



January 3, 2008

To Interested Parties:

Forest Landowners have experienced timber loss from the recent storm events. Landowners are understandably anxious to harvest storm-damaged timber before further loss of economic value occurs. The Department of Natural Resources has been asked whether landowners can harvest storm-damaged timber as an emergency forest practices and what the department is doing to accelerate the required permitting process. This letter updates information that was originally distributed on September 12, 2006.

WAC 222-20-070 permits landowners and operators to conduct an emergency forest practices necessitated by and commenced during and immediately after the storm event. Such an emergency forest practice may be conducted before notifying the department or before receiving an approved forest practice applications. The department considers only those Forest Practice operations directly connected with storm activities to be emergency forest practices. Examples are: bucking down trees out of the roadways allowing access to inspect bridges and other structures at risk, removing material from streams that are blocking culverts or bridges to prevent additional damage and to retain the structure. The usual rules governing a notification or forest practices application apply to the harvest of storm- damage timber.

DNR understands landowners' concern about harvesting storm-damaged timber as soon as possible, so that timber value is not affected by environmental factors. The Forest Practices Division issued guidance (August 2001) to expedite forest practice application processing related to harvesting of storm-damaged timber. A summary of this guidance is attached for your information. These steps will help reduce application-processing time while maintaining proper review of applications and protection of public resources. Information about the degradation of storm-damage timber is available at the department's region offices.

The department is committed to the timely processing of forest practices applications and is making an extra effort to assist landowners who need to harvest storm-damaged timber. Please direct questions about specific situations to the DNR region office in your area as shown on the attached document. The current phone numbers and addresses of DNR's region offices can be found on the DNR's website: <http://www.dnr.wa.gov/base/regions.html>

Sincerely,

Gary Graves
Forest Practices Assistant Division Manager – Operations

EXPEDITED FOREST PRACTICES APPLICATION PROCESSING RELATED TO SALVAGE OF STORM-DAMAGED TIMBER

Listed below are steps that the Washington State Department of Natural Resources has taken to expedite processing of forest practices applications related to salvage of timber damaged by storm. These steps will help to reduce processing time while maintaining proper review of applications and protection for public resources.

Prioritize Forest Practices Applications

- Ask applicants (walk-ins or on phone) if their application is for salvage of storm-damaged timber.
- Scan mailed applications for evidence of storm-damaged timber is involved.
- Give storm salvage applications top priority when considering the application processing workload. They go to the “top of the stack.”

Applicant Assistance

- Give priority assistance to applicant for determining status of an application. For example, if an incomplete application is received in the mail, call the applicant immediately to solicit missing information and provide assistance.
- Advise applicants of the length of the review period.
- Be sensitive to the fact that the applicants may have experienced significant loss.

Application Processing

- Reducing Class III applications to 14-day reviews whenever possible, consistent with TFW cooperator expectations and appropriate public resources protection.

Cooperative Efforts

- The Forest Practices Division in Olympia has contacted the departments of Fish and Wildlife and Ecology in Olympia to inform them of DNR’s intention and request potential assistance from them in the expedited process.
- The affected regions have or soon will be contacting the appropriate tribes involved to solicit cooperative assistance.
- The Division is monitoring workloads in the affected regions. Regions will notify the division if assistance is needed.
- The Division will request additional Forest Practices resources from other regions, if requested by the regions.

Other Forest Practices Division Activities

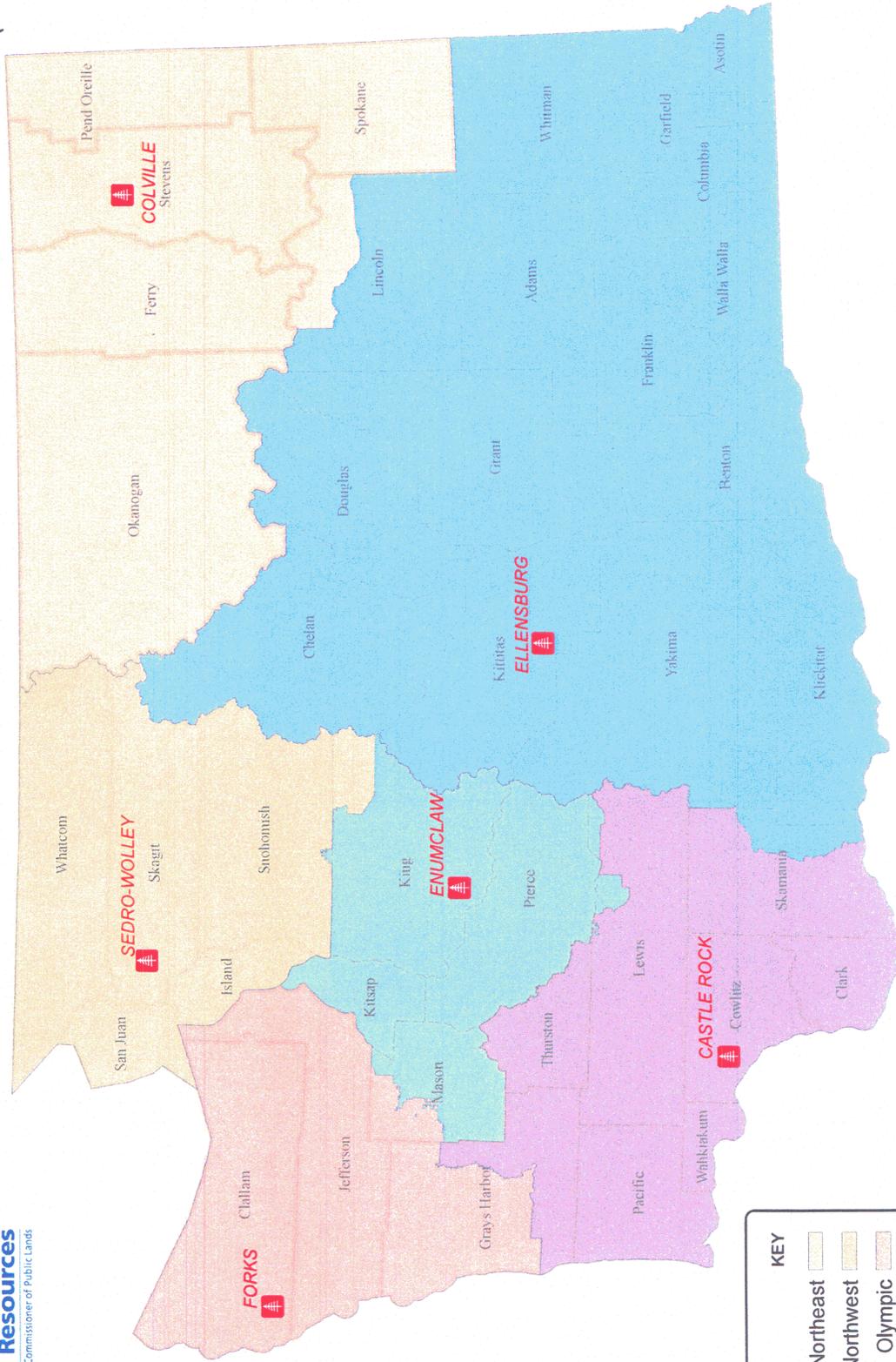
- The Division will expedite the availability of DNR specialist (e.g. scientists) for site reviews.
- DNR has developed information related to storm-damaged trees, insect and decay that are available for public distribution. This information is available at the region offices or by calling the Forest Practices Division at 1-360-902-1400.



WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF
Natural Resources
Doug Sutherland - Commissioner of Public Lands

DNR Regional Offices

DNR Headquarters
Forest Practices Division
1111 Washington Street SE
Olympia, WA 98504
(360) 902-1400



KEY	
Light Blue	Northeast
Light Green	Northwest
Light Purple	Olympic
Light Orange	Pacific Cascade
Light Yellow	South Puget Sound
Light Red	Southeast

Northeast 225 S. Silke Road Colville, WA 99114 (509) 684-7474 FAX 684-7484	Northwest 919 N. Township Sedro Woolley, WA 98284 (360) 856-3500 FAX 856-2150	Olympic 411 Tillicum Lane Forks, WA 98331 (360) 374-6131 FAX 374 - 5446	Pacific Cascade 601 Bond Road Castle Rock, WA 98611 (360) 577-2025 FAX 274-4196	South Puget Sound 950 Farman Street N. Enumclaw, WA 98022 (360) 825-1631 FAX 825-1672	Southeast 713 E. Bowers Ellensburg, WA 98926 (509) 925-8510 FAX 925-8522
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