



Forests & Fish Update

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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 2/3rd 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

Bill Wilkerson, WFPA Executive Director, was presented the Seventh Generation Legacy Cornerstone Award at the 2005 Salmon Homecoming celebration on September 8 in Seattle. Salmon Homecoming allows tribal and non-tribal communities to come together, learn from one another, and explore ways to support cooperative spirit in salmon restoration and protection. The Seventh Generation Legacy Cornerstone Award objective is to build teamwork



and understanding between tribal and non-tribal communities in salmon protection and restoration. "Bill was director of the State Department of Fish and Wildlife at a time when state/tribal cooperation peaked, leading to such outstanding achievements in cooperative management as the Timber-Fish-Wildlife Agreement and the U.S.-Canada Salmon Treaty," said Salmon Homecoming President Gerald James.

Issue Focus - Small Forest Landowners

Small forest landowners own 4.2 million acres in Washington State—that's about half of the private forestland in the state. When the Washington State legislature passed the Salmon Recovery Act, which allowed the Forest Practices Board to adopt new rules for salmon recovery, it affected landowners differently. Noticing that these rules would have a disproportionate effect on small, family-owned forests, the legislature also allowed for the creation of the [Small Forest Landowner Office](#). It assesses ways in which policies could be crafted to support small landowners. The goal is to improve the economic viability and environmental quality of small forestland holdings to pursue the objectives of some programs such as the Forestry Riparian Easement Program, the Family Forest Fish

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](#)

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Passage Program, and to develop alternative management and harvest plans.

Different Programs

The [Forestry Riparian Easement Program](#) (FREP) compensates eligible small forest landowners in exchange for a 50-year easement on timber that the landowner is required to leave unharvested as a result of the Forests & Fish Law. The landowners can't cut or remove the timber during the 50-year easement period. The purpose of the easement is to protect the timber and its riparian function. In order to qualify for the FREP, you must harvest an average of less than two million board feet per year over the past three years to qualify as a small forest landowner. Also, the landowner must own more than 20 contiguous acres. Those who own less than 20 contiguous acres do not qualify because less restrictive Forest Practices Rules apply. Or, if the landowner has multiple parcels in Washington that total more than 80 forested acres, a single parcel of 20 or less may be eligible.

The [Family Forest Fish Passage Program](#) was created to help share the costs of fixing fish barriers. Forest Practices Rules require private landowners to fix all their fish barriers by 2016. But because fixing the barriers can be expensive for the small forest landowner, this program sets-up a cost-share program with the state that provides 75-100 percent of the cost to repair fish barriers. By signing up for the program, small forest landowners are not obligated to fix the barrier until it is deemed as a high priority and until there is financial assistance available.

Achievements to Date

In the first year of Family Forest Fish Passage Program, more than 36 projects were completed opening up more than 58 miles of stream habitat. By the end of 2005, 27 additional projects plan to be funded, opening up more than 74 miles of stream habitat. Since 2001, more than 320 Forestry Riparian Easement Program applications have been received statewide, conserving 1,650 acres in Washington State.

Please email [Cindy Mitchell](mailto:Cindy.Mitchell@wfpa.org) with any questions or comments.