

## FOREST RESOURCES

CP.425. Background Summary.

According to ownership records of lands within the City, the eastern portion of Astoria is dominated by a large contiguous forested area composed of the following ownerships:

(Approximate acreages)	
City of Astoria	530 acres
State of Oregon	650 acres
Clatsop County	250 acres
U.S. Government	80 acres
Private ownerships	<u>70 acres</u>
Total forest lands	1,580 acres

The City's forests are predominantly Spruce and Hemlock rather than Douglas Fir, which indicates a rich and moist forest ecosystem which produces large and fast growing timber. Douglas Fir probably once predominated, but was logged when the City was first established. It is being planted in clearcut areas and is showing good growth rates of 1 to 3 feet growth per year.

Information supplied by the State Department of Revenue shows that most of these forest lands are in Site Class I, particularly at higher elevations. Class II lands are found toward the lower elevations along Youngs Bay and the John Day River Valley. It is determined that all of these 1,580 acres are Site Class I (USFS site class system). Soils associations in this area are predominantly Tolovana association, and to a lesser extent the Walluski-Knappa association. Much of the lands within this area are of steep slopes, ranging up to 60 percent in some places.

The present use of these forest lands is timber production. It has long been the policy of the City that certain tracts of these lands would eventually be converted to urban uses where the topography permits.

*[Paragraph amended by Ordinance No. 82-08, Sec. 7, enacted October 18, 1982.]*

Encroachment of residential development into the forested area has occurred on the Scandinavian Cannery Road (County Road 283), in the Emerald Heights (Navy Heights) area during World War II, and in the Williamsport area. The latter may witness considerable growth when the sewer interceptor is extended in 1981.

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The City also owns approximately 3,000 acres of lands in its watershed approximately 12 miles east of town, which it manages for water production.

CP.430. Conclusions and Problems.

1. Over 1,000 acres of forest lands are within the City limits, but are outside the Urban Growth Boundary. Virtually all of this land is owned by the City, County, State and Federal governments. Most of this land is steep landslide topography, which is best used for timber production, wildlife habitat, and scenic corridors.

*[CP.430.1 amended by Ordinance No. 82-08, Sec. 8, enacted October 18, 1982.]*

2. Presently City lands in the City and the City's watershed are not being managed for timber production. In the watershed, clean water, of course, is the paramount consideration but perhaps through Federal funding both forestry and water needs could be managed. The City should investigate funding and establish a policy on management of these lands.
3. The use of State Forestry Department lands for urban uses is possible where they are close to existing development such as in Williamsport or the John Day area. The City may trade City-owned unbuildable lands to receive State forest lands for development which may be developed through the normal land sales procedure.

CP.435. Forest Resource Goal.

It will be the goal of the City to protect forest lands for forest uses consistent with the growth needs of the community. It is recognized that as growth occurs, a certain amount of forest lands will be necessary for conversion to urban uses. It is not the intention of the Plan to permanently reserve forested areas for commercial timber production; rather, it is to permit the well-planned conversion of the City's forests to home sites, road and utility rights-of-way, parks and open space, and limited commercial uses in a manner that is economically and environmentally sound.

CP.440. Policies.

1. The City will cooperate with the County in the best use of unbuildable forest lands within the City limits. The two jurisdictions should develop a management plan and agreement, possibly with the assistance of the State Forestry Department, to pursue Federal land management funds, to reforest neglected or unproductive areas, and to investigate other activities that would be of mutual benefit.
2. Management of the City's watershed for timber purposes will be considered with the assistance of the State Forestry Department. Primary emphasis must be the protection of the drinking water supply, but a program should be developed

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(under EPA rules), which could provide the City with long term revenue from sound timber management.

3. Where timber production is deemed the best use of a forested tract of land, the City shall employ forest management activities to ensure continuing productivity from such land.

*[CP.435.3 amended by Ordinance No. 90-25 dated August 20, 1990.]*

4. The City, through its Plan and Development Code, will designate for resource purposes, certain forest lands which have little value for future development because of steep slopes or landslide hazard, or inaccessibility.
5. Scenic forest lands such as the corridor along Williamsport Road, the area around the Astor Column, or areas which have significant value for open space or recreation will be designated as such in the City's Plan.
6. The City of Astoria will inventory all publicly-owned forested lands within the City limits, consistent with Statewide Planning Goal 5 rule requirements, and complete any Goal 5 analysis, necessary as a result of the completed inventory, by June 1998.

*[CP.435.6 added by Ordinance No. 96-03, dated May 6, 1996.]*