

WHY ARE SOME FORESTS CLEARCUT ?

Different forest landowners have different objectives, ranging from wood production to old growth habitat, and have a variety of harvest options to choose from. Their choice is influenced by tree species as well as climate, landscape, economics and conditions that affect how the forest will best regenerate and grow after harvest. Clearcutting, one of several harvest options, is a method in which most of the trees are removed and the forest is regenerated by planting new trees. Not every location is suitable for clearcutting.

OREGON'S WESTERN FORESTS

West of the Cascades, forest landowners often choose to clearcut because Douglas-fir seedlings planted after harvest grow best in full sunlight. Oregon law requires that new trees be planted within two years after harvest, and that trees be left as buffers around streams and retained for wildlife habitat.

OREGON'S EASTERN FORESTS

In more extreme climates, the forest canopy helps protect fragile seedlings from heat and frost, so clearcutting is less common. Trees are usually harvested individually or in small groups.

Clearcutting is often chosen for tree species that grow best in full sunlight.



LANDSCAPE DIVERSITY

A variety of harvest methods help create a mosaic of forest ages and habitat characteristics. This pattern is similar to landscapes created by natural disturbances such as wind and fire. Scientists say the worst possible approach would be to manage all forestlands the same way.



Oregon's Legislature created the Oregon Forest Resources Institute to improve public understanding of Oregon's forest resources and to encourage sound forest practices



Learn more at www.oregonforests.org