To fulfill the initial requirements for the MLP, a person must complete the curriculum shown below.

The course curriculum includes about thirty-two hours (4 days) of training in the following areas:

- Ecology, Silviculture and Forest management (@8 hours)
- Logging/Log Road Construction and Transportation Safety, WA Department of Safety & Health Regulations, and Worker’s Compensation Regulations and Claims Management (@8 hours)
- Washington Forest Practices Act rules and regulations (@8 hours)
- Business management (@8 hours)

First aid training: In addition, a participant must also have a valid first aid card that includes CPR training. First aid training is not offered as part of the four-day curriculum.

**Ecology, Silviculture and Forest Management**

- Principles of forest ecology and succession
  - Forest ecosystems
  - Factors in the development of forests
  - Factors affecting tree growth
  - Forest productivity
    - Site index/Site class
  - Energy & carbon cycle
  - Nutrient cycle
  - Hydrologic cycle
  - Forest succession
  - Basic tree physiology
  - Forest zones and major ecosystems
  - Silvicultural characteristics of tree species

- **Silvicultural Systems and Stand Management**
  - Definition of silviculture
  - Forest ownership in WA
  - Principles of thinning
    - Pre-commercial and commercial
  - Tree pruning
• Harvest regeneration systems
  ▪ Even aged & uneven aged stand management
    • Clearcutting, shelterwood, seed tree, selection,
  ▪ Variable retention silviculture
  ▪ Aesthetics

• Forest Soils
  o Soil description
  o What trees need for growth
  o Soil formation
  o Soil compaction
  o Soil porosity
  o Organic matter and nutrient maintenance
  o Use of fertilizer

• Wildlife Habitat in Managed Forests
  o Species dependent on forestland
  o Habitat requirements
  o Important habitat types
    • Snags/Wildlife tree
      - Cavity and platform users
    • Coarse woody debris
      - Users
    • Understory vegetation
      - Users
  o Management of habitat during final harvest
    • Requirement for wildlife reserve trees, green recruitment trees and downed logs
    • Creating habitat during harvest
      - Use of feller bunchers to create short snags
      - Topping and girdling
    • Thinning to enhance habitat
      - Standard and variable density
    • Pruning
  o Aquatic environments
  o Strategies and opportunities to provide habitat

• Regeneration: Establishing and Protecting New Forests
  o Forest Practice regulations
  o Common causes of plantation failure
  o Basic forest establishment steps
  o Limiting site factors
    • Controlling site factors
  o Selecting species and stock type
  o Natural and artificial regeneration
  o Species tolerance
    • Seed zones
Stocking level guidelines
  • Forest practice regulation
Site preparation
Proper handling and planting of seedlings
Controlling animal damage and competing vegetation

Forest Insects and Diseases
  • Forest entomology and pathology
  • Forest health
    • Maintaining vigorous trees
  • Monitoring/Surveying tree damage in WA
  • Bear damage
  • Root diseases
  • Tree damage
    • Heart and butt rots
  • Insect damage and management
    • Wood borers and defoliators
    • Invasive species

Logging/Log Road Construction and Transportation Safety, WA Department of Safety & Health Regulations, and Worker’s Compensation Regulations and Claims Management

Logging Safety
  • Accident prevention program requirements
  • Safety and health training requirements
  • Hazard recognition for timber felling, yarding, road construction, hauling and maintenance facilities
    • Safe work procedures
  • Complying with regulations
  • Accident investigation procedures

Transportation safety
  • Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations
  • Washington State regulations

Workers’ compensation regulations and claims management
  • Overview of workers’ comp
    • Risk classifications
    • Base rates
    • Experience rating
    • What effects your rates
    • Claims management
    • Return to work programs
    • Injured worker benefits
    • Legal rights and responsibilities
• Employer recordkeeping and reporting

DNR Forest Practices

• Introduction to DNR and Forest Practices
  o Mission, responsibilities, forest practices
  o Organizational setup in each region
  o Forest Practices Board
  o Forest and Fish Report

• Forest Practice Application/Notification
  o FP definition
  o FP activities
  o Application requirements
  o Forest practice classes
    ▪ Application requirements for each class
  o Threatened and endangered species management plans
  o Archaeological information
  o Moratoriums

• Forest roads
  o Potential sediment delivery source
    ▪ Examples of problem roads
    ▪ Resource issues
    ▪ Sediment sources
    ▪ Avoiding sediment delivery
  o Properly designed and installed cross-drains
  o Drainage
    ▪ Outsloped, insloped, & crowned roads
    ▪ Relief culverts
    ▪ Ditch outs and water bars
    ▪ Disconnect road drainage from stream crossings
    ▪ General road maintenance
      ▪ Functional ditch, culvert maintenance, grading, new rock
      where needed & install drainage structures
  o Road construction
    ▪ Road design
    ▪ Water/Stream crossing
    ▪ Wetlands
    ▪ Construction technique
  o Road abandonment
  o Road maintenance and abandonment plans (RMAPs)

• Bank full width, water types and channel migration zones
  o Defining and identifying BFW
  o Water typing
    ▪ Definition/description of each water type
  o Guidelines for determining fish use
o Channel migration zones
  ▪ Definition/description
  ▪ Identifying CMZs

• **Riparian Management Zones**
  o Goals of riparian areas
  o Functions
  o Riparian management zones (core, inner, outer)
    ▪ Zone widths
    ▪ Protection measures and management options
  o Wetland protection
  o Desired future condition

• **Cultural Resources and Historical Sites**
  o Definition
  o Importance
  o Related forest practice rules
  o Examples of cultural sites and activities
  o Examples of historical sites
  o Assistance

• **Enforcement**
  o What to expect from a FP forester
  o Enforcement tools
  o Common forest practice violations

**Business Management**

• **Taxes**
  o Forest excise tax
  o Business and occupation tax
  o Public Utility Tax
  o Retail sales and use tax
    ▪ Manufacturer’s sales and use tax exemption

• **Financial Management**
  o Identity theft
  o Phishing
  o Credit reports
  o Credit scoring
    ▪ What effects your score
    ▪ Improving your credit score
  o Applying for a loan
    ▪ Application
    ▪ Business plan
    ▪ 5 C’s of credit (character, capital, capacity, collateral, conditions)
    ▪ Payment schedules
  o Balance sheets and income statements
o Financial ratios (debt coverage, liquidity ratio, debt to equity ratio, owner’s equity
o Collateral valuations

• **Business practices**
o Personnel management
o Hiring practices
  ▪ Employment laws
o Independent contractors
  ▪ Who is considered an independent contractor versus an employee
  ▪ Responsibility for unpaid workers’ comp premiums
o Corporate officers and workers’ comp coverage
o Written contracts
o Timber trespass

• **Emerging technologies**
o State and Federal energy objectives
o Renewable energy
o Forest biomass
o Biomass power
o Ecosystem services
o Carbon markets

• **Current economic conditions**
o Log, lumber, & housing markets

• **Awareness of SFI and sustainable forestry principles** (Presented by WA SIC participant)
o Forest certification programs
o SFI requirements
o Invasive plants
o Endangered Species Act and Forests with Exceptional Conservation Value
o Awareness of rare forested natural communities identified by state agencies, NatureServe, The Nature Conservancy, or other credible organizations.
o Achievements
o Public policy and outreach

• **Spill Kits**
o Potential impacts of spills
o Ensure adequate supply of spill kits
o Comply with landowner requirements
o Comply with landowner/DOE reporting requirements
o Preventing spills
o Handling spills
o Control, contain, clean-up