Approved 2021 - Site Class V

WASHINGTON STATE DEPT OF
NATURAL RESOURCES

For DNR Region Office Use Only
FPA #:
Region:

~~Alternate Plan~~ for Western Washington
Fixed Width Riparian Management Zones Template for Types S and F Waters, for Small Forest Landowners

This fixed width Riparian Management Zone (RMZ)alternate plan template replaces the following Forest Practices Rules: Western Washington Riparian Management Zones for Type S and F waters: WAC 222-30-021(1)(b)and (c)

This form must be submitted with a Forest Practices Application.
For more detail about which forests are eligible for this alternative, and the information necessary for this form, please refer to Forest Practices Board Manual **Section 21**, or call your nearest DNR region office.

1. Eligibility

In order for a stand to be eligible for the Fixed Width RMZ Template, it must meet the following criteria:

a) Landowner must be a Small Forest Landowner as defined in WAC 222-21-010 (13),
b) Timber harvest is proposed in a riparian management zone adjacent to Type S or F water.

2. Implementation Schedule

List the seasons and the years during which harvest activities will take place as part of this alternate plan.

Schedule		*Example*	
2021-2026 thinning/salvage	**Spring**	2010, 2011	*Spring*
2021-2026 even-age	**Summer**	2010, 2011	*Summer*
2021-2016 even-age	**Fall**	2011	*Fall*
2021-2016 thinning/salvage	**Winter**	2010, 2011	*Winter*

3. Prescriptions

When harvesting trees adjacent to Type S or F water, a 'No Harvest Riparian Management Zone' must be left. The width begins at bank full width or outer edge of a channel migration zone and extends to the width determined by the site class. The following widths must be used when using this Fixed Width RMZ template:

Fixed Width, No Harvest Buffer Widths by Site Class

Site Class	No Harvest Zone width (measured from outer edge of BFW or outer edge of CMZ)
I	145 feet
II	118 feet
III	101 feet
IV	82 feet
V	75 feet

Using the table above and a Site Class Map; please fill out the following table for your alternate plan.
If the Site Class changes on a stream segment select one of the following:

- Use the widest width for the entire segment, OR
- Identify separate segments for each site class

Segment	Stream Type	Site Class	Fixed Width	Length
S1	Shoreline	V	75'	200'
F1	Fish	V	75'	400'
F2	Fish	V	75'	300'

If the stand is located within 200 feet of Type S water, a landowner must contact the county, which will determine if a substantial development permit is required.

Attach a map showing the location of each stream segment listed above.
Map scale should be 1 inch = 400 feet.

4. Riparian Functions associated with Type S and F waters

The fixed width riparian buffer establishes a riparian area equal, on average, to the riparian buffer widths occurring when the Desired Future Condition Model is applied on S and F waters in Western Washington. Once adjacent timber is harvested, the growth of the trees will remain on the same trajectory to achieve the desired future condition targets for future riparian function required by the state Forest Practices Rules. The objective is to improve riparian function over the long-term while reducing the complexity of the Forest Practices Rules.

Riparian function includes the following:

Bank Stability: Retaining trees within a Fixed Width Riparian Management Zone provides the root mass necessary to stabilize a stream bank. Although roots can extend beyond the drip-line of a tree's crown, the bulk of the root mass is contained within this area. Where a channel migration zone (CMZ) exists, the Fixed Width Riparian Management Zone begins at the edge of the CMZ.

Woody Debris: Periodic large woody debris input is vital to properly functioning riparian and aquatic systems. Harvest near a stream in the short term may reduce the potential source of woody debris. If no harvest occurs, the woody debris that falls into the stream is that immediately adjacent to the bank. A fixed width buffer leaves all trees available until random, natural recruitment begins.

Leaf Litter / Nutrients: Needles and leaf litter are an essential component of the nutrient cycle of a stream by serving as food sources for insects and fish. An edge effect will result from a fixed width buffer that may result in increased growth and diversity of understory vegetation, further improving nutrient cycling in the riparian area and duff development on the forest floor.

Sediment Filtering: Depending on the slope of the site, there may be a risk of overland runoff due to decreased interception of rainfall through a canopy. Management practices such as leaving ground vegetation undisturbed and distributing of slash will minimize the risk of sediment delivery until groundcover is reestablished.

Shade: The canopy will remain in the same condition as exist. Trees retained within the fixed width RMZ will continue to provide shade within a minimum of 75 feet from the stream.

Other Riparian Features: Microclimate features such as ambient air temperature may be affected, depending on the extent of upland management activities. Temporary soil temperature increases in the forest stands may result, which can affect groundwater and instream water temperatures. However, as understory vegetation fills in and as the adjacent canopy of the new stand recovers, temperature fluctuations will be reduced, resulting in a low likelihood of impact to groundwater or instream temperatures.