

INTRODUCTION & METHODOLOGY

From November 10-19, 2022, the Oregon Values and Beliefs Center conducted a statewide survey of Oregonians' values and beliefs when it comes to Oregon forests, drinking water, and the recent elections.

Research Methodology: The online survey consisted of 1,554 Oregon residents ages 18+ and took approximately 15 minutes to complete. This is a sufficient sample size to assess Oregonians' opinions generally and to review findings by multiple subgroups.

Respondents were contacted by using professionally maintained online panels. In gathering responses, a variety of quality control measures were employed, including questionnaire pre-testing, validation, and real time monitoring of responses. To ensure a representative sample, demographic quotas were set, and data weighted by area of the state, gender, age, and education.

Statement of Limitations: Any sampling of opinions or attitudes is subject to a margin of error. The margin of error is a standard statistical calculation that represents differences between the sample and total population at a confidence interval, or probability, calculated to be 95%. This means that there is a 95% probability that the sample taken for this study would fall within the stated margin of error if compared with the results achieved from surveying the entire population. This survey's margin of error for the full sample is $\pm 2.49\%$.

Oregon Values and Beliefs Center: The research was completed as a community service by the Oregon Values and Beliefs Center. OVBC is an independent and non-partisan organization and an Oregon charitable nonprofit corporation.

OVBC Special Project and November Survey Oregon's Forests – Values and Beliefs

This OVBC survey focuses on the topic of Oregon forests, including federal, state, and private land, as well as a few questions on natural habitats, water, and an election reflection.

Please be assured your personal identity will be kept anonymous. This survey should take about 10-15 minutes. Random and robotic responders and those using hate speech are subject to disqualification through validity analytics.

OVBC is an Oregon-based nonprofit, nonpartisan team that uses a representative sample of Oregonians to provide valid opinion research. We share our findings with elected officials, policymakers, the public, and other researchers. Again, be assured that your name will not be connected to any of your responses in our reporting. [OVBC panel:] [You will be asked if you are willing to be contacted by a journalist about your answers to this survey and participation in OVBC.](#)

Thank you.

LOGGING

1. To begin with, what is your gut feeling: Do you believe forests in Oregon are generally logged way too often, somewhat too often, about the right amount, not quite often enough, or definitely not often enough?

Response category	N = 1,554
Way too often	14%
Somewhat too often	29%
About the right amount	35%
Not quite often enough	14%
Definitely not often enough	8%

1a. Please share any general comments you have about logging in Oregon. [Open, optional comment box for Q1] *[See separate verbatim file.]*

We'll turn now to some forest management practices. Some of the questions may have terms that you are not familiar with—that is totally fine. Part of what we are gauging in this survey is what Oregonians are NOT familiar with, so please choose a “don't know” option if you feel you don't know enough to have an opinion.

CARBON SEQUESTRATION/BIOFUELS

2. How much would you support or oppose the following action?

Turning logging debris left in the forest from timber harvest (wood slash) into biofuels, like biodiesel

Response Category	N = 1,554	
Strongly oppose	4%	10%
Somewhat oppose	6%	
Somewhat support	30%	61%
Strongly support	31%	
I don't know enough about this to have an opinion	28%	
I know about this, but am undecided	2%	

As trees grow, they take in carbon dioxide and release oxygen, storing the carbon in their trunks, branches, leaves, and roots. This process keeps carbon from being released into the atmosphere, therefore mitigating climate change.

Considering this information, how much would you oppose or support the two options below? [Q3 and Q4 randomized]

3. Public dollars being used to help small private landowners log their trees less often in order to store more carbon in their forests

Response Category	N = 1,554	
Strongly oppose	12%	28%
Somewhat oppose	15%	
Somewhat support	31%	53%
Strongly support	22%	
I don't know enough about this to have an opinion	16%	
I know about this, but am undecided	3%	

4. Public dollars being used to help large industrial landowners log their trees less often in order to store more carbon in their forests

Response Category	N = 1,554	
Strongly oppose	19%	40%
Somewhat oppose	21%	
Somewhat support	26%	39%
Strongly support	12%	
I don't know enough about this to have an opinion	18%	
I know about this, but am undecided	3%	

5. Carbon is also stored in wood products like lumber. Do you prefer using wood products over more carbon-intensive building materials like steel, plastic, and cement?

Response Category	N = 1,554	
Definitely no	3%	13%
Lean no	10%	
Lean yes	37%	61%
Definitely yes	25%	
I don't know enough about this to have an opinion	19%	
I know about this, but am undecided	6%	

8. Salvage logging is the practice of logging trees after a major event, like a wildfire. Some believe that leaving dead trees (snags and logs) has significant species habitat benefits. Others think that leaving useable timber to rot is wasteful. Assuming instances when salvage logging is done with the health of the forest and local communities in mind, which of these do you most support? [First three choices randomized]

Response category	N = 1,554
Salvage logging should be implemented no matter what	24%
Salvage logging should be implemented only for public safety (some say it reduces fuel for future fires and removes possibly dangerous trees near roads)	48%
The burned area should be left alone	10%
I don't know enough about this to have an opinion	13%
I know about this, but am undecided	4%

10. The State of Oregon is unusual in that it does not provide funding for urban and small-town tree-planting programs. Should Oregon provide some state funding for urban and small-town tree programs?

Response Category	N = 1,554	
Definitely no	4%	12%
Lean no	8%	
Lean yes	40%	77%
Definitely yes	37%	
I don't know enough about this to have an opinion	9%	
I know about this, but am undecided	2%	

Please indicate which forest practices you find most or least acceptable [Q24-32 randomized]

Response category, N = 1,554	1 Not at all acceptable	2	3	4	5 Very acceptable	I don't know enough to have an opinion	I know about this, but am undecided	Mean response
24. Ground spraying of herbicides	23%	19%	20%	12%	10%	14%	2%	2.6
25. Aerial spraying of herbicides	33%	20%	16%	7%	8%	14%	2%	2.2
26. Prescribed burning (a fire set intentionally for purposes of forest health and management)	4%	4%	20%	27%	35%	8%	1%	3.9
27. Stand rotation ages < 50 years (trees are at 50 years of age or less at harvest)	7%	11%	20%	17%	15%	27%	2%	3.3
28. Stand rotation ages > 80 years (trees are cut after they are at least 80 years at harvest)	6%	9%	18%	19%	20%	25%	2%	3.5
29. Retaining some trees in each stand through more than one rotation (allowing some older trees to remain)	1%	2%	11%	23%	51%	12%	1%	4.4
30. Thinning to reduce fuels, keeping the largest trees	2%	5%	18%	26%	36%	12%	1%	4.0
31. Tree plantations planted after clear cutting	4%	4%	9%	16%	57%	9%	1%	4.3
32. Mixed species stands including hardwoods and conifers	1%	1%	13%	22%	40%	21%	2%	4.3

32a. Feel free to leave comments on any of these here: [Open, optional comment box for Q24-32]
[See separate verbatim file.]

33. Do you believe active forest management, which includes commercial timber harvest, is important to maintain healthy forests?

Response Category	N = 1,554	
Definitely no	4%	12%
Lean no	8%	
Lean yes	36%	76%
Definitely yes	41%	
I don't know enough about this to have an opinion	11%	
I know about this, but am undecided	1%	

34. How much of Oregon's forests should be set aside in reserves or wilderness, specifically for benefits other than commercial timber production? [None; 25%; 50%; 75%; All; I don't know enough about this to have an opinion; I know about this, but am undecided]

Response category	N = 1,554
None	3%
25%	13%
50%	24%
75%	26%
All	8%
I don't know enough about this to have an opinion	20%
I know about this, but am undecided	5%

DEMOGRAPHICS

These questions ensure our sample is representative of the population. This information is used for no other purpose.

What is your age?

Response category	N = 1,554
18-29	18%
30-44	26%
45-54	13%
55-64	18%
65-74	19%
75+	6%

What is the highest level of education you have attained?

Response category	N = 1,554
Less than high school	4%
High school diploma/GED	30%
2-yr degree/some college/trade	36%
4-yr degree/college degree	13%
Graduate degree/professional school	17%

I describe my gender as:

Response category	N = 1,554
Man	49%
Woman	49%
Non-binary, non-conforming	2%
Trans	<1%
Other	<1%
I prefer not to answer	<1%

Knowing there may not be a perfect fit, which of these descriptions used by the US Census would you say best describes your race and/or ethnicity

Response category	N = 1,554
Asian	5%
Black or African American	6%
Hispanic or Latino/a/x	7%

Native American, American Indian, or Alaska Native	6%
Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	1%
White	79%
Another race or ethnicity not listed above	2%
Prefer not to answer	4%

Area (From County)

Response category	N = 1,554
Tri-county	43%
Willamette Valley	27%
Rest of state	31%

Area (From County)

Response category	N = 1,554
Central Oregon	9%
Eastern Oregon	4%
Metro Portland	43%
North Coast	5%
Northern Willamette Valley	12%
South Coast	2%
Southern Oregon	8%
Southern Willamette Valley	17%

What is your party registration?

Response category	N = 1,554
Democrat	40%
Republican	25%
Independent Party of Oregon	13%
Some other party	3%
Non-affiliated	14%
Not registered to vote	6%

Do you rent or own your home?

Response category	N = 1,554
Own	56%
Rent	33%
Other arrangement	10%

Do you have school-age children in your household?

Response category	N = 1,554
Yes	26%
No	74%

What was your total household income in 2021? Remember to include everyone, and your best guess is okay.

Response category	N = 1,554
Less than \$25,000	21%
\$25,000-49,999	23%
\$50,000-74,999	22%
\$75,000-99,999	11%
\$100,000-149,999	14%
\$150,000 or more	7%
Refused	1%

When it comes to most economic issues, do you consider yourself. . .

Response category	N = 1,554
Very liberal	15%
Somewhat liberal	23%
Middle of the road	34%
Somewhat conservative	18%
Very conservative	10%

When it comes to most social issues, do you consider yourself. . .

Response category	N = 1,554
Very liberal	23%
Somewhat liberal	23%
Middle of the road	22%
Somewhat conservative	13%
Very conservative	9%

Do you consider the area you live in to be

Response category	N = 1,554
Urban	28%
Suburban	36%
Rural changing to suburban	13%
Rural	23%

We anticipate news media to be very interested in these results. If you are willing to be contacted by a journalist about your answers to this survey and participation in OVBC, please share your name, phone number and email. This is completely voluntary.

Name:

Phone number:

Email address: