

## **NOTICE OF INTENT TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION FOR THE RIVERS AND HABITAT OPEN SPACE PROGRAM**

### **Background**

The Washington State Legislature established the Rivers and Habitat Open Space Program (Program) in 1999 as a part of legislation implementing the Forests and Fish Report. The program enables the State to acquire conservation easements from willing forest landowners. The program acknowledges the importance of forest landowners and the contributions they make to protect salmonids, water quality, and critical habitat of threatened and endangered species. The program compensates eligible forest landowners for trees that the landowner is required to leave unharvested as a result of forest practices rules protecting Washington's forests and fish.

### **Objective**

The program is administered by the Department of Natural Resources, but it requires funding from the State Legislature. The last several years have seen decreasing state government revenues due to the economy, which has resulted in budget shortfalls. This is probably why the program is currently not funded at all by the Legislature. Hopefully as state government revenues increase or other funding sources become available sometime in the future this program will receive funding. Until then, the Department feels it is important to determine the level of interest in this program by the forest landowner community of Washington State and to establish a list of potential interested participants. The Department is asking you, as a forest landowner, to indicate your interest in submitting an application (once funding becomes available) by filing with the Department this Notice of Intent form. This Notice of Intent is not an application for this Program. The actual application will require you describe in detail the habitat on your forest land that you wish to put in a conservation easement under this program. You are not required to file a Notice of Intent in order to be eligible for an easement in the future.

### **Proposed Outcome**

The Department of Natural Resources will gather the results of this survey of interest in this program and establish a list of potential participants. This list will be available in early November 2012 to budget makers and any other interested parties.

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**Instructions for how to put in your Notice of Intent:**

Please provide a separate Notice of Intent for each proposed Project. A Project for this program is defined as habitat located on a single parcel of forest land or multiple parcels in which all parcels share the same legal owner name(s). You may indicate multiple habitats within one Project. Please provide contact information in order for the Department to notify you of future developments in the Program. There are different categories of forest land habitats in which a landowner may be eligible for in this program (refer to Chapter 222-23-WAC). Examples are: Channel Migration Zones, Northern Spotted Owl Habitat, Marbled Murrelet Habitat, and other critical habitats of threatened and endangered species as recognized by the Washington State Forest Practices Board. Please indicate what type of habitat you believe meets the criteria of eligible lands to be included in an easement under this program. Include in this Notice of Intent a brief description of the location of the forest land habitat you intend to apply. This location can be described by either giving the distance and direction to a town, or a section-township-range location description, or attaching a sketch map showing the general location.

You may submit a Notice of Intent either on-line (through the internet) or by submitting the form by mail, fax, or email.

On-line Form: Starting July 2, 2012 you may submit a Notice of Intent on-line through the following link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/RHOSP>

Document Form: The completed, signed, and dated Notice of Intent can be sent to Forest Practices Division. The document can be found on the DNR web site by going to the Forest Practices page then under the “Featured Topics” is a link titled: “Submit Notice of Intent to Apply to the Rivers and Habitat Open Space Program Online.”

Mail should be addressed to:

Dan Pomerenk  
Forest Practices Division  
PO Box 47012  
Olympia, WA 98504-7012

Faxes can be sent to (360) 902-1428.

E-mails can be addressed to [dan.pomerenk@dnr.wa.gov](mailto:dan.pomerenk@dnr.wa.gov).

For questions concerning the Notice of Intent please call (360) 902-1427.

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Please enter the following information. This is not an application into the program. The Department of Natural Resources will contact you when funding becomes available and will provide you with an application for the Rivers and Habitat Open Space Program.

Landowner Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone numbers: Work: \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile: \_\_\_\_\_

Home: \_\_\_\_\_

General description of the location of forest land eligible for this program (you may attach a map):

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Check the applicable box(es) and indicate estimated size for each category:

<u>Habitat Type</u>	<u>Estimated Acres</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Channel Migration Zone	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Northern Spotted Owl Habitat	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Marbled Murrelet Habitat	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Other Critical Habitat	_____

Please sign and date this Notice of Intent. Signifying intent to participate in this program offered does not require actual participation in the program.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_