

Forest Resource Lands Goals/Policies recommended by LVAG:

Goal: Forests, natural vegetation and landscapes will be managed with sound practices that protect natural ecosystem processes and functions.

Goal: Natural vegetation is preserved, and surrounding forests are managed by sound ecological principles to assure their continued health.

Policies:

- Thinning, pruning and other maintenance of private forests will be encouraged to occur in accordance with the requirements of the Forest Practices Act
- Landowners are required to control noxious weeds as identified by Okanogan County Noxious Weed Board and WA State Department of Agriculture policies.
- To the extent possible, construction activities will not disturb native vegetation.
- Native vegetation will be protected in undisturbed condition on sensitive lands such as wetlands, aquifer recharge zones, vulnerable erosive areas..
- Trees, shrubs and native vegetation will not be disturbed adjacent to waterways, and will be enhanced where identified as desirable to provide shading.

- Identify and promote alternative forms of forest ownership and/or management that will provide opportunities for stable employment while enhancing public values, including:
 - ✓ Long-term commercial viability of resource lands
 - ✓ Protection of the watershed and environmentally sensitive areas
 - ✓ Public access for recreational uses such as camping, hiking, hunting and wildlife viewing

- Protect the integrity and encourage restoration of the natural functions and values of river systems and watersheds throughout the county.

- Construction of buildings and other facilities will be planned and conducted to keep the impact on natural vegetation to a minimum.
- Native vegetation will be used as much as possible in landscaping of homes and other buildings.
- Control of weeds in fields and areas where soil has been disturbed is important for maintaining natural vegetation.
- Riparian vegetation is important to the maintenance of waterways and wetlands and will not be disturbed during development.
- Owners of forested land will be encouraged to manage their forests in continuity with the landscape while meeting their private ecological, aesthetic and economic objectives.
- Development shall be compatible with agriculture
- Preserve open range MOVED TO AG
- ADD: Roads disturbed by forest management will be re-seeded with drought resistant species to prevent weeds; interest in applying to public and private lands
- ADD: Beaver Ponds and other forest wetlands will be conserved, protected and enhanced.