



FOREST TEMPLATE DWELLING

A Forest Template Dwelling may be allowed in the Forest (F-1) zone, subject to the applicable standards from Section 4.04(C), 4.04(F), 4.06, 4.07, and 4.09 of the Hood River County Zoning Ordinance.

Section 4.04(C) – Forest Template Dwelling:

- A. The lot or parcel is predominantly composed of soils that are:
1. Capable of producing zero to 49 cubic per acre per year of wood fiber if:
 - a. All or part of at least three other lots or parcels that existed on January 1, 1993, are within a 160-acre square centered on the center of the subject tract; and
 - b. At least three dwellings existed on January 1, 1993 and continue to exist on the other lots or parcels.
 2. Capable of producing 50 to 85 cubic feet per acre per year of wood fiber if:
 - a. All or part of at least seven other lots or parcels that existed on January 1, 1993, are within a 160-acre square centered on the center of the subject tract; and
 - b. At least three dwellings existed on January 1, 1993 and continue to exist on the other lots or parcels.
 3. Capable of producing more than 85 cubic feet per acre per year of wood fiber if:
 - a. All or part of at least eleven other lots or parcels that existed on January 1, 1993, are within a 160-acre square centered on the center of the subject tract; and
 - b. At least three dwellings existed on January 1, 1993 and continue to exist on the other lots or parcels.
 4. Lots or parcels within urban growth boundaries shall not be used to satisfy eligibility requirements.
 5. A dwelling is in the 160-acre template if any part of the dwelling is in the 160-acre template.
 6. Except as provided by Subsection (7), if the subject tract abuts a road that existed on January 1, 1993, the measurement may be made by creating a 160-acre rectangle that is one mile long and 1/4 mile wide centered on the center of the subject tract and that is to the maximum extent possible, aligned with the road.

7. The following applies where a tract 60-acres or larger abuts a road or perennial stream:
 - a. One of the three required dwellings shall be on the same side of the road or stream as the tract, and:
 - i. Be located within a 160-acre rectangle that is one mile long and one-quarter mile wide centered on the center of the subject tract and that is, to the maximum extent possible aligned with the road or stream; or
 - ii. Be within one-quarter mile from the edge of the subject tract but not outside the length of the 160-acre rectangle, and on the same side of the road or stream as the tract.
 - b. If a road crosses the tract on which the dwelling will be located, at least one of the three required dwellings shall be on the same side of the road as the proposed dwelling.
8. A proposed “template” dwelling under this Ordinance is not allowed:
 - a. If it is prohibited by or will not comply with the requirements of an acknowledged comprehensive plan, acknowledged land use regulations, or other provisions of law;
 - b. Unless it complies with the requirements of Section 4.06 and 4.07 (*listed below*);
 - c. Unless deed restrictions are recorded pursuant to Subsection 4.04(A)(3) of the County Zoning Ordinance for all other lots or parcels that make up the tract;
 - d. If the tract on which the dwelling will be sited includes a dwelling; or
 - e. If the property is zoned F-2.

Section 4.04(F) –Other Forest Zone Criteria:

- A. The landowner shall sign and record in the deed records for the county a document binding the landowner, and the landowner's successors in interest, prohibiting them from pursuing a claim for relief or cause of action alleging injury from farming or forest practices for which no action or claim is allowed under ORS 30.936 or 30.937.

Section 4.06 – Siting Standards for Dwellings and Structures: The following siting criteria or their equivalent shall apply to all new dwellings and structures in the F-1 and F-2 zones. These criteria are designed to make such uses compatible with forest operations, to minimize wildfire hazards and risks and to conserve values found on forest lands. The County shall consider the criteria in this section together with the requirements of Section 4.07 to identify the building site:

- A. Dwellings and structures shall be sited on the parcel so that:
 1. They have the least impact on nearby or adjoining forest or agricultural lands;
 2. The siting ensures that adverse impacts on forest operations and accepted farming practices on the tract will be minimized;

3. The amount of forest lands used to site access roads, service corridors, the dwelling and structures is minimized;
 4. The risks associated with wildfire are minimized.
- B. Siting criteria satisfying Subsection (A) above may include setbacks from adjoining properties, clustering near or among existing structures, siting close to existing roads and siting on that portion of the parcel least suited for growing trees.
- C. Dwellings shall comply with applicable provisions of Article 50 – Buffer Requirements.
- D. The applicant shall provide evidence to the governing body that the domestic water supply is from a source authorized in accordance with the Water Resources Department's administrative rules for the appropriation of ground water or surface water and not from a Type F of Type N streams as defined in the Forest Practices rules (OAR chapter 629-635-0200). For purposes of this section, evidence of a domestic water supply means:
1. Verification from a water purveyor that the use described in the application will be served by the purveyor under the purveyor's rights to appropriate water;
 2. A water use permit issued by the Water Resources Department for the use described in the application; or
 3. Verification from the Water Resources Department that a water use permit is not required for the use described in the application. If the proposed water supply is from a well and is exempt from permitting requirements under ORS 537.545, the applicant shall submit the well constructor's report to the county upon completion of the well.
- E. As a condition of approval, if road access to the dwelling is by a road owned and maintained by a private party, the U.S. Bureau of Land Management, or the U.S. Forest Service, then the applicant shall provide proof of a long-term road access use permit or agreement. The road use permit may require the applicant to agree to accept responsibility for road maintenance.
- F. Approval of a dwelling shall be subject to the following requirements:
1. Approval of a dwelling requires the owner of the tract to plant a sufficient number of seedlings, saplings, poles, or trees on the tract, and if not to plant sufficient seedlings on the tract to demonstrate that the tract is reasonably expected to meet Department of Forestry stocking requirements at the time specified in Department of Forestry administrative rules OAR 629-610-0020;
 2. The planning department shall notify the County Department of Records and Assessment of the above condition at the time the dwelling is approved;

3. The county governing body or its designate shall require as a condition of approval of a single-family dwelling under ORS 215.283 or 215.284 or otherwise in a farm or forest zone, that the landowner for the dwelling sign and record in the deed records for the county a document binding the landowner, and the landowner's successors in interest, prohibiting them from pursuing a claim for relief or cause of action alleging injury from farming or forest practices for which no action or claim is allowed under ORS 30.936 or 30.937; and
4. If the lot or parcel is more than 10-acres the property owner shall:
 - a. Submit a stocking survey report by a professional forester to the County Department of Records and Assessment and they will verify that the minimum stocking requirements have been met by the time required by Department of Forestry rules;
 - b. Upon notification by the County Department of Records and Assessment, it will be determine whether the tract meets minimum stocking requirements of the Forest Practices Act. If it is determined that the tract does not meet those requirements, Records and Assessment will notify the owner that the land is not being managed as forest land. The County Department of Records and Assessment will then remove the forest land designation pursuant to ORS 321.359 and impose the additional tax.

Section 4.07 – Fire Siting Standards for Dwellings and Structures: The following fire siting standards or their equivalent shall apply to all new dwellings or structures in the F-1 and F-2 zones:

- A. The dwelling shall be located upon a parcel within a fire protection district or shall be provided with residential fire protection by contract. If the dwelling is not within a fire protection district, the applicant shall provide evidence that they have asked to be included within the nearest such district. If the governing body determines that inclusion within a fire protection district or contracting for residential fire protection is impracticable, the governing body may provide an alternative means for protecting the dwelling from fire hazards that shall comply with the following:
 1. The means selected may include a fire sprinkling system, onsite equipment and water storage or other methods that are reasonable, given the site conditions;
 2. If a water supply is required for fire protection, it shall be a swimming pool, pond, lake, or similar body of water that at all times contains at least 4,000 gallons or a stream that has a continuous year round flow of at least one cubic foot per second;
 3. The applicant shall provide verification from the Water Resources Department that any permits or registrations required for water diversion or storage have been obtained or that permits or registrations are not required for the use; and

4. Road access shall be provided to within 15-feet of the water's edge for firefighting pumping units. The road access shall accommodate the turnaround of firefighting equipment during the fire season. Permanent signs shall be posted along the access route to indicate the location of the emergency water source.

B. Road access to the dwelling shall meet road design standards described in Section 4.09.

C. A 50-foot primary fuel break plus a 100-foot secondary fuel break shall be cleared and maintained surrounding all dwellings and structures. Land owned or controlled by the owner that is too small to accommodate the fuel breaks shall be subject to Subsection (G). The primary fuel break shall not contain vegetation that will produce flame lengths in excess of one foot. The secondary fuel break shall reduce vegetation so that the intensity and likelihood of crown fires and crowning is reduced. Secondary fuel breaks shall be increased on the downslope side: 50-feet for 10% slope; 75-feet for 20°/a slope; 100-feet for 25% slope; or 150-feet for 40% slope.

Fire Siting Standards for Dwellings and Fire Safety Design Standards handouts are available at the Planning Department.

D. The dwelling shall have a fire retardant roof.

E. The dwelling shall not be sited on a slope of greater than 40 percent.

F. If the dwelling has a chimney or chimneys, each chimney shall have a spark arrester.

G. Exceptions to Section 4.07 may be approved if equivalent fire protection standards are submitted by a qualified forest fire professional. Exceptions to Section 4.07.A must include the water standards and road standards of Section 4.07.B. Submittals require approval by the Planning Director.

Section 4.09 – Road Standards: New dwellings and structures shall be subject to the following applicable standards:

A. Roads shall be built and maintained to provide a minimum 20-foot width of all weather surface and a vertical clearance of 13-feet 6 inches.

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B. Driveways shall be built and maintained to provide a minimum 16-foot width of all weather surface and a vertical clearance of 13-feet 6 inches.

- C. The all weather surface, bridges, culverts, and other structures in the road bed shall be constructed and maintained to support gross vehicle weights of 50,000 pounds.
- D. Grades shall not exceed an average of 8%, with a maximum of 12% on short pitches. Variance may be granted by the fire service having responsibility for the area when topographic conditions make these standards impractical.
- E. Cul-de-sacs, dead-end driveways and dead-end roads over 150-feet in length shall have turnarounds of not less than 48-feet radius.
- F. Driveways in excess of 200-feet shall provide 20-foot wide by 40-foot long turnouts at a maximum spacing of half the driveway length or 400-feet, whichever is less.
- G. Driveways shall be marked with the residence's address unless it is clearly visible on the residence from the road. The numbers shall be 4 inches high and of reflective material.