



The Van Eck Oregon Forest is 7,200 acres of permanently conserved, highly productive forestland in Lincoln County. Owned by the Fred M. van Eck Forest Foundation, the forest’s nine tracts have been managed by the Pacific Forest Trust (PFT) since 2002 for multiple values, including sustainable timber harvests, habitat for threatened species, protection of critical watersheds and storage of carbon for climate benefits.

Stewardship Forestry at Work

The land will stay forested in perpetuity in accordance with the terms of its working forest conservation easement, which defines economic and ecological objectives for the property’s management.

Those goals include generating profits for the Van Eck Forest Foundation and its beneficiary, Purdue University, in addition to strengthening the ecological integrity of the forest. Selection harvest techniques are employed to restore the

structurally complex, mature Douglas-fir forest that is native to the site. The easement is designed to meet this goal by preventing development and conversion of the land itself and by limiting its timber harvests to less than the forest’s growth. Harvest operations and other management activities are designed to protect watersheds, enhance wildlife habitat, promote resiliency of the forest and increase carbon sequestration for climate benefits.

The Van Eck Oregon Forest’s commercial operations support the local and regional economies by providing jobs and

forest products while the landscape benefits from its high standard of environmental protection. The property has served as a model forest for PFT in the Pacific Northwest, protecting valuable open space while establishing PFT as a member of the local forestry community and the local forest economy.



The Forest Facts

Project size: 7,200 acres **County:** Lincoln

- Working Douglas-fir/Western hemlock forest
- Managed to provide habitat for federally threatened species including marbled murrelet, northern spotted owl and coastal coho salmon
- Contains 20 miles of fish-bearing stream on the property, providing habitat and spawning beds for coho salmon, cutthroat trout, pacific lamprey, coastal steelhead, chum salmon
- Watersheds include headwaters of Tumtum river, Yaquina River and Big Elk Creek
- Conservation Easement recorded in 2001
- Owned by the Fred M. van Eck Forest Foundation
- Managed by the Pacific Forest Trust since 2002

Van Eck Forest – Oregon

History

When Fred M. van Eck purchased the property in the mid-1980's, its history of even-aged management had resulted in very young, homogeneous forest conditions lacking many components of native forests such as large, older trees, and downed and standing dead wood (snags). A history of agricultural use and home-steading on portions of the property also contributed to the homogeneity of the site.

The tree species composition had been altered in many cases to exclude everything but Douglas-fir, while single-storied canopies dominated most of the property. After the easement was recorded, a new management plan was adopted, outlining objectives and approaches for returning native forest characteristics while sustaining the economic viability of the forest. Individual tree selection, group selection, variable density thinning and variable retention harvest techniques are now used to promote regeneration and complexity in forest structure. The property's streamside vegetation is managed to protect existing habitat while promoting restoration of its native, high-value ecological characteristics.

Over the next 40 years, it is anticipated that standing timber volume will increase by 264% (more than threefold) while the



property will generate 95 million board feet of timber for sale in local markets. At the same time, more than 70 percent of the property will provide breeding and foraging habitat for the threatened Northern Spotted Owl and other wildlife.

Ecological Benefits

- Protects significant open space
- Protects quality of significant watersheds
- Protects habitat, in particular for species dependent upon older growth forests such as the Northern Spotted Owl
- Protects more than 20 miles of fish-bearing streams including salmon spawning beds
- Enhances the forest landscape's ability to store atmospheric carbon

Economic Returns

- Timber income alone over the next 30 years is expected to generate an internal rate of return between 5–8%
- Provides local, sustainable employment for loggers, truck drivers, mill workers, timber cruisers, biologists and foresters, among others
- The property is economically self-sustaining, with revenues covering all operating expenses while returning income to the landowner to support research and graduate scholarships at Purdue University

