

**Department of Natural Resources
Small Forest Landowner Office**

Mail Stop 47012
Olympia, WA 98504-7012
Phone: 360-902-1415
Fax: 360-902-1428
Email: sflo@dnr.wa.gov
Web: dnr.wa.gov/sflo



Learn more
online about the
Rivers and Habitat
Open Space
Program

Rivers and Habitat Open Space Program

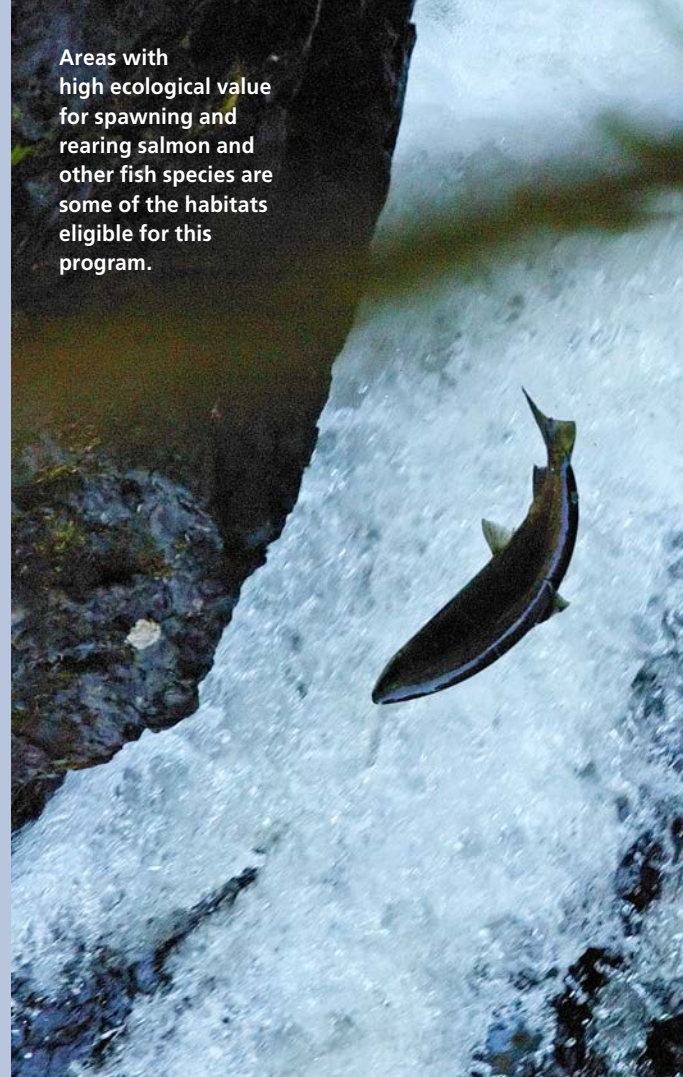
**Assisting Washington's
Forest Owners**

OVERVIEW

The Rivers and Habitat Open Space Program helps ensure long-term conservation of aquatic and upland resources by acquiring permanent conservation easements. Forestlands with unconfined channel migration zones (CMZs) or critical habitat for state threatened and endangered species are eligible for the program.

The Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) administers the program and the Washington State Legislature funds it. Eligible lands also may be donated for a conservation easement at any time.

Areas with high ecological value for spawning and rearing salmon and other fish species are some of the habitats eligible for this program.



dnr.wa.gov/sflo

or request more information
by phone or email:
360-902-1427
sflo@dnr.wa.gov





Forestland with critical habitat for state threatened or endangered species qualify for conservation easement purchases.

Critical Habitat

Critical habitat is a designation that makes a special effort to protect important habitat characteristics for threatened and endangered species. Washington's Forest Practices Rules recognize and protect critical habitat of eight upland species (see above).

The Rivers and Habitat Open Space Program helps ensure long-term conservation of aquatic and upland resources.

WILDLIFE IMAGES (FROM TOP LEFT, CLOCKWISE: SANDHILL CRANE; STEVEN B. EMMONS; USFWS; PACIFIC POND TURTLE: PIERRE FIDENCI; N. SPOTTED OWL: DNR FILES; MOUNTAIN CARIBOU: DEAN BIGGINS (USFS); MARBLED MURRELET: GUS VAN VLIET; GRIZZLY BEAR: HANS-PETER FELD; OREGON SILVERSPOT BUTTERFLY: JUSTIN; GREY WOLF: MAS3CF)



Channel Migration Zone

A channel migration zone (CMZ) is the area where the active channel of a stream meanders back and forth.

CMZs are generally associated with large rivers that have less than a two percent gradient. They are found in valleys that are more than four times the width of the bankfull channel.

These areas typically have high ecological value as spawning and rearing habitat for salmon and other fish species. That's why the state's Forest Practices Rules prohibit timber harvesting and road construction within channel migration zones due to their ecological importance.

Funding

We prioritize applications based on the property's:

- ▶ Ecological value to salmon and other species;
- ▶ Potential benefits to water quality;
- ▶ Biological characteristics;
- ▶ Connectivity to other protected lands; and
- ▶ Viability for conservation management actions.

Selection Process

A selection committee evaluates applications to determine a ranked order for the purchases of conservation easements.

We fund properties in order of their priority until all funds are expended.

Once funds are spent, any remaining eligible applicants will be offered the opportunity to be considered for future funding.

Apply today

-  Download an application from: dnr.wa.gov/sflo, or
-  Request an application by email: sflo@dnr.wa.gov
-  Or just call us: **360-902-1427**

Eligibility

To qualify for a conservation easement under the Rivers and Habitat Open Space Program, your property must be:

- ▶ Located on forestland containing critical habitat for state threatened or endangered species designated as of particular concern by the Forest Practices Board;
- ▶ Identified as either "designated forest land" (Chapter 84.33 RCW) or "current use forest land" (Chapter 84.34 RCW) on county assessor records; and
- ▶ Free of unacceptable liabilities such as hazardous substances or other site conditions that may jeopardize the preservation of fisheries enhancement or ecological protection of the project area.

The landowner must provide DNR with adequate legal access to the property to process the application and administer the easement. All persons having a legal interest in the property must be willing to convey or subordinate their interest to the state for the conservation easement.