

Before You Begin a Road Maintenance Activity

Prior approval from DNR may be required in the following instances:

- ▶ Maintaining a road where there is risk of sediment entering typed waters
- ▶ Operating equipment adjacent to streams, on unstable slopes or near other sensitive sites
- ▶ Installing/replacing water crossings

Permits You May Need to Conduct a Road Maintenance Activity

Work on forest roads may require one or both of the following permits:

- 1 Forest Practices Application/ Notification (DNR)
- 2 Hydraulic Project Approval (WDFW)

Contact the DNR Region Office nearest your property for more information.



A drain dip is one strategy for diverting road runoff to the forest floor before it reaches a stream.

Forest roads can impact public resources such as water quality and fish habitat

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This brochure only provides an outline of state forest road maintenance rules. For the complete requirements, please see:

- ▶ Forest Practices Rules (WAC 222-24)
- ▶ Forest Practices Board Manual (Section 3) and
- ▶ Forest Practices Act (RCW 76.09)

For a copy of these publications, please contact the local DNR Region office.

Road Maintenance and Requirements for Small Forest Landowners

AN OVERVIEW

Small forest landowners own 4.2 million acres of Washington's forests—about half the private forest land in the state. These lands are interlaced with thousands of miles of forest roads, many of which require frequent maintenance.

Roads can be one of a landowner's most expensive investments, and neglecting regular maintenance can lead to long-term problems and costly repairs.

Forest roads can also impact public resources, such as water quality and fish habitat. Sediment (dirt and mud) from forest roads can degrade water quality. Culverts and other forms of stream

crossings can also become barriers to fish, preventing them from reaching upstream habitat.

Through its forest practices rules, Washington State has created forest road maintenance requirements that minimize the effects of roads on water quality and fish habitat.

Benefits of Road Maintenance

Timely road maintenance can:

- ▶ Save the landowner road improvement costs.
- ▶ Ensure that water drains from the road to the forest floor without damaging the road.
- ▶ Keep dirt and mud from entering streams.
- ▶ Ensure water crossings do not block fish from migrating upstream.
- ▶ Ensure that logging trucks and equipment safely and efficiently gain access to timber.
- ▶ Ensure fire fighting equipment quickly gains access to forest fires.

Forest Road Maintenance Rules

All forest landowners have an obligation to maintain roads on their forest land to the extent necessary to prevent damage to public resources. Forest practices rules require landowners to:

- ▶ Minimize sediment delivery to streams and wetlands.
- ▶ Keep drainage structures functional.
- ▶ Maintain drainage on roads during and after log and rock hauling.
- ▶ Divert road runoff to the forest floor before it reaches streams.

This brochure outlines basic state road maintenance requirements for small forest landowners.



Help maintain forest roads to protect our public resources

D **ivert road runoff away from streams by using ditch-outs, water bars, relief culverts and drain dips that drain water to the forest floor.**

Inspect forest roads, especially before and after storms and use by heavy equipment. Make sure road surface is not eroding and ditches and drainage structures are functioning properly.

Before the first rainy season, clear drainage structures, check road surfaces, and fix or install water bars to prevent erosion.

If down wood blocks vehicle access on stream adjacent parallel roads, move it to the side of the road closest to the adjacent water to catch sediment that may run off the road surface.

If dirt and mud are entering streams, immediate action is required.

The drain dip bottom is sloped to carry water from inside to outside of road surface, onto natural ground.

DRAIN DIP

Ditch drainage should be directed onto the forest floor, and not allowed to continue flowing down the ditch and into the stream.



What is a Road Maintenance and Abandonment Plan (RMAP)?

A RMAP is a forest road inventory and schedule for any needed roadwork. It is prepared by the landowner and approved by DNR. All large forest landowners are required to submit a RMAP. Some small forest landowners are required to submit a checklist RMAP. A checklist RMAP is a form landowners fill out to indicate they have assessed the roads they will use for timber harvest or salvage. The checklist RMAP identifies potential road maintenance problems.

Is a Checklist RMAP Required?

If you are a small forest landowner, answer the following questions to see if a checklist is required:

A Are you submitting a Forest Practice Application/ Notification (FPA/N) for timber harvest (includes salvage)?

No. No checklist is required
Yes. A checklist may be required. Go to B

B Are you hauling timber on existing forest roads on your property with this FPA/N?


No. No checklist is required
Yes. A checklist may be required. Go to C

C Do you own more than 80 acres of forest land in Washington State?

Yes. A checklist is required with this FPA/N
No. A checklist may be required. Go to D

D Is this FPA/N on a block of forestland that contains more than 20 contiguous acres?

Yes. A checklist is required with this FPA/N
No. No checklist is required.

 A Checklist RMAP can be obtained from a local DNR Region office (see back of brochure) or from DNR's website.

TERMS

Small Forest Landowner
Annually harvests less than 2 million board feet from their own lands.

Forest Land
Land that is capable of supporting a merchantable stand of timber, and is not being actively used for a use incompatible with timber growing.

Forest Road
Ways, lanes, road, or driveways on forest land used since 1974 for forest practices. "Forest roads" do not include skid trails, highways, or local government roads.

Family Forest Fish Passage Program

Many stream crossings block fish from migrating to upstream habitat. Fish barriers can be hard to identify, and can include culverts, dams, puncheons and other forms of water crossings.

Fixing fish barriers can be expensive. The State has created the **Family Forest Fish Passage Program** which provides 75% to 100% of the cost of correcting fish barriers.

Contact the local DNR region office for more information.

If You Plan to Abandon a Road

You may abandon forest roads that are no longer used. This may mean blocking the road to all traffic use and restoring the natural drainage within the area occupied by the road. Landowners are encouraged to contact DNR for assistance prior to abandoning roads. DNR must approve an abandoned road before it can be considered officially abandoned. Once a road has been abandoned a landowner is no longer required to maintain it.

If You Have an Orphaned Road

An orphaned road is a road that has not been used by anyone for forest practices since 1974. State law requires DNR to maintain an inventory of orphaned roads that pose a risk to public safety or public resources. Orphaned roads that pose a risk must be indicated on a DNR Activity Map submitted with a checklist RMAP.

Road ditches and relief culverts should direct runoff to the forest floor before it reaches streams.

