Do You Own Forestland?

www.dnr.wa.gov/sflo

Washington State Department of Natural Resources
Caring for your natural resources... now and forever
The Small Forest Landowner Office (SFLO) at Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) offers assistance to small landowners to protect and promote the ecological and economic viability of their forestlands.

It is estimated that small forest landowners own 3.2 million acres of Washington’s forests—about half the private forestland in the state. These privately owned forests provide fish and wildlife habitat, clean water, and green landscapes while contributing to the economy of many communities through the production of valuable wood products.

The office and its staff strive to provide landowners with the knowledge and advice they need to keep their land in forestry. As the focal point for information, the SFLO guides small forest landowners in approaches to forest management and accessing publicly funded programs.

Who Is A Small Forest Landowner?

You may qualify for one or more of these programs if you are a forest owner who harvests less than 2 million board feet of timber per year on average. Some programs may require additional qualifications.

Data on acres owned by small forest landowners provided by Rural Technology Initiative

www.ruraltech.org
Our professional foresters offer free advice and assistance to hundreds of small forest landowners annually.

www.dnr.wa.gov/sflo
NEED ADVICE AND RESOURCES TO BETTER MANAGE YOUR FORESTLAND?

DNR provides on-site forest management consultation statewide from Landowner Assistance Foresters including a Wildlife Biologist. The Forest Stewardship Program helps small forest landowners manage and care for their land. Landowners can receive assistance on many aspects of forest management, resource protection, wildlife management, and guidance to develop a Forest Stewardship Plan.
Who is Eligible?
Small forest landowners owning five or more contiguous forested acres are eligible for an advisory site visit.

What Does it Do?
You’ll learn how to develop a Forest Stewardship Plan for all the forest resources on your property. The plan can guide you in improving forest health, reducing wildfire threats, and reaching other long-term management goals. A Forest Stewardship Plan may also help you qualify for:

▶ Cost share and financial incentive programs
▶ Forestland property taxation status

This program also works with Washington State University Extension* to provide:

▶ Forest certification programs
▶ Stewardship Forest property recognition

How Does it Work?
1. Contact the DNR region office nearest you or use the attached reply card to request a site visit by a DNR Forester or Wildlife Biologist
2. A DNR Forester/Biologist will visit your property, answer your questions, offer forest management advice customized to your goals, and can get you started on creating a Forest Stewardship Plan

*For more information about WSU Natural Resource Sciences Extension visit: http://forestry.wsu.edu

The Forest Stewardship program is partially funded by the USDA Forest Service.

Landowner assistance foresters advise landowners on timber harvests, resource protection, creating wildlife habitat, reducing wildfire risk, and many other topics.

Learn more online: www.dnr.wa.gov/sflo

Call your local DNR Region Office

A DNR Forester will visit your property for an on-site consultation.
Many miles of streams are inaccessible to fish because of barriers caused by road crossings. The Family Forest Fish Passage Program provides financial assistance to small forest landowners to replace culverts and other stream-crossing structures that keep trout, salmon, and other fish from reaching upstream habitat.

Watch a video about the program: www.dnr.wa.gov/fffpp
**Who is Eligible?**

You may qualify if:
- You are a small forest landowner
- The barrier is on a fish-bearing stream on your property
- The barrier is a human-made structure, such as a culvert, associated with a road on your forestland

**What Does it Do?**

When your barrier is ranked as a high priority project, it will be replaced with a fully passable structure. Just by applying to the Family Forest Fish Passage Program you are relieved of any state Forest Practices obligations to correct fish barriers until funding becomes available through the program.

**How Does it Work?**

1. Landowner applies for an evaluation online at: [www.dnr.wa.gov/fffpp](http://www.dnr.wa.gov/fffpp)
2. You can also contact us by phone or email at: (360) 902-1404 or sflo@dnr.wa.gov
3. Fish barrier is evaluated and prioritized
4. Project is funded when it is a high priority
5. Project sponsor (conservation district, tribe, fish enhancement group) manages the project

**Forest Road Maintenance**

All forest landowners have an obligation to maintain roads on their forestland to the extent necessary to prevent damage to public resources such as water quality and fish habitat.

---

Need advice and resources to better manage your forestland?

Learn more online: [www.dnr.wa.gov/sflo](http://www.dnr.wa.gov/sflo)

Call your local DNR Region Office

A DNR Forester will visit your property for an on-site consultation.

The Family Forest Fish Passage Program is a partnership between DNR's Small Forest Landowner Office, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the Recreation and Conservation Office.
Forestry Riparian Easement Program

The Forestry Riparian Easement Program (FREP) provides compensation for trees required to be left next to streams, wetlands, seeps, or adjacent unstable slopes. FREP reimburses eligible landowners for a minimum of 50 percent of the value of the trees they must leave, by law, to protect fish habitat.
Who is Eligible?
Small forest landowners who:
- Have completed a harvest and left a buffer of trees next to a stream, river, wetland, lake, pond, or adjacent unstable slopes
- Are an individual, partnership, corporation, or other nongovernmental for profit legal entity
- Own either a parcel larger than 20 contiguous acres or more than 80 forested acres in Washington State

What Does it Do?
FREP is a voluntary program that reimburses eligible landowners for a minimum of 50 percent of the value of the trees they must leave, by law, to protect riparian function. You will still own the property, have full access, and do not have to allow public access after leasing the qualifying trees and riparian function to the state.

How Does it Work?
1. Submit a Forest Practices Application before the harvest begins
2. Complete the harvest
3. Contact the FREP Specialist at (360) 902-1427
4. Submit a FREP Application: www.dnr.wa.gov/frep
5. DNR estimates the value of the easement based on the value of the trees left in the riparian buffer
6. When funding becomes available, acquisition process begins
7. Compensation is paid in one lump sum, and a 50-year easement is placed on your land title.

This program protects riparian areas that are important parts of the forest ecosystem providing fish and wildlife habitat.
Long-Term Forest Practices Application

Landowners must have an approved Forest Practices Application to harvest timber, build roads, or conduct other forest practices activities. Rather than renewing or rewriting your application every three years, a small forest landowner can ease the paperwork burden by obtaining a Long-Term Forest Practices Application for up to 15 years.
Who is Eligible?
You may qualify if you are a forest landowner who harvests less than 2 million board feet of timber per year on average.

What Does it Do?
- Provides long-term Forest Practices Application valid for 4 to 15 years
- Reduces the amount of paperwork over the long-term
- Allows you more flexibility to react quickly to changing markets and unforeseen events
- Encourages long-term planning

Small forest landowners may apply for a long-term application that is valid for up to 15 years. This flexibility will allow landowners to react quickly to changing markets and unforeseen events.

How Does it Work?
1. Contact a DNR Region Office nearest you
2. Download instructions and long-term application forms from www.dnr.wa.gov
3. Work with DNR Foresters to complete the two-step application process:
   - Step 1. Inventory and classify all the natural features and assess road conditions in the application area. Submit the information to the DNR region office nearest you for review (validation takes up to 45 days).
   - Step 2. Describe and map all of the activities that may be conducted over the requested time period. DNR will review the proposal to see if you qualify (final approval takes up to 45 days).

Ease your paperwork burden and allow for more flexibility to react quickly to changing markets and unforeseen events.

Need advice and resources to better manage your forestland?
Learn more online: www.dnr.wa.gov/sflo
Call your local DNR Region Office
A DNR Forester will visit your property for an on-site consultation.
Alternate Plans

Alternate plans allow landowners to apply for more site flexibility than the standard Forest Practices Rules allow. An alternate plan can provide greater flexibility as long as it provides protection to public resources, such as water, fish, and wildlife, at least equal in overall effectiveness to the protection that the standard rules provide. Alternate plans are for valid for 3 to 5 years.
Who is Eligible?
Any landowner contemplating forest practices activities can apply for approval of an alternate plan. Small forest landowners can utilize two additional alternate plan templates.

What Does it Do?
An alternate plan is a forest management plan that provides protection to the riparian and other ecological functions based on specific field and stream conditions of your property. Use it to manage:

- Overstocked stands
- Forest health, including insect damage, disease, and fuel loading
- Riparian areas
- Disturbed forests, such as harvesting after wildfire or windthrow

How Does it Work?

1. Contact the DNR Region Office nearest you
2. With the forester’s assistance, assess riparian functions currently provided by your forest stand
3. Discuss management approaches that will maintain riparian functions over time
4. Develop an alternate plan based on maintaining riparian functions, and complete the Alternate Plan Form
5. DNR forms an interdisciplinary team (state, federal, and tribal resource professionals) that will visit your property to assess the plan
6. If your Alternate Plan is approved as part of your Forest Practices Application, you can begin the planned management activities

Do You Have a Better Idea?
Submit an Alternate Plan as part of a Forest Practices Application for timber harvest to your local DNR region office. The plan must describe how the proposed alternative prescriptions depart from the Forest Practices Rules and how the proposal will provide sufficient resource protection.

An application with an Alternate Plan may be submitted for either a three-year or a multi-year (five-year limit) period of time.
Please send me more information about:

- Forest Stewardship Program
- Family Forest Fish Passage Program
- Forestry Riparian Easement Program
- Long-Term Forest Practices Application
- Alternate Plans
- Rivers and Habitat Open Space Program
  Landowners that have forestland in a channel migration zone and/or forestland identified as critical habitat for state recognized threatened or endangered species may be eligible for this program
- Please sign me up for the Small Forest Landowner Office e-mail newsletter to learn of upcoming events, new assistance opportunities, and other information pertaining to small forest landowners
- I am interested in classes, workshops, and tours for forest owners (your name will be forwarded to WSU Extension)
- Please ask my Landowner Assistance Forester to contact me

CHECK ALL THAT APPLY ON LEFT, FILL OUT, DETACH, AND MAIL POSTCARD

____________________________
Name

____________________________
Address

____________________________  ____________________  ____________________
City  State  Zip Code

____________________________
Phone (with area code)

____________________________
E-mail

____________________________
County where you own forestland

____________________________
Approximate number of forested acres you own