

**Determination of Significance
and
Request for Comments on Scope
of Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)**

Description of Proposal:

This notice advises the public that the Forest Practices Board (FPB) intends to gather information necessary for the preparation of an environmental impact statement (EIS) for the adoption of revised forest practices rules addressing road maintenance and abandonment planning for forest landowners (WAC 222-16-010, -050, 222-20-010, -015, -040, -055, 222-24-010, -050, -051, -0511).

Proponents:

Forest Practices Board

Location of Proposal:

All forest lands throughout the state of Washington subject to the Forest Practices Act (chapter 76.09 RCW)

Lead Agency:

Washington State Forest Practices Board

EIS Required:

The lead agency has determined that an EIS is required under RCW 43.21C.030(2)(c) and will be prepared for this proposal.

Scoping Notice Invites Comments:

This notice is being furnished consistent with SEPA rules (WAC 197-11-360 and 197-11-408) to obtain suggestions and information on the scope of environmental issues to be addressed in the EIS. The purpose of scoping is to narrow the focus of the EIS to the probable significant adverse impacts of the proposal, to suggest potential mitigation measures, and to eliminate from detailed study those impacts that are not significant.

Agencies, tribes, counties, cities, Timber, Fish and Wildlife (TFW) participants, interested stakeholders and members of the public are invited to comment on the scope of the EIS. Comments may address alternatives, mitigation measures, probable significant adverse impacts on the environment, and any other issues related to the scope of the EIS.

The Lead Agency Has Identified the Following for Discussion in the EIS:

1. The number of small forest landowners who meet the new legislative definition of small forest landowner.
2. The process by which water quality impacts and fish passage barriers are addressed by small forest landowners.
3. The effects of prioritizing fish passage barrier repair on a worst first basis within the watershed.

4. The benefits and effectiveness of the state led cost-share program (family forest fish passage program) as it relates to fish habitat and small forest landowners.
5. The impacts of simplified road maintenance and abandonment planning for small forest landowners and limitations to planning area.
6. Clarifying the existing definitions of road maintenance and road construction.

Further Information:

The 2004 legislature passed Second Substitute House Bill 1095 to assist small forest landowners with the forest road elements of the Forest Practices rules. The FPB adopted emergency rules to amend chapters 222-16, -20, and -24 WAC. The rule changes

- define certain terms as they affect road maintenance and abandonment planning and implementation,
- change road maintenance and abandonment planning requirements for small forest landowners by allowing small forest landowners to use a simplified checklist in lieu of a road maintenance and abandonment plan,
- exempt small forest landowners' checklist road maintenance and abandonment plans from continuing obligation requirements; and
- provide a cost share program to assist small forest landowners with removal of fish barriers on their land.

Additional background information is available on the Forest Practices Board's web site at www.wadnr.gov:81/forestpractices/board/.

Due Date for Scoping Comments:

Written comments must be received by **5 p.m. on March 31, 2005.**

Contact Person: Patricia Anderson, FPB Rules Coordinator
Address: DNR-Forest Practices Division
PO Box 47012
Olympia WA 98504-7012
Email: forest.practicesboard@wadnr.gov
Fax: 360.902.1428
Phone: 360.902.1413

Notice of Public Meetings: Public scoping workshops will be held at the following locations and dates. All public workshops are scheduled from 5 p.m. – 7 p.m.

Wednesday, March 23, 2005
Chewelah Peak Learning Center
3215 Flower Trail Road
Chewelah / Phone: 509.935.7400

Wednesday, March 30, 2005
Natural Resources Building, Room 172
1111 Washington Street
Olympia / Phone: 360.902.1400

Responsible Official: **DOUG SUTHERLAND**
Position/Title: Commissioner of Public Lands & Chair, Forest Practices Board

Date: _____ **Signature:** _____