

# 4. Forest Practices Operations

## 4.1 Introduction

This chapter provides information on two elements of the forest practices program that are specific to forest practices operations. The first element is forest practices guidance. DNR develops internal guidance that provides direction for implementing the Forest Practices Act and rules. The second element is the forest practices program region audits. In 2006, the forest practices program began an internal audit process with the purpose of evaluating delivery of the forest practices program within each of the regional offices.

## 4.2 Forest Practices Guidance

Forest practices guidance supplements the forest practices rules and Board Manual. The complexity of the rules, details of program administration and variability in the forested environment often pose unique challenges for landowners and DNR staff in implementing the rules across the landscape. Situations commonly arise where neither the rules nor the Board Manual provide enough specificity to resolve a particular implementation issue. Therefore, DNR develops internal guidance that provides direction consistent with established program goals, resource protection objectives and performance targets. New guidance or changes to existing guidance are communicated to region forest practices staff in writing. Guidance that affects cooperating agencies, organizations and landowners is then shared outside of the agency.

DNR created several guidance documents between July 1, 2008, and June 30, 2009. The following is a summary description of the written guidance that has been shared with the forest practices staff:

### Summary of written guidance issued to department staff July 1, 2008 – June 30, 2009

Date	Reason for guidance	Accomplishment
6/26/09	Clarification on data collection expectations regarding required landowner/tribe meetings	Informs staff what data is required to track landowner/tribe meetings and the process for obtaining and keeping the data. The master log is used for recording the answer to the questions: 1) Is a landowner/tribe meeting required? and, 2) Did the landowner/tribe meeting take place?
6/22/09	Upgrade to the desired future condition (DFC) computer program	Informs staff and applicants of the internet based DFC version 2.0 that was installed on 7/16/09. Beginning 10/19/09, applicants must submit the DFC worksheet using version 2.0 with their forest practices application forms. The enhanced system preserves an applicant's DFC information in a database.

4/10/09	Updated procedure for processing requests for transfer of jurisdiction from DNR to local governments for Class IV general forest practices applications	Informs staff of the local government entity (LGE) transfer of jurisdiction process. Emphasizes the need to include the transfer worksheet in the packet sent to the forest practices division to allow thorough evaluation of the LGE's request.
3/23/09	Improvements in classifying forest practices applications with watershed analysis prescriptions for unstable landforms.	Clarifies that if prescriptions are not specific to the site, the application will be classified as IV special. Provides examples of specific and non-specific prescriptions. Provides a watershed analysis mass wasting prescription review table.
3/23/09	Forest practices application review and documentation expectations.	Provides the goals, standards, expectations, and procedures for office and field staff to document decisions and actions by DNR.
2/24/09	Precipitation and forecasted stream flow for the 2009 fish survey season. Required by Board Manual Section 13.	Drought is not expected to be a factor in accurately determining the fish presence or absence for most of Washington.
2/19/09	Watershed Analysis Worksheet	A watershed analysis worksheet is required to be included with every forest practices application with watershed analysis prescriptions that are within an approved watershed administrative unit beginning 3/2/09.

### 4.3 Forest Practices Audits

Information was provided on the forest practices audits in the Forest Practices HCP 2007 and 2008 annual reports. No new work was completed on the audits during FY 2009 due to budget cuts and transition to a new DNR administration. The State intends to refocus on the audits and has a priority list of steps to be accomplished:

- Follow-up with the completed phase I audits to see what actions have been taken
- Finalize non-finalized phase I audits
- Move to phase II of the audit process (external relationships)