

Strategic Plan: Year 2 Milestones Progress

JULY 1, 2011 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2012

Report: January, 2012

Goal II. Improve Forest Practices Rules and Strengthen Implementation and Compliance

Initiative A: Achieve reliable and consistent documentation of [Forest Practices Act](#) implementation; seek sustainable program funding.

Progress: Documentation (in response to the 2006 field audit, interest by the program in increasing efficiency and accountability as well as recent compliance monitoring results):

- The program developed improved documentation tools that now are in use (enforcement tracking database, Region master logs, Region forester logs, RMAP SharePoint site/database, monthly coordinator conference calls and training).
- Documentation expectations have been incorporated into region performance objectives.
- The Forest Practices training program (under development) will reinforce documentations standards/tools.

In addition, the Forest Practices Science Team has created a spreadsheet posted on the [Forest Practices Science Team SharePoint Site](#) for tracking an internal performance objective related to unstable slopes, Chanel Migration Zone (CMZ), and wetland consultations. It lists the Forest Practices Application number, name of DNR forest practices geologist(s) that reviewed the application; whether Watershed Analysis prescriptions were used, whether CMZs are present, the date of office and field review(s), date the report was sent to the region and pertinent geologist comments about the Forest Practices Application.

Funding: DNR developed and submitted a FY13 funding request to OFM in November 2011, which appeared in the Governor's proposed FY13 budget. The Forest Practices Program will work with the Executive Management Team to advance this and future requests aimed at securing resources adequate to maintain the Forest Practices Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP), Clean Water Act (CWA) assurances and the protection of public resources per the Forest Practices Act and rules.

Key Dates: February 2012 and 2013 for next compliance monitoring reports

End of 2012 legislative session for funding request

June 2012 for training program launch

June 30, 2013 for determining success at meeting FY11-13 performance objectives

Key Questions: None

Barriers or resource issues in accomplishing initiative: Budget limitations, vacancies and emerging issues have prevented Forest Practices from making as much progress on Strategic Plan initiatives as we had hoped. Nonetheless, we continue to set our goals high and look for creative ways to achieve them.

Initiative B: Implement the action plan to increase landowner compliance of [Forest Practices Rules](#).

Progress: Several action plan strategies have been implemented, are ongoing or are completed; these include:

- Ensuring water type documentation is part of a complete Forest Practices Application (ongoing)
- Conducting water type and riparian special emphasis sample as part of compliance monitoring (ongoing)
- Adding approval condition on 20-acre exempt riparian harvest Forest Practices Applications requiring 48-hour notice prior to commencing operations (ongoing)
- Providing wetland identification and road Best Management Practices training opportunities to landowners and operators (ongoing)
- Developing program guidance on enforcement actions decisions/documentation related to roads and sediment delivery (complete)
- Emphasizing close working relationship between DNR program staff and Ecology staff (ongoing)
- Implementing Road Maintenance and Abandonment Plan operational plan (ongoing)
- Continuing compliance monitoring surveys of road and wetland activities (ongoing)

Pending: The following action plan strategies are pending:

- Updating the Forest Practices Program website for general water typing information — the Operations section currently is working to finalize documents to be uploaded onto the [Forest Practices Applications webpage](#). All documents are scheduled to be on the website February 1, 2012.
- Developing an external website for water type modification proposal review — on hold until the Information Technology Division HYDRO conversion is completed. Work on this is tentatively expected to begin in March 2012. This project is dependent upon ITD's workload.
- Provide access to approved water type modification forms on Forest Practices Application Review System (FPARS)—dependent upon FPARS version 3. Due to lack of budget and Information Technology Division's workload this version will not be available until staff and funding is available.
- Operational and Board Manual guidance on how to measure stream length on the ground — on hold until Board Manual lead vacancy in Policy and Services section is filled.
- Forest Practices Foresters (FPF) will make a minimum of two on-site evaluations of activities being carried out for 20-acre exempt riparian Forest Practices Applications

during operations — which does not always happen due to landowners not always providing notice, and Forest Practices Foresters FPA review prioritization decisions.

- Continue compliance monitoring surveys of 20-acre exempt—due to time and staff constraints, no 20-acre exempt riparian FPAs were included in last year’s compliance monitoring surveys; we do intend to include them this year.

Initiative C: Implement [watershed analysis](#) reform to help improve protection from catastrophic landslides.

Progress: The Lead of the DNR Forest Practices Science Team completed an internal review to assess the need for reanalysis of all 52 approved Watershed Analysis unstable slopes prescriptions in the summer of 2010. Letters were sent to all sponsors notifying them of the review schedule and requesting a response on whether they were interested in conducting a review or sun setting the prescriptions.

Pending: The following related tasks are pending:

- The DNR Forest Practices Science Team Lead is completing a non-project SEPA to remove unstable slopes prescriptions from 38 approved Watershed Analyses.
- Westfork Timber (6 total) and Plum Creek Timber (5 total) will continue reanalysis of approved Watershed Analyses under their respective Habitat Conservation Plans.
- Weyerhaeuser will perform a reanalysis of unstable slope prescriptions of one approved Watershed Analysis in Pacific Cascade Region; and Rayonier will perform a reanalysis of unstable slopes prescriptions of two approved Watershed Analyses in Olympic Region.

Key Dates: Estimated completion date of SEPA to remove unstable slope prescriptions is spring 2012. Initiation of reanalysis of unstable slope prescriptions for Weyerhaeuser (1 total) and Rayonier (2 total) will begin in winter 2012.

Key Questions: None

Barriers or resource issues in accomplishing initiative: Capacity of Forest Practices Science Team Geologists— dependent upon FPA workload— may affect completion date for reanalysis.

Initiative D: Seek sustainable funding for [Forest Practices Adaptive Management Program](#).

Progress: Multiple attempts have been made since 2009 to secure long-term funding for the Forest Practices Adaptive Management Program. However, given state budget challenges, the primary focus has been on year-to-year and biennial funding necessary to continue active projects. Approximately \$8 Million was appropriated and/or allotted to the Adaptive Management Program, including participation grants through the Forest and Fish Support Account, for the FY11-13 biennium.

Pending: In November 2011, DNR submitted a supplemental budget decision package to OFM. This request, if successful, will restore some of the lost capacity of the Forest Practices program to sustain the Forest Practices HCP and Clean Water Act assurances for the state. In an effort to improve Adaptive Management Program (AMP) performance, an independent performance review is planned. The review will contribute to the agency's ability to better meet its adaptive management performance measure (the number of completed scientific reports received by the Forests and Fish Policy group and acted upon in the form of a recommendation to the board for action or no-action). One or more Adaptive Management Program processes will go through a LEAN event. A Request for Proposals (RFP) from LEAN experts has been advertised and is set to close on January 6, 2012.

Key Dates: Assuming we have responsive bidders to the Request for Proposals, by the end of February 2012 — complete an "opportunity assessment" of Adaptive Management Program processes suitable for reviewing through a LEAN event; by end of April, 2012, complete a LEAN event/assessment of Adaptive Management Program processes.

Key Questions: Will we have responsive bidders to our Request for Proposals? If not, what is our fallback plan? Chances for success of our legislative request; will other issues/bills distract from success?

Barriers or resource issues in accomplishing initiative: The major barrier to seeking sustainable funding for the Forest Practices Adaptive Management Program is the economy and associated state budget climate.