CONVERSION ACTIVITIES

Except for the “general definitions”, the rules listed are shortened for easier readability.

For the reader’s convenience, the chapter headings are hyperlinked so the rule can be seen in its entirety if desired.

Chapter 222-16 WAC, Definitions

WAC 222-16-010 General definitions.
"Conversion activities" means activities associated with conversions of forest land to land uses other than commercial timber operation. These activities may be occurring during or after timber harvest on forest land. They may include but are not limited to the following:

- Preparation for, or installation of, utilities on the forest practices activity site. The development or maintenance of existing rights of way providing utilities exclusively for other ownerships shall not be considered conversions of forest land (see WAC 222-20-010(5)).
- Any of, or any combination of, the following activities in preparation for nonforestry use of the land: Grading, filling, or stump removal.
- Preparation for, or construction of, any structure requiring local government approval.
- Construction of, or improvement of, roads to a standard greater than needed to conduct forest practices activities.
- Clearing for, or expansion of, rock pits for nonforest practices uses or developing surface mines.

"Conversion option harvest plan" means a voluntary plan developed by the landowner and approved by the local governmental entity indicating the limits of harvest areas, road locations, and open space.

"Conversion to a use other than commercial timber operation" means a bona fide conversion to an active use which is incompatible with timber growing.

"Notice of a conversion to a nonforestry use" means a notice issued by the department pursuant to RCW 76.09.060 (3)(b). A landowner who receives such notice is subject to the actions and requirements described in RCW 76.09.460 and 76.09.470.

WAC 222-16-050, Classes of forest practices.
There are 4 classes of forest practices created by the act. All forest practices (including those in Classes I and II) must be conducted in accordance with the forest practices rules.

1) “Class IV-special.” …
2) “Class IV-general.” (Paraphrased: These are forest practices on lands being converted to a use other than commercial timber production and lands within urban growth areas designated by counties; FPAs classified Class IV-general require SEPA analysis.)
3) “Class I.” …
4) “Class III.” …
3) **Local governmental entity conditions.** (for Class IV general applications on lands that have been or are being converted to a use other than commercial timber production)

- DNR transmits the FPAs to the local governmental entity (LGE) within two business days from the date the department officially receives the application.
- DNR conditions FPAs consistent with the request of the local governmental entity if:
  - The LGE has adopted a clearing and/or grading ordinance that addresses the items listed in (e) of this subsection and requires a permit;
  - The LGE has issued a permit under the ordinance that contains the requested conditions; and
  - The LGE has entered into an interagency agreement with DNR consistent with WAC 222-50-030 addressing enforcement of forest practices.
- The LGE conditions may only cover:
  - The location and character of open space and/or vegetative buffers;
  - The location and design of roads;
  - The retention of trees for bank stabilization, erosion prevention, and/or storm water management; or
  - The protection of critical areas designated pursuant to chapter 36.70A RCW.
- DNR shall incorporate LGE conditions as conditions of the forest practices approval.
- Any exercise of LGE authority consistent with this subsection shall be considered consistent with the forest practices rules.