



WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF **NATURAL RESOURCES**

Investments in Salmon, Investments in Small Towns

Washington's small forest landowners are an important part of the Evergreen State's ecology and economy. The Small Forest Landowner Office at the Washington State Department of Natural Resources provides technical and financial assistance to help owners to manage their forests to meet their specific goals while keeping the forestlands on the landscape.

Three Legislature-funded programs are pivotal to DNR's efforts:

- **Family Forest Fish Passage Program (FFFPP)** is a cost-share program that helps owners replace fish passage barriers, such as undersized culverts, that keep trout, salmon, and other fish from reaching upstream habitat
- **Forest Riparian Easement Program (FREP)**, which pays eligible small forest landowners for a 50-year easement for required leave trees to compensate them for the disproportionate impact they face from rules that protect water quality
- **Rivers and Habitat Open Space Program (RHOSP)**, which acquires permanent conservation easements for critical habitat state threatened or endangered species, or to protect channel migration zones

For FFFPP, DNR is requesting \$10 million in capital funding to correct 58 barriers to fish passage. That will open up 120 miles of fish habitat, adding to the 1,099 miles of habitat the program has made accessible in 424 prior projects. The program is a job creator in rural timber communities, too. Our data shows that each \$100,000 spent on FFFPP projects creates an estimated 1.57 direct family-wage jobs.

For FREP, DNR is requesting \$10.5 million in capital funding to purchase 118 easements. These easements will protect 1,262 acres of land around fish-bearing waters while compensating landowners for the value of the timber left standing as a result of the wider buffers instituted by the Forests & Fish Rules in 2001.

For RHOSP, DNR is requesting \$6.1 million in capital funding to acquire six easements for critical fish and wildlife habitat and channel migration zones. These easements will permanently protect 339 acres of habitat that could otherwise be lost to development.

All three programs are critical to protect salmon habitat and honor commitments the state made to small forest landowners during the Forests & Fish negotiations, and FFFPP and FREP both have significant capital funding backlogs. These investments will keep forests – and landowners – in Washington's ecosystem.



Small landowners are a critical part of Washington's forests. Legislature-funded programs are vital to keep them on the landscape – and keep their lands providing clean, cool water for salmon and other aquatic species.

For more information about this proposal contact:

Kristine Reeves
Legislative Director
(360) 764-0013
kristine.reeves@dnr.wa.gov