

Forest Practices

Agency	Department of Natural Resources (DNR)
Year Established	1974 (Forest Practices Act) and 1999 Forest and Fish Report
Relevant Statute	Chapter 76.09 RCW; Chapter 76.13 RCW; Title 222 WAC
Program Goal	Regulate the management of public and private commercial forestlands consistent with sound policies of natural resource protection; maintain a viable forest products industry; protect other forest resources.
Agency Summary	<p>The Forest Practices rules are set by the Forest Practices Board to govern forest practices activities on state and private forestland (defined as all land which is capable of supporting a merchantable stand of timber and is not being actively used for a use which is incompatible with timber growing). Forest practices are “any activity conducted on or directly pertaining to forestland and relating to growing, harvesting, or processing timber;” these include road/trail construction, timber harvest, pre-commercial thinning, reforestation, fertilization, disease/insect prevention/suppression, tree salvage, and brush control.</p> <p>DNR’s Forest Practices Program approves applications to ensure forest practices activities are conducted in compliance with the rules, ensures compliance with federal laws, and supports small forest landowners. DNR consults with WDFW responsibility to ensure all crossings over fish waters associated with forest practices meet fish protection standards.</p> <p>DNR manages a programmatic Habitat Conservation Plan to ensure compliance with the federal Endangered Species Act listings for aquatic species on DNR-owned lands. DNR’s Small Forest Landowner Office operates three capital programs and other programs for owners of small forestland parcels.</p>
Existing Outcome Measures	<p>The Forest Practices Compliance Monitoring Program provides compliance audits and monitoring reports each biennium to the Forest Practices Board.</p> <p>The Cooperative Monitoring, Evaluation, and Research (CMER) Committee, established by the Forest Practices Board, conducts business and scientific effectiveness and validation studies activities to ensure the rules have the intended regulatory effect. The Forest Practices Adaptive Management Program provides science-based recommendations and technical information to guide adjustments to the Forest Practices rules.</p> <p>Under the Forest Practices Habitat Conservation Plan, the state submits an annual report to federal agencies describing its activities. Output metrics include: fish passage barriers removed and stream miles opened, miles of forest road improved to meet state standards, number of new and active Forest Practices Application/Notification, Forest Practices Application/Notifications compliance rate, enforcement statistics, number of small forest landowner easements acquired, and Equivalent Area Buffer Index (estimates the percent reduction in function measured by potential large woody debris that could be recruited along fish-bearing streams).</p>

Other benefits identified by agencies	Community: protects cultural resources Economy: job creation, allows economic use of forestlands Environment: water quality, species protection Safety: flood risk reduction
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