

The Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area Management Plan



Management Plan Overview

- The Management Plan sets land use policies and zoning for the National Scenic Area
- 13 Urban Areas are exempt from the Plan
- Counties apply the Plan through local ordinance
- The Plan was recently updated, and county codes are now being updated to be consistent

How does the Management Plan protect forests in the NSA?

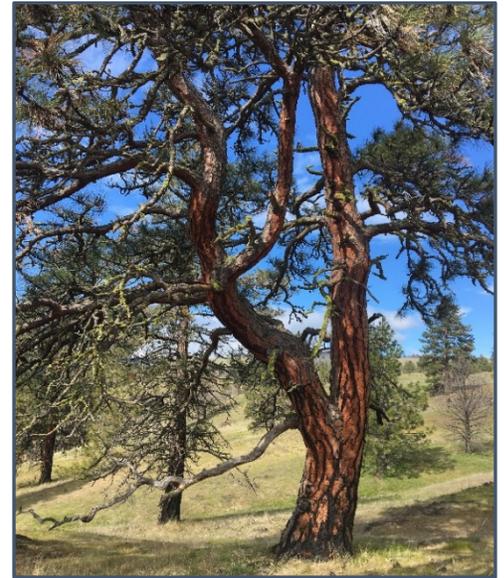
Designated forest lands are maintained as forests

- Designated forest lands can be protected as open space, or converted only to agriculture or recreation
- Residential and other development must protect current or future forestry opportunities
- New residences are not permitted in Large Woodland and Commercial Forests (new policy)

Large minimum parcel sizes keep forests intact

Fire protection policies help prevent fires

- New homes must be designed, sited to minimize fire risk, use fire-resistant materials
- Many similarities with Firewise principles



How are forested lands managed in the NSA?

The map on the back of this handout shows Special Management Areas (SMA) and the General Management Area (GMA).

- In the GMA, forest practices are managed under either Washington or Oregon's Forest Practices Act (ODF or DNR).
- In the SMAs, forest practices managed under state Forest Practices Acts are reviewed by the U.S. Forest Service, for consistency the Management Plan.
- Forest practices, except for resource enhancement projects to improve forest health, are not allowed in designated Open Space.

The Gorge Commission's Climate Change Initiative

Our focus on forests is part of a broader Climate Change Action Plan effort. We are learning how climate change is likely to affect the resources we manage in the NSA and identifying actions the Commission can take to adapt to these impacts while reducing greenhouse gas emissions. To learn more visit: www.gorgecommission.org/initiatives/climate-change

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FOREST LAND USE DESIGNATIONS IN THE NATIONAL SCENIC AREA

