



# Forests & Fish Update

March 2005

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## Forests & Fish Timeline

**Mid-90s** CWA 303(d) listing of impaired waters

**1997-99** ESA listing of 26 salmon and steelhead species and bull trout

**1997-98** Forests & Fish negotiations

**1999** Salmon Recovery Act

**1999** Governor's Statewide Salmon Recovery Strategy

**1999** Forests & Fish Report

**1999** Forests & Fish law

**2000** Forest Practices Board Emergency Rules

**2000** NMFS 4(d) rule limit

**2001** Forest Practices Board Permanent Rules

**2003** SFLO RMAP assist

**2005** Forests Practices - Habitat Conservation Plan application

## Legislative Support

The Forests & Fish law - ESHB 2091 - passed in 1999 with 2/3<sup>rd</sup> majority, bipartisan support

**House:** 67-Y and 27-N

**Senate:** 29-Y and 17-N

## Stakeholders

Federal agencies  
State agencies  
County government  
Native American Tribes  
Private forest landowners

## Current Events

It's public comment period time. We're now in the Forest Practices HCP public comment period, which will run through May 12, 2005. Eight public meetings have been scheduled throughout the state, from March 29 through April 13. WFPA has initiated a toll-free number and a website where public comments may be left - 1-888-WASH-HCP. The editorial staff of the [Seattle P.I.](#) and [Bellingham Herald](#) have written in support of the FP-HCP. A round of editorial boards with DNR, industry and other stakeholders is currently underway, informing the editorial staff of the final step in the evolution from the 1999 Forests & Fish Law to federal assurances through the Forest Practices HCP.

## Green Diamond receives award



**Green Diamond Resource Company RMAP award.**

At the Shared Strategy Summit In January, Green Diamond Resource Company was recognized for outstanding efforts to protect salmon habitat through the implementation of the Road Management & Abandonment Plans. WFPA was also honored for helping to upgrade forest practices as outlined in the Forests and Fish Report. The two-day event was the launching pad for Shared Strategy's salmon recovery plan that will be submitted to NOAA-fisheries

for approval this year. For more information contact Jagoda at 206-447-8667 or click: <http://www.sharedsalmonstrategy.org>

## Issue Focus - Road Maintenance & Abandonment Plans (RMAPs)

Thousands of miles of forest roads have been improved and hundreds of miles of fish habitat have been reopened since the Forests & Fish Law was adopted. Forest practices regulations require landowners to submit RMAPs to the Department of Natural Resources detailing how roads will be upgraded and maintained to comply with the new rules. The rules require abandonment of existing forest roads too close to streams and improved standards on how new roads are to be built. Industrial forest landowners must submit an RMAP by 2006, and road upgrades prescribed by the RMAP must be completed by 2016.

To limit the burden on family forest landowners, in 2003 the Legislature passed HB 1095 which created the "family forest fish passage program" to provide funding and assistance with fixing fish-blocking culverts, including the alternative RMAP Checklist.

## Stakeholder links

[NOAA Fisheries/National Marine Fisheries Service](#)

[US Fish & Wildlife Service](#)

[Environmental Protection Agency](#)

[Department of Natural Resources](#)

[Department of Fish & Wildlife](#)

[Department of Ecology](#)

[Native American Tribes](#)

[WA Association of Counties](#)

[WA Farm Forestry Association](#)

[WA Forest Protection Association](#)

## Forests & Fish Contacts

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## Contact Us

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Washington Forest  
Protection Association

## Results - Forests & Fish in the Field

One of the most prominent aspects of Forests & Fish implementation is **Road Maintenance and Abandonment Plans**. State law requires forest landowners to improve their forest roads to prevent damage to public resources, including water, fish and wildlife habitat. Many landowners have reported the success of road improvements by experiencing fewer road wash-outs and fish passage issues after recent rain-events. Reports from regulators and landowners in the field say that unlike in the past, there are many fewer problems with roads after storm events. The improvements to roads are dramatic, and this means less sediment is being delivered to streams, which keeps water clean for fish. The Department of Natural Resources tracks the amount of habitat opened up, improvements to fish passage, and miles of roads upgraded.

(Cumulative totals)	2001	2002	2003	2004
RMAPs approved	4,066	5,530	6,939	7,333
Miles of forest road under a plan	15,484	29,079	39,784	45,832
Miles of roads abandoned	645	1,007	1,205	1,513
Miles of roads orphaned	502	1,031	1,164	1,579
Miles of fish habitat opened	52	175	380	690*
No. of structures removed/replaced on fish bearing streams	46	355	637	1,195

\*Includes 58 miles from the Family Forest Fish passage program.

## Upcoming Events

The 90-day public comment period will run from February 11 through May 12, 2005. Eight public meetings will be held throughout the state, beginning March 29, through April 13. More information about the hearings and for copies of the HCP and links to federal sites, go to: [www.DNR.WA.Gov](http://www.DNR.WA.Gov). Contact Josh, Heather or Cindy for more information.

## Comments and Questions

We would like to feature examples of how forest managers protect public resources while practicing commercial forestry by implementing Forests & Fish and Habitat Conservation Plans.

Submit to: Cindy Mitchell [cmitchell@wfpa.org](mailto:cmitchell@wfpa.org)



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