

DNR REGION OFFICES

Northeast Region

225 S. Silke Road
Colville, WA 99114
509-684-7474
northeast.region@dnr.wa.gov

Pacific Cascade Region

601 Bond Road
Castle Rock, WA 98611
360-577-2025
pacific-cascade.region@dnr.wa.gov

Northwest Region

919 N. Township St.
Sedro-Woolley, WA 98284
360-856-3500
northwest.region@dnr.wa.gov

South Puget Sound Region

950 Farman Ave. N.
Enumclaw, WA 98022
360-825-1631
southpuget.region@dnr.wa.gov

Olympic Region

411 Tillicum Lane
Forks, WA 98331
360-374-2800
olympic.region@dnr.wa.gov

Southeast Region

713 Bowers Road
Ellensburg, WA 98926
509-925-8510
southeast.region@dnr.wa.gov



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SMALL FOREST LANDOWNER OFFICE

Alternate Plans

Site-specific plans can assist landowners seeking flexibility in managing their forestland while maintaining natural resource protections.



WASHINGTON STATE DEPT OF
**NATURAL
RESOURCES**

What Is an Alternate Plan?

Alternate plans allow a landowner submitting a Forest Practices Application to propose site-specific management actions.

For example, imagine you have a stand of 60-year-old alders growing adjacent to a year-round stream on your property. Under Forest Practices Rules, harvesting is restricted in riparian areas, but you know your trees are past their peak of growth and you would like to initiate a healthy stand of conifers.

So you work with your local regulation assistance forester to develop an alternate plan that provides protection for public resources at least equal in overall effectiveness to the protection provided in the act and rules.

Who is eligible?

Any landowner contemplating forest practices activities can apply for approval of an alternate plan. Additionally, alternate plan templates are available for small forest landowners.

Alternate Plans May Be Used For:

- Forest health
- Riparian management
- Individual and group tree removal selection
- Hardwood management/conifer restoration
- Post-fire salvage logging
- Manage stocking density and species mix

ALTERNATE PLANS ALLOW LANDOWNERS TO PROPOSE SITE-SPECIFIC MANAGEMENT ACTIONS.

A WAC 222-12-0401 (6)

Alternate plan proposals must meet the Approval Standard listed in Washington Administrative Code (WAC): "An alternate plan must provide protection for public resources at least equal in overall effectiveness to the protection provided in the act and rules."



Alternate plans can help with salvaging timber after wildfire.



What If I Need Help?



Important Points to Consider

- Each landowner is responsible for submitting their alternate plan with the accompanying Forest Practices Application(s) to the DNR region office serving the area where the forestland is located.
- An alternate plan does not have an expiration date. However, the accompanying Forest Practices Application(s) is valid for three, four, or five years, or with a Long-Term Application (four to 15 years).
- The standard Forest Practices Application fees apply with an alternate plan.
- An alternate plan form can be accessed via the Forest Practices website (Forms and Instructions).
- Please see WAC 222-12-0401 for alternate plan process and WAC 222-12-040 for policy.

What Information Is Included In an Alternate Plan?

- **Approval Standard**
Demonstrate how the proposal will provide protection for public resources at least equal in overall effectiveness to the protection provided in the act and rules.
- **Site Conditions and Management**
Maps, topography, water features, road conditions, forest stand structure, timber harvest plans, other forest practices, riparian function, and other pertinent info.
- **Riparian Function Description**
Including current and expected conditions such as shade, nutrient leaf litter fall, stream bank stability, downed wood recruitment, sediment filtering.
- **Forest Practices Rules**
Detailed list of all Forest Practices Rules that the alternate plan will depart from in the proposal (using specific WAC citations).
- **Monitoring Plan**
Description of the landowner-proposed implementation schedule and a detailed strategy for post-harvest/reforestation monitoring (when applicable).

How Does It Work?

- 1 Contact the regulation assistance forester nearest you.
- 2 With the forester's assistance, assess riparian functions currently provided by your forest stand.
- 3 Discuss management approaches that will maintain riparian functions over time.
- 4 Develop an alternate plan based on maintaining riparian functions and complete the alternate plan form.
- 5 DNR Forest Practices convenes an interdisciplinary team (state, and tribal resource professionals) that will visit your property to assess the plan.
- 6 If your alternate plan is approved as part of your Forest Practices Application, you can begin the planned management activities.

ALTERNATE PLANS CAN PROVIDE GREATER FLEXIBILITY AS LONG AS THEY PROVIDE PROTECTION TO PUBLIC RESOURCES.

We encourage landowners to contact their local forester with DNR's Small Forest Landowner Office Regulation Assistance Office via email at sflo_tech_assistance@dnr.wa.gov, or their nearest DNR region office, before submitting their alternate plan. A consulting forester can also help prepare complex alternate plans.

Program Manager
360-742-6825

Eastern Washington
509-563-9570

South Puget Sound
360-481-9170

Southwest Washington
360-669-3906

Northwest Washington
360-306-2251

Olympic Peninsula
360-790-5764

More Information
1-800-523-TREE (8733) or email:
OneStopShop@dnr.wa.gov



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