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Ordinance on Forest (Forest Ordinance, ForO)

of 30 November 1992 (Status as of 1 August 2025)

The Swiss Federal Council,

on the basis of Article 49 of the Forest Act of 4 October 1991¹ (ForA),
and Article 29 of the Environmental Protection Act of 7 October 1983²,
ordains:

Chapter 1 Definition of Forest

Art. 1 Definition of forest (Art. 2 para. 4 ForA)

¹ The cantons shall define the parameters according to which a wooded area is defined as forest, within the following ranges:

- a. area, including an appropriate forest margin: 200–800 m²;
- b. width, including an appropriate forest margin: 10–12 m;
- c. age of stands in newly colonised areas: 10–20 years.

² If the stand fulfils particularly important social or protective functions, it is defined as forest, irrespective of its area, its width or its age.

Art. 2 Wooded pastures (Art. 2 para. 2 ForA)

Wooded pastures are areas consisting of a mosaic of wooded areas and open pastures and which fulfil both livestock husbandry and forestry purposes.

Art. 3 Check dams and foreground (Art. 2 para. 3 ForA)

¹ Check dams are structures that hinder the natural flow of water and create a back-water.

AS 1992 2538

¹ SR 921.0

² SR 814.01

² The immediate foreground of a check dam is the terrain bordering the installation on the airside. It normally covers a 10-metre-wide strip.

Chapter 2 Protection of the Forest against Intervention

Section 1 Deforestation

Art. 4 Definition

(Art. 4 and 12 ForA)

The following are not defined as deforestation:

- a. the use of forest land for forestry buildings and installations and for small structures and installations not used for forestry purposes;
- b. the allocation of forest to a protection zone in accordance with Article 17 of the Spatial Planning Act of 22 June 1979³ (SPA), if the protection objective is compatible with forest conservation.

Art. 5⁴ Deforestation application, publication and consultation

¹ In the case of works for which the Confederation is the competent authority, the deforestation application must be submitted to the lead federal authority, and in the case of works for which the canton is the competent authority, the deforestation application must be submitted to the competent authority under cantonal law.

² The authority shall publish the application and provide access to the files for consultation.

³ The Federal Office for the Environment⁵ (the FOEN⁶) shall issue guidelines on the contents of a deforestation application.

Art. 6⁷ Cooperation between the federal authority and the cantons

¹ If the Confederation is responsible for the deforestation permit, the cooperation between the FOEN and the cantons is subject to Article 49 paragraph 2 ForA. The cantons shall support the federal authorities in the clarification of the facts.

² Included in the calculation of the deforestation area, based on which the obligation to hear the FOEN (Art. 6 para. 2 ForA) is determined, are all deforestation areas that:

³ SR 700

⁴ Amended by No II 17 of the O of 2 Feb. 2000 (Coordination and Simplification of Decision-Making Procedures), in force since 1 March 2000 (AS 2000 703).

⁵ The designation of the administrative entity was amended according to Art. 16 para. 3 of the Publication Ordinance of 17 Nov. 2004 (AS 2004 4937).

⁶ Name in accordance with No I 5 of the O of 28 Jan. 2015 on the Amendment of Ordinance Law on the Environment, in particular with regard to the programme agreements for the Programme Period 2016–2019, in force since 1 Jan. 2016 (AS 2015 427). This change has been made throughout the text.

⁷ Amended by No II 17 of the O of 2 Feb. 2000 (Coordination and Simplification of Decision-Making Procedures), in force since 1 March 2000 (AS 2000 703).

- a. are included in the deforestation application;
- b. were deforested for the same works in the 15 years previous to the submission of the deforestation application, or for which deforestation is still allowed.

Art. 7 Deforestation decision

¹ The deforestation decision covers the following:

- a. the areas in which deforestation is authorised or refused and the affected plots with specification of the coordinates;
- b. the nature and scope of the compensatory measures and the affected plots with specification of the coordinates;
- c. the deadlines for the use of the deforestation permit and for the fulfilment of the obligations associated with the deforestation, in particular those involving compensatory measures;
- d. the unresolved objections;
- e. any further conditions and requirements.

² The FOEN shall keep statistics on the deforestation projects authorised by the Confederation and the cantons. The cantons shall make the necessary information available to the FOEN.⁸

Art. 8 Compensation in kind

(Art. 7 para. 1 ForA)⁹

¹ Compensation in kind is made by creating an area of forest of the same size in a location offering qualitatively similar conditions to the deforested area.

² Compensation in kind includes the acquisition of the land, the planting and all of the measures necessary for the long-term safeguarding of the compensatory area.

³ Areas in which forest is expanding and voluntarily afforested areas which have not yet become forest may be recognised as compensation in kind.

Art. 8a¹⁰ Areas with increasing forest area

(Art. 7 para. 2 let. a ForA)

The cantons shall designate areas with increasing forest area after consulting the FOEN. Their boundaries shall be based on federal and cantonal surveys, in principle following topographical features and taking account of existing settlements and uses.

⁸ Inserted by No II 17 of the O of 2 Feb. 2000 (Coordination and Simplification of Decision-Making Procedures), in force since 1 March 2000 (AS **2000** 703).

⁹ Amended by No I of the O of 14 June 2013, in force since 1 July 2013 (AS **2013** 1983).

¹⁰ Inserted by No I of the O of 14 June 2013, in force since 1 July 2013 (AS **2013** 1983).

Art. 9 Conservation of arable land and areas of ecological or landscape value

(Art. 7 para. 2 let. b ForA)¹¹

¹ Compensation in kind may be dispensed with in particular in the case of crop rotation areas.¹²

² Areas of particular ecological value are, in particular:

- a. biotopes in accordance with Article 18 paragraph 1^{bis} of the Federal Act of 1 July 1966¹³ on the Protection of Nature and Cultural Heritage;
- b. areas designated as nature protection areas in accordance with Article 17 SPA¹⁴.

³ Areas of particular landscape value are, in particular:

- a. objects of national importance in accordance with the Ordinance of 10 August 1977¹⁵ on the Federal Inventory of Landscapes and Natural Monuments of National Importance;
- b. mire landscapes of outstanding beauty and national importance in accordance with Article 24^{sexies} paragraph 5 of the Federal Constitution of the Swiss Confederation¹⁶;
- c. areas designated as landscape protection zones in accordance with Article 17 SPA.

Art. 9a¹⁷ Dispensing with compensation for deforestation

(Art. 7 para. 3 let. b ForA)

Compensation for deforestation may be dispensed with in the case of projects to guarantee flood protection and the rehabilitation of waters in particular in the case of areas that can no longer be stocked as forest.

Art. 10¹⁸

Art. 11 Record in the land register and notification

¹ At the request of the competent cantonal forest authority, a record must be made in the land register of the obligation to provide:¹⁹

¹¹ Amended by No I of the O of 14 June 2013, in force since 1 July 2013 (AS **2013** 1983).

¹² Amended by No I of the O of 14 June 2013, in force since 1 July 2013 (AS **2013** 1983).

¹³ SR **451**

¹⁴ SR **700**

¹⁵ [AS **1977** 1962, **1983** 1942, **1996** 3264, **1998** 788, **2010** 1593 Annex No 2.

¹⁶ AS **2017** 2815 Art. 11]. See now: the O of 29 March 2017 (SR **451.11**).

¹⁷ [BS **1** 3; AS **1988** 352]. The specified provision now corresponds to Art. 78 para. 5 of the Federal Constitution of the Swiss Confederation of 18 April 1999 (SR **101**).

¹⁸ Inserted by No I of the O of 14 June 2013, in force since 1 July 2013 (AS **2013** 1983).

¹⁹ Repealed by No I of the O of 14 June 2013, with effect from 1 July 2013 (AS **2013** 1983).

¹⁹ Amended by No I of the O of 17 Aug. 2016, in force since 1 Jan. 2017 (AS **2016** 3215).

- a. compensation in kind or measures for the benefit of nature and landscape conservation;
- b. retrospective compensation for deforestation in the event of a change of use in accordance with Article 7 paragraph 4 ForA.²⁰

² The cantons shall monitor all compensatory measures and notify the FOEN of the final approval of the works.

Section 2 Declaration as Forest²¹

Art. 12 Ruling on declaration as forest

(Art. 10 para. 1 ForA)²²

¹ The ruling on declaration as forest records whether a stocked or unstocked area is a forest or not and specifies its coordinates.

² It specifies on a map the location and size of the forest and the location of the affected plots.

Art. 12a²³ Specification of static forest boundaries outside development zones

(Art. 10 para. 2 let. b ForA)

Areas where the canton wants to prevent an increase in forest must be specified in the cantonal structure plan.

Section 3 Motorised Vehicular Traffic

(Art. 15 para. 1 ForA)

Art. 13

¹ Forest roads may be accessed by motorised vehicular traffic for the following purposes:

- a. for rescue and recovery purposes;
- b. for police controls;
- c. for military exercises;
- d. for the implementation of measures for the protection against natural events;
- e.²⁴ for the maintenance of the network lines of the providers of telecommunications services.

²⁰ Amended by No I of the O of 14 June 2013, in force since 1 July 2013 (AS **2013** 1983).

²¹ Amended by No I of the O of 14 June 2013, in force since 1 July 2013 (AS **2013** 1983).

²² Inserted by No I of the O of 14 June 2013, in force since 1 July 2013 (AS **2013** 1983).

²³ Inserted by No I of the O of 14 June 2013, in force since 1 July 2013 (AS **2013** 1983).

²⁴ Amended by No II 61 of the O of 1 Dec. 1997, in force since 1 Jan. 1998 (AS **1997** 2779).

² The rest of the forest may only be accessed by motorised vehicular traffic if such access is unavoidable for the fulfilment of a purpose in accordance with paragraph 1.

³ Events involving vehicular motorised traffic are prohibited on forest roads and in the rest of the forest.

Section 4 **Buildings and Installations in the Forest**²⁵

Art. 13a²⁶ Forest structures and installations

(Art. 2 para. 2 let. b and 11 para. 1 ForA)

¹ Forest structures and installations, such as forest maintenance depots, log stores, covered wood fuel stores and forest roads may be constructed or altered with official permission in accordance with Article 22 SPA^{27,28}.

² A requirement for permission is that:

- a. the structures and installations facilitate regional forest management;
- b. a need is proven for the structures and installations, their location is suitable and their size is adapted to regional conditions; and
- c. there is no overriding public interest in refusing permission.

³ Other requirements under federal or cantonal law also apply.

Art. 14 Consultation of the cantonal forest authority

(Art. 11 para. 1 and 16 ForA)²⁹

¹ The granting of permission for the construction of forestry buildings or installations in the forest in accordance with Article 22 SPA³⁰ is subject to a hearing of the competent cantonal forestry authority.

² Exceptional permission for the construction of small structures and installations in the forest that are not used for forestry purposes in accordance with Article 24 SPA may only be granted in agreement with the competent cantonal forestry authority.

²⁵ Amended by No I of the O of 14 June 2013, in force since 1 July 2013 (AS **2013** 1983).

²⁶ Inserted by No I of the O of 14 June 2013, in force since 1 July 2013 (AS **2013** 1983).

²⁷ SR **700**

²⁸ Amended by No I of the O of 12 May 2021, in force since 1 July 2021 (AS **2021** 294).

²⁹ Inserted by No I of the O of 14 June 2013, in force since 1 July 2013 (AS **2013** 1983).

³⁰ SR **700**

Chapter 3 Protection against Natural Events

Art. 15³¹ Dealing with risks from natural events

¹ The cantons shall reduce the risks from natural events to an acceptable level and limit such risks in the long term by compiling and evaluating the required basic data and planning and implementing measures in an integrated manner. In doing so, they shall in particular take account of the consequences of climate change and changes in the use of space.

² Integrated planning must involve the relevant parties, combine measures in an optimal way and balance interests, in particular those relating to forest management, nature and landscape protection, hydraulic engineering, agriculture and spatial planning.

Art. 16³² Basic data

¹ The FOEN shall compile basic data of national interest on protection against natural events. To this end, it shall:

- a. conduct surveys on matters relevant to protection against natural events;
- b. keep an inventory on the measures to which the Confederation contributes funding;
- c. analyse events;
- d. prepare reports.

² The cantons shall compile the basic data on protection against natural events on their cantonal territory. To this end, they shall:

- a. document and analyse events;
- b. document and assess protective structures;
- c. keep a register of events and protective structures;
- d. record the hazards and risks;
- e. prepare hazard assessments and risk maps;
- f. prepare overall plans and, if need be, other higher-level plans.

³ They shall designate the hazard areas.

⁴ They shall take account of the basic data compiled by the Confederation and its guides on implementation.

⁵ They shall submit the risk maps and overall plans regularly in accordance with requirements to the FOEN.

⁶ They shall make the compiled basic data available to all interested parties free of charge.

³¹ Amended by Annex No 4 of the Hydraulic Engineering Ordinance of 25 June 2025, in force since 1 Aug. 2025 (AS 2025 450).

³² Amended by Annex No 4 of the Hydraulic Engineering Ordinance of 25 June 2025, in force since 1 Aug. 2025 (AS 2025 450).

Art. 17³³ Spatial planning measures

¹ The cantons shall take account of the hazard areas and the risks in their structural and land-use plans and in their other activities with a spatial impact. They shall in particular ensure in hazard areas that:

- a. risks are limited when zoning, upzoning and rezoning and when granting permission for the construction of buildings and installations;
- b. unacceptable risks are reduced by rezoning, downzoning and dezoning or by moving buildings and installations at risk to safer locations.

² They shall designate buffer zones in the structural and land-use plans in which natural events may be allowed to occur in order to protect other areas. In buffer zones, the risk shall be reduced by limiting the form and extent of use.

Art. 17a³⁴ Organisational measures

The cantons shall take organisational measures in order to save human life and to limit damage in the case of an event. To this end, they shall:

- a. ensure that the operations plans are prepared, practised and familiar to the civilian command staff and emergency services;
- b. ensure that the civilian command staff and emergency services receive specialist advice on preparing for and dealing with natural events;
- c. install and operate the warning systems that are required to ensure the safety of residential areas and transport routes in the case of a natural event;
- d. take the technical measures required to support the emergency services in dealing with natural events.

Art. 17b³⁵ Biological and technical measures and buffer zones

¹ The cantons shall take biological and technical measures to limit the risk of natural events. These measures shall include:

- a. designating protective forest and creating forest with special protective functions and related young forest maintenance;
- b. silvicultural measures;
- c. structural measures to prevent avalanche damage and the construction of installations for triggering avalanches as a precautionary measure;
- d. rockfall and rockslide barriers and catchment structures, as well as the removal of material at risk of falling;

³³ Amended by Annex No 4 of the Hydraulic Engineering Ordinance of 25 June 2025, in force since 1 Aug. 2025 (AS **2025** 450).

³⁴ Inserted by Annex No 4 of the Hydraulic Engineering Ordinance of 25 June 2025, in force since 1 Aug. 2025 (AS **2025** 450).

³⁵ Inserted by Annex No 4 of the Hydraulic Engineering Ordinance of 25 June 2025, in force since 1 Aug. 2025 (AS **2025** 450).

- e. reinforcement of unstable slopes and gullies and related drainage and erosion protection;
- f. accompanying forest-conservation-related measures in stream channels (stream control works in forests).

² They shall design new protective structures and installations to be robust. They shall assess existing protective structures and installations with regard to their overload capacity and systemic safety and modify them if necessary.

³ They shall designate buffer zones eligible for compensation, into which natural events are channelled and directed by protective measures in such a way that these areas are exposed more frequently or intensely in order to protect other areas.

Chapter 4 Maintenance and Use of the Forest

Section 1 Forest Management

Art. 18 Forestry planning

(Art. 20 para. 2 ForA)

¹ The cantons shall issue regulations for the planning of forest management. These shall define, in particular:

- a. the types of plans and their content;
- b. the instances responsible for planning;
- c. the planning goals;
- d. how the planning data are acquired and used;
- e. the planning and control procedures;
- f. the regular reviewing of the plans.

² The forestry planning documents must describe, at least, the location conditions as well as the forest functions and their importance.

³ In the case of inter-operational planning, the cantons shall ensure that the population:

- a. is informed of the goals and progress of the planning;
- b. may be involved in a suitable manner;
- c. may inspect it.

⁴ They shall take account of the spatial impact of forestry planning in their structural planning.³⁶

³⁶ Inserted by No I 5 of the O of 28 Jan. 2015 on Amendments to the Ordinance Law on the Environment, in particular in relation to the programme agreements for the programme period 2016–2019, in force since 1 March 2015 (AS **2015** 427).

Art. 19 Silvicultural measures

(Art. 20 ForA)

¹ All maintenance interventions that contribute to the conservation or restoration of the stability and the quality of a stand are classified as silvicultural measures.

² Measures carried out as part of young forest maintenance are:

- a.³⁷ young growth maintenance, thicket maintenance and stem thinning in order to create resistant and adaptable stands suitable to the location;
- b. specific measures to maintain regrowth in selection forests, in other multi-layered forests, in coppices with standards and coppice forests as well as in multi-layered forest margins;
- c. protective measures against damage caused by game;
- d. the creation of paths in areas of difficult access.

³ Thinning and regeneration measures are:

- a. slash removal and the creation of new stands and the necessary accompanying measures;
- b. wood harvesting and transport.

⁴ Minimum maintenance measures for conserving the protective function of the forest are maintenance interventions that are restricted to ensuring the long-term stability of the stand; felled wood is used locally or left on site, as long as it does not pose a risk.

Art. 20 Clearcutting

(Art. 22 ForA)

¹ Clearcutting is the complete or almost complete removal of a stand, which gives rise to ecological conditions similar to those on open lands in the cutting area or causes serious detrimental effects to it or to the nearby stands.

² Clearcutting does not arise, if the old stand is cleared following sufficient and secured regeneration.

Section 2 Forest Reproductive Material**Art. 21** Production and use

(Art. 24 ForA)

¹ The cantons shall guarantee the supply of appropriate suitable forest reproductive material.

² The competent cantonal forest authority shall select the forests stands, from which forest reproductive material may be obtained. It shall notify the seed stands to the FOEN.

³⁷ Amended by No I of the O of 17 Aug. 2016, in force since 1 Jan. 2017 (AS 2016 3215).

³ It shall control the commercial and industrial production of seeds and plant parts and issues certificates of origin.

⁴ Only forest reproductive material of certified origin may be used for forestry purposes.

⁵ The FOEN shall advise the cantons about:

- a. the production, supply and use of forest reproductive material;
- b. the safeguarding of genetic diversity.

⁶ It keeps a register of the seed stands and a register of the genetic reserves.

Art. 22 Import and export

(Art. 24 ForA)

¹ The import of forest reproductive material requires the authorisation of the FOEN.

² The authorisation is granted if:

- a. the forest reproductive material is appropriate for cultivation and its origin is confirmed by an official certificate; or
- b. the importer declares in writing that the reproductive material will be used exclusively outside of the forest.

^{2bis} The authorisation to import genetically modified forest reproductive material is regulated by the Release Ordinance of 10 September 2008³⁸; the terms of reference of the present Ordinance are also applicable.³⁹

³ The Federal Department of the Environment, Transport, Energy and Communications⁴⁰ (DETEC⁴¹) shall enact regulations on the issuing of export documents for forest reproductive material.

Art. 23 Business management

(Art. 24 ForA)

¹ Public and private seed extractories, tree nurseries, forest gardens and retailers must keep a record of the origin, processing, breeding and supply of forest reproductive material as well an inventory of such material.

² They shall inform the purchasers of forest reproductive material of its classification and origin in their quotations, on their goods and in their invoices.

³⁸ SR 814.911

³⁹ Inserted by Art. 51 No 3 of the Plant Protection Ordinance of 28 Feb. 2001 (AS 2001 1191). Amended by Annex 5 No 16 of the Release Ordinance of 10 Sept. 2008, in force since 1 Oct. 2008 (AS 2008 4377).

⁴⁰ The designation of the administrative entity was amended according to Art. 16 para. 3 of the Publications Ordinance of 17 Nov. 2004 (AS 2004 4937).

⁴¹ Name in accordance with No 15 of the O of 28 Jan. 2015 on the Amendment of Ordinance Law on the Environment, in particular with regard to the programme agreements for the Programme Period 2016–2019, in force since 1 Jan. 2016 (AS 2015 427). This change has been made throughout the text.

³ The FOEN shall control their business management. It may require the assistance of the cantons for this.

Art. 24 Technical provisions

¹ DETEC shall issue an ordinance on the implementation of the provisions of this section.

² It may allow, for scientific purposes, the import and use of forest reproductive material, the suitability and origin of which are not proven.

Section 3 Use of Environmentally Hazardous Substances

Art. 25⁴²

The exceptional use of environmentally hazardous substances in the forest is governed by the Ordinance on Chemical Risk Reduction of 18 May 2005⁴³.

Art. 26 and 27⁴⁴

Section 4 Prevention and Remediation of Forest Damage

Art. 28⁴⁵ Principles (Art. 26 ForA)

¹ Forest damage is damage that poses a considerable threat to the function of the forest and that is caused by:

- a. natural events such as storms, forest fires or drought;
- b. harmful organisms such as certain viruses, bacteria, larvae, insects, fungi or plants.

² Particularly harmful organisms shall be monitored and controlled in accordance with the provisions of the Plant Health Ordinance of 30 October 2018^{46,47}

⁴² Amended by No II 21 of the O of 18 May 2005 on the Repeal and Amendment of Ordinances in connection with the Commencement of the Chemicals Act, in force since 1 Aug. 2005 (AS **2005** 2695).

⁴³ SR **814.81**

⁴⁴ Repealed by No II 21 of the O of 18 May 2005 on the Repeal and Amendment of Ordinances in connection with the Commencement of the Chemicals Act, with effect from 1 Aug. 2005 (AS **2005** 2695).

⁴⁵ Amended by No I of the O of 17 Aug. 2016, in force since 1 Jan. 2017 (AS **2016** 3215).

⁴⁶ SR **916.20**

⁴⁷ Amended by Annex 8 No 7 of the Plant Health Ordinance of 31 Oct. 2018, in force since 1 Jan. 2020 (AS **2018** 4209).

Art. 29⁴⁸ Prevention and remediation of forest damage

(Art. 27 para. 1 ForA)

The cantons shall take measures to prevent and remediate forest damage, in particular:

- a. technical and silvicultural measures to prevent and combat fire;
- b. measures to reduce the physical load applied to the soil;
- c. measures to monitor and combat harmful organisms with the aim of eradicating or curbing them or restricting the damage they cause.

Art. 30⁴⁹ Coordination, information and advice

(Art. 26 para. 3 and 27a para. 2 ForA)

¹ The FOEN shall establish the principles for the prevention and remediation of forest damage. It shall coordinate the cross-cantonal measures and where necessary shall itself establish such measures.

² The Swiss Federal Institute for Forest, Snow and Landscape Research (WSL) has the following tasks:

- a. it organises, together with the cantonal forestry services, the collection of data of relevance to forest protection;
- b. it provides information about the occurrence of harmful organisms and other factors that may damage the forest;
- c. it advises the cantonal forestry services in matters of forest protection.

Section 5 Damage caused by Game

(Art. 27 para. 2 ForA)

Art. 31

¹ Where game damage arises despite the regulation of game populations, a plan shall be developed for its prevention.

² The plan shall include forestry measures, hunting measures, measures to improve and protect habitats against disturbance, and a performance review.⁵⁰

³ The plan is a component of the forestry planning.

⁴⁸ Amended by No I of the O of 17 Aug. 2016, in force since 1 Jan. 2017 (AS **2016** 3215).

⁴⁹ Amended by No I of the O of 17 Aug. 2016, in force since 1 Jan. 2017 (AS **2016** 3215).

⁵⁰ Amended by No I of the O of 17 Aug. 2016, in force since 1 Jan. 2017 (AS **2016** 3215).

Chapter 5 Training and Basic Data⁵¹

Section 1 Basic Training and Continuing Education and Training

Art. 32⁵² Theoretical and practical basic and continuing education and training
(Art. 29 para. 1 and 2 ForA)

¹ The FOEN shall ensure, together with the universities, the cantons and other organisations, institutions, and professional associations concerned, that the knowledge and skills acquired during education and training are maintained, and that forestry engineers are introduced to new theoretical and practical advances.

² The cantons shall offer sufficient places for practical continuing education and training and coordinate this offer with each other. Practical continuing education and training shall in particular:

- a. focus on forest planning, forest management and forest conservation in the context of all forest functions;
- b. aim to improve management skills and administrative knowledge;
- c. be attested by a certificate detailing the acquired skills and knowledge.

Art. 33⁵³ Forestry personnel
(Art. 29 para. 4 and 51 para. 2 ForA)

¹ The cantons shall provide:

- a. the higher vocational training of forest wardens and operate the professional colleges required for this purpose;
- b. together with the responsible organisations, the working environment for the continuing professional education and training of forestry personnel.

² In accordance with Articles 19 paragraph 1, 28 paragraph 2 and 29 paragraph 3 of the Vocational and Professional Education and Training Act of 13 December 2002⁵⁴ (VPETA), the enactment or approval of regulations in the field of forestry education and training shall be subject to a hearing of the FOEN.

Art. 34⁵⁵ Worker safety
(Art. 21a and 30 ForA)

¹ The cantons shall work with agricultural and forestry organisations to organise courses to improve worker safety during wood harvesting for workers with no forestry training.

⁵¹ Amended by Annex 2 No 13 of the O of 21 May 2008 on Geoinformation, in force since 1 July 2008 (AS **2008** 2809).

⁵² Amended by No I of the O of 17 Aug. 2016, in force since 1 Jan. 2018 (AS **2016** 3215).

⁵³ Amended by Annex No II 2 of the Vocational and Professional Education and Training Ordinance of 19 Nov. 2003, in force since 1 Jan. 2004 (AS **2003** 5047).

⁵⁴ SR **412.10**

⁵⁵ Amended by No I of the O of 17 Aug. 2016, in force since 1 Jan. 2017 (AS **2016** 3215).

² Federally recognised courses must provide basic skills in worker safety, in particular the correct and safe felling of trees, removal of branches, and the scoring and dragging of trees and tree trunks. Such courses must run for at least 10 days in total.

Art. 35 Coordination and documentation
(Art. 29 para. 1 ForA)

¹ ...⁵⁶

² The FOEN shall operate a central coordination and documentation agency for measures concerning forestry education and training.

Section 2 ...

Art. 36 and 37⁵⁷

Section 3⁵⁸ **Surveys**

Art. 37a⁵⁹
(Art. 33 and 34 ForA)

¹ The FOEN is responsible for the collection of survey data on the forest.

² In cooperation with the WSL, it surveys:

- a. by means of the National Forest Inventory, the basic data relating to the locations, functions and condition of the forest;
- b. the long-term development processes in natural forest reserves.

³ As part of its basic remit, the WSL shall conduct long-term research programmes to survey the pressure on the forest ecosystem.

⁴ The FOEN shall inform the authorities and the general public about these surveys.

⁵⁶ Repealed by No I 7.4 of the O of 9 Nov. 2011 (Review of Extra-Parliamentary Commissions), with effect from 1 Jan. 2012 (AS **2011** 5227).

⁵⁷ Repealed by No I 7.4 of the O of 17 Aug. 2016, with effect from 1 Jan. 2018 (AS **2016** 3215).

⁵⁸ Inserted by Annex 2 No 13 of the O of 21 May 2008 on Geoinformation, in force since 1 July 2008 (AS **2008** 2809).

⁵⁹ Amended by No I of the O of 17 Aug. 2016, in force since 1 Jan. 2017 (AS **2016** 3215).

Section 4⁶⁰ Timber Production

Art. 37b Marketing and use of sustainably produced timber

(Art. 34a ForA)

¹ The marketing and use of sustainably produced timber shall be promoted only in pre-competitive circumstances not relating to one particular company.

² In particular, innovative research and development projects that promote sustainable forest management by improving data, opportunities for marketing and use, resource efficiency or public relations may be promoted.

³ Results and findings relating to the supported activities shall be made available to the FOEN on request.

Art. 37c Use of timber in federal buildings and installations

(Art. 34b ForA)

¹ In the planning, construction and operation of federal buildings and installations the use of timber and timber products shall be promoted.

² The sustainability of timber and timber products shall be assessed in accordance with existing guidelines and recommendations such as those issued by the Coordination Group for Construction and Property Services.

Chapter 6⁶¹

Financial Assistance (excluding Investment Credits) and Compensatory Payments

Section 1 General Provisions⁶²

(Art. 35 ForA)

Art. 38 General precondition for awarding federal assistance

(Art. 35 para. 2 ForA)

Financial assistance and compensatory payments are only provided by the Confederation if:

- a. the measures comply with the forestry planning;
- b. the measures are necessary and appropriate;
- c. the measures satisfy the applicable technical, economic and ecological requirements;

⁶⁰ Inserted by No I of the O of 17 Aug. 2016, in force since 1 Jan. 2017 (AS **2016** 3215).

⁶¹ Amended by No I 21 of the O of 7 Nov. 2007 on the New System of Financial Equalisation and Division of Tasks between the Confederation and the Cantons, in force since 1 Jan. 2008 (AS **2007** 5823).

⁶² Amended by No I 5 of the O of 28 Jan. 2015 on the Amendment of Ordinance Law on the Environment, in particular with regard to the programme agreements for the Programme Period 2016–2019, in force since 1 Jan. 2016 (AS **2015** 427).

- d. the other requirements of federal law are fulfilled;
- e. coordination with the public interests of other sectors is ensured;
- f. further maintenance is guaranteed.

Art. 38^{a63} Allowable costs

¹ In order to receive compensatory payments, costs are allowable only if they are actually incurred and are directly required for the proper fulfilment of the task for which a contribution is due.

² The costs of the following are allowable for compensatory payments pursuant to Articles 39 paragraphs 1 and 2 and 40 paragraph 1 letter c:

- a. compiling the basic data and planning measures;
- b. implementing measures;
- c. acquiring land, easements and formal and de facto expropriation;
- d. marking.

³ The following in particular are not allowable with regard to compensatory payments pursuant to Article 39 paragraphs 1 and 2:

- a. any fees incurred;
- b. costs that can be passed on to the person responsible for the cost being incurred;
- c. the cost of creating significant added value that is generated independently of the protection against natural events provided by the measures;
- d. the cost of measures that improve the protection of national roads against natural events and are already covered by the contribution to costs from the Federal Roads Office;
- e. administrative costs.

⁴ The following in particular are not allowable with regard to compensatory payments pursuant to Article 40 paragraph 1 letter c and paragraph 3:

- a. any fees incurred;
- b. costs that can be passed on to third parties who are significant beneficiaries or responsible to a significant extent for the cost being incurred.

⁶³ Inserted by No 1 5 of the O of 28 Jan. 2015 on the Amendment of Ordinance Law on the Environment, in particular with regard to the programme agreements for the Programme Period 2016–2019 (AS 2015 427). Amended by Annex No 4 of the Hydraulic Engineering Ordinance of 25 June 2025, in force since 1 Aug. 2025 (AS 2025 450).

Section 2 Measures

Art. 39⁶⁴ Protection against natural events

¹ Compensatory payments for compiling basic data and for the measures, with the exception of payments under paragraph 2, are allocated on a global basis. The level of the global compensatory payments shall be specified by the FOEN and the canton concerned in programme agreements and is based on:

- a. the risk of natural events;
- b. the extent, impact and quality of the measures.

² Compensatory payments may be awarded on a case-by-case basis if the measures:

- a. have a supracantonal dimension;
- b. concern protected areas or objects listed in national inventories;
- c. require particularly complex or expert assessment due to the possible alternatives or for other reasons; or
- d. were an unforeseeable necessity.

³ The contribution to the allowable costs of compiling basic data amounts to 50 per cent.

⁴ The contribution to the allowable costs of measures amounts to between 35 and 45 per cent and is dependent on:

- a. the work involved in compiling the basic data;
- b. the extent, impact and quality of the measures.

⁵ The contribution pursuant to paragraph 4 may in exceptional cases be increased by up to 20 per cent if a canton incurs substantial costs for exceptional protective measures against natural events, in particular those taken following damage caused by bad weather. The contribution depends on:

- a. the necessity of the measures as a consequence of the extraordinary situation;
- b. the substantial financial burden on the canton concerned caused by taking protective measures against natural hazards;
- c. the plan in its entirety.

⁶ No compensatory payments shall be made for:

- a. measures required to protect buildings and installations which at the time of construction were in already designated hazard zones or known hazard areas and are not necessarily attached to that location;
- b. measures to protect tourist buildings and installations, such as cableways, ski lifts, ski runs or hiking trails, that are situated outside of the inhabited area;

⁶⁴ Amended by Annex No 4 of the Hydraulic Engineering Ordinance of 25 June 2025, in force since 1 Aug. 2025 (AS 2025 450).

- c. compiling data and implementing measures in the structural and land-use plans and in other activities with a spatial impact;
- d. making technical arrangements for emergency operations and expenditure on management staff and emergency services that is covered by their basic mandate;
- e. taking technical measures;
- f. drawing up cantonal working aids, directives and guidelines.

Art. 40 Protective forest

(Art. 37 ForA)

¹ The level of the global compensatory payments awarded for measures required to enable the protective forest to fulfil its protective function is based on:

- a. hazard and damage potential;
- b. the number of hectares of the protective forest to be maintained;
- c. the scope and the planning of the infrastructure required for the maintenance of the protective forest;
- d. the quality of the services provided.

² The amount is negotiated between the FOEN and the canton concerned.

³ The contribution awarded by ruling to the costs of projects resulting from exceptional natural events shall not exceed 40 per cent of the costs and shall be in accordance with paragraph 1 letters a, c and d.⁶⁵

Art. 40a⁶⁶ Measures against forest damage outside the protective forest

(Art. 37a ForA)

¹ The level of the global compensatory payments for measures to prevent and mitigate forest damage outside the protective forest is determined by:

- a. the degree of threat to forest functions;
- b. the number of hectares over which measures are taken;
- c. the quality of the services.

² The FOEN and the cantons concerned shall negotiate the amount.

³ Compensatory payments may be made in individual cases in which the measures were unforeseeable and particularly costly. The amount shall not exceed 40 per cent of the costs and is determined in accordance with paragraph 1 letters a and c.

⁶⁵ Inserted by No I of the O of 17 Aug. 2016, in force since 1 Jan. 2017 (AS **2016** 3215).

⁶⁶ Inserted by No I of the O of 17 Aug. 2016, in force since 1 Jan. 2017 (AS **2016** 3215). See also the transitional provisions to these amendments at the end of this text.

Art. 40b⁶⁷ Compensation of costs

(Art. 37b ForA)

¹ Compensation may be paid in cases of hardship if individuals are particularly badly affected and cannot be expected to meet the cost of the damage themselves.

² Applications for compensation are to be submitted, with reasons given, once the damage has been ascertained but no later than one year after the measures have been put in place by the competent cantonal authorities.

³ No compensation is paid for loss of yield or immaterial damage.

⁴ The Confederation shall reimburse the cantons between 35 and 50 per cent of the cost of compensation in accordance with the provision on global compensatory payments in Article 40a.

Art. 41 Biological diversity of the forest(Art. 38 para. 1 ForA)⁶⁸

¹ The level of global financial assistance for measures that contribute to the maintenance and improvement of the biological diversity of the forest is based on:

- a. the number of hectares of forest reserves that are to be designated and maintained;
- b.⁶⁹ ...
- c. the number of hectares of habitats to be maintained, in particular the forest margins, which provide habitat connectivity;
- d. the extent and quality of the measures for the promotion of animal and plant species, the conservation of which is a matter of priority for biological diversity;
- e.⁷⁰ the number of hectares outside forest reserves to be designated as areas with a high proportion of old wood and deadwood or with sufficient trees demonstrating characteristics that are of particular value to biological diversity (biotope tree);
- f. the number of hectares of the forms of forest cultivation to be maintained, such as wooded pastures, coppices with standards and coppice forests and chestnut or walnut groves;
- g. the quality of the services provided.

² The amount is negotiated between the FOEN and the canton concerned.

⁶⁷ Inserted by No I of the O of 17 Aug. 2016, in force since 1 Jan. 2017 (AS **2016** 3215).

⁶⁸ Amended by No I 5 of the O of 17 Aug. 2016, with effect from 1 Jan. 2017 (AS **2016** 3215).

⁶⁹ Repealed by No I 5 of the O of 17 Aug. 2016, with effect from 1 Jan. 2017 (AS **2016** 3215).

⁷⁰ Amended by No I of the O of 17 Aug. 2016, in force since 1 Jan. 2017 (AS **2016** 3215).

³ The financial assistance may only be allocated, if the protection of the ecological as listed under paragraph 1 letters a and c–f is guaranteed contractually or in any other suitable way.

⁴ ... ⁷¹

Art. 42⁷²

Art. 43 Forest management⁷³

(Art. 38a ForA)

¹ The level of global financial assistance for measures to improve the cost-effectiveness of forest management is determined as follows:

- a.⁷⁴ for cantonal planning bases: by the size of the forest area in the canton and the size of forest area included in the plan or an impact assessment;
- b.⁷⁵ for the improvement of management conditions in forestry operations: by the scale and quality of the optimisation measures planned and implemented by the canton;
- c. for the storage of wood in cases of exceptional wood supply: by the volume of wood that the market is temporarily unable to absorb;
- d. by the quality of the services provided;
- e.⁷⁶ for promoting the training of forest workers: by the number of days attended on courses run by federally certified course providers;
- f.⁷⁷ for the practical training of forestry specialists at university level: by the number of training days attended;
- g.⁷⁸ for young forest maintenance: by the number of hectares of young forest requiring maintenance;
- h.⁷⁹ for adapting forest stands specifically to changing climatic conditions: by the number of hectares over which measures are taken;
- i.⁸⁰ for obtaining forest reproductive material: by the infrastructure and level of mechanisation in seed extractories and the number of tree species necessary for maintaining genetic diversity in the seed harvesting plantations;

⁷¹ Repealed by No 1 5 of the O of 17 Aug. 2016, with effect from 1 Jan. 2017 (AS **2016** 3215).

⁷² Repealed by No 1 5 of the O of 17 Aug. 2016, with effect from 1 Jan. 2017 (AS **2016** 3215).

⁷³ Amended by No 1 5 of the O of 17 Aug. 2016, in force since 1 Jan. 2017 (AS **2016** 3215).

⁷⁴ Amended by No I of the O of 17 Aug. 2016, in force since 1 Jan. 2017 (AS **2016** 3215).

⁷⁵ Amended by No 1 5 of the O of 28 Jan. 2015 on the Amendment of Ordinance Law on the Environment, in particular with regard to the programme agreements for the Programme Period 2016–2019, in force since 1 Jan. 2016 (AS **2015** 427).

⁷⁶ Inserted by No 1 5 of the O of 17 Aug. 2016, in force since 1 Jan. 2017 (AS **2016** 3215).

⁷⁷ Inserted by No 1 5 of the O of 17 Aug. 2016, in force since 1 Jan. 2017 (AS **2016** 3215).

⁷⁸ Inserted by No 1 5 of the O of 17 Aug. 2016, in force since 1 Jan. 2017 (AS **2016** 3215).

⁷⁹ Inserted by No 1 5 of the O of 17 Aug. 2016, in force since 1 Jan. 2017 (AS **2016** 3215).

⁸⁰ Inserted by No 1 5 of the O of 17 Aug. 2016, in force since 1 Jan. 2017 (AS **2016** 3215).

j.⁸¹ for adapting or reconstituting public infrastructure facilities: by the number of hectares of forest served by them.

² The amount is negotiated between the FOEN and the canton concerned.

³ Global financial assistance for the improvement of the management conditions in forestry operations is only awarded if:

- a. the cooperation between or merging of enterprises is undertaken as a long-term measure;
- b. an economically significant volume of wood is harvested or marketed jointly; and
- c. business accounts are kept.

⁴ Global financial assistance for young forest maintenance and for adapting forest stands specifically to changing climatic conditions shall only be awarded if the measures are in accordance with close-to-nature silviculture methods.⁸²

⁵ Global financial assistance for obtaining forest reproductive material shall only be afforded if a construction project or operating concept including cost proposals and proof of funding has been approved by the canton.⁸³

Art. 44 Promotion of education and training

(Art. 39 ForA)

1 ...⁸⁴

² The Confederation shall award financial assistance in compensation for the occupation-specific costs arising from the on-site practical training of forestry personnel in the form of a flat-rate payment of 10 per cent of the training costs of the schools for forest wardens and of the courses.

³ The Confederation shall award financial assistance for the creation of teaching material for forestry personnel, on a case-by-case basis and amounting to a maximum of 50 per cent of the recognised costs.

4 ...⁸⁵

Art. 45 Research and development

(Art. 31 ForA)

¹ The Confederation may award financial assistance to research and development projects that it has not commissioned itself, on a case-by-case basis and amounting to a maximum of 50 per cent of the project costs.

⁸¹ Inserted by No 1 5 of the O of 17 Aug. 2016, in force since 1 Jan. 2017 (AS **2016** 3215). See also the transitional provisions to these amendments at the end of this text.

⁸² Inserted by No 1 5 of the O of 17 Aug. 2016, in force since 1 Jan. 2017 (AS **2016** 3215).

⁸³ Inserted by No 1 5 of the O of 17 Aug. 2016, in force since 1 Jan. 2017 (AS **2016** 3215).

⁸⁴ Repealed by No 1 5 of the O of 17 Aug. 2016, with effect from 1 Jan. 2017 (AS **2016** 3215).

⁸⁵ Repealed by No 1 5 of the O of 17 Aug. 2016, with effect from 1 Jan. 2017 (AS **2016** 3215).

² It may award financial assistance to organisations for the promotion and coordination of research and development, on a case-by-case basis and equal to at most the funding provided by third parties, provided it receives an adequate right of co-decision in these organisations.

Section 3

Procedure for Granting Global Compensatory Payments or Financial Assistance

Art. 46 Application

¹ The canton shall submit the application for global compensatory payments or financial assistance to the FOEN.

² The application shall contain details of:

- a. the programme objectives to be achieved;
- b. the measures probably required to achieve the objectives and their implementation;
- c. the effectiveness of the measures.

³ In the case of measures that affect more than one canton, the cantons shall ensure the coordination of the applications with the other cantons concerned.

Art. 47 Programme agreement

¹ The FOEN shall enter into a programme agreement with the competent cantonal authority.

² The subject matter of the programme agreement is in particular:

- a. the strategic programme objectives to be jointly achieved;
- b. the services to be provided by the canton;
- c. the contribution to be paid by the Confederation;
- d. controlling.

³ The programme agreement shall have a maximum term of four years.

⁴ The FOEN shall issue guidelines on the procedure for programme agreements and on the information and documents required in connection with the subject matter of the programme agreement.

Art. 48 Payment

Global compensatory payments or financial assistance are paid in instalments.

Art. 49 Reporting and controlling

¹ The canton shall provide the FOEN with a report each year on the use of the global subsidies.

² The FOEN shall control by random sample:

- a. the implementation of individual measures in accordance with the programme objectives;
- b. the use of the subsidies paid.

Art. 50 Substandard fulfilment and non-intended use

¹ The FOEN shall withhold the instalment payments during the programme in full or in part if the canton:

- a. fails to comply with its reporting obligation (Art. 49 para. 1);
- b. culpably causes serious disruption to its own services.

² If it becomes apparent after the programme that the services provided are substandard, the FOEN shall require the canton to rectify the defects; it shall allow the canton an appropriate period within which to do this.

³ If installations or equipment for which financial assistance or compensatory payments have been provided are used for a purpose other than that intended, the FOEN may require the canton to arrange for the non-intended use to be stopped or reversed within a reasonable period.

⁴ If the defects are not rectified or the non-intended use is not stopped or reversed, the recovery of the payments made is governed by Articles 28 and 29 of the Subsidies Act of 5 October 1990⁸⁶.

Section 4

Procedure for Providing Compensatory Payments or Financial Assistance in Specific Cases

Art. 51 Applications

¹ Applications for compensatory payments or financial assistance in specific cases without the involvement of a canton must be submitted to the FOEN; all other applications must be submitted to the canton.

² The canton shall examine the applications that it receives and pass them on to the FOEN with a justified proposal, the cantonal authorisations already available and the cantonal decision on the subsidy.

³ The FOEN shall issue guidelines on the information and documents required in connection with the application.

⁸⁶ SR 616.1

Art. 52 Granting and payment of subsidies

¹ The FOEN shall issue a ruling determining the amount of the compensatory payment or the financial assistance or shall enter into an agreement with the recipient of the subsidy.

² Payment of subsidies shall be dependent on the progress made with the measures.

Art. 53 Substandard fulfilment and non-intended use

¹ If, despite receiving a warning, a recipient, whose application for compensatory payments or financial assistance has been approved, fails to carry out the measures or carries them in a substandard manner, the compensatory payments or financial assistance shall not be paid out or shall be reduced.

² If compensatory payments or financial assistance have been paid out and if, despite receiving a warning, the recipient fails to carry out the measures or carries them out in a substandard manner, the recovery of the payments made is governed by Article 28 of the Subsidies Act of 5 October 1990⁸⁷.

³ If installations or equipment for which compensatory payments or financial assistance have been paid out are not used for the intended purpose, the FOEN may require the canton to arrange for the non-intended use to be stopped or reversed within a reasonable period.

⁴ If the non-intended use is not stopped or reversed, the recovery of the payments made is governed by Articles 28 and 29 of the Subsidies Act of 5 October 1990.

Art. 54 Reporting and controlling

Article 49 applies by analogy to reporting and controlling.

Art. 55–59

Repealed

Chapter 7 Investment Credits**Art. 60** Requirements

¹ Investment credits shall be granted if:

- a. the investment is necessary and suitable to protect against natural events or for the maintenance and use of the forest; and
- b. the investment is required due to the applicant's financial circumstances.

² The applicant must be able to support the total financial burden.

³ The applicant must exhaust his or her own financial resources and claim any contributions available from third parties.

⁴ Investment credits may not be accumulated with credits granted under the Federal Act of 23 March 1962⁸⁸ on Agricultural Investment Credits and Business Subsidies or the Federal Act of 28 June 1974⁸⁹ on Investment Subsidies for Mountain Regions.

⁵ The cantons are not entitled to credits for their own investments.

⁶ ...⁹⁰

Art. 61 Federal credits

¹ The FOEN shall grant the canton global loans to cover the payment of investment credits. The loans shall be interest free and repayable over 20 years.

² The canton shall notify the FOEN each year of its probable borrowing requirements for the coming year.

³ The available funds are allocated according to demand.⁹¹

Art. 62 Applications (Art. 40 para. 3 ForA)

¹ Applications for investment credits must be submitted to the canton.

² The following documents must be enclosed with each application:

- a. the general operational plan;
- b. the operating accounts;
- c. a report on the applicant's financial circumstances.

³ Companies that are commercially contracted to maintain or use the forest must include the balance sheets and profit and loss accounts for the last two years in their application.

Art. 63 Amount of credit and rate of interest (Art. 40 para. 1 ForA)

¹ Investment credits shall be granted:

⁸⁸ [AS 1962 1273, 1972 2699, 1977 2249 No I 961, 1991 362 No II 52 857 Annex No 27, 1992 288 Annex No 47 2104. AS 1998 3033 Annex let. f]

⁸⁹ [AS 1975 392, 1980 1798, 1985 387, 1991 857 Annex No 24, 1992 288 Annex No 43. AS 1997 2995 Art. 25]. See now: the FA of 6 Oct. 2006 on Regional Policy (SR 901.0).

⁹⁰ Repealed by No I 21 of the O of 7 Nov. 2007 on the New System of Financial Equalisation and Division of Tasks between the Confederation and the Cantons, with effect from 1 Jan. 2008 (AS 2007 5823).

⁹¹ Amended by No I 21 of the O of 7 Nov. 2007 on the New System of Financial Equalisation and Division of Tasks between the Confederation and the Cantons, in force since 1 Jan. 2008 (AS 2007 5823).

- a. as construction credits to cover up to 80 per cent of the construction costs;
- b.⁹² to fund the remaining costs of measures in accordance with the Articles 39, 40 and 43;
- c. to cover up to 80 per cent the purchase costs of forestry vehicles, machines and devices;
- d. to cover up to 80 per cent the costs of creating forestry installations.

² Investment credits are normally interest free. However, if the applicant can support the total financial burden, an appropriate rate of interest shall be charged.

³ No loan shall be granted for less than 10,000 francs.

Art. 64 Term, repayment, recovery
(Art. 40 ForA)

¹ Investment credits shall be repayable over a period of not exceeding 20 years.

² The repayment instalments are determined according to the nature of the measure and the financial circumstances of the borrower.

³ Repayment begins:

- a. for investments under Article 63 paragraph 1 letters a and b, one year after completion of the project, but no more than five years after payment of the first instalment of the credit;
- b. for other investments, in the year following that in which the credit is paid.

⁴ The borrower may repay all or part of the credit without notice at any time.

⁵ ...⁹³

⁶ Interest of 5 per cent shall be charged on arrears of credits or repayment instalments.

Chapter 8 Final Provisions

Section 1 Implementation

Art. 65 Implementation by the Confederation
(Art. 49 ForA)

¹ DETEC is authorised to independently carry out operations arising from the implementation of the ForA.

² If the federal authorities apply other federal acts or agreements or decisions under international law which relate to the subject matter of this Ordinance, they also im-

⁹² Amended by No I 21 of the O of 7 Nov. 2007 on the New System of Financial Equalisation and Division of Tasks between the Confederation and the Cantons, in force since 1 Jan. 2008 (AS **2007** 5823).

⁹³ Repealed by No I 21 of the O of 7 Nov. 2007 on the New System of Financial Equalisation and Division of Tasks between the Confederation and the Cantons, with effect from 1 Jan. 2008 (AS **2007** 5823).

plement this Ordinance. Cooperation between the FOEN and the cantons is governed by Article 49 paragraph 2 ForA; statutory duties of confidentiality are reserved.⁹⁴

Art. 66 Implementation by the cantons

(Art. 50 ForA)

¹ The cantons shall issue the implementing provisions to the ForA and to this Ordinance within five years of the Act coming into force.

² They shall inform the FOEN of any rulings and decisions on deforestation.⁹⁵

Art. 66a⁹⁶ Geoinformation

The FOEN shall determine the minimum geodata models and modelling for geobasis data in accordance with this Ordinance for which it is designated the competent federal authority in Annex 1 to the Ordinance on Geoinformation of 21 May 2008⁹⁷.

Section 2 Repeal and Amendment of Current Legislation

Art. 67 Repeal of current legislation

The following are repealed:

- a. the Ordinance of 1 October 1965⁹⁸ on the Federal Supervision of the Forest Police;
- b. the Ordinance of 23 May 1973⁹⁹ on the Appointment of Senior Forestry Officers;
- c. the Ordinance of 28 November 1988¹⁰⁰ on Extraordinary Measures for the Conservation of Forest;
- d. Articles 2–5 the Ordinance of 16 October 1956¹⁰¹ on the Forest Plant Protection;
- e. the Federal Council Decree of 16 October 1956¹⁰² on the Origin and Use of Forest Reproductive Material and Forest Plants;

⁹⁴ Inserted by No II 17 of the O of 2 Feb. 2000 (Coordination and Simplification of Decision-Making Procedures), in force since 1 March 2000 (AS **2000** 703).

⁹⁵ Inserted by No II 17 of the O of 2 Feb. 2000 (Coordination and Simplification of Decision-Making Procedures), in force since 1 March 2000 (AS **2000** 703).

⁹⁶ Inserted by Annex 2 No 13 of the O of 21 May 2008 on Geoinformation, in force since 1 July 2008 (AS **2008** 2809).

⁹⁷ SR **510.620**

⁹⁸ [AS **1965** 861; **1971** 1192; **1977** 2273 No I 18.1; **1985** 670 No I 3, 685 No I 6, 2022]

⁹⁹ [AS **1973** 964; **1987** 608 Art. 16 para. 1 let. e]

¹⁰⁰ [AS **1988** 2057; **1990** 874]

¹⁰¹ [AS **1956** 1220; **1959** 1626; **1977** 2325 No I 19; **1986** 1254 Art. 70 No 3; **1987** 2529;

1989 1124 Art. 2 No 2; **1992** 1749 No II 4. AS **1993** 104 Art. 42 let. a]

¹⁰² [AS **1956** 1227; **1959** 1628; **1975** 402 No I 15; **1987** 2531]

- f. the Ordinance of 22 June 1970¹⁰³ on Investment Credits for the Forestry Sector in the Mountain Region.

Art. 68 Amendment of Current Legislation

...¹⁰⁴

Section 3 Commencement

Art. 69

¹ This Ordinance, with the exception of Articles 60–64 and 67 letter f, comes into force on 1 January 1993.

² Articles 60–64 and 67 letter f come into force on 1 January 1994.

Art. 70¹⁰⁵ Transitional provision

The cantons shall submit the risk maps and overall plans in accordance with Article 16 paragraph 2 letters e and f to the FOEN for the first time by 1 December 2031.

Transitional Provision to the Amendment of 2 February 2000¹⁰⁶

Deforestation applications for works that are the responsibility of the cantons and which are pending on 1 January 2000 shall be governed by the previous law.

Transitional Provision on the Amendment of 17 August 2016¹⁰⁷

¹ Instead of the criteria stated in Article 40a paragraph 1, the amount of the compensatory payments made for measures to deal with forest damage outside the protective forest carried out before 31 December 2028 may be assessed according to the scope and quality of the measures.¹⁰⁸

² Instead of the criteria stated in Article 43 paragraph 1 letter j, the amount of financial assistance awarded for public infrastructure facilities adapted or reconstituted before

¹⁰³ [AS 1970 765; 1978 1819]

¹⁰⁴ The amendments can be consulted under AS 1992 2538.

¹⁰⁵ Inserted by Annex No 4 of the Hydraulic Engineering Ordinance of 25 June 2025, in force since 1 Aug. 2025 (AS 2025 450).

¹⁰⁶ AS 2000 703

¹⁰⁷ AS 2016 3215

¹⁰⁸ Amended by No I 2 of the O of 31 May 2024 on Amendments to Ordinances to take account of Changes to Programme Agreements in the Environment Field for the Programme Period 2020–2024, in force since 1 Jan. 2025 (AS 2024 252).

31 December 2024 may be assessed according to the scope and quality of the measures.¹⁰⁹

¹⁰⁹ Amended by No I 2 of the O of 17 April 2019 on Amendments to Ordinances to take account of Changes to Programme Agreements in the Environment Field for the Programme Period 2020–2024, in force since 1 Jan. 2020 (AS **2019** 1487).

*Annex*¹¹⁰

¹¹⁰ Repealed by No I 21 of the O of 7 Nov. 2007 on the New System of Financial Equalisation and Division of Tasks between the Confederation and the Cantons, with effect from 1 Jan. 2008 (AS **2007** 5823).

