Who is eligible for a long-term permit?

You may apply for a long-term forest practices permit if you harvest less than two million board feet of timber each year from lands you own in Washington and you are not converting your land to a non-forestry use.

Benefits

An approved long-term forest practice application is valid from 3 to 15 years. Having a long-term permit:

- Reduces the amount of paperwork over the long-term.
- Allows you more flexibility to react quickly to changing markets and unforeseen forest health problems or windthrow.
- Encourages long term planning.

Long-term Forest Practices Applications for Small Forest Landowners

An Overview

Small forest landowners own 4.2 million acres of Washington’s forests – about half of the private forestland in the state. These privately owned forests provide fish and wildlife habitat, clean water, and green landscapes, while producing valuable wood products. Landowners must have a permit to harvest timber, build roads, or conduct other forest practices activities. Permits are valid for two years and the application process can be complex and time consuming. As an incentive especially for small forest landowners to keep their land in forestry use, the Forest Practices Board developed a long-term application that is valid up to 15 years. Now, a small forest landowner has the option of applying for the standard two year permit or the long-term permit.
Getting Started
We strongly encourage you to contact us before starting the application process. DNR foresters are available to explain the long-term application process, to guide you in conducting your resource and roads assessment, and to help you complete the application forms. For more information or to request assistance, contact the DNR region office nearest the property in the application area.

Planning
Careful planning is important and some landowners may need to hire professional assistance, especially for complex applications. The amount of preparation depends on:

- The amount of land involved.
- The landowner's knowledge of the resources in the application area.
- The number and type of natural resources on the property, and the type of proposed activities.

For a more detailed explanation of the long-term application process, see Long-term Forest Practices Applications for Small Forest Landowners. It is available on the DNR website at http://www.dnr.wa.gov/sflo/ and from your local DNR Region Office.

How the Process Works
A long-term forest practices application is submitted and reviewed in two steps.

Step 1
Inventory and classify all the natural features such as streams, wetlands, springs, and steep slopes within the application area. Also, assess road condition to identify work needed to keep soil from entering water. Submit the resource and road information to the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Region Office. DNR foresters then review the information with help from other agency and tribal staff. When the DNR forester determines that all of the required features are identified and properly classified, then you submit Step 2 of the application form.

Step 2
Describe all of the activities that may be done over the requested time period. Show the location of the proposed activities on maps. You may propose an alternate plan as part or all of the application. DNR personnel will review the proposal and either approve, approve with conditions, or disapprove the application. It takes a minimum of 90 days to receive an approved long-term application.