

Forestry Concurrence

Submitted here are the 16 positions on forestry to be voted on during the LWVOR May convention, a concurrence on Washington LWV's positions to be discussed **Monday May 10 at noon** during the online forestry caucus meeting. These positions are a result of two Washington studies completed in 1998 and 2000. Attached is the presentation we plan to go over during the online caucus meeting, so we hope you will have a chance to read the studies and skim the presentation for next week.

Why Does the LWV of Oregon Need Positions on Forestry?

The League of Women Voters, at the national, state and local levels, has strong positions advocating policies to sustain our resources and safeguard the environment. The League, however, has not specifically addressed forestry policy issues in Oregon, where forests and forestry are key elements in our history, economics and physical environment. Many of the bills that our legislature will be reviewing during this session and in sessions to come concern forest management, timber taxes and wildfire policies, especially as they relate to our climate emergency, so we deem it imperative that our League have policies in place so we can fully support what we believe to be best practices concerning these issues.

The following position statements are what we propose to be adopted by LWVOR based on the LWVWA studies entitled: **Washington's Dynamic Forests**, which are just as applicable to our state. This two-part study of forests and forest issues can be found here:

Part One: <https://www.lwvwa.org/resources/Pictures/forests1.pdf>

Part Two: <https://www.lwvwa.org/resources/Pictures/forests2.pdf>

The adopted forestry policy positions for LWVWA can be found [here](#) on page 31 in their **Program in Action 2019-2021**, (comparable to our **Issues for Action**). We propose adopting all of Washington's original policies, and we have added no new concepts, so we feel a concurrence is appropriate.

Forests (1999, 2001)

The League of Women Voters of OREGON finds:

FO-1: That all benefits of the forests—ecological, human and economic—are inextricably interconnected. Healthy forests are essential to habitat for a diversity of plant and animal life, to the hydrologic cycle, and to carbon storage to mitigate global warming. In addition, healthy forests are essential to a forest products industry with the jobs and goods they provide, and to the economic and aesthetic values of their recreational opportunities. Therefore, The League of Women Voters of Oregon supports:

FO-2: Laws and policies to insure that forest management (for timber extraction, recreation or any other activity) is carried out in a manner that will sustain healthy forests, streams and habitats. The League of Women Voters of Oregon believes that the following are essential elements of an adequate forest practices policy:

FO-3: The public must be informed and involved in the decision-making process in the development of regulations. There must be adequate public notice of forest practices permit applications, hearings, meetings and proposed actions. Public review and comment at each phase of policy and regulation development should be required. Citizens and stakeholders must be represented on the decision-making bodies.

FO-4: There must be authority and funding for enforcement of regulations. Existing land use and forest practices regulations must be monitored and enforced, and should be responsive to changing scientific knowledge. There must be coordination of regulations for public and private lands among governmental entities.

FO-5: Riparian zones are an integral part of the forest ecosystem and must be regulated adequately to protect the streams and the wildlife dependent upon the streams.

FO-5: (stet.) Education should be made available to timber owners on scientifically sound forest practices with the establishment of a small landowners' agency for this purpose.

FO-6: Environmental values of the lands proposed for trade must be considered before the economic values. Trained appraisers, with public oversight, must be used. The right of appeal must be available to the public.

FO-7: Full accounting of all costs, including cumulative ecological impacts, of timber harvests and other forest uses must be considered in forest activity decisions.

FO-8: Forest management must be responsive to scientific research and knowledge and should include:

- mapping, classification and protection of all streams,
- more and better data—including total watershed analysis,
- evaluation of cumulative effects of various activities in the forest in the consideration of individual forest practice permits, and
- planning for sustainability of forest ecosystems.

FO-9: The State should consider ecological protections the most important factor in deciding which activities to allow on state forest lands.

FO-10: Motorized activities should be restricted and in separate areas from non-motorized activities

FO-11: Forest roads must be built, maintained and decommissioned to have the least impact on the forest ecosystems. Some areas on state lands should be roadless.

FO-12: Educate consumers about the human and ecological values of our forests as well as the opportunities and benefits of more efficient use of forest products, recycling and the use of alternatives to wood.

FO-13: Fund independent scientific research that would include improved forest practices and ecologically sound alternatives to the use of wood.

FO-14: Tax benefits and compensation should be considered to encourage small landowners to manage their forests in an ecologically sustainable manner.

FO-15: Oregon schools must be fully funded with less reliance on timber harvests.

FO-16: Trust lands should remain in public ownership.