

Preliminary Results

Central Oregon Land Owner Survey- 2012



Research Team:

Brent S Steel, Professor
Eric White, Research Economist

Student Researchers:

Kelly Dickinson
Matthew Getchell
Carla Mooney
Suman Pant
Lawrence Ruiz
Abbie Sigmon
Ashley Tran
Ryan Young

**School of Public Policy
300E Gilkey Hall
Oregon State University
Corvallis, Oregon 97331-6206
541-737-2811**

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The following are results for Central Oregon Landowner Survey conducted between March and June 2012. The survey was administered to a random sample of 1,209 households, where the recipients were asked to respond to questions related to land management issues and wildfire in Central Oregon.

We present preliminary results for several questions below. Because of rounding, percentages may total between 99% and 101%. Also, the open-ended questions are excluded in the following results.

Sample Size:	1,209
Surveys returned:	379
Response rate:	31%

1) In what year did you become the owner of this parcel?

Average year: 1989

2) How did you acquire this parcel? (select one)

Purchased from a stranger	60%
Purchased from a friend/acquaintance	11.2%
Purchased from a family member or inherited	12%
Received as a gift	2.4%
Other	14.4%

3) Which, if any, of the following factors influenced your decision to become a landowner **in Central Oregon**? (check all that apply)

Natural amenities	50.4%
Recreation opportunities	48.8%
Employment opportunities	8.7%
Cost of land relative to elsewhere	33.2%
For timber, agriculture, or ranching opportunities	23.2%
Land investment opportunities	33.2%
I've always lived here	7.1%
Family landholding	14.0%
To be near family	7.9%
Other	16.4%

4) Is there a house, mobile home, or other type of residential structure on the parcel?

Yes (go to question 4a)	60.7%
No (go to question 5)	39.3%

4a) Is this structure: (check all that apply)

A primary residence	42.5%
A seasonal residence	15.8%
Rented out for use by others	3.4%
Unused	2.4%

4b) "Firewise" activities include planting fire-resistant landscape plants, using non-flammable construction materials, pruning branches within 85 feet of your house, reducing the density of trees within 100 feet of the residence, as well as other activities to reduce fire risk near a home. Within the last five years, have you completed any "firewise" activities in the immediate vicinity of the residence?

Yes	88.4%
No	11.6%

5) How important are each of the following as reasons for why you own **this particular** parcel? (circle one response for each item)

	Very important	Important	Unsure	Somewhat important	Not Important
For production of timber	5.6%	10.6%	3.5%	13.5%	66.8%
For production of non-timber forest products	2.1%	6.1%	4.3%	10.1%	77.3%
For farming	5.8%	7.3%	2.4%	8.6%	75.8%
For ranching	11.3%	11.9%	4.0%	6.7%	66.1%
As a residence	49.3%	15.9%	7.9%	6.8%	20.1%
Access to recreation	32.4%	29.4%	7.9%	11.4%	19.0%
For land investment	26.6%	32.9%	8.4%	15.3%	16.8%
For privacy	48.0%	24.7%	7.2%	7.2%	12.9%
Scenic views	39.1%	30.3%	6.9%	10.0%	13.7%
Family landholding	25.8%	20.3%	9.4%	10.9%	33.6%
Land stewardship	21.8%	23.6%	13.5%	11.0%	30.1%
School district	2.2%	7.5%	5.6%	7.8%	76.9%
To live near town	1.5%	10.5%	6.3%	10.5%	71.1%
To live far from town	14.8%	19.9%	6.0%	16.9%	42.3%

6) Which of the following conditions and events **on surrounding public or private lands** would influence **your decisions** about management on your parcel? (circle all that apply)

	On a neighboring parcel you <u>share</u> a boundary with	On a nearby parcel you <u>don't</u> share a boundary with	On a parcel within several miles of yours	On forestlands within your local watershed	Does not influence my decisions
A wildfire...	48.8%	22.7%	18.2%	16.9%	19.3%
A controlled burn or prescribed fire...	33.0%	21.9%	13.2%	10.0%	29.6%
A tree insect infestation or tree disease outbreak...	43.5%	27.4%	19.5%	20.1%	17.4%
Invasive plants establishing...	42.0%	25.6%	15.0%	15.8%	19.0%
Amount of wildlife habitat...	40.6%	20.8%	15.0%	16.9%	22.2%
New residential development...	38.5%	20.1%	17.4%	11.6%	24.5%
Recreation activity...	26.1%	20.8%	16.6%	13.2%	28.8%
Commercial timber harvest...	24.8%	17.2%	11.6%	12.7%	35.4%
Thinning or other fuel reduction...	34.6%	21.9%	15.0%	12.1%	26.9%
High vegetation fuel loads...	43.3%	25.1%	15.3%	12.1%	19.0%

In the next four questions, we would like to know about conditions and events that have occurred in the past, or might occur in the future, on your parcel and surrounding lands.

7) Within the **last five years**, have any of the following occurred on your parcel or nearby **public or private lands**? (select one response for each item)

	Yes	No	Unsure
A wildfire occurred...			
on my parcel	4.5%	82.9%	12.6%
on a neighboring parcel you share a boundary with	9.9%	73.6%	16.5%
on a nearby parcel you don't share a boundary with	20.4%	57.6%	22.0%
on a parcel within several miles of yours	40.5%	30.1%	29.5%
on forestlands within your local watershed	43.1%	24.6%	32.3%
A controlled burn or prescribed fire occurred...			
on my parcel	12.4%	69.7%	17.9%
on a neighboring parcel you share a boundary with	14.2%	62.3%	23.5%
on a nearby parcel you don't share a boundary with	21.2%	49.4%	29.4%
on a parcel within several miles of yours	35.6%	28.7%	35.6%
on forestlands within your local watershed	43.2%	20.7%	36.0%
A tree insect infestation or tree disease outbreak occurred...			
on my parcel	20.6%	54.9%	24.6%
on a neighboring parcel you share a boundary with	20.8%	45.4%	33.8%
on a nearby parcel you don't share a boundary with	23.7%	33.2%	43.0%
on a parcel within several miles of yours	32.8%	20.5%	46.6%
on forestlands within your local watershed	36.0%	16.9%	47.1%
Construction of a residential or commercial structure occurred...			
on my parcel	14.9%	74.6%	10.5%
on a neighboring parcel you share a boundary with	25.8%	56.4%	17.8%
on a nearby parcel you don't share a boundary with	44.6%	28.7%	26.7%
on a parcel within several miles of yours	51.6%	15.7%	32.7%
on forestlands within your local watershed	27.4%	23.8%	48.8%
Invasive plant species became established...			
on my parcel	17.4%	52.5%	30.1%
on a neighboring parcel you share a boundary with	21.6%	36.8%	41.5%
on a nearby parcel you don't share a boundary with	22.6%	22.4%	55.0%
on a parcel within several miles of yours	24.6%	16.0%	59.5%
on forestlands within your local watershed	24.7%	13.8%	61.5%

8) What do you believe is the chance that the following will occur **in the next 5 years?** (mark an "X" along the scale)

8.a) A fire begins on **my** property and damages trees

Marked Average:	9.22% (by 81.8% respondents)
Unsure:	18.2%

8.b) A fire begins on **nearby private** land and damages trees on **my** parcel

Marked Average:	28.85% (by 80.4% respondents)
Unsure:	18.5%
No private land nearby:	1.1%

8.c) A fire begins on **nearby public** land and damages trees on **my** parcel

Marked Average:	31.15% (by 79.7% respondents)
Unsure:	17.7%
No private land nearby:	2.6%

8.d) A tree insect infestation or tree disease outbreak begins on **my** property and damages trees

Marked Average:	25.1% (by 77.8% respondents)
Unsure:	22.2%

8.e) A tree insect infestation or tree disease outbreak on **nearby private** land spreads to **my** parcel

Marked Average:	31.1% (by 74.2% respondents)
Unsure:	24.5%
No private land nearby:	1.3%

8.f) A tree insect infestation or tree disease outbreak on **nearby public** land spreads to **my** parcel

Marked Average:	7.1% (by 73.6% respondents)
Unsure:	23.2%
No private land nearby:	3.2%

8.g) Invasive plants become established on **my** property

Marked Average:	27.33% (by 78.6% respondents)
Unsure:	21.4%

8.h) Invasive plants on **nearby private** land spread to **my** parcel

Marked Average:	34.19% (by 75.7% respondents)
Unsure:	23.0%
No private land nearby:	1.3%

8.i) Invasive plants on **nearby public** land spread to **my** parcel

Marked Average:	36.58% (by 74.4% respondents)
Unsure:	23.0%
No private land nearby:	2.6%

9) When answering Question 8, how far from your parcel are the **private** lands you were considering? (select one)

Only those that share a boundary with my parcel	31.7%
Those within (Avg: 4.94) miles of my parcel, including those I share a boundary with:	50.4%
There are no private lands near me	1.4%
Unsure	16.5%

10) When answering Question 8, how far from your parcel are the **public** lands you were considering? (select one)

Only those that share a boundary with my parcel	27.5%
Those within (Avg: 6.48) miles of my parcel, including those I share a boundary with	47.0%
There are no public lands near me	5.1%
Unsure	20.4%

Next, we would like to know about management activities that have occurred on your parcel and those lands around your parcel.

11) In the **last 5 years**, what type of harvest was used **in the most recent sale** of mature trees harvested from your parcel? (select one)

No commercial harvesting has occurred on my parcel	88.6%
Clearcutting	0.3%
Selective harvest	8.8%
Harvesting has occurred but I don't know what type	2.3%

12) In the **last 5 years**, did you conduct any thinning on your parcel?

Yes	go to question 12a	38.6%
No	go to question 13	61.4%

12a) Did the sale of cut material offset your thinning costs?

Yes	go to question 12b	13.2%
No	go to question 13	86.8%

12b) How much did the sale of cut material offset your thinning costs?

Less than 50% of my costs	54.3%
More than 50% of my costs but not all	20.0%
All my costs	17.1%
All my costs plus a profit	8.6%

13) In the **last 5 years**, have any of the following management actions occurred on your parcel or nearby **public or private lands**? (select one response for each item)

	Yes	No	Unsure
Cut timber for sale...			
on my parcel	4.6%	88.1%	7.3%
on a neighboring parcel you share a boundary with	14.6%	57.0%	28.4%
on a nearby parcel you don't share a boundary with	17.9%	41.6%	40.4%
on a parcel within several miles of yours	29.0%	19.2%	51.8%
on forestlands within your local watershed	30.9%	13.9%	55.2%
Controlled burn/prescribed fire...			
on my parcel	13.1%	77.3%	9.6%
on a neighboring parcel you share a boundary with	13.5%	59.9%	26.6%
on a nearby parcel you don't share a boundary with	18.0%	43.4%	38.5%
on a parcel within several miles of yours	32.6%	20.8%	46.6%
on forestlands within your local watershed	38.5%	13.3%	48.2%
Tree thinning to improve commercial timber value...			
on my parcel	11.8%	79.9%	8.3%
on a neighboring parcel you share a boundary with	11.6%	57.1%	31.3%
on a nearby parcel you don't share a boundary with	13.3%	39.3%	47.4%
on a parcel within several miles of yours	22.9%	17.5%	59.6%
on forestlands within your local watershed	27.2%	11.0%	61.8%
Tree thinning to reduce fire danger or improve forest conditions...			
on my parcel	40.5%	52.2%	7.3%
on a neighboring parcel you share a boundary with	29.8%	37.3%	32.8%
on a nearby parcel you don't share a boundary with	28.4%	22.7%	48.9%
on a parcel within several miles of yours	33.5%	10.8%	55.7%
on forestlands within your local watershed	36.1%	7.8%	56.1%
Mowing or cutting forest understory vegetation...			
on my parcel	39.8%	51.5%	8.8%
on a neighboring parcel you share a boundary with	27.4%	37.2%	35.4%
on a nearby parcel you don't share a boundary with	24.2%	23.6%	52.1%
on a parcel within several miles of yours	25.1%	15.0%	59.9%
on forestlands within your local watershed	25.8%	14.2%	60.0%

In the next several questions, we would like to know about future management activities you might consider and how changing conditions might influence your willingness to complete those management activities.

14) Would you consider thinning trees on this parcel in the future?

Yes (go to question 15) 70%

No, not under any condition (go to question 16) 30%

15) If your parcel had more trees per acre than was recommended for your forest type, how would recovery of thinning costs influence your decision to thin? (select one response for each item)

	Thin trees?		
	Likely	Unlikely	Unsure
Offset no costs	41.6%	34.3%	24.1%
Offset 50% of costs	35.5%	36.4%	28.1%
Offset 75% of costs	42.5%	29.6%	27.9%
Offset 90% of costs	50.2%	21.4%	28.4%
Break even	64.4%	12.7%	22.9%
Make 10% more than cost	61.3%	12.4%	26.2%
Make 25% more than cost	63.1%	11.6%	25.3%
Make 50% more than cost	69.9%	7.9%	22.3%

16) Would you consider harvesting timber for commercial sale on this parcel in the future?

Yes (go to question 17) 37.6%

No, not under any conditions (go to question 18) 62.4%

17) When your trees are old enough to sell, how does a change in timber value influence your decision to complete commercial harvest? (select one response for each item)

	Complete harvest?		
	Likely	Unlikely	Unsure
Profits decline 50%	3.1%	72.4%	24.5%
Profits decline 25%	2.5%	71.4%	26.1%
Profits decline 10%	4.4%	65.6%	30.0%
Timber profit at current level	19.3%	48.8%	31.9%
Profits increase 10%	26.9%	45.0%	28.1%
Profits increase 25%	45.0%	30.0%	25.0%
Profits increase 50%	59.1%	19.5%	21.3%

18) If it would reduce the potential damage to your parcel from wildfire, would you consider treating (thinning trees, mowing grass, cutting brush) the vegetative fuels on this parcel in the future?

Yes (go to question 19)	86.5%
No, not under any conditions (go to question 20)	13.5%

19) If a reduction in vegetation fuels could reduce any damage to your property from wildfire, how would a change in likelihood of wildfire reaching or burning your parcel change your decision to reduce vegetative fuels? (select one response for each item)

	Reduce fuels?		
	Likely	Unlikely	Unsure
Fire likelihood declines by 50%	60.7%	15.3%	24.0%
Fire likelihood declines by 25%	53.9%	18.8%	27.3%
Fire likelihood declines by 10%	49.0%	21.6%	29.4%
No change in fire likelihood	34.8%	30.9%	34.4%
Fire likelihood increases by 10%	43.5%	25.7%	30.8%
Fire likelihood increases by 25%	49.6%	23.2%	27.2%
Fire likelihood increases by 50%	53.7%	20.4%	25.9%

Next, we ask about the types of organizations you belong to and your activities with those organizations

20) Do you receive information or technical assistance from any of the following organizations? (check all that apply for each organization)

	None	Technical publications	Financial assistance	Workshops	Advice from employees	Rank (Average)
Natural Resources Conservation Service (Soil Conservation Service)	60.8%	7.7%	4.8%	2.4%	5.0%	1.63
U.S. Forest Service	55.3%	14.8%	1.3%	1.9%	8.7%	2.3
Oregon Department of Forestry	53.2%	17.7%	2.6%	2.9%	10.8%	1.67
Local watershed council	61.6%	4.0%	1.3%	2.6%	3.2%	2.8
University extension office	57.9%	9.5%	0.0%	4.5%	6.3%	2.55
Other (please specify)	47.9%	1.3%	0.0%	0.3%	0.5%	2.0

21) With whom do you discuss management of your parcel? (check all that apply)

Family members that live in my household	54%
Neighbors/family/friends that I share a parcel boundary with	30.7%
Neighbors/family/friends who live near my parcel but I don't share a boundary with	25.1%
Family members who don't live near my parcel	19.8%
Friends or co-workers who don't live near my parcel	13.5%
Other (please specify) _____	9.3%
I don't discuss management of my parcel with others	27.2%

Finally, in order for us to better understand peoples' responses, we need to know a few things about your background. Please remember your identity will NOT be linked directly to your responses.

22) In what year were you born? Average year = 1947

23) How long have you resided in Lake, Klamath, Deschutes, or Jefferson counties?

Respondents reside in the counties	58.8%
Average years of residence	29 years
I don't reside in those counties	41.2% in counties

24) What is the highest level of education you have completed? (select one)

8 th grade or less	0.6%
Some high school	1.1%
High school or GED	19.0%
Associate's degree, technical degree, or some college	29.2%
Bachelor's degree	27.2%
Master's, doctoral, or professional degree	22.9%

25) Gender:

Male	72.6%
Female	27.4%

26) What is your annual household income before taxes? (select one)

Less than \$14,999	6.3%
\$50,000 to \$74,999	5.0%
\$15,000 to \$24,999	21.5%
\$75,000 to \$99,999	18.6%
\$25,000 to \$49,999	13.9%
\$100,000 or more	34.7%