

THE CITY OF WHEELER, OREGON COMPREHENSIVE PLAN  
Statement of Goals and Policies

GOAL 4: FOREST LANDS

INTRODUCTION:

During the review and updating of the Comprehensive Plan, the Citizen Advisory Committee conducted surveys to determine how residents of Wheeler felt about certain aspects of the Forest Practices Act. Overwhelmingly the community did not believe that the current Forest Practices Act adequately protected them, or their health and welfare. As a result Wheeler citizens ask that, as a community, we develop higher standards when it comes to the management and use of forestlands. This includes the recognition that current practices including the use of herbicides, including aerial application, harvesting near watersheds, and the recognition that the fish and wildlife impacted by the practices of the timber industry directly impact the health and economic viability of communities like Wheeler.

GOAL:

To conserve forest lands by maintaining the forest land base and to protect the state's forest economy by making possible economically efficient forest practices that assure the continuous growing and harvesting of forest tree species as the leading use on forest land consistent with sound management of soil, air, water, and fish and wildlife resources, and to provide for recreational opportunities and agriculture.

POLICIES:

1. While Oregon Statewide Planning Goal 4 Forest Lands does not apply within acknowledged Urban Growth Boundaries, the City shall encourage the State Department of Forestry to strictly enforce the Forest Practices Act including practices pertaining to cutting, road building, and the use of herbicides in the Wheeler area, particularly within the community's watershed areas.
2. While there is no commercial timber land within the urban growth boundary of Wheeler, the vast majority of land that surrounds the City is privately owned land zoned for forest lands use that is located within the Wheeler watershed. The City is concerned about logging activities that can cause adverse impacts to air, water, and land quality including slash burning, herbicides spraying, and clear cutting that overloads the capacity of the City stormwater system.