Forestry Riparian Easement Program

A Landowner Compensation Program to Protect Riparian Habitat

TREES LEFT AFTER A HARVEST HAVE VALUE

The Forestry Riparian Easement Program (FREP) provides compensation for trees required to be left next to streams, wetlands, seeps, or adjacent unstable slopes.

FREP is a voluntary program that reimburses eligible landowners for a minimum of 50 percent of the value of the trees they must, by law, leave to protect riparian habitat.
The Forestry Riparian Easement Program was a carefully considered option that allowed us flexibility in managing our tree farm riparian areas. We have two streams, and a commitment to the long-term health of the forest. We were comfortable with the program and the quality of work done by DNR.”

How does the program work?

You may qualify if you:

- are an eligible small forest landowner,
- 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,
- have completed a harvest and left a buffer of trees next to a stream, river, wetland, lake, pond, or adjacent unstable slopes.

Who’s eligible for the program?

1. Submit a Forest Practices Application before the harvest begins.
2. Complete harvest.
3. Contact the FREP Program Specialist to see if you are eligible:
   360-902-1427
   sflo@dnr.wa.gov
4. Submit FREP Application.
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, the acquisition process begins.
7. Compensation is paid in one lump sum, and a 50-year easement is placed on your land title.