

Rivers and Habitat Open Space Program (RHOSP)

Agency	Department of Natural Resources (DNR)
Year Established	1999
Relevant Statute	RCW 76.09.040
Program Goal	To maintain a fully functional riparian management zone on rivers where the channel may migrate.
Agency Summary	<p>RHOSP allows DNR to acquire permanent conservation easements from landowners for unconfined channel migration zones and habitat critical for state threatened or endangered species. RHOSP compensates landowners for 100% of the value of the timber they are not allowed to harvest in an area due to Forest Practices restrictions.</p> <p>RHSOP easement applications are prioritized based on the habitat quality, risk of future habitat loss, documented occupancy, species' landscape continuity, and species diversity.</p>
Existing Outcome Measures	DNR tracks the acres acquired, number of easements, and costs.
Other benefits identified by agencies	<p>Economy: economic benefit to landowner, maintains small forest lands</p> <p>Environment: Puget Sound restoration</p>