



*GRANT COUNTY HEALTHY
PRIVATE TIMBERLANDS
SURVEY*

FOREST RESOURCES AFFAIRS

FEBRUARY 2013

Grant County Health Private Timberlands Survey

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Introduction; Grant County Timber Resource

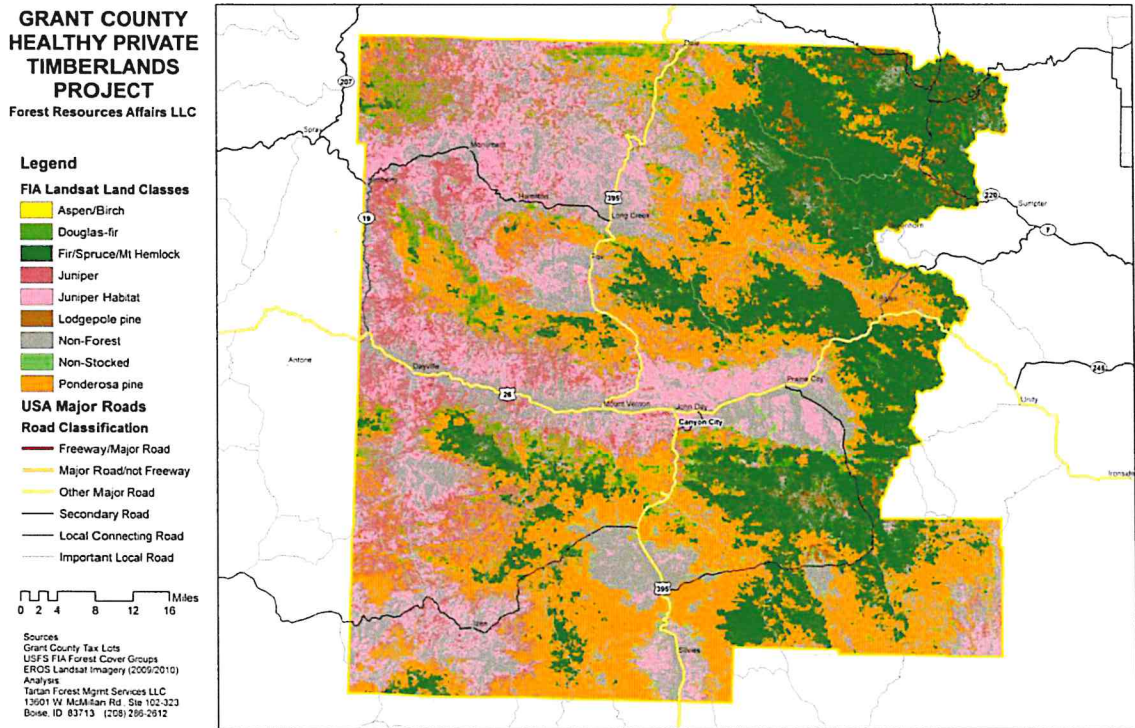


Figure A. FIA Forest Cover Groups

There are approximately 1.9 million acres of forest¹ land in Grant County Oregon. The US Forest Service manages approximately 1.5 million acres and the BLM manages approximately 50,000 acres. There are approximately 209,000-228,000 acres of private timberland² capable of supporting commercial forest and approximately an additional 120,000 acres of private forest¹ land that is mainly juniper habitat. There are overlaps in the areas covered by various forest and range types so that there are not precise numbers of acres in each category. Of the private timberland, there are a large variety of owners and sizes of acreages. Approximately 130,000 acres are owned or controlled by forty-six different owners in an ownership class of 1000 acres or more. Approximately 39,000 acres are owned or controlled by sixty different owners in an

ownership class of 500-1000 acres. The remaining approximately 56,000 acres are owned or controlled by 664 owners in the less than 500 acres class. In addition to a variety of land ownership size classes, it was expected to be a large variety in the interests and concerns of the landowners. In order for the county's governing body to better understand the interests and needs of the private timberland owners, it was determined that an in-depth survey, specific to Grant County, was needed.

Survey Design and Analysis

With a contract from Grant County to develop a report on the county's private timberlands, the Healthy Private Timberland Project (HPT), Forest Resources Affairs LLC developed and distributed a survey questionnaire to private timberland owners. The listing of names and addresses of private timberland owners was developed using the county's tax assessment roll; filtered by the Oregon Department of Forestry's (ODF) fire patrol assessment codes for timberland owners. All private landowners that paid a timber fire patrol assessment in 2011 were included in the database. The list of timberland owners was then grouped by a combination of ownership name and ownership address and zip code to assist in removing duplicate names of property owners so that property owners would only receive one questionnaire to complete. The ownerships were then grouped by ownership classes of 1-100 acres, 101-500 acres, 501-1000 acres and 1000 acres+. To achieve valid results, a return rate goal of 20% was established and it was estimated that approximately 300 questionnaires would be needed. A stratified sampling design ensured the inclusion of owners from all property sizes. Each of these groups was then sampled as follows:

Ownership Class Acres	Percent Sample	Number of surveys mailed
1-100	12%	61
101-500	100%	128
501-1000	100%	60
1000+	100%	46
Total		295

The questionnaire was mailed to 295 addresses on July 5, 2012 and collected over the next two months. Timberland owners were asked to complete their questionnaires by August 31, 2012. Most questionnaires were returned in that time period. An email address was developed to field questions from timberland owners with some owners utilizing the email address to pose questions about the legitimacy of the survey.

To help insure a suitable return of the questionnaires, a letter of support (Appendix 1) detailing the importance of the survey information and signed by local individuals who are well known throughout the county was included with each survey. This was important to show local support from influential people within the county and the letter significantly helped elevate the return rate.

Additionally, a cover letter of explanation (Appendix 2) was attached to the survey and a stamped addressed return envelope was included. The return envelope used the Grant County Court mailing address to provide a local address. The County Court Secretary forwarded the returned questionnaires, unopened, to Forest Resources Affairs LLC. The cover letter explained that the respondents would be guaranteed complete anonymity. Landowner responses would only be used in conjunction with others and that no respondent tracking system would be used.

A total of 104 usable questionnaires were completed and returned by landowners. This represents an overall return rate of 35%.

Ownership Class Acres	Percent Sample	Surveys returned	Return rate
1-100	12%	12	20%
101-500	100%	24	19%
501-1000	100%	23	38%
1000+	100%	39	45%
Total		104	35%

Of the 104 completed questionnaires, 39% were answered by landowners' owning 1000 acres or more, 23% with 501-1000 acres, 27% with 101-500 acres and 12% with 1-100 acres.

The acres represented by the returned questionnaires are approximately:

Ownership Class Acres	Return Rate	Approximate Acres Represented
1000+	85%	110,900
501-1000	38%	14,700
101-500	19%	6,300
1-100	20%	500
Total		132,400

The 132,400 acres is approximately 58% of county private timberland.

When analyzed by landowner class to see if the return rate was similar for landowner classes, the data show that larger landowners had much higher return rates, 85% and

38% respectively, in the largest two classes. This adds credibility that the survey results are applicable to more of the private acres within the county.

Survey questions (Appendix 3) were designed to allow the landowners a choice of answers or a rating scale, modeled after the design of the USDA National Woodland Owners Survey³ and other surveys. Most questions were close-ended with either categorical or Likert scale response choices. The questions were all specific to private timberland ownership within Grant County Oregon. The questions were developed to get general answers about private timberland ownership and to answer specific questions important to the Healthy Private Timberlands Project. In that project, Grant County's objective was to conduct a comprehensive review of the private ownership of timberlands and the local relationship with federal lands. These include:

1. Assessing the county's capacity to provide long-term protection from conversion and development pressure to private lands;
2. Assessing the feasibility of a Grant County program to acquire forestlands and/or an industrial site to assist in protecting Grant County citizens from the long term consequences of wildfire and other threats to privately held timberlands and
3. Identifying a range of forest management strategies and needed infrastructure to maintain healthy privately held timberlands adjacent to National Forest lands

The Grant County HPT project steering committee, the Grant County commissioners and several local citizens who showed an early interest in the project reviewed the survey questions. The questions were modified as needed to improve readability, understanding and applicability to Grant County. Four questions were specific to the role of government in maintaining healthy private timberlands.

Landowner Profile and Demographics

The respondents were generally male, age 40+. Over half of the respondents did not consider themselves to be Grant County residents.

Residential Status:	Grant County residents	46%
	Non county residents	54%
Gender:	Men	82%
	Women	18%
Age group:	21-40	1%
	40-64	52%
	65+	47%

Ownership Categories

The majority of respondents were individuals or husband and wife joint ownerships. Corporate ownership only accounted for 13% of the respondents.

Land held as:	
Individual or husband/wife	53%
Family Partnership	17%
Trust	17%
Corporate	13%

Reasons for Ownership

The reasons for ownership varied among the respondents. Seventy-five percent of the respondents listed enjoying natural beauty and aesthetics as important or extremely important. See Figures 1 & 2.

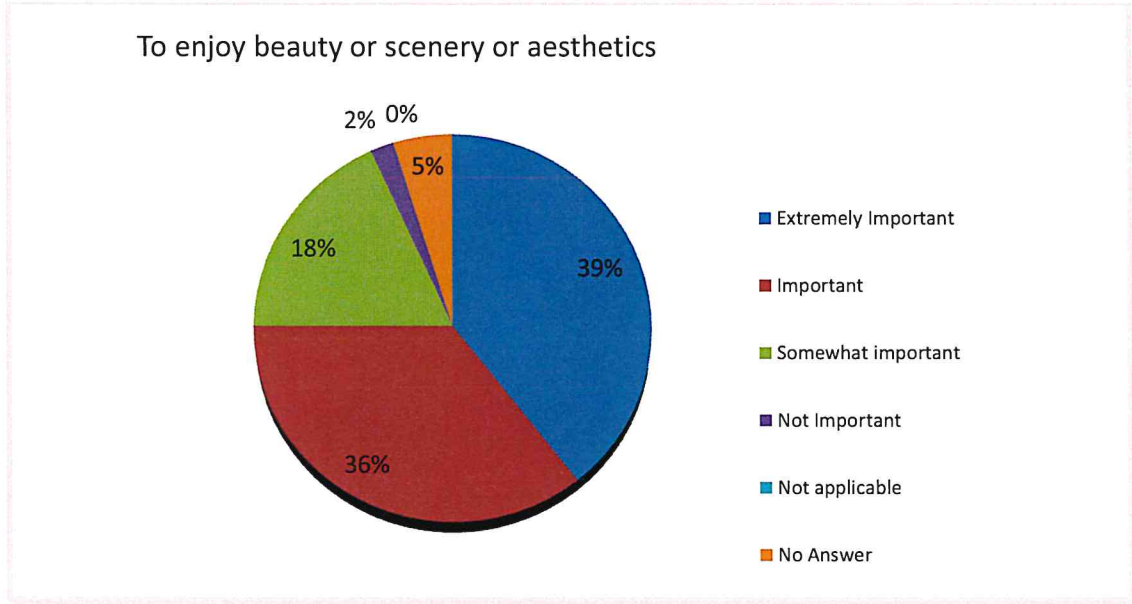


Figure 1 Enjoy beauty, scenery, and aesthetics

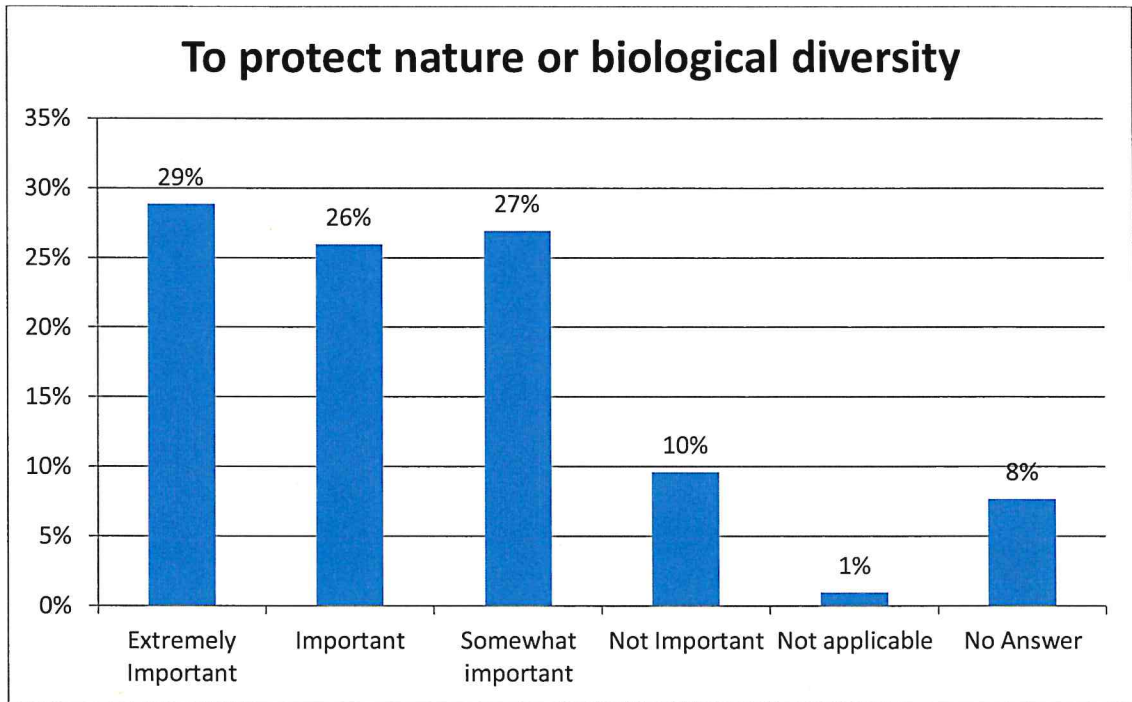


Figure 2 Protect nature or biological diversity

Another important reason for owning the land was to pass on to children or other heirs. Sixty-one percent of the respondents believed that passing the land to children and other heirs was important or extremely important and an additional 23% answered that it was somewhat important. See Figure 3.

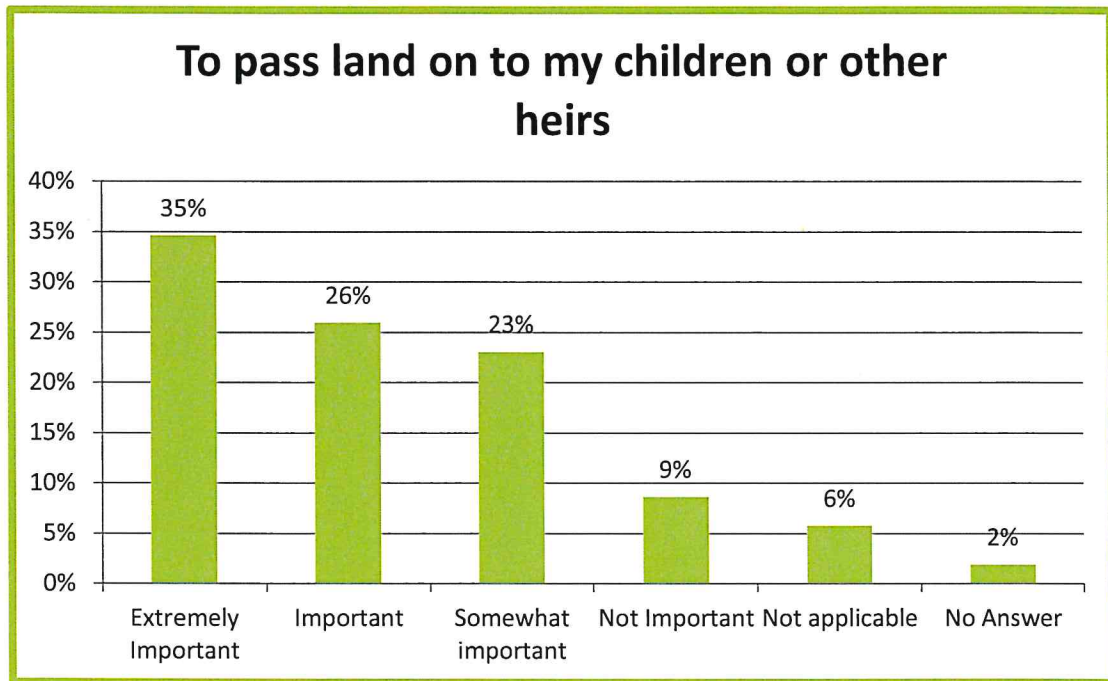


Figure 3 Pass onto to children or other heirs

- The timberland as part of the owners' ranch or farm was at least somewhat important to 65% of the respondents. Hunting, protecting and improving wildlife habitat and protecting water resources were generally answered as being somewhat important to extremely important.



The importance of owning the land for timber products was answered as somewhat important to extremely important by 75% of the respondents and 57% answered that the land was used to provide primary or supplemental income. See Figures 4 and 5.

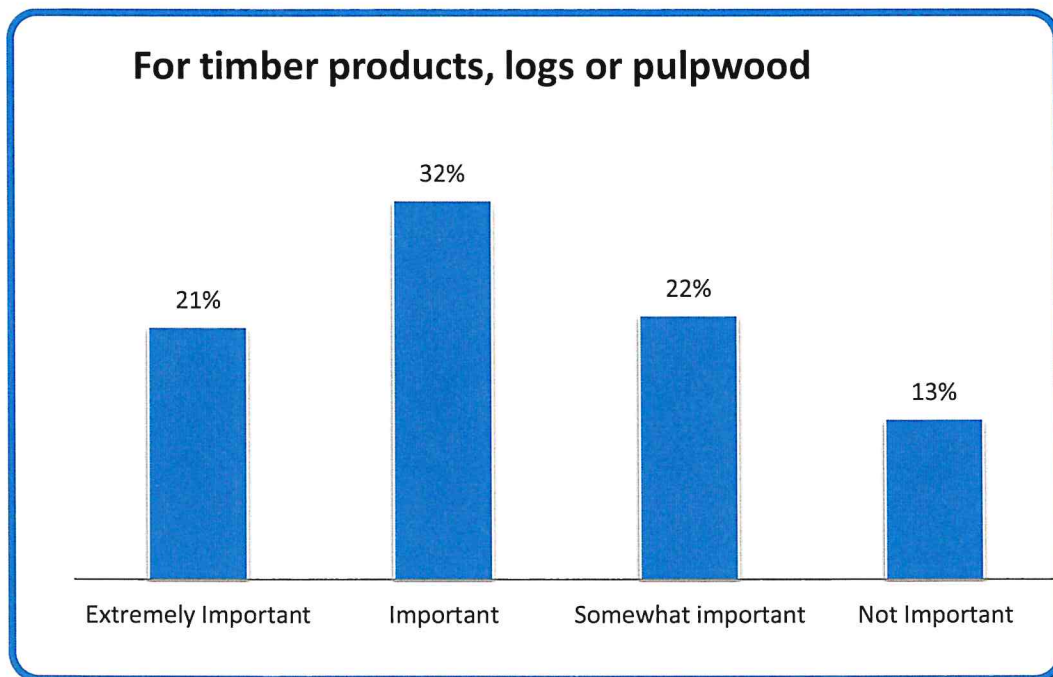


Figure 4 Owing for timber products

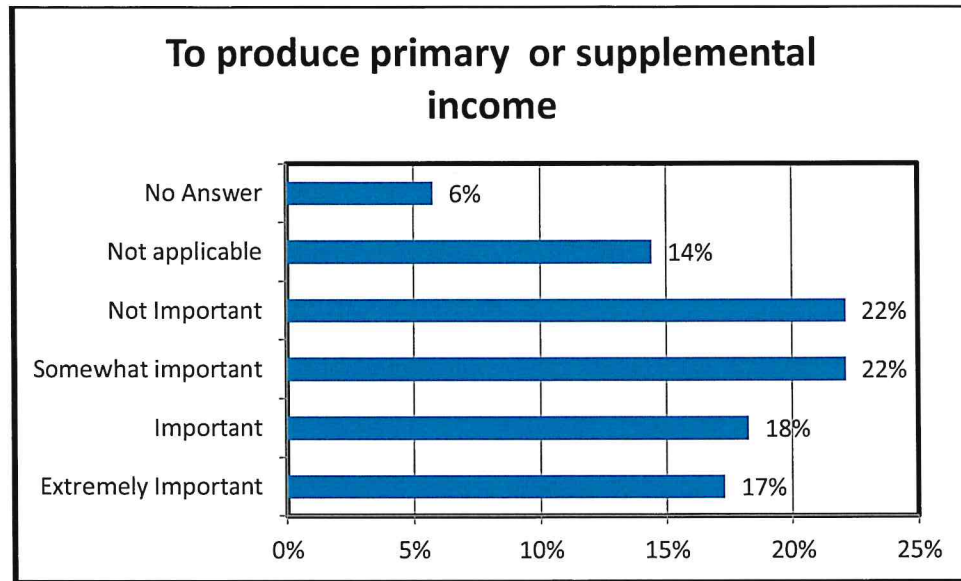


Figure 5 Owning for primary or supplemental income

Management Practices

Property owners were asked about the likelihood of using a variety of land management practices on their timberlands in the next five years. These practices ranged from livestock management to thinning for fire, insects and disease protection to developing commercial recreation opportunities. The most likely practice to occur is the management of livestock grazing practices for rangeland health. Forty percent of the respondents said it was extremely likely that they use these practices and an additional 25% saying it was likely that they would do so. See Figure 6.

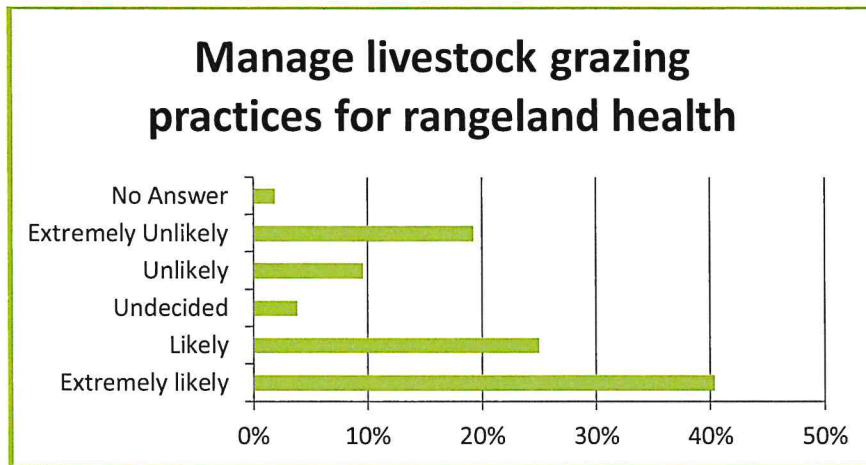


Figure 6 Manage livestock for rangeland health

The importance of thinning their timberlands to protect against the potential threats of wildfire, insects and disease appears to be well understood by the respondents. Approximately 70% of all the questionnaires reported that they would conduct thinning operations on their timberlands to reduce the risk of wildfire, insects and disease. See Figures 7 and 8.

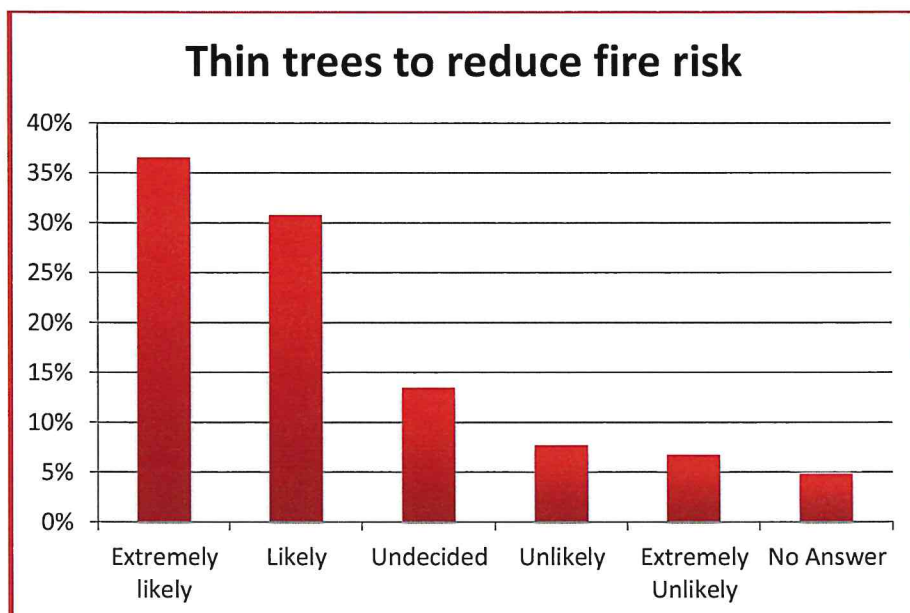


Figure 7 Thin to reduce fire risk

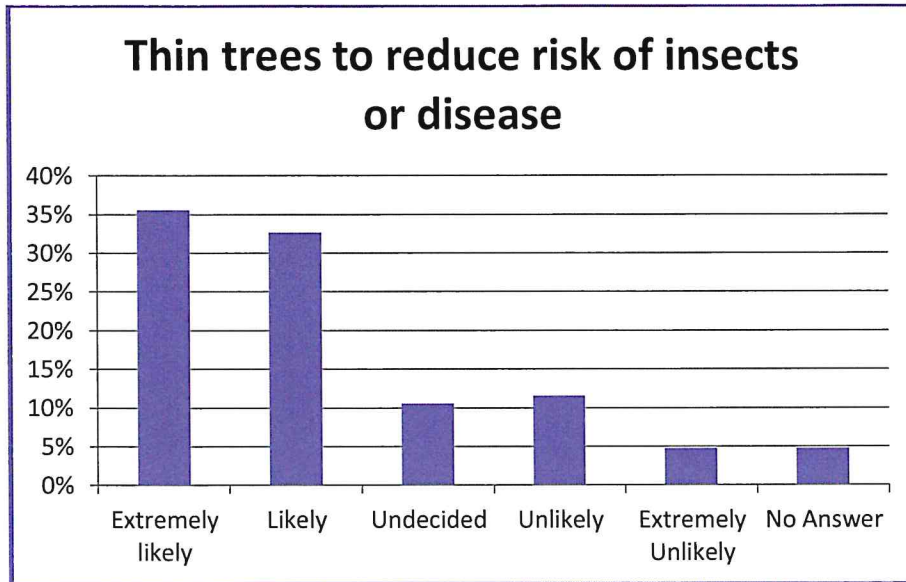
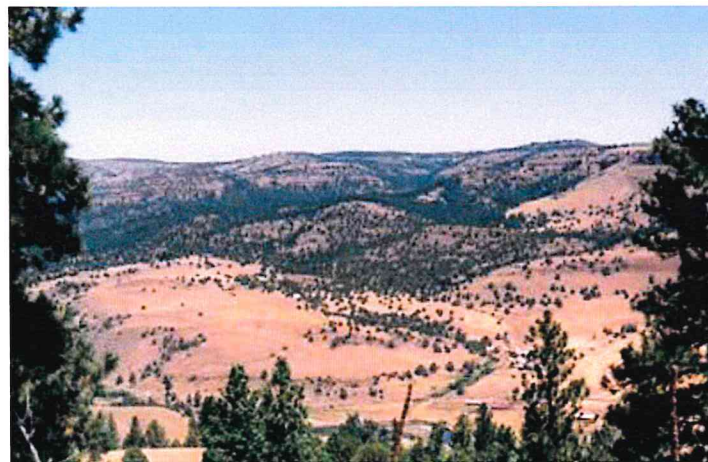


Figure 8 Thin for insects & disease protection

Invasive Juniper

Juniper control on the timberlands is a widely recognized problem for Grant County private timberland owners.



Sixty-seven percent of the respondents expressed a concern about the invasion of juniper in the county. Fifty-five percent of the respondents reported that invasion

juniper is a problem on **their** timberlands and 60% said they intended to make rangeland improvements such as brush or juniper control. See Figure 9.

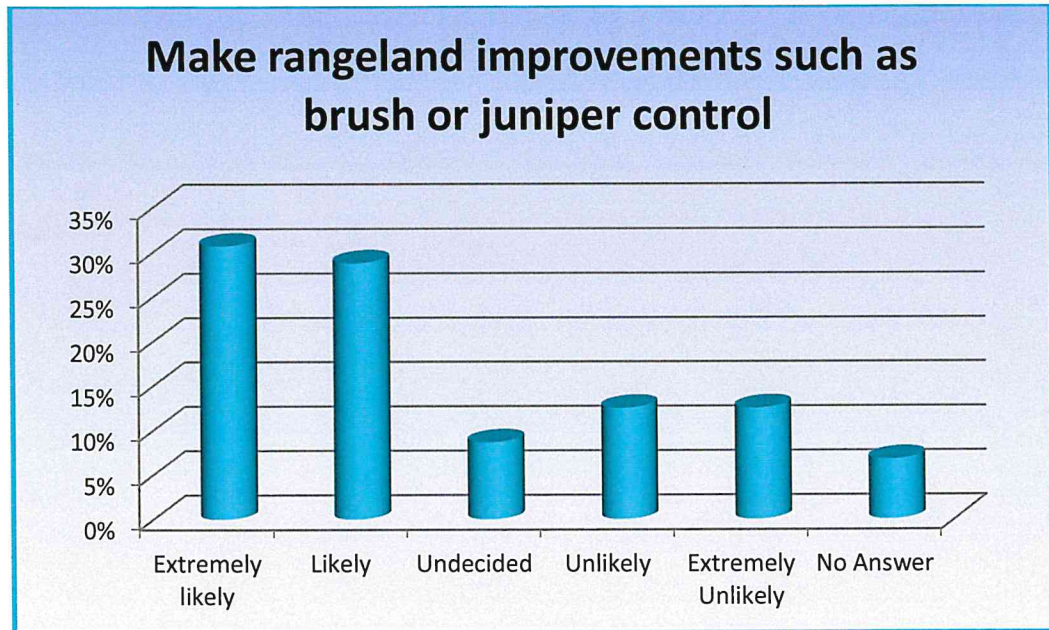


Figure 9 Juniper control

Respondents indicated that they would like additional assistance and information with juniper control.

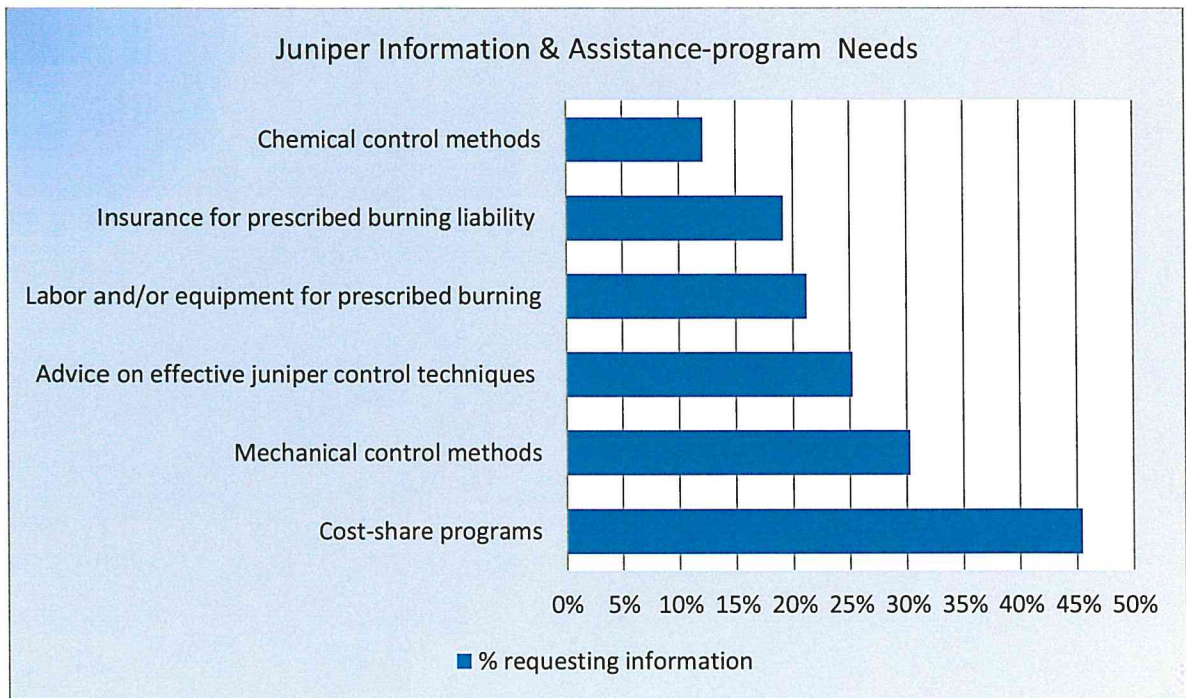


Figure 10 Juniper information and Assistance-program needs

When asked if they were planning to plant trees in the next five years, 28% of the respondents indicated tree planting was planned. This low number may be indicative that clearcutting is not generally used in Grant County. Some indicated they were likely to plant native plants.

Noxious plant control on timberlands is a management activity that is planned by 63% of the respondents and wildlife habitat improvement projects are extremely likely or likely practices for 63% as well.



Following is the ranking of management practices private timberlands owners are considering in the next five years.

How likely are the following management practices to occur on your timberland in Grant County in the next five years?

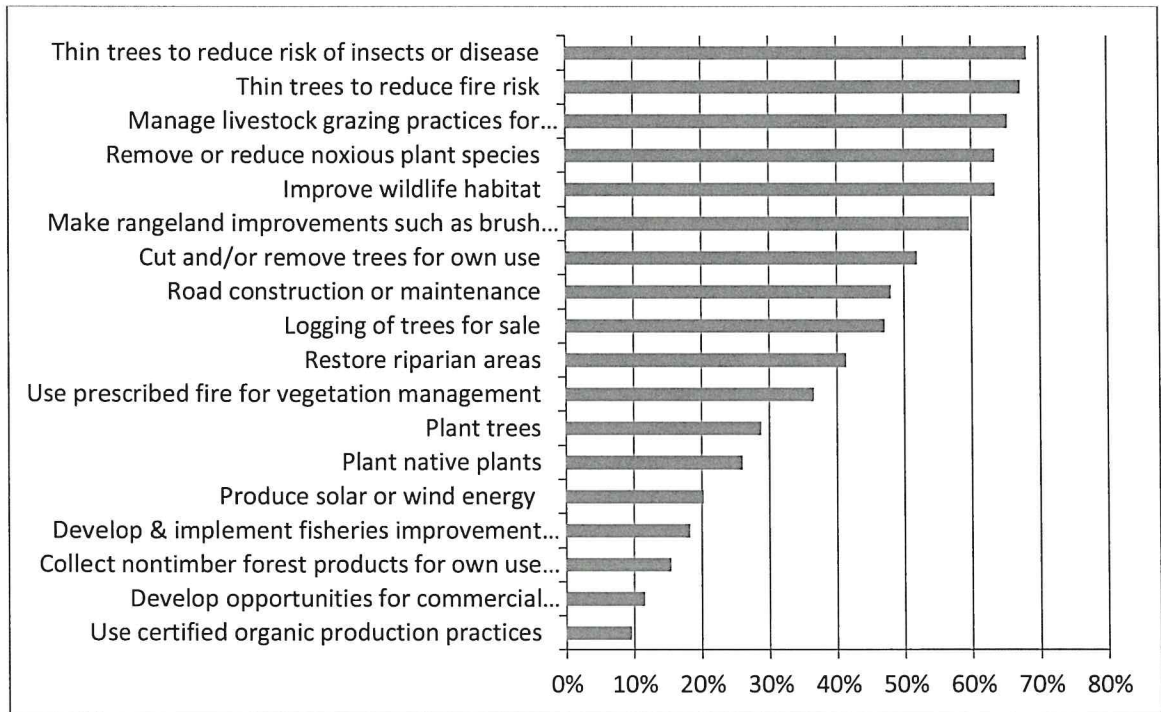


Figure 11 Management Practices ranked



Harvesting Wood Products



When asked if they had harvested trees, 76% of the respondents answered that they had harvested timber products since owning the land. Approximately 1/3 had harvested trees in the past two years, 22% in the past 3-5 years, and 24% in past 6-10 years. The harvesting was largely completed for the sale of sawlogs and pulpwood and for personal use firewood.

When asked if they intended to use harvesting for sale of products as a management practice, 47% of the respondents indicated that they would do so in the next five years, 17% were undecided and 29% indicated it would be unlikely that they would conduct timber harvests. See Figure 12. Fifty-two percent said they would utilize harvesting of wood products for their personal use.

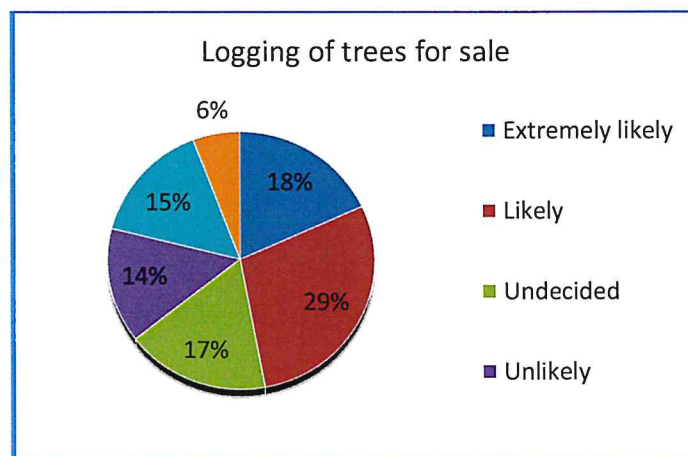


Figure 12 Logging trees for sale

Over seventy percent were concerned about their ability to sell their logs for a reasonable profit in the next five years and 86% were concerned about the possible loss of local sawmills and other infrastructure for maintaining a viable place to sell their timber. When asked about joining a timberland cooperative to help in maintain infrastructure and employment in Grant County, most (49%) respondents indicated they were undecided and wanted additional information about such a concept. Twenty-two percent answered favorably to joining a management cooperative.

When the data are refined to large (1000 acres+ class) timberland owners only, 54% of the respondents indicated that they will conduct logging of trees as a management practice in the next five years, 5% were undecided and 33% were not likely to harvest in the next five years. Of those large timberland owners, 83% expressed concern over the lack of a viable market for forest products, but only 18% indicated that they would be interested in joining a cooperative to maintain infrastructure and employment in Grant County.

When the respondents who previously indicated an interest in participating in a timberland management cooperative were asked to rate the importance several conditions surrounding participation, retaining access for purposes other than timber productions, maintaining their right to sub-divide their property, providing for efficient estate planning and controlling other parties' access to their property were the most important. Although receiving cash flow was important to landowners, it did not rate as highest. Rather, not losing control of the management and access to their land appears to be the most important factors for landowners. Sixty-five percent responded that retaining access to use their land for uses other than timber production was very important and 53% responded that controlling other parties' access to their land was very important. See Figure 13.

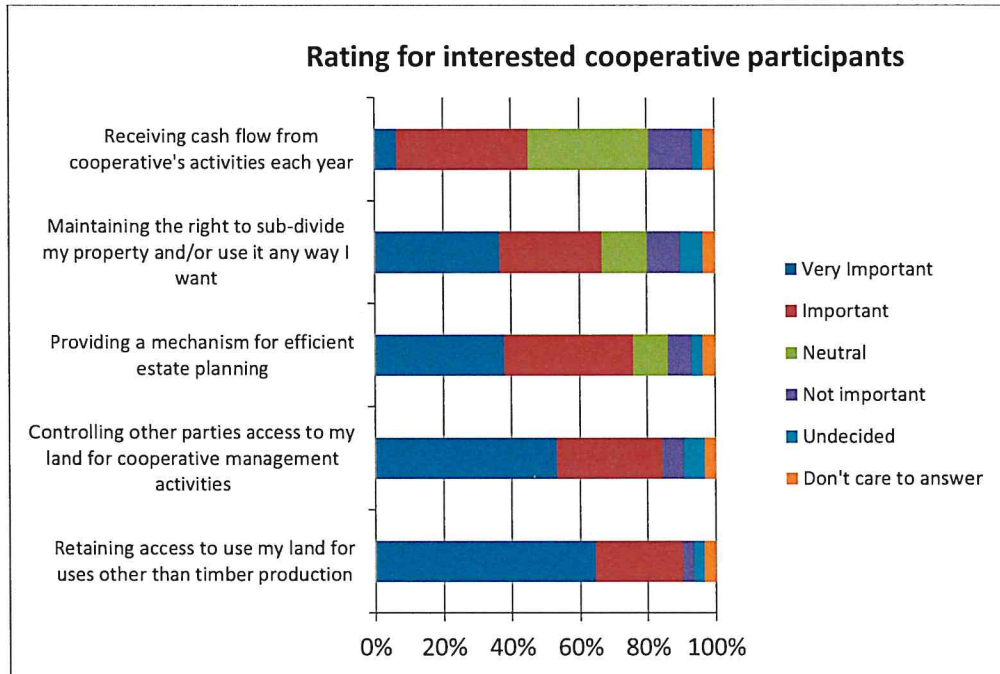


Figure 13 Cooperative participation rating

Issues of Concern

When asked of their level of concern regarding various issues facing private timberland owners, a large majority indicated the threat of wildfire is the major concern with 92% of the respondents at least somewhat concerned including 60% that are extremely concerned. Eight-five percent of respondents are concerned about the risk of insects, disease and wildfire spreading from federal lands in the county. Forty-five percent of these landowners are extremely concerned about this risk. The concerns were rank ordered to help prioritize them. See Figure 14.

Ranked order of landowners concerns

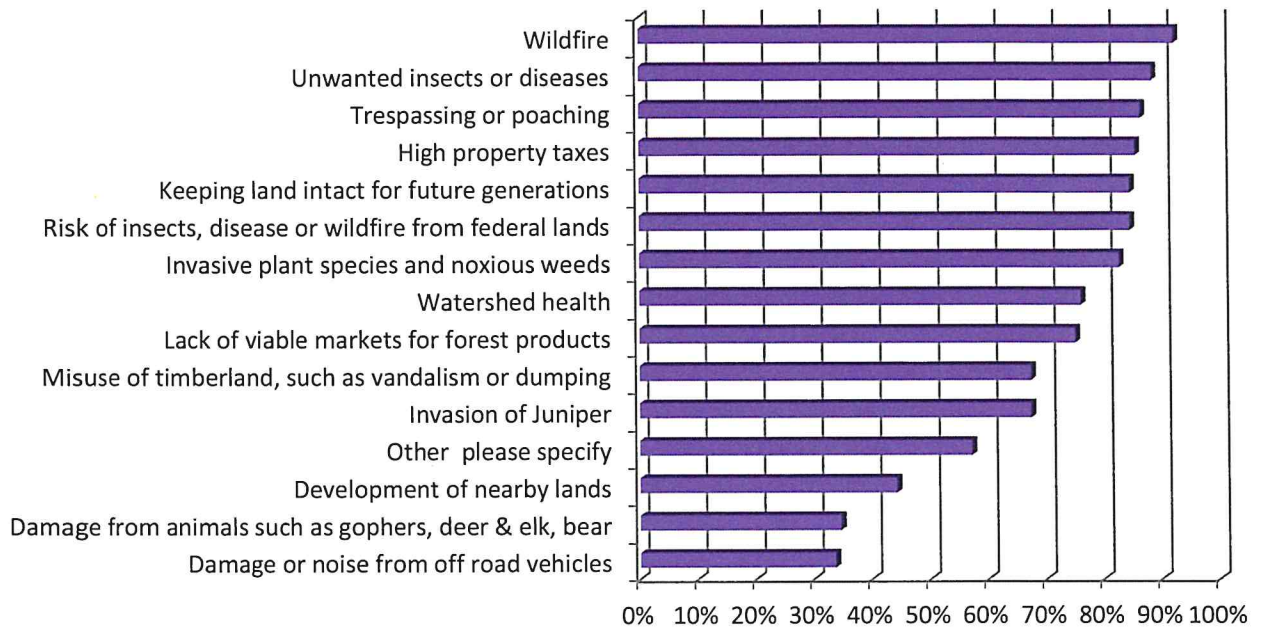


Figure 14 Landowner concerns ranked

Technical Information and Advice

When asked if they needed technical information and advice, most landowners responded positively, but 14% responded that they did not want or need advice or information. Landowners were given choices about their information needs and preferred sources of the information. Information about noxious weeds and finding stronger timber markets were rated as the highest with information about non-timber resource management information rated the lowest need. Twenty-three percent felt that information about how to transfer land to the next generation was needed. See Figure 15.

What type of information would be helpful in managing your timberland?

% positive response	Subject area
41%	Information on control of noxious weeds
39%	Finding stronger timber markets
38%	Information on the control of invasive juniper
38%	Cost-sharing for timberland management
37%	Advice on timberland management
37%	Wildlife management information & advice
23%	Advice on how to transfer land to next generation
14%	I don't want/need advice or information
7%	Advice on selling or giving away development rights
7%	Non-timber resource management information

Figure 15 Information needs

When asked about how they would like to receive the information, 47% responded positively to “Written materials, brochures or other publications”. Forty percent responded that they preferred receiving the information from an extension forester and 24% prefer to use the Internet. See Figure 16.

If you would like information or advice, how would you prefer to get advice or information related to your timberland?

% positive response	Preferred Info source
40%	From an Extension forester
21%	From a land management agency professional
19%	From a private forestry consultant
47%	Written materials, brochures or other publications
24%	Internet
24%	Conference or workshop

Figure 16 Preferred information source

Other Revenue Sources from Timberlands

The questionnaire asked about the sources of income from the timberland to ascertain if there were sources of income other than wood products production. Forty-four percent of the respondents indicated they had alternative revenue streams from the

timberlands and the large majority of those (36%) indicated that they receive grazing revenue, mostly through a lease program. Thirteen percent have received revenue from recreational hunting and 6% have received revenue from a land conservation or reserve lease program.

Use of Cost-share Programs

There are a variety of cost share programs that may be available to timberland owners to help provide the needed economic and technical assistance. When landowners were asked if they know about these programs and/or if they utilize them, 50% of the timberland owners responded yes and 50% responded no. Of those that did utilize the programs, most of those were Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) assistance programs for juniper removal and Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) share-cost programs for thinning. Of those that had used these programs, 62% responded that they expected to use them again.

Role of the County and Federal Governments

Owners of timberlands were given four specific statements about the role of government including the Grant County governing body. Owners were asked to rate their level of agreement with each of the following statements:

1. Grant County private timberlands are at risk because of conversion and development pressures
2. Federal timberlands in Grant County have a role in the protection and restoration of private timberland in Grant County.
3. Grant County needs to provide long-term protection to private timberlands that may be faced with conversion and development pressure.
4. Grant County should acquire timberlands and/or industrial sites to assist in protecting its citizens from the long term consequences of wildfire & other threats to timberlands.

In the first statement, 37% of respondents agreed, 25% were undecided and 35% disagreed, indicating lack of a clear consensus of beliefs on the risk of development in the county. When asked if they planned to develop their lands, only 17% indicated that they were planning to sell, give away or develop their property.

Sixty-nine percent of the respondents believed that the federal timberlands do have a role in the protection and restoration of private timberland. The possible role(s) for federal land managers in the protection and restoration of private timberlands was not developed in this survey.

Fifty-one percent of the respondents feel that Grant County has a role in providing long-term protection to private timberlands that may be face with development pressure.

In rating their level of agreement with the statement that Grant County should acquire timberlands and/or industrial sites, only 16% of the respondents believed that to be a good idea. Forty-eight percent disagreed or strongly disagreed with the statement. See Figure 17.

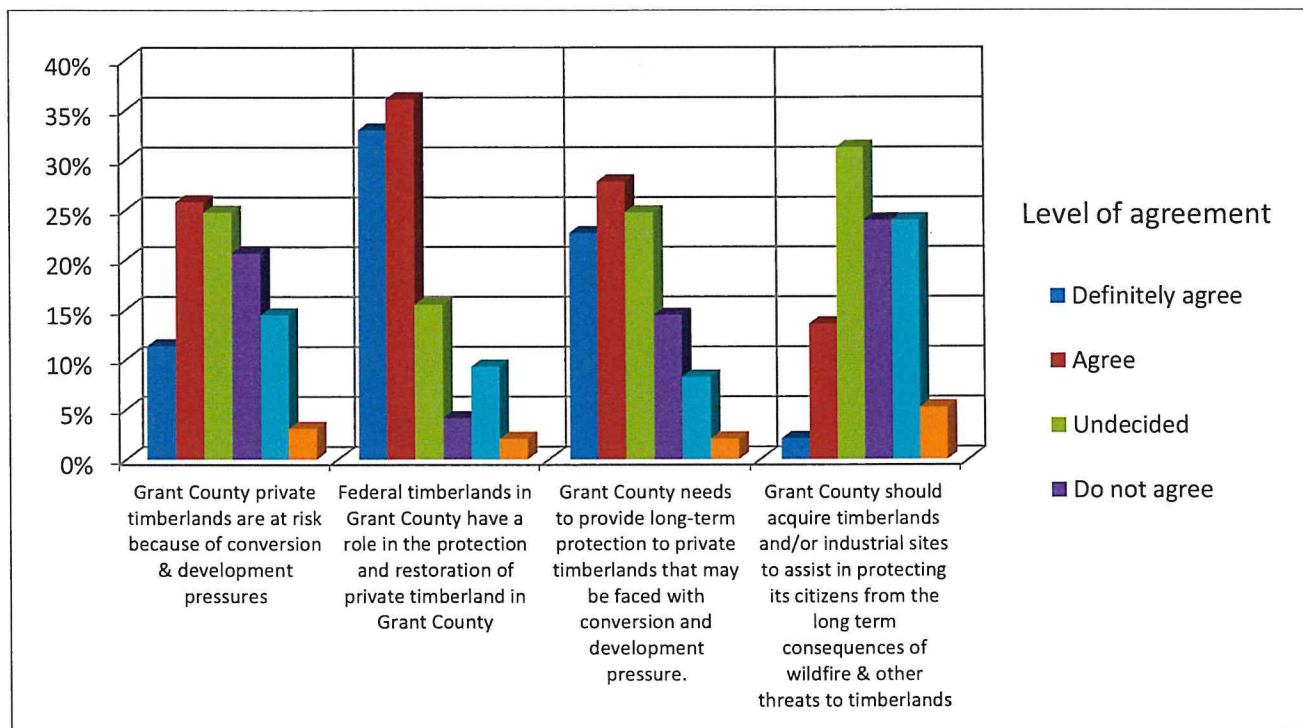


Figure 17 Role of Government

Certification Programs

Landowners were asked if their property was “green” certified by an outside certifier such as the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI), Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) or American Tree Farm Association. Nine percent of the respondents reported being certified with the majority of those utilizing the American Tree Farm certification. When asked if they planned to maintain their certification, 63% said yes. When asked if they thought certification added value, 58% of the respondents agreed that it does add value.

Development Pressure

One of the issues surrounding future timberland ownership in Grant County is the concern regarding the potential for selling the land for development into non-resource uses such as home sites, resort sites and other commercial uses. The perception is that as the economic viability of owning the timberland for commodity production declines with lower values for timber stumpage and livestock forage, landowners will then sell their land or development rights. When landowners were asked if development of nearby lands was a concern to them, 44% responded they were somewhat to extremely concerned. When asked if they intended to sell, give away or develop **their** timberland in the next five years, 17% reported that it was likely or extremely likely. Forty percent responded that it was extremely unlikely and an additional 24% responded that it was unlikely. When asked why they would sell the land or development rights, most respondents that did plan to sell replied that they were ready to sell for the right price but some indicated that high costs, lack of a viable timber market and needing the money for other purposes has influenced their decision to sell or develop. High taxes were also given as a reason for selling or developing. For those that responded that they were likely to sell or develop, when asked a follow-up question if there was anything that could be done to change their mind, 29% replied “yes”, 38% “no” and 33% declined to answer. When asked to give specifics, no answers were given.

References

1. http://www.fs.fed.us/ne/fia/methodology/def_ah.htm Forestland: Land that is at least 10 percent stocked with trees of any size, or that formerly had such tree cover and is not currently developed for a nonforest use. The minimum area for classification of forest land is one acre. The components that make up forest land are timberland and all noncommercial forest land.
2. http://www.fs.fed.us/ne/fia/methodology/def_gz.htm Timberland: Forest land producing or capable of producing crops of industrial wood (more than 20 cubic feet per acre per year) and not withdrawn from timber utilization (formerly known as commercial forest land).
3. USDA National Woodlands Owners Survey Oregon 5.0

Appendices

1. Survey Support Letter

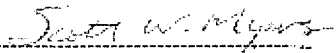
Grant County Healthy Private Timberlands Project

Grant County Court Office
201 South Humbolt Street Box 280
Canyon City, OR 97820

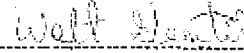
June 29, 2012

As residents of Grant County, we all are involved in creating a better future for our communities and fellow citizens. Earlier this year, our Grant County Court hired an experienced consultant to develop a foundation of information regarding the economic and forest health opportunities and challenges for local private timberland owners. This 100% confidential questionnaire is a very important element of that effort and we are asking for your help. Please complete the attached questionnaire to the best of your ability and return it in the stamped envelope.

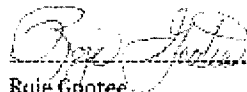
Thank you for helping the Grant County Court pursue a brighter future for Grant County.



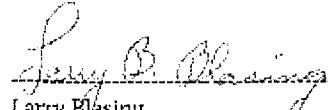
Scott Myers
Grant County Commissioner



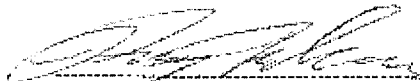
Walt Gents
Member, Grant County Public
Forest Commission



Roje Gootee
Grant County Timberlands Owner



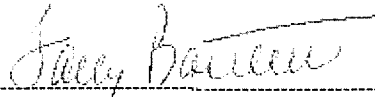
Larry Blasing
Member, Grant County Public
Forest Commission



King Williams
Member, Grant County Public
Forest Commission



Boyd Britton
Grant County Commissioner



Sally Bartlett, Grant County Economic Development Coordinator

2. Survey Cover Letter

Healthy Private Timberlands Project
Grant County Court Office
201 South Humbolt Street, Box 280
Canyon City, OR 97820

June 27, 2012

Dear private timberlands owner:

As you may know, Grant County is in the initial phase of a feasibility study of the privately held timberlands ownership and the relationship of those lands with federal lands to the sustainable economic development and welfare of local communities. This study will include:

- Assessing the county's capacity to provide long-term protection from conversion and development pressure to private lands;
- Assessing the feasibility of a Grant County program to acquire forestlands and/or an industrial site to assist in protecting Grant County citizens from the long term consequences of wildfire and other threats to privately held timberlands and
- Identifying a range of forest management strategies and needed infrastructure to maintain healthy privately held timberlands including maintenance and restoration of watersheds.

As part of the feasibility study, a survey of the private owners is being undertaken to collect information about the private timberlands in Grant County. You have been selected, as part of a random sample of private timberlands owners, to complete the survey. Your participation is strictly voluntary and will take about 30 minutes of your time. The information obtained from the enclosed questionnaire will be held strictly confidential and will be combined with other survey data for use only as part of the countywide analysis. Your specific answers or responses will not be identifiable or attributed to you in any reports or action plans as a result of this study.

Some of the questions are sensitive in nature and you may not want to answer them. If that is the case, please answer only the ones you are comfortable with and leave the others blank or mark the appropriate box indicating that you do not care to answer them.

Your participation in this survey is very important to enable the County to fully understand the private timberlands ownership in the county. The more individuals that participate by completing the survey, the better the data for developing future plans to help maintain healthy private timberlands.

If you have questions about this survey, please send them via email to healthyprivatetimberlands@gmail.com. Your questions will be answered as soon as possible.

It is important that the survey be completed and returned in enclosed envelope by August 1, 2012. Responses received after that date may not be included in the data analysis.

Thank you.

3. Survey Questionnaire

1 How important are the following as reasons for why you currently own timberland in Grant County?

- To enjoy beauty or scenery, aesthetics
- To protect nature or biological diversity
- For land investment
- Is part of my home site/primary residence
- Is part of my farm or ranch
- For nontimber forest products, such as mushrooms or berries
- To produce primary or supplemental income
- To pass land on to my children or other heirs
- For timber products, such as logs or pulpwood
- For hunting
- For recreation, other than hunting
- To protect water resources
- To protect or improve wildlife habitat
- For a second or vacation home
- Other (please specify)

	Extremely Important	Somewhat Important	Not Important	Not applicable

2 How likely are the following management practices to occur on your timberland in Grant County in the next five years?

- Thin trees to reduce fire risk
- Thin trees to reduce risk of insects or disease
- Plant trees
- Develop opportunities for commercial recreation such as fee hunting
- Improve wildlife habitat
- Restore riparian areas
- Make rangeland improvements such as brush or juniper control
- Remove or reduce noxious plant species
- Plant native plants
- Use certified organic production practices
- Use prescribed fire for vegetation management
- Manage livestock grazing practices for rangeland health
- Develop & implement fisheries improvement projects
- Produce solar or wind energy
- Logging of trees for sale
- Cut and/or remove trees for own use
- Collect nontimber forest products for own use or sale
- Road construction or maintenance

	Extremely likely	Likely	Undecided	Unlikely	Extremely Unlikely

3 a What information or advice would be helpful to you about managing and protecting your timberland in Grant County?

- I don't want/need advice or information
- Advice on timberland management
- Advice on how to transfer land to next generation
- Advice on selling or giving away development rights
- Cost-sharing for timberland management
- Finding stronger timber markets
- Information on the control of invasive juniper
- Information on control of noxious weeds
- Wildlife management information & advice
- Non-timber resource management information
- Other - please specify

3 b If you would like information or advice, how would you prefer to get advice or information related to your timberland?

- From an Extension forester
- From a land management agency professional
- From a private forestry consultant
- Written materials, brochures or other publications
- Internet
- Conference or workshop
- Other - please specify

4 Please indicate your level of concern about each of the following topics for your timberland in Grant County.

- Damage from animals such as gophers, deer & elk, bear
- Lack of viable markets for forest products
- Damage or noise from off road vehicles
- Development of nearby lands
- High property taxes
- Invasive plant species and noxious weeds
- Keeping land intact for future generations
- Misuse of timberland, such as vandalism or dumping
- Trespassing or poaching
- Unwanted insects or diseases
- Watershed health
- Wildfire
- Invasion of Juniper
- Risk of insects, disease or wildfire from federal lands
- Other please specify

Extremely concerned	Somewhat concerned	Not concerned	Not applicable

5 a Have any trees been cut or removed for wood products from your timberland in Grant County since you have owned it?

Yes
 No

5 b If yes, how long ago were trees removed for wood products? Please check all that apply.

Last 2 Years	3 - 5 Years	6 - 10 years	More than 10 years

5 c What were the wood products removed? For personal use For Sale

Firewood	Sawlogs	Woodchip-pulp logs	Posts or poles	Other

6 a Have you ever leased or collected money (other than from wood products) for allowing people to use your timberland in Grant County?

Yes
 No

6 b If yes, what did they use it for? Check all that apply.

- Hunting
- Recreation (other than hunting)
- To graze/pasture livestock
- Land conservation or Conservation Reserve
- Public water supply protection
- Improve wildlife or fisheries habitat/biodiversity
- Other - please specify

7 a Have you ever used a cost-share program to help you manage your timber or non timber resources on your timberland in Grant County?

Yes
 No

7 b Do you anticipate using these programs in the future?

Yes
 No

7 c Please specify which cost-share programs you have used or will likely use.

8 To encourage good timberland management, groups have created green certification programs to recognize landowners who comply with the groups' standards, e.g. American Tree Farm, Forest Stewardship Council (FSC), and Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI).

8 a Is any of your timberland in Grant County currently green certified?

Yes
 No

8 b If yes, which certification system

- SFI Forest Certification
- FSC Forest certification
- American Tree Farm
- Other - please specify

8 c If yes, do you anticipate maintaining this certification

Yes
 No

8 d Do you believe these certification programs add value? Yes No

9 a Have development rights been sold or voluntarily given away on any of your timberland in Grant County by either you or a previous owner? Yes No Don't know

9 b If No or Don't know, how likely are you to do so in the next 5 years?

Extremely likely	Likely	Undecided	Unlikely	Extremely Unlikely	Don't care to answer

10 a How likely is it that you will sell, give away or develop any of your timberland in Grant County in the next 5 years?

Extremely likely	Likely	Undecided	Unlikely	Extremely Unlikely	Don't care to answer

10 b Why are you planning to sell it, give it away or develop it? Check all that apply

<input type="checkbox"/>	I am ready to sell it at right price
<input type="checkbox"/>	Too expensive to hold or maintain
<input type="checkbox"/>	I need the money for other purposes
<input type="checkbox"/>	No longer interested in owning it
<input type="checkbox"/>	Too much work to maintain
<input type="checkbox"/>	To live elsewhere
<input type="checkbox"/>	Land not profitable for production of timber
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other - please specify
<input type="checkbox"/>	Don't care to answer

10 c Is there anything that could persuade you to Not sell, give away or develop your timberland? If yes, please explain below Yes No Don't care to answer

11 a How likely is it that you will harvest timber from your timberland in Grant County in the next five years?

Extremely likely	Likely	Undecided	Unlikely	Extremely Unlikely

11 b How concerned are you about being able to sell your timber for a reasonable profit in the next five years?

Extremely concerned	Somewhat concerned	Not concerned	Not applicable

11 c How concerned are you about the possible loss of local sawmills & other infrastructure for maintaining a viable place to sell your timber?

Extremely concerned	Somewhat concerned	Not concerned	Not applicable

12 a Do you consider invasive juniper a problem on your timberland? Yes No

12 b If yes, which programs for assistance with juniper control are of interest to you?

<input type="checkbox"/>	Advice on effective juniper control techniques
<input type="checkbox"/>	Cost-share programs
<input type="checkbox"/>	Labor and/or equipment for prescribed burning
<input type="checkbox"/>	Insurance for prescribed burning liability
<input type="checkbox"/>	Chemical control methods
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mechanical control methods
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other, please specify

13 Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statements:

Definitely agree	Agree	Undecided	Do not agree	Definitely do not agree	No Comment

14 a Would you be willing to manage your timberlands as part of a cooperative effort to help maintain infrastructure and employment in Grant County

<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes
<input type="checkbox"/>	No
<input type="checkbox"/>	Undecided

14 b If yes, please rate the following

	Very Important	Important	Neutral	Not Important	Undecided	Don't care to answer
Receiving cash flow from cooperative's activities each year						
Retaining access to use my land for uses other than timber production						
Maintaining the right to sub-divide my property and/or use it any way I want						
Controlling other parties access to my land for cooperative management activities						
Providing a mechanism for efficient estate planning						

15 Are you a resident of Grant County?

<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes
<input type="checkbox"/>	No

16 Are you retired?

<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes
<input type="checkbox"/>	No

17 What is your gender?

<input type="checkbox"/>	Male
<input type="checkbox"/>	Female

18 What is your age?

0-20	21-40	41-64	65+
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

19 How many acres of timberland do you own in Grant county?

1-100	101-500	501-1000	1000 +
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

20 Which category below best describes your ownership?
Check only one.

<input type="checkbox"/>	Individual or Joint, such as a husband & wife
<input type="checkbox"/>	Family partnership
<input type="checkbox"/>	Trust or estate
<input type="checkbox"/>	Corporation or business partnership
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other (please specify):

21 If there are any additional comments or concerns that you would like to share, please add them on an additional paper and return with questionnaire.

Thank you for completing this survey

4. SURVEY RESULTS

Grant County Private Timberland Survey Results
All responses, n=104

How important are the following as reasons for why you currently own timberland in Grant County?

	Extremely Important	Important	Somewhat Important	Not Important	Not applicable	No Answer
To enjoy beauty or scenery, aesthetics	39%	36%	18%	2%	0%	5%
To protect nature or biological diversity	29%	26%	27%	10%	1%	8%
For land investment	19%	38%	23%	9%	1%	10%
Is part of my home site/primary residence	15%	15%	10%	10%	38%	13%
Is part of my farm or ranch	33%	22%	10%	7%	22%	7%
For nontimber forest products, such as mushrooms or berries	3%	5%	8%	41%	33%	11%
To produce primary or supplemental income	17%	18%	22%	22%	14%	6%
To pass land on to my children or other heirs	35%	26%	23%	9%	6%	2%
For timber products, such as logs or pulpwood	21%	32%	22%	13%	7%	5%
For hunting	28%	34%	21%	10%	1%	7%
For recreation, other than hunting	19%	36%	28%	9%	3%	6%
To protect water resources	21%	26%	34%	7%	6%	7%
To protect or improve wildlife habitat	24%	39%	18%	6%	4%	9%
For a second or vacation home	12%	17%	10%	20%	28%	13%
Other (please specify)	1%	0%	0%	1%	13%	85%

How likely are the following management practices to occur on your timberland in Grant County in the next five years?

	Extremely likely	Likely	Undecided	Unlikely	Extremely Unlikely	No Answer
Thin trees to reduce fire risk	37%	31%	13%	8%	7%	5%
Thin trees to reduce risk of insects or disease	36%	33%	11%	12%	5%	5%
Plant trees	14%	14%	17%	34%	14%	6%
Develop opportunities for commercial recreation such as fee hunting	5%	7%	9%	32%	39%	9%
Improve wildlife habitat	26%	38%	18%	7%	2%	10%
Restore riparian areas	16%	25%	21%	18%	10%	10%
Make rangeland improvements such as brush or juniper control	31%	29%	9%	13%	13%	7%
Remove or reduce noxious plant species	31%	33%	18%	7%	5%	7%
Plant native plants	12%	14%	22%	30%	15%	7%
Use certified organic production practices	2%	8%	19%	33%	28%	11%
Use prescribed fire for vegetation management	17%	19%	17%	21%	20%	5%
Manage livestock grazing practices for rangeland health	40%	25%	4%	10%	19%	2%
Develop & implement fisheries improvement projects	6%	13%	15%	27%	25%	14%
Produce solar or wind energy	11%	10%	16%	28%	27%	9%
Logging of trees for sale	18%	29%	17%	14%	15%	6%
Cut and/or remove trees for own use	21%	31%	16%	16%	11%	5%
Collect nontimber forest products for own use or sale	4%	12%	12%	35%	27%	12%
Road construction or maintenance	13%	35%	14%	12%	15%	11%

What information or advice would be helpful to you about managing and protecting your timberland in Grant County?

14%	don't want/need advice or information
37%	Advice on timberland management
23%	Advice on how to transfer land to next generation
7%	Advice on selling or giving away development rights
38%	Cost-sharing for timberland management
39%	Finding stronger timber markets
38%	Information on the control of invasive juniper
41%	Information on control of noxious weeds
37%	Wildlife management information & advice
7%	Non-timber resource management information
	Other - please specify

If you would like information or advice, how would you prefer to get advice or information related to your timberland?

40%	From an Extension forester
21%	From a land management agency professional
19%	From a private forestry consultant
47%	Written materials, brochures or other publications
24%	Internet
24%	Conference or workshop
	Other - please specify

Please indicate your level of concern about each of the following topics for your timberland in Grant County.

- Damage from animals such as gophers, deer & elk, bear
- Lack of viable markets for forest products
- Damage or noise from off road vehicles
- Development of nearby lands
- High property taxes
- Invasive plant species and noxious weeds
- Keeping land intact for future generations
- Misuse of timberland, such as vandalism or dumping
- Trespassing or poaching
- Unwanted insects or diseases
- Watershed health
- Wildfire
- Invasion of Juniper
- Risk of insects, disease or wildfire from federal lands
- Other please specify

Extremely concerned	Concerned	Somewhat concerned	Not concerned	Not applicable
3%	15%	16%	54%	5%
31%	23%	21%	14%	4%
5%	13%	16%	48%	10%
13%	12%	20%	40%	5%
35%	29%	22%	7%	1%
21%	37%	25%	7%	2%
39%	35%	11%	9%	0%
23%	21%	23%	20%	3%
37%	37%	13%	7%	1%
35%	35%	19%	4%	0%
38%	18%	19%	12%	2%
60%	25%	8%	1%	1%
26%	27%	14%	20%	1%
45%	25%	14%	5%	2%
14%	29%	14%	0%	43%

Have any trees been cut or removed for wood products from your timberland in Grant County since you have owned it?

76%	Yes
24%	No

If yes, how long ago were trees removed for wood products? Please check all that apply.

Last 2 Years	3 - 5 Years	6 - 10 years	More than 10 years
33%	22%	24%	21%

What were the wood products removed?

- For personal use
- For Sale

Firewood	Sawlogs	Woodchip-pulp logs	Posts or poles	Other
68%	26%	4%	2%	
5%	92%	0%	3%	

Have you ever leased or collected money (other than from wood products) for allowing people to use your timberland in Grant County?

44%	Yes
56%	No

If yes, what did they use it for? Check all that apply.

13%	Hunting
3%	Recreation (other than hunting)
36%	To graze/pasture livestock
6%	Land conservation or Conservation Reserve
0%	Public water supply protection
9%	Improve wildlife or fisheries habitat/biodiversity
1%	Other - please specify

Have you ever used a cost-share program to help you manage your timber or non timber resources on your timberland in Grant County?

50%	Yes
50%	No

Do you anticipate using these programs in the future?

62%	Yes
38%	No

Please specify which cost-share programs you have used or will likely use.

To encourage good timberland management, groups have created green certification programs to recognize landowners who comply with the groups' standards, e.g. American Tree Farm, Forest Stewardship Council(FSC), and Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI)

Is any of your timberland in Grant County currently green certified?

9%	Yes
91%	No

If yes, which certification system

0%	SFI Forest Certification
29%	FSC Forest certification
71%	American Tree Farm
0%	Other- please specify

If yes, do you anticipate maintaining this certification

63%	Yes
38%	No

Do you believe these certification programs add value?

58%	Yes
42%	No

Have development rights been sold or voluntarily given away on any of your timberland in Grant County by either you or a previous owner?

4%	Yes
87%	No
9%	Don't know

If No or Don't know, how likely are you to do so in the next 5 years?

Extremely likely	Likely	Undecided	Unlikely	Extremely unlikely	Don't care to answer
4%	1%	15%	23%	54%	3%

How likely is it that you will sell, give away or develop any of your timberland in Grant County in the next 5 years?

Extremely likely	Likely	Undecided	Unlikely	Extremely unlikely	Don't care to answer
6%	11%	15%	24%	40%	3%

Why are you planning to sell it, give it away or develop it?
Check all that apply

13%	I am ready to sell it at right price
4%	Too expensive to hold or maintain
5%	I need the money for other purposes
2%	No longer interested in owning it
2%	Too much work to maintain
1%	To live elsewhere
4%	Land not profitable for production of timber
1%	Other - please specify
14%	Don't care to answer

Is there anything that could persuade you to Not sell, give away or develop your timberland?
If yes, please explain below

29%	Yes
38%	No
33%	Don't care to answer

How likely is it that you will harvest timber from your timberland in Grant County in the next five years?

Extremely likely	Likely	Undecided	Unlikely	Extremely unlikely
19%	21%	19%	22%	20%

How concerned are you about being able to sell your timber for a reasonable profit in the next five years?

Extremely concerned	Concerned	Somewhat concerned	Not concerned	Not applicable
34%	19%	18%	23%	0

How concerned are you about the possible loss of local sawmills & other infrastructure for maintaining a viable place to sell your timber?

Extremely concerned	Concerned	Somewhat concerned	Not concerned	Not applicable
47%	25%	14%	9%	5%

Do you consider invasive juniper a problem on your timberland?

55%	Yes
45%	No

If yes, which programs for assistance with juniper control are of interest to you?

25%	Advice on effective juniper control techniques
45%	Cost-share programs
21%	Labor and/or equipment for prescribed burning
19%	Insurance for prescribed burning liability
12%	Chemical control methods
30%	Mechanical control methods
0%	Other, please specify

Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statements:

Definitely agree	Agree	Undecided	Do not agree	Definitely do not agree	No Comment
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Grant County private timberlands are at risk because of conversion & development pressures

11%	26%	25%	21%	14%	3%
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	----

Federal timberlands in Grant County have a role in the protection and restoration of private timberland in Grant County

33%	36%	15%	4%	9%	2%
-----	-----	-----	----	----	----

Grant County needs to provide long-term protection to private timberlands that may be faced with conversion and development pressure.

23%	28%	25%	14%	8%	2%
-----	-----	-----	-----	----	----

Grant County should acquire timberlands and/or industrial sites to assist in protecting its citizens from the long term consequences of wildfire & other threats to timberlands

2%	14%	31%	24%	24%	5%
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Would you be willing to manage your timberlands as part of a cooperative effort to help maintain infrastructure and employment in Grant County	22%	Yes
	28%	No
	49%	Undecided

If yes, please rate the following

- Receiving cash flow from cooperative's activities each year
- Retaining access to use my land for uses other than timber production
- Maintaining the right to sub-divide my property and/or use it any way i want
- Controlling other parties access to my land for cooperative management activities
- Providing a mechanism for efficient estate planning

	Very Important	Important	Neutral	Not Important	Undecided	Don't care to answer
Receiving cash flow from cooperative's activities each year	6%	39%	35%	13%	3%	3%
Retaining access to use my land for uses other than timber production	65%	26%	0%	3%	3%	3%
Maintaining the right to sub-divide my property and/or use it any way i want	37%	30%	13%	10%	7%	3%
Controlling other parties access to my land for cooperative management activities	53%	31%	0%	6%	6%	3%
Providing a mechanism for efficient estate planning	38%	38%	10%	7%	3%	3%

Are you a resident of Grant County?	46%	Yes
	54%	No

Are you retired?	57%	Yes
	43%	No

What is your gender?	82%	Male
	18%	Female

What is your age?	0-20	21-40	41-64	65+
	0%	1%	52%	47%

How many acres of timberland do you own in Grant county?	1-100	101-500	501-1000	1000 +
	12%	27%	23%	39%

Which category below best describes your ownership? Check only one.	53%	Individual or Joint, such as a husband & wife
	17%	Family partnership
	17%	Trust or estate
	13%	Corporation or business partnership
	0%	Other (please specify):