

Logging and Log Yards

This activity covers logging activities that fall under the classification of Class IV general forest practices. These are situations where timber harvesting is done in the process of converting forest lands into other land uses, such as forest cutting for construction of homes. The primary concern with this logging activity in the context of stormwater pollution is the effect of timber cutting and understory clearing on erosion processes. Logging activities can introduce large concentrations of suspended solids and nutrients into stormwater runoff from bare soil and vegetation debris, as well as toxic organic compounds, oils and greases, and metals from vehicles and pesticides.

The King County Critical Areas Ordinance has requirements for logging near streams, wetlands, and other sensitive areas, and the King County Surface Water Design Manual has requirements for the clearing and grading of sites. Additionally, log yard operations are required to apply for coverage under the State Department of Ecology's National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) baseline general permit. Therefore, there are no additional requirements for logging in this manual.

For more information or assistance in implementing these best management practices, contact the King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks Water and Land Resources Division at 206-296-1900.

Reader Note: The above requirements are the minimum required BMPs. If these BMPs fail to prevent discharges to the storm drainage system, you will be asked to take additional measures to correct the continued pollution discharges.