Forest Practices Rules
Protecting Unstable Slopes

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Forest Practices Division
Forest Practices Rules
Protecting Unstable Slopes

- Class IV-special
  WAC 222-16-050 (1) (d)

- SEPA Policies
  WAC 222-10-030
Class IV-special
WAC 222-16-050 (1)(d)

• Timber harvest, or construction of roads, landings, gravel pits, rock quarries, or spoil disposal areas,
• On potentially unstable slopes or landforms
• With potential to deliver sediment/debris to a public resource or threaten public safety
• Field verified by the department
SEPA Policies if Class IV-special
WAC 222-10-030

• Additional information from Applicant
  - Environmental Checklist
  - Qualified Expert Report on slope stability

• SEPA Threshold determination by DNR
Applicant’s Qualified Expert Report

- Describe potentially unstable landforms in and around application site
- Analyze:
  (a) likelihood to cause or contribute to movement of the slope or landform
  (b) likelihood of delivery of sediment or debris to a public resource, or to threaten public safety
  (c) any possible mitigation for the identified hazards/risks
SEPA Threshold Determination
DNR evaluates whether the proposed forest practices:

(a) Are likely to increase probability of mass movement on or near the site

(b) Would deliver sediment or debris to public resource or in a manner that would threaten public safety

(c) Such movement and delivery are likely to cause significant adverse impacts.
**DNR Decision**

If DNR determines that all 3 situations exist, this is a SEPA Determination of Significance, and an Environmental Impact Statement is required by applicant.

- DNR evaluates proposal and EIS using appropriate expertise, in consultation with other affected agencies and tribes.

- DNR requires specific mitigation measures or conditions designed to avoid accelerating rates and magnitudes of mass wasting.
Class IV-special Exception for Watershed Analysis

- In a WAU with an approved watershed analysis
- Proposal conforms to approved prescriptions
- Prescription is specific to the site or situation (as opposed to calling for additional analysis)