Goal 4

FOREST LANDS

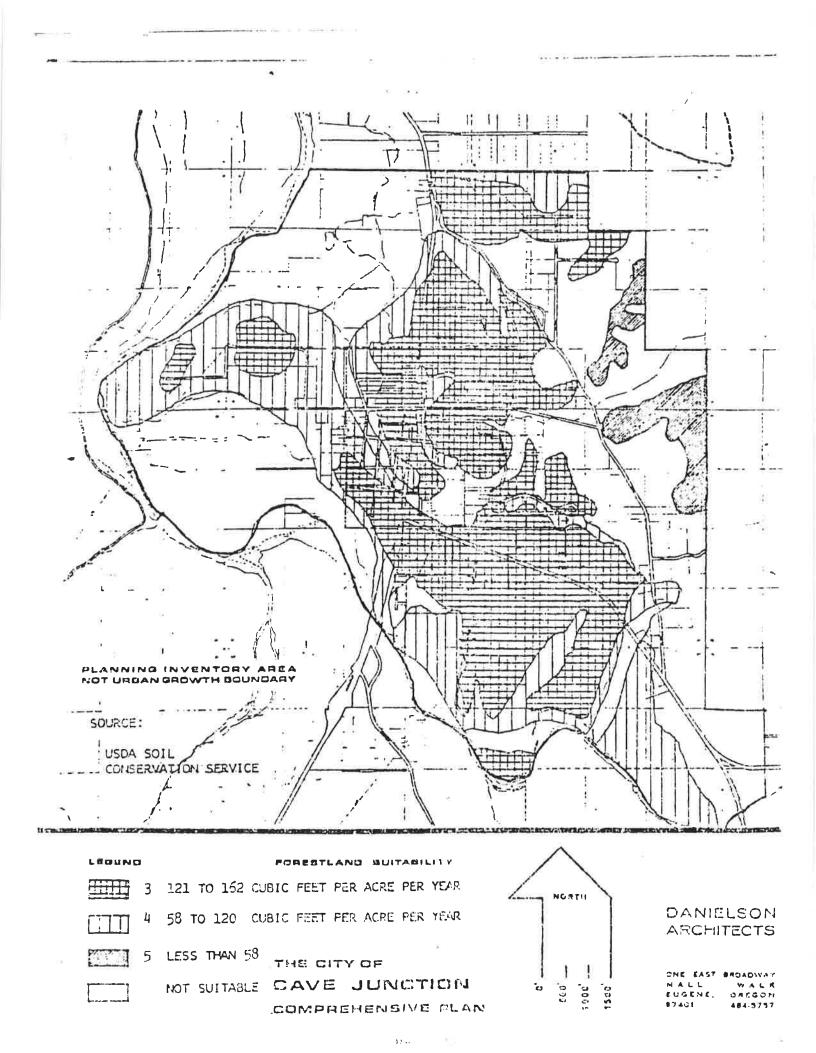
Forestland suitability has been inventoried according to cubic foot site class as shown on the accompanying map. Data was obtained from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service.

In general, the best forest land is the area in the central part of the planning area which is already or most likely to be developed in urban uses. Much of the area on either side of Laurel Road (one the Eastern side of the planning area) is not suitable for forest uses. The Northwest portion of the planning area near the golf course and sewage plant is not suitable. The Southwestern portion of the planning area is also not suitable.

County Land Use Designations. The Draft Comprehensive Plan designates none of the unincorporated area within the planning area for forest use; the majority of the area is urban and rural residential. The County has drafted an exception to the forest lands goal, coverir a protion of the planning area. While the City does not find that such an exception is required, the City is in agreement with the conclusions contained in the County's exception and has included and incorporated within the plan a modified version of the County's exception in Appendix A.

Designation of Forest Lands. This plan does not designate any forest lands within the planning area (and hence, the Urban Growth Boundary) for the following reasons:

- 1. The land within the planning area is not suitable for commercial forestry because of close proximity to urban and rural residential uses and the fact that most of the area has been divided into small parcels. Much of the area in larger parcels which lies on the periphery of the planning area does not have suitable soils for growing commercial timber.
- 2. As shown in Section 5 of this plan, none of the land within the planning area is important in terms of watershed, wildlife habita or fisheries habitat. Adequate land has been set aside within the planning area for recreational use.
- 3. In general, this area does not have any extreme conditions which require strict maintenance of vegetative cover to protect from erosion or provide windbreaks. According to Soil Conservation Service soil interpretations only the steepest portions of several parcels on the Eastern edge of the planning area have more than a moderate erosion hazard; these areas are shown on the "development hazards" map. The Soil Conservation Service shows no windbreak capability on any of the soils within the planning area.
- 4. The following section in the plan shows no particular need for any of the land within the planning area to be preserved for open space uses, except for the public open space lands which already exist.



CONCLUSION

- 1. There is no land within the planning area which requires preservation as forest land.
- 2. The City will take an exception to the forest land goal in order to coordinate with the County's Comprehensive Plan, although it is not certain that an exception is necessary.

POLICIES

- Small woodlot management will be permitted and encouraged within the Urban Growth Boundary until such time as the land is needed for urban development. The City will cooperate with landowners and the State Division of Forestry in promoting forest management practices within the Urban Growth Boundary which are compatible with urban uses.
- 2. On slopes with a severe erosion hazard, that is, slopes greater than 35 percent, no urban development will be permitted without a report from an engineering geologist stating what development standards shall be imposed to insure structural stability and to prevent erosion.