

Position approved by Oregon Small Woodlands  
Association Board on 11/05/04

## **RE: Availability of seedlings for reforestation for small woodland owners in Oregon**

We believe there is a joint obligation: by the state to assure seedling quality and availability on a speculative basis, and by small woodland owners who are obligated to follow reforestation rules.

The state has passed laws (the Oregon Forest Practices Act) that reflect the importance the state places on prompt and successful reforestation. The small woodland owner has the legal obligation to reforest after harvesting. The state also has laws (Oregon Land Use Laws) that limit the use of forest lands for non-forest purposes, showing the importance the state places on keeping forests forested.

Reforestation on SWO lands fits well into the Forestry Plan for Oregon and the Oregon Business Plan, contributes in a significant way to the forest sector, and provides environmental services for the state.

Small woodland owners time harvests in an opportunistic way (harvesting more when markets are favorable) and fill an important niche in the forest sector, complementing more regular harvest plans of industry and public forests. This results in the need for speculative grown seedlings. The state recognized this need when the original plan for Phipps nursery was developed.

The state needs to assure that good quality seedlings in sufficient numbers and types for small woodland owners will be grown and available for purchase to ensure prompt and successful reforestation. We encourage ODF to continue to work with private nurseries and to continue to evaluate Phipps Nursery to find a solution that assures good quality seedlings available on a spec basis and works for the state and the nursery industry. Keeping options open is important.

We believe that if the state completely removes itself from the seedling program for small woodland owners, some part of the process, from seed available to seedling quality to transport and storage, will most likely not be adequately filled by the private sector, either in the near future or later. The risks inherent in growing seedlings on a speculative basis will cause swings in seedling availability which would likely disrupt prompt and successful reforestation.

Note: a short version was approved for use, if desired, using paragraphs 1, 5 and 6.

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