

# 14. Information Technology

## 14.1 Information Technology-Based Tools

Information technology-based tools provide significant support for the administration of the Forest Practices Program. These tools include information systems, such as the Forest Practices Application Review System (FPARS) and the Forest Practices Risk Assessment Tool, as well as discrete data sets, such as the DNR Hydrography Geographic Information System (GIS) data layer that forms the basis of the water typing system. Within DNR, the Forest Practices Division works closely with the Information Technology Division to develop and maintain these information technology tools.

### Forest Practices Application Review System

The Forest Practices Application Review System (FPARS) streamlines the processing of Forest Practice Applications and provides the public with the ability to review proposed forest practices activities. It makes use of the Internet, document imaging and management technology, interactive geographic information system technology, and the Oracle database system to collect Forest Practices Application/Notification information, and distribute them for regulatory and public review. FPARS also supports risk assessments of proposed forest practices activities, and archiving Forest Practices Applications/Notifications.

A total of 5,302 Forest Practices Applications/Notifications (received or renewed) were entered into the Forest Practices Application Review System between July 1, 2011, and June 30, 2012. Currently, 1,143 reviewers receive notification of new applications in their area of interest. Another 577 individuals search the website for application and notification images on demand.

### Forest Practices Risk Assessment Tool

The Forest Practices Program continues to support the Forest Practices Risk Assessment Tool. This interactive mapping and reporting tool is available on DNR's web pages. It gives DNR Forest Practices Program staff, in both the division and the region offices, access to GIS data related to the implementation of the Forest Practices Rules. It allows staff to see the geographic relationships between environmental features, including streams with fish habitat, potential landslide areas, archaeological sites, northern spotted owl habitat, and the locations of proposed forest practice activities. There currently are more than 70 map layers that can be displayed or queried.

We continually work to improve the Risk Assessment Tool, adding map layers and functionality to better serve Forest Practice staff. In the current reporting year, we added a "Cultural Resources" data folder. This folder contains layers with links to US Geological Survey maps, US Army Mapping Service maps, and Government Land Office historical maps. These historical maps can be used to assist in the investigation of possible cultural resources in the vicinity of

proposed forest practices. We also added a map layer that provides the geographic extent of 29 tribes' area of interest and tribal contacts regarding cultural resources.

### **The DNR Hydrography Data Layer and Water Type Updates**

The Forest Practices GIS section updates DNR's hydrography data layer with water typing information received on Water Type Modification Forms (WTMF). These updates are based on direct observation in the field by DNR personnel, forest landowners, fish survey contractors, and others. Between July 1, 2011, and June 30, 2012, DNR entered approximately 3,906 updates into the Hydrography data set based on 882 Water Type Modification Forms. The estimated backlog of Water Type Modification Forms is approximately 1200.