



## DNR Forest Practices Program Message

During this extraordinary time in our lives, we want you to know that we are open for business. However, due to the COVID-19 “Stay Home – Stay Safe” order, the Department of Natural Resources’ Forest Practices staff are asking for your help and cooperation. DNR’s objectives during this period are the following:

- Keeping our staff safe through social distancing, washing hands, and other practices to help minimize transmission of the novel coronavirus;
- Making sure DNR staff does not cause further transmission of the virus to the public or our TFW partners;
- Maintaining continuity of operations to the extent possible; and,
- Communicating effectively with all our TFW partners.

Here is how we are conducting business while meeting the above objectives:

- DNR’s offices are closed to the public. However, each DNR Region office has established secure drop boxes so landowners are able to submit Forest Practices Applications and Notifications (FPA/Ns) without exposure. DNR continues to accept FPA/Ns submitted by mail.
- Staff are conducting the daily business of reviewing mail or checking lock boxes for FPA/Ns and processing fees and reviewing FPA/Ns via telework (where possible). Forest Practices foresters, along with qualified geologist and engineering staff (when necessary and safe), are conducting field visits. FPA/Ns are then approved, approved with conditions, or disapproved.

Given the current circumstances, DNR staff will be extremely grateful if landowners meter their FPA/N submittals during the COVID-19 outbreak. Please only submit those FPA/Ns absolutely necessary to conduct business during the mandate.

The COVID-19 stay safe mandate is also affecting field availability of natural resource professionals from certain tribes, WDFW, and Ecology whom DNR relies upon for their expertise to assist with certain FPA field reviews. Many TFW stakeholder partners are working remotely, and are available by phone and email. Where field reviews are necessary, DNR is implementing creative methods to incorporate and collaborate with tribes, WDFW, and Ecology so that they can impart local knowledge. If there are questions, DNR will also use photos/video or conference calls/video calls to assist with inclusion of our partners.

Inter-disciplinary team meetings are being postponed unless absolutely necessary. If you are planning to submit a complex FPA/N that would require an ID team meeting, we ask that this is a deliberate decision that cannot be postponed to a later time where DNR staff and stakeholders would be able to attend in-person and provide valuable feedback.

**Note:** This is a professional courtesy request only. If you absolutely need to submit your complex FPA, DNR is open for business and we will process your FPA.

There may be some situations where DNR staff are unable to obtain critical information from one of our TFW partners within the available time. In those situations, we may request that the applicant voluntarily withdraw the FPA.