mickey Ewoniuk, 1999

The Essential Problem

Excessive (non-sustainable) timber cutting, driven largely by large industrial interests seeking seeking short term profits, accomplished with high mechanization and automation, is creating the ongoing impacts of deforestation, landscape industrialization, and increasing carbon releases, while rural jobs and prosperity decline, and regional communities are segmented in conflict over competing pieces of the broken outcomes.

An Approximate Integrated Solution

Cut less timber, only at ecologically sustainable levels and strictly protecting remaining old-growth, logging more intelligently for higher economic value, using smaller scale, more hands-on methods, maximizing skilled value-added local processing, while continuously restoring degraded forest lands, improving carbon storage, ecosystems services from fish to water, and forest recreation, thus also retiring the false economy/environment conflict and restoring community pride and connectedness with our regional forest context.

Stop

Cutting old-growth. Clear-cuts. Harvest disguised as thinning. Forest pesticide spraying. Harvest for biomass burning. Raw log exports. Plantation and monoculture forestry. Locked gates on public forest lands. Watershed degradation. The Walden-Defazio forest privatization bill.

Begin

Fair taxation of industrial forest lands. Small-scale forestry and stewardship contracting on public forests. Collaborative conversations for win-win solutions. Respecting the short and longterm needs of all species, being with the canaries in our coal mines.

Reform

Oregon Forest Practices Act. Interpretation and application of the O&C Act. Forest certification systems.

Decrease

Division of Oregon communities by outside private profit interests

Continue

Real conversations, collaborative learning, systems thinking, and building responsible community!