



## WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF **NATURAL RESOURCES**

### **fpOnline – Forest Practices for the 21st Century**

Approximately 10,000 to 13,000 Forest Practices Applications/Notifications are active at any time. Applications can be accessed through the Washington State Department of Natural Resources' Forest Practices Application Review System.

The antiquated system is losing reliability and experiencing intermittent outages. Currently, applicants must mail or manually deliver FPAs and payments to DNR's region offices.

The COVID-19 pandemic has exposed the need for a modern system to submit and track applications – one that allows for online application, online signatures, and online payments, and will allow DNR, the Department of Ecology, the Department of Fish and Wildlife, tribes, applicants, and interested parties to review Forest Practices Applications electronically for this essential business.

With the current system, DNR staff have to manually scan each application into the system from the office. A modern system would allow staff to remotely access applications and other information needed to evaluate and comply them, significantly reducing the amount of time employees have to be in public buildings – enabling them to spend more time on the ground – and it would minimize contact with the public, keeping staff, applicants, and reviewers safe.

The fpOnline proposal will allow DNR to efficiently and effectively resolve threats to public safety and protect public resources like fish habitat and clean water on more than 12 million acres of state and private forests before forest practices are authorized. The Department has prepared a \$3.7 million operating funding request for this project, with \$2.7 million in one-time costs to staff and build out the system and \$1.0 million in ongoing funding to support its operation.

This investment in an electronic permitting system will improve reliability and streamline the application process, enhance mobile capabilities for field staff in reviewing applications, and allow forest landowners real-time monitoring of their application progress. This investment will increase efficiency for required reviewers and provide comprehensive electronic functionality for landowners to submit their forest practice proposals.



*The COVID-19 pandemic has shown that the decades-old Forest Practices Application Review System no longer meets the needs of Washington state.*

*Replacing the system will increase efficiency for DNR while also allowing for online filing and payments.*

For more information about this proposal contact:

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