

Tips for timber salvage on private land outlined by state forestry

Land owners who want to recover some of their losses after fire should begin planning salvage operations immediately to avoid a loss of timber value to decay, and insect and disease infestation.

The Oregon Dept. of Forestry (ODF) said that it and other agencies are ready to help land owners plan salvage operations and understand their obligations after one of the worst fire seasons in Oregon's recorded history.

"Land owners and managers considering salvage operations on land that has been damaged by fire should begin to plan immediately," said Brad Knotts, ODF forest practices policy analyst.

A salvage harvest refers to logging timber that has been killed or damaged.

"One reason for salvage harvesting is to recover losses, because the timber may still have market value until it begins to decay," said Knotts. "You might also consider salvage harvesting because large patches of dead timber can allow insect populations to build up and move into nearby healthy trees."

"Salvage harvest of timber should be part of a land owner's overall management plan," said Knotts. "And it should be designed to meet land owner objectives, legal requirements, and restoration needs for fish, wildlife and water quality."

Knotts added that land owners should ask questions first to make sure that they obtain the result they want, and to avoid getting into trouble later.

ODF forest practice foresters are available to help land owners sort out the rules as they apply to salvage operations.

Salvage harvesting on private land falls under the Oregon Forest Practices Act. It "promotes the growing and harvesting of forest trees on private forestland while protecting soil, air, water, and fish and wildlife resources." In contrast, added ODF, salvage harvesting on federal forestland is subject to federal laws, rules and agency policies.

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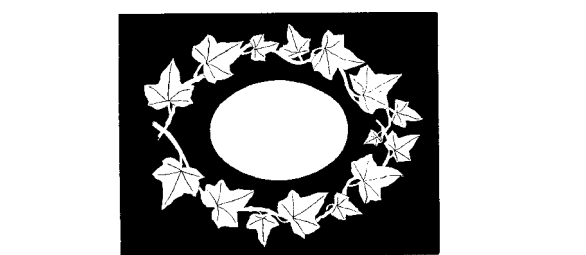
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