FAMILY FOREST FISH PASSAGE PROGRAM

Program Steps
How the Program Works

1. Landowner applies for a barrier evaluation
2. Barrier is evaluated and prioritized
3. Project is funded when it is a high priority
4. Project sponsor manages the project

Step One: Landowner applies for an evaluation
Apply online:
http:// surveymonkey.com/FFFPP

Contact our office: 360-902-1404 or email laurie.cox@dnr.wa.gov

Applications are accepted year round. To be considered for funding in the following year, applications must be received by June 30.

Step Two: Barrier is evaluated and prioritized
Once an application is received, you will be contacted by DNR staff to schedule an evaluation of the barrier. If the evaluation determines the structure is not a barrier, is not on a fish bearing stream, or is not on forestland, the landowner will be notified in writing that it is not eligible, and will not be enrolled in the program.

Projects will be ranked within their watersheds based on the:
- Amount and quality of habitat opened by the project
- Number of fish species which would benefit
- Other up and downstream barriers
- Project cost

Step Three: Project is funded when it is a high priority
Those projects providing the greatest benefit to fish habitat will be funded for construction the following year. Projects considered lower priority will be reconsidered during future years. The owner does not need to reapply – lower priority projects remain in the program until they become high priority.
Landowners will be notified when their project is funded.

Step Four: Project Sponsor Manages the Project
A project sponsor is selected from local groups experienced in fish passage projects.
Typically a sponsor is a fish enhancement group, conservation district or tribe. Having an experienced sponsor manage the project is strongly recommended to ensure the project gets completed on time and meets all fish passage requirements. Project management includes: engineering, permitting, construction oversight, billing and grant management.

The landowner, if he or she wishes, can manage all aspects of the project.
Eligibility

- Projects
  For a structure to be eligible for the program, it must be:
  - Located on forestland,
  - Located on fish bearing streams,
  - A barrier to fish passage,
  - Owned by a small forest landowner, and
  - Located at a road crossing

- Forestland
  Forestland is land capable of supporting a merchantable stand of timber and not being actively used for anything incompatible with timber growing.

- Fish-Bearing Streams
  Streams are generally considered fish-bearing if they are greater than 2 feet wide in Western Washington, or greater than 3 feet wide in Eastern Washington, and have a gradient of less than 20 percent. Intermittent streams which go dry during a portion of the year may have fish present during those times when the streams are flowing. A fish bearing determination will be made by program staff during the project.

- Fish Passage Barrier
  A fish passage barrier is any structure in a fish bearing stream that impedes fish passage to habitat up or downstream.

- Small Forest Landowner
  A small forest landowner harvests less than 2 million board feet of timber on average per year from their forestland in Washington during the previous 3 years. A small forest landowner must certify that he or she does not expect to exceed 2 million board feet of timber on average per year for the next 10 years.

- Road Crossing
  A structure must be associated with a road crossing in order to be eligible.

Partners
The Family Forest Fish Passage Program is implemented by three state agencies; each provides different program services:

- The Small Forest Landowner Office at the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) assists landowners, provides outreach, and seeks additional funding.

- The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) evaluates and ranks projects.

- The Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) administers project funding.

Questions about FFFPP? Call Laurie Cox at 360-902-1404 or email laurie.cox@dnr.wa.gov