

Maintaining Riparian Function in a Working Forest: Implementing the Forest and Fish Law

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Washington State's historic Forest and Fish Law, a statewide programmatic habitat conservation plan (HCP) was recognized by the US Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service in 2001. Developed through a cooperative stakeholder process, it serves as a focal point for the forest industry by providing sound management practices which conserve and maintain critical natural resources, particularly those associated with the riparian network. The law represents a commitment on the part of private landowners to apply scientifically based principles in their day-to-day forest operations and to strive for continuous improvement in meeting the needs of fish and wildlife. Hancock Forest Management, Inc. (HFM) manages 70,000 acres locally out of its office in Glenwood, WA, and more than 400,000 acres under Forest and Fish Rules across the State of Washington. Our annual operations will see over 200 new culverts installed, more than 300 culverts upgraded, 60+ miles of main haul road resurfaced with new rock, 50+ miles of older roads upgraded or abandoned, many miles of riparian forest retained and enhanced, and hundreds of acres of sensitive lands identified for specialized management plans. Hancock Forest Management believes good stewardship is just good business.