

15. Training/Information/Education

15.1 Introduction

Forest Practices Rules require DNR to “conduct a continuing program of orientation and training, relating to forest practices and rules thereof, pursuant to RCW 76.09.250” (WAC 222-08-141). DNR conducts ongoing training programs to educate internal agency staff, forest landowners and staff from cooperating agencies and organizations on implementation of Forest Practices Rules.

There are four major venues in which the Forest Practices Program provides training:

- Washington Contract Loggers Association (WCLA) training
- Forest Practices Program training
- Subject-based training
- Region training

15.2 Status of Forest Practices Training Programs

Due to budget constraints the program no longer has a Training Manager to implement a training program for staff, stakeholders, and landowners. Some training still continues—although on a much smaller scale—such as unstable slopes, channel migration zones, and wetlands. These are provided on an as-needed basis.

The Forest Practices Program had hoped to convene a stakeholder group to address training needs for staff and stakeholders, as well as a strategy for implementation beginning sometime in 2011. This did not occur due to budget constraints. The program has obtained funding for a training manager in FY 2012.

Washington Contract Logger Association Training

Staff participated in training offered by Washington Contract Logger Association (WCLA) — one session in eastern and two in western Washington. WCLA offers a five-day training course to participants, which includes one day of Forest Practices Rules training for operators seeking state certification. This course generally is offered twice a year in western and once in eastern Washington. Program staff and staff from other agencies (e.g., WDFW and Ecology) cover water typing, riparian and wetland management zones, cultural resources, road maintenance, enforcement, and general information regarding the Forest Practices Application/Notification process.

Forest Practices Program Training

Budget constraints have affected the magnitude of forest practices programmatic training over the past year. However, where possible, training has occurred. Less costly forums were sought for necessary training. For example, Forest Practices HCP Administrators provided informal training, as needed, through regularly scheduled meetings with region staff and one-on-one responses to questions via phone and email.

Formal training took place during regularly scheduled Operations meetings. The meetings are held three times a year between division staff and region Forest Practices Program management

staff to share information, address program concerns and answer questions. The Assistant Attorney's General office provided training to staff regarding discovery and search warrants. Department of Archeology and Historic Preservation provided a program overview. Program staff provided a review of the Forest Practices Board's rule-making process.

The Compliance Monitoring Program provides training for staff from DNR, Ecology, state Fish and Wildlife and tribal field staff that participate in onsite review of completed Forest Practices Applications. The training is specifically focused on the protocols used to collect Compliance Monitoring data. Protocols, which are updated periodically to reflect design changes, are reviewed to insure understanding of procedures and their purpose, usually in the context of meetings. On-the-job training is done using experienced staff to promote consistency in observations by newer program participants.

Training for Forest Practices Program information technology applications and web-based tools was limited to an as-needed basis during the 2011 fiscal year. Eight employees participated in Forest Practices Risk Assessment Tool training, and two employees participated in training about DNR's hydrography GIS database editing.

Subject-Based Training

Currently, Forest Practices Program scientists provide training on identification of unstable slopes, channel migration zones, and wetlands. These two-day courses have one day in the classroom and the other in the field. During this reporting period, unstable slopes training was offered three times, wetlands training offered twice, and channel migration zone training offered twice.

Unstable Slopes

Unstable slopes training included the following participants:

- **DNR staff** – new Forest Practices and State Lands foresters, Stewardship coordinators, Small Forest Landowner Office foresters, engineers, geologists, and research technicians.
- **Other public agency staff** –foresters, biologists, and engineers from the Natural Resource Conservation Service, US forest Service, and Grays Harbor County.
- **Industry staff** – engineers from Merrill and Ring, Weyerhaeuser, Rayonier, Pope Resources, Mason Bruce and Girard, Longview Timber and O'Neal Pine Co., Green Diamond Resources, Sierra Pacific Industries, Forest Professionals, Campbell Group, Port Blakely Tree Farms, International Forestry Consultants, and Hancock Forest Management.
- **Tribal** – foresters, biologists from Port Gamble S'Kallam, Quinault, Makah, Hoh, and the Suquamish tribes.

The objectives of unstable slopes training is to improve recognition of unstable slopes and landforms, improve consistency in recognition of these features, and identify when a specialist is needed for further consultation.

Channel Migration Zone

The target audience for channel migration zone training is DNR, industry, and other agency staff. The objectives of channel migration zone training include learning about channel anatomy, and

identifying significant features such as bankfull channel width, and the channel migration definition as defined by the rule. The class includes subjects such as understanding flood stage, and lateral channel movement; and aerial photo chronology to determine changes in channel morphology. Delineation of the migration zone also is demonstrated.

Wetlands

Basic wetland identification training has been offered for many years; and two main trainings along with a mini training for this year. Classes consist of identification of wetland vegetation for the specific region in which the training is conducted. Subjects covered in the classroom include wetland hydrology, soils, vegetation, and mitigation. Labs are conducted for identifying soils properties and plant associations. Field exercises cover wetland identification and delineation. Participants have included DNR foresters and managers, state Fish and Wildlife, and Timber/Fish/Wildlife (TFW) participants from the Spokane, Skokomish, Port Gamble, Nisqually, Snoqualmie, Puyallup, and Squaxin tribes.

Ideas for future training opportunities

The Forest Practices scientists are beginning to create formats for learning opportunities that use digital media. The Science Team is working with the Communications Group to provide photos of unstable slopes and wetland vegetation identification for twitter postings.

A video on bankfull width delineation has been posted to the Forest Practices website. There are two parts to the video that can be seen by clicking the following:

Part 1: [Identifying Bankful Channel Edge](#)

Part 2: [Identifying Bankful Channel Edge](#)

The Science Team has been working on easy to use self-explanatory presentations for each of the trainings. Final formats for these trainings are in transition as budgets and workloads could compromise the objective of providing these trainings in FY2012. Some possibilities are:

- An expectation that videography will be posted within the year for a training on channel migration zones.
- Mini-teaching workshops throughout the state that identify the three regulatory requirements of channel migration zones— “prone to move”, “in the near term”, and “with a potential for a loss of riparian function”. The workshop would include at least two- to- three example sites in each DNR region.
- Power point presentations with tracked narratives on unstable slope landforms could be posted as a guidebook for foresters and landowners for landforms in all DNR regions.

Region Training

DNR region staff generally delivers both statewide and region-specific training. In addition, each region office holds regular Timber Fish & Wildlife (TFW) “cooperator” meetings for Forest Practices program participants to communicate about changes in rules, rule implementation or application processing. Cooperator meetings are an important mechanism to assure fair and uniform application of forest practices requirements within and among DNR’s six regions. A

Region staff also organizes informal meetings in which technical or scientific information is presented as a way of keeping field practitioners informed about recent research findings.

Regions completed more than 130 training presentations/meetings during FY 2011. The topics varied widely. A few of the topics were: wetland identification, police powers, northern spotted owl assessments, state biomass project, water type verification, roads training, western grey squirrels, cultural resources, unstable slopes, and others.