WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF
Natural Resources
Peter Goldmark - Commissioner of Public Lands

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October 20, 2010

TO: Forest Practices Board

FROM: Julie Sackett, Forest Practices Assistant Division Manager – Operations

SUBJECT: RMAP – Operational Status

There are six RMAP Specialists (represented by 5 FTEs) that oversee and manage the RMAP program across the six regions. Over 57,000 miles of forest roads have been assessed under RMAPs and over 3,000 fish passage barrier removals have been accomplished since the beginning of this program (see the attached *RMAP Accomplishment Summary for 2001 through 2009* for the latest statewide status on the eight RMAP reporting elements).

Earlier this year, the RMAP Specialists began undertaking an in-depth evaluation of the RMAP program in response to the RMAP Staff Work Group's report to the Road Policy Work Group. During the discussions that took place while preparing the report and the subsequent extension recommendation by Policy to the Board, it became apparent that our stakeholders had significant concerns about how operational staff were implementing and managing RMAPs. Specifically, the concerns can be categorized into the following areas:

- Inconsistent data reporting across regions
- Lack of standardized reporting/tracking system
- Information standard for RMAPs
- Lack of consultation between DNR staff and stakeholders
- DNRs inability to demonstrate whether a landowner is meeting WAC 222-24-051(3) through (6)

The RMAP Specialists have been working diligently on addressing the concerns identified above. By the end of October they will provide a report back to me on how, and to what extent, the program can respond to these concerns. To date, they have already identified inconsistencies in data reporting and have taken measures to address this issue. They have also developed a proposal for a RMAP data management system which would provide standardized tracking and reporting statewide. The data management system proposal is still early in its inception and requires additional scoping; nonetheless, I look forward to beginning discussion with stakeholders in November regarding this idea and many others to ensure the continued success of the RMAP program.

JS/
Attachment

FOREST PRACTICES MEMORANDUM

TO: INTERESTED PARTIES

FROM: JULIE SACKETT, ASSISTANT DIVISION MANAGER - OPERATIONS

SUBJECT: RMAP ACCOMPLISHMENT SUMMARY FOR 2001 THROUGH 2009

DATE: APRIL 2010

CC: DARIN CRAMER; CHUCK TURLEY; AARON TOSO

Attached is the annual accomplishment summary of RMAP work completed throughout the State from 2001through 2009. This information reflects a snapshot in time and the numbers are subject to change based upon a variety of factors including: updates to resource inventories and assessments, forestland ownership changes, and improved reporting guidance. This summary provides a general overview of RMAP progress to date. It is not intended to be used for determining even-flow or monitoring compliance. As a reminder, a few changes were made in 2007: RMAPs submitted by large landowners were separated from RMAP Checklists submitted by small landowners and total miles of road improvement were added.

The following is a description of the annual accomplishment summary:

Number of RMAPs:
This represents landowners who meet the definition of a large landowner and have submitted an approved RMAP. It may include landowners who meet the definition of a small landowner but have chosen (in writing) to continue to follow their pre-2003 submitted RMAP or who have decided to submit a plan as described in 222-24-0511(2). Many large landowners have more than one RMAP – all RMAPs submitted by each landowner are reflected in this number.

Miles of Forest Roads:
This includes all roads that were used for FP after 1974. **This number does not assume that all road miles are substandard or need improvements.**

Miles of Road Improvement:
This is the miles of roads that large landowners had included in their RMAP schedule and the work has been completed. This does not include normal routine maintenance.

Miles of Road Abandonment:
These are only DNR approved abandoned roads. WAC 222-24-052(3)

Miles of Orphaned Roads:
Orphaned roads are roads or railroad grades that have not been used for FP activities since 1974 WAC 222-24-052(4). Inventory and assessment of orphaned roads will be used to help in the

evaluation of the Hazard-Reduction statute and determine the need for cost-share funding RCW 76-09-300.

Number of Fish Passage Barriers Removed:
This includes replacement or removal of fish barriers covered by an RMAP or Checklist.

Miles of Fish Passage Opened:
Once a fish blockage has been fixed how many miles of the stream were open for fish use.

Number of Checklists Submitted by Small Landowners:
This is the total number of Small Landowner RMAP Checklist included in a FPA that the region has received since the rule change in 2003.

RMAP ACCOMPLISHMENT REPORT FROM 2001-2009 - Information as of 12/31/2009

DNR Region	Number of approved RMAPs[1]	Number of Miles of Forest Roads Assessed	Number of Miles of Road that have been Improved to Rule Standards	Miles of DNR Approved Road Abandonment Completed	Miles of Orphaned Roads Identified	Number of Fish Passage Barriers Removed	Miles of fish Passage Opened	Number of Checklist RMAPS Submitted by Small Forest Landowner[2]
Northeast	8	7,625	4,599	299	96	579	289	2,407
Northwest	29	5,841	1,955	908	650	209	69	1,499
Olympic	22	7,648	1,092	109	353	429	246	719
Pacific Cascade	34	21,942	6,528	544	714	1,324	645	3,028
South Puget Sound	15	7,886	763	268	220	265	143	694
Southeast	18	6,500	1,258	493	271	335	177	457
Statewide Totals	**126**	**57,442**	**16,195**	**2,621**	**2,304**	**3,141**	**1,569**	**8,804**

[1] Large landowners may have more than 1 RMAP; this number may include small landowners who have chosen to submit a full RMAP

[2] Small forest landowners may submit more than 1 checklist

WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF
Natural Resources

PETER GOLDMARK
Washington State Commissioner of Public Lands

October 19, 2010

MEMORANDUM

To: Forest Practices Board

From: Marc Engel, Assistant Division Manager – Policy and Services
Forest Practices Division

Subject: Rule Making Proposal Extending the Completion Date for Required Road Maintenance and Abandonment Work

On November 9th I will request the Board's approval to distribute the enclosed rule language to the counties, the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, and by tradition tribes for 30 – day review and comments pursuant to RCW 76.09.040(2).

On August 10, 2010 the Board accepted recommendations from Policy to amend forest practices rules allowing forest landowners to request an extension for the completion of required road maintenance and abandonment work. The Board directed staff to file a CR-101, *Pre-proposal Statement of Inquiry*, to inform the public that the Board is considering rule making to amend the forest practices rules to provide forest landowners the opportunity to request an extension to the due date that all forest roads must improved and maintained to the standards of chapter 222-24 WAC.

Policy recommended changes in rules and the board manual. The rule recommendations are the addition of an extension process for road maintenance and abandonment work, including implementation details and the role of cooperators (Ecology, WDFW, affected tribes and interested parties) during the review and approval of an road maintenance and abandonment plan (RMAP) extension requests.

A summary of the proposed rule changes is as follows:

- Landowners may request DNR approval of extensions of up to five years, or July 1, 2021;
- Extension requests must be made at least 120 days prior to the anniversary date of the initial RMAP's submittal in 2014;
- Extension requests must include the requested time period and a revised RMAP;
- Upon receipt of the extension request, DNR will provide up to forty five days for departments of ecology and fish and wildlife, affected tribes and interested parties to review the revised RMAP; and
- DNR must approve or disapprove the extension request at least 30 days prior to the anniversary date of the initial RMAP submittal.

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DNR has also committed to convene a stakeholder process to amend the board manual. The stakeholder group will address potential new manual elements including standardization of information gathering, reporting and tracking; encouragement for stakeholders to consult with each other prior to submitting RMAP extension requests to DNR; and guidance on the format of annual meetings.

I look forward to providing you further information on November 9th. If you have questions in the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact me at (360) 902-1390 or marc.engel@dnr.wa.gov.

MDE/
Attachment

Forest Practices Board
November 2010
Proposed language for 30-day review on
Extension of RMAP Forest Road Work Completion Date

WAC 222-24-050 *Road maintenance and abandonment.

The goals for road maintenance are established in WAC 222-24-010. Guidelines for how to meet these goals and standards are in ~~the~~ board manual section 3. Replacement will not be required for existing culverts functioning with little risk to public resources or for culverts installed under an approved forest practices application or notification and are capable of passing fish, until the end of the culvert's functional life.

The goals for road maintenance outlined in this chapter are expected to be achieved by July 1, 2016. The strategies for achieving the goals are different for large forest landowners and small forest landowners.

For large forest landowners, all forest roads must be improved and maintained to the standards of this chapter prior to July 1, 2016; however, landowners may request an extension of up to five years, or July 1, 2021 as outlined in WAC 222-24-051. Work performed toward meeting the standards must generally be even flow over the ~~fifteen-year~~ performance period with priorities for achieving the most benefit to the public resources early in the period. These goals will be achieved through the road maintenance and abandonment plan process outlined in WAC ~~22-24-051~~222-24-051.

For small forest landowners, the goals will be achieved through the road maintenance and abandonment plan process outlined in WAC 222-24-0511, by participation in the state-led family forest fish passage program, and by compliance with the Forest Practices Act and rules. The purpose of the family forest fish passage program is to assist small forest landowners in providing fish passage by offering cost-share funding and prioritizing projects on a watershed basis, fixing the worst fish passage barriers first. The department, in consultation with the departments of ecology and fish and wildlife, will monitor the extent, effectiveness, and progress of checklist road maintenance and abandonment plan implementation and report to the legislature and the board by December 31, 2008, and December 31, 2013.

WAC 222-24-051 *Large forest landowner road maintenance schedule.

All forest roads must be included in an approved road maintenance and abandonment plan by July 1, 2006. This includes all roads that were constructed or used for forest practices after 1974. Inventory and assessment of orphan roads must be included in the road maintenance and abandonment plans as specified in WAC 222-24-052(4).

*(1) Landowners must maintain a schedule of submitting plans to the department that cover 20% of their roads or land base each year.

(2) For those portions of their ownership that fall within a watershed administrative unit covered by an approved watershed analysis plan, chapter 222-22 WAC, landowners may follow the watershed administrative unit-road maintenance plan, providing the roads they own are covered by the plan. A proposal to update the road plan to meet the current road maintenance standards must be submitted to the department for review on or before the next scheduled road maintenance plan review. If annual reviews are not required as part of the watershed analysis road plan, the plan must be updated by October 1, 2005. All roads in the

planning area must be in compliance with the current rules by July 1, 2016 or by the extension deadline.

*(3) Plans will be submitted by landowners on a priority basis. Road systems or drainages in which improvement, abandonment or maintenance have the highest potential benefits to the public resource are the highest priority. Based upon a "worst first" principle, work on roads that affect the following are presumed to be the highest priority:

(a) Basins containing, or road systems potentially affecting, waters which either contain a listed threatened or endangered fish species under the federal or state law or a water body listed on the current 303(d) water quality impaired list for road related issues.

(b) Basins containing, or road systems potentially affecting, sensitive geology/soils areas with a history of slope failures.

(c) Road systems or basins where other restoration projects are in progress or may be planned coincident to the implementation of the proposed road plan.

(d) Road systems or basins likely to have the highest use in connection with future forest practices.

*(4) Based upon a "worst first" principle, road maintenance and abandonment plans must pay particular attention to:

(a) Roads with fish passage barriers;

(b) Roads that deliver sediment to typed water;

(c) Roads with evidence of existing or potential instability that could adversely affect public resources;

(d) Roads or ditchlines that intercept ground water; and

(e) Roads or ditches that deliver surface water to any typed waters.

*(5) Road maintenance and abandonment plans must include:

(a) Ownership maps showing all forest roads, including orphan roads; planned and potential abandonment, all typed water, Type A and B Wetlands that are adjacent to or crossed by roads, stream adjacent parallel roads and an inventory of the existing condition; and

(b) Detailed description of the first years work with a schedule to complete the entire plan within ~~fifteen years~~the performance period; and

(c) Standard practices for routine road maintenance; and

(d) Storm maintenance strategy that includes prestorm planning, emergency maintenance and post storm recovery; and

(e) Inventory and assessment of the risk to public resources or public safety of orphaned roads; and

(f) The landowner or landowner representative's signature.

*(6) Priorities for road maintenance work within plans are:

(a) Removing fish passage barriers beginning on roads affecting the most habitat first, generally starting at the bottom of the basin and working upstream;

(b) Preventing or limiting sediment delivery (areas where sediment delivery or mass wasting will most likely affect bull trout habitat will be given the highest priority);

(c) Correcting drainage or unstable sidecast in areas where mass wasting could deliver to public resources or threaten public safety;

(d) Disconnecting road drainage from typed waters;

(e) Repairing or maintaining stream-adjacent parallel roads with an emphasis on minimizing or eliminating water and sediment delivery;

(f) Improving hydrologic connectivity by minimizing the interruption of surface water drainage, interception of subsurface water, and pirating of water from one basin to

another; and

(g) Repair or maintenance work which can be undertaken with the maximum operational efficiency.

*(7) Initial plans must be submitted to the department during the year 2001 as scheduled by the department.

*(8) Requests to extend the completion date of road maintenance and abandonment plans may be granted for up to five years, or July 1, 2021. Requests must be made at least 120 days prior to the initial plan's anniversary date in 2014.

(a) Landowner requests for an extension must include:

(i) The length of time for the extension period; and

(ii) A revised road maintenance and abandonment plan meeting elements (3) – (6) of this section.

(b) The department shall provide up to forty five days for the departments of ecology and fish and wildlife, affected tribes and interested parties to review revised road maintenance and abandonment plans;

(c) The department will approve or disapprove the extension request and revised road maintenance and abandonment plan at least thirty days prior to the anniversary date of the initial plan's submittal; and

(d) Upon approval of the extension request and revised road maintenance and abandonment plan, landowners must meet element (9) of this section.

*(9) Each year on the anniversary date of the plan's submittal, landowners must report work accomplished for the previous year and submit to the department a detailed description of the upcoming year's work including modifications to the existing work schedule. The department's review and approval will be conducted in consultation with the departments of ecology~~, the department of~~and fish and wildlife, affected tribes and interested parties. The department will:

(a) Review the progress of the plans annually with the landowner to determine if the plan is being implemented as approved; and

(b) The plan will be reviewed by the department and approved or returned to the applicant with concerns that need to be addressed within forty-five days of the plan's submittal.

(c) Additional plans will be signed by the landowner or the landowner's representative.

*(~~9~~10) The department will facilitate an annual water resource inventory area (WRIA) meeting with landowners, the departments of fish and wildlife~~, the department of~~ and ecology, affected tribes, the National Marine Fisheries Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, affected counties, local U.S. Forest Service, watershed councils, and other interested parties. The purpose of the meeting is to:

(a) Suggest priorities for road maintenance and abandonment planning; and

(b) Exchange information on road maintenance and stream restoration projects.

*(~~10~~11) Regardless of the schedule for plan development, roads that are currently used or proposed to be used for timber hauling must be maintained in a condition that prevents potential or actual damage to public resources. If the department determines that log haul on such a road will cause or has the potential to cause material damage to a public resource, the department may require the applicant to submit a plan to address specific issues or segments on the haul route.

*(~~11~~12) If a landowner is found to be out of compliance with the work schedule of an approved road maintenance and abandonment plan and the department determines that this work is necessary to prevent potential or actual damage to public resources, then the

department will exercise its authority under WAC 222-46-030 (notice to comply) and WAC 222-46-040 (stop work order) to restrict use of the affected road segment.

(a) The landowner may submit a revised maintenance plan for maintenance and abandonment and request permission to use the road for log haul.

(b) The department must approve use of the road if the revised maintenance plan provides protection of the public resource and maintains the overall schedule of maintenance of the road system or basin.

*(~~12~~13) If a landowner is notified by the department that their road(s) has the potential to damage public resources, the landowner must, within 90 days, submit to the department for review and approval a plan or plans for those drainages or road systems within the area identified by the department.

*(14) The department will notify the departments of ecology, and fish and wildlife, affected tribes and interested parties if actions taken under this section result in a change to an approved RMAP.