

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 Revised Code of Washington 76.09.250" (WAC 222-08-140). DNR conducts ongoing training programs to educate internal agency staff, forest landowners and staff from cooperating agencies and organizations on forest practices rule implementation.

There are 4 major venues in which the Forest Practices program provides training: 1) Washington Contract Loggers Association (WCLA) training 2) Forest Practices program training 3) Subject based training and 4) TFW training. In addition the Forest Practices program is providing training to forest practices staff about implementing the FPHCP and has plans to develop educational materials directed to forest landowners and TFW partners.

15.2 Status of Forest Practices Training Programs

WCLA Training

The Training Manager schedules, organizes and manages the training on forest practices rules provided annually for the Washington Contract Logger Association (WCLA). The WCLA offers a five-day training course to participants, which includes the one day of forest practices rules training for operators seeking state certification. This course is offered up to three times a year, once in eastern Washington (if there are enough registrants) and twice in western Washington. DNR covers water typing, riparian and wetland management zones, cultural resources, road maintenance, enforcement, and general information regarding the Forest Practices Application/Notification process.

Forest Practices Programmatic Training

The Forest Practices Board adopted the Long Term Application rule in April of 2007. In October 2007, a three-phased training plan was implemented. The first phase was to train all Forest Practices staff about the Long Term Application process. DNR had three sessions at various locations in the state. The second phase was to introduce the forest practices rules to the Landowner Assistance Program. We held a "Forest Practices 101" training to new staff and existing staff in October. The third phase was a joint training with Washington State Department of Fish & Wildlife and the Department of Ecology about Alternate Plans and Riparian Function. This training was offered in each region to DNR, Ecology, and Fish & Wildlife forest practices staff.

DNR held its 2nd annual Forest Practices programmatic training for all Forest Practices staff. Staff were able to select 4 classes to attend from the following list: wetlands, riparian function, enforcement, sharepoint, negotiations & communications, forest health, ArcPad & technology, and water typing. All staff also attended a real-life scenario based lesson, as well as a class on right of entry by the Attorney General's Office. The 2009 training is in the planning phase.

Subject Based Training

Currently Forest Practices scientists provide training for Unstable Slopes identification, CMZ identification, and are just beginning to offer Wetlands identification. These are two day courses with one day in the classroom and the other in the field.

Unstable Slopes

Unstable Slopes training will be offered four times in various locations in the state in fall of 2008. Audience participants include:

- DNR staff – new Forest Practices and State Lands foresters, Stewardship coordinators, Small Forest Landowner foresters, engineers, geologists, and research technicians
- Other public agency foresters, biologists, and engineers – Department of Fish and Wildlife, Department of Revenue, City of Seattle, City of Tacoma, Mason County, US Army Corps of Engineers
- Industry and Tribal foresters, biologists, and engineers – Green Diamond, Weyerhaeuser, Hancock, Olympic Resource Management, SDS Lumber, Quinault Tribe, Nisqually Tribe

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

Channel Migration Zone

There are four CMZ courses planned for summer and fall 2008. These will be located at North Bend, Quinault, and Dayton. The target audience 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, and the CMZ as defined by the rules; understanding flood stage, and lateral channel movement; and properly applying the rules.

Wetlands

Basic wetland identification training has been developed. The training will be offered four times in fall of 2008 to DNR staff. The training will then be offered to TFW members in 2009.

TFW Training

DNR region staff generally delivers both statewide and region specific training. In addition, each region office holds regular TFW “cooperator” meetings as a means of communicating changes in rules, rule implementation or application processing to Forest Practices program participants. Cooperator meetings are an important mechanism to assure fair, uniform application of forest practices requirements within and among DNR’s six regions. DNR region staff also organizes informal meetings where technical or

scientific information is presented as a way of keeping field practitioners informed about recent research findings.

Forest Practice HCP Implementation Training

In 2008 the forest practices application instructions were updated to include information about coverage under the ITPs, related to 20-acre exempt forest landowners (go to www.dnr.wa.gov/BusinessPermits/Topics/ForestPracticesApplications/Pages/fp_forms.aspx). The revised instructions will help landowners decide if they want to voluntarily leave standard buffers in lieu of 20-acre exempt buffers in order to maintain coverage when function reduction thresholds within WAUs are reached.

An eastern Washington and western Washington form (see copy included in chapter 6 in this report) were developed to be used by region forest practices staff to measure the length/width/trees remaining within the riparian zone, following harvest that qualifies to use the 20-acre exempt forest practices rules. This information will be used to track the WAU/WRIA thresholds for reduction in riparian function.

Training is being developed that addresses the need for a meeting between tribes and landowners when cultural resources are involved on a forest practice. The training is scheduled to take place in the fall of 2008.

Plans for future HCP training will include the following:

- Develop a fact sheet for forest practices staff and landowners to more fully explain the ITP conditions relating to small forest landowners who qualify to use the 20-acre exempt forest practices rules when harvesting. The fact sheet will include information on leave tree requirements along Np streams; coverage within WAU/WRIA based on threshold determinations; and coverage within specific bull trout areas of concern.
- Develop a website for landowners and forest practices staff with general information about the Forest Practices HCP, and specific information related to forest practices applicants.
- Attend region TFW meetings and region forest practices staff meetings to provide information on Forest Practices HCP implementation when needed.