

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 222-08-140). 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 four 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
4. Region training

In addition the Forest Practices HCP Administrators provide training to forest practices staff regarding implementation of the Forest Practices HCP as needed.

15.2 Status of Forest Practices Training Programs

WCLA Training

The forest practices Training Manager Position and some training efforts were eliminated during this reporting period due to budget constraints. Training continues, however, on a smaller scale.

The Washington Contract Logger Association training is ongoing. The Association offers a five-day training course to participants, which includes one day of forest practices rules training for operators seeking state certification. This course is generally offered twice a year. 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 Program Training

1. Following the Board's adoption of the new historic sites rules in August 2008 to address inconsistencies in current rules, the program provided guidance and conducted training for the regions. The training included:
 - An explanation of the board's new classification criteria for applications involving cultural resources,
 - Discussion on landowner/tribe meeting requirements,
 - Discussion on the method to document the occurrence of landowner/tribal meetings.
2. FPARS training took place for FPARS, version 3 (FPARSv3). FPARS is the web-based system that notifies interested parties of forest practices application filings. Interested parties can access DNR's website to review forest practices applications. The FPARSv3 project provides forest practices applicants the ability to complete a forest practices application and activity maps on-line and submit them via the internet to DNR. There were 12 training presentations throughout the state during FY2009.
3. Forest Practices Risk Assessment Mapping training took place for six new staff. This tool is an interactive mapping site on the DNR intranet. It gives DNR Forest Practices staff, in

both the division and the region offices, access to GIS data related to the implementation of the Forest and Fish Rules. This interactive mapping and reporting tool allows forest practices staff to see the geographic relationships between environmental features, including streams with fish habitat, potential landslide areas, archaeological sites, and listed animal species habitats, and the locations of proposed forest practice applications.

Subject-Based Training

Currently Forest Practices scientists provide training for unstable slopes identification, Channel Migration Zone (CMZ) identification, and wetlands identification. These are two-day courses with one day in the classroom and the other in the field. During this reporting period, unstable slopes training was offered four times, channel migration zone training twice, and wetlands training on three occasions.

Unstable Slopes

Unstable slopes training included the following participants:

- 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—Washington 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

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 bank full channel, and the channel migration zone as defined by the rules; understanding flood stage, and lateral channel movement; and properly applying the rules.

Wetlands

Basic wetland identification training was offered for the first time during the reporting period. Classes were successful and will continue to be offered.

Region Training

DNR region staff generally delivers both statewide and region specific training. In addition, each region office holds regular Timber, Fish and Wildlife “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.

Regions completed over 100 training presentations/meetings during FY 2009. The topics varied widely. Among the many topics included were; water type modification forms and process; best management practices-road sediment delivery; emergency forest practices applications; enforcement handbook; DNR Water Typing 101; Forest Riparian Easement Program training; watershed analysis procedures; and forest practices application processing.

Forest Practice HCP Implementation Training

The 2008 Forest Practices HCP Annual Report listed three items planned for future implementation regarding Forest Practices HCP implementation training. Following is an update:

- Developing fact sheet(s) – Forest Practices HCP fact sheet(s) were not developed during FY 2009. It is still the intent of the Forest Practices HCP Administrators to develop fact sheets as a resource for forest practices staff. The fact sheet(s) would summarize Incidental Take Permit conditions, explain related staff expectations and provide other clarification where needed.
- Develop a website – It was determined that a website is unnecessary. Forest Practices HCP information is already provided on the DNR Forest Practices Division's web page.
- Attend region Timber, Fish and Wildlife meetings – Timber, Fish and Wildlife meeting attendance has not taken place because current budget realities have curtailed travel unless absolutely necessary. Forest Practices HCP Administrators communicate to region staff via quarterly operations coordination meetings. Administrators also respond to questions by phone or by teleconference.