Wetland Management

Cancels: This procedure Replaces PR 14-004-110 issued in August 1999

Date: May , 2000

Application: All forested wetland ecosystems (OESF and East-Side Planning Units Only)

DISCUSSION

This procedure defines management of wetlands that are in, or are associated with, forest ecosystems. The Forest Resources Plan (FRP) wetland strategy applies to all wetlands. The objective is to protect wetland plant and wildlife species, water quality, and plant communities. To accomplish the objective, DNR will identify wetland areas and ensure that management activities within those areas are conducted in a manner that adequately protects the wetland ecosystem function.

Action

(1) Identify the wetland boundary. (Use the Forest Practices Board Manual, Guidelines for Wetland Delineation, dated 3/2000.)

(2) Locate wetland buffer areas.

a. Within the Olympic Experimental State Forest(OESF):

i. Apply a buffer that is two-thirds of the site potential tree height of riparian forest to all wetlands that are between .25 and 5 acres.

ii. Apply a buffer that is equal to the site potential tree height of riparian forest to all wetlands that are greater than 5 acres.

b. Within East-side wetlands:

i. Apply a 100-foot buffer to all wetlands that are between .25 and 1 acres in size.

ii. Apply a buffer to wetlands that are greater than 1 acre. The average buffer with shall be the larger of:

1. An area equal to or greater that the average height that an adjoining conifer stand would be expected to reach at 100 years of age.

OR

2. 100 feet.

To determine the expected site potential height of the adjoining stand use State Soil Survey Data.

(3) Ensure that management activities within wetland buffer areas are in compliance with any existing commitments.

a. Within forest wetlands and forested buffer areas located within the OESF:

i. Maintain and perpetuate a stand that is wind-firm and has a minimum basal area of 120 square feet per acres.

b. Within non-forested wetlands associated with forested buffers that are located within the OESF:

i. Leave a 50-foot no-harvest zone around the non-forested wetland. Measure the 50 foot from the beginning of the forested area.

ii. Maintain wind-firm stands.

iii. Leave trees that are representative of the dominant and co-dominant species prior to harvest.

c. Within forested wetlands and associated forest buffer areas that are located outside the OESF and outside westside riparian buffers (see riparian task TK14-004-010 for guidance in managing within wetlands located in riparian areas):

i. Maintain and perpetuate a stand that is windfirm and has a minimum basal area of 120 square feet per acre.

ii. Provide on-site and in kind mitigation for road construction which requires on-site and in-kind mitigation.

iii. Limit disturbance in the area. Remediation of necessary disturbance should: 1) restore and maintain a condition that is as close to natural drainage as possible; 2) restore water storage. Limit disturbance by:

1. Imposing seasonal restriction,
2. conducting directional felling activities to avoid ground equipment entry,
3. carefully planning yarding corridors and skid trails and use low pressure tire equipment or cable systems and
4. Restore natural drainage.

APPROVED BY: Rick Cooper, Manager

Lands and Resources Division

May 2000