

Part One – Administration

Forest Stewardship Plan

What is a Forest Stewardship Plan?

A Forest Stewardship Plan is a management plan that helps you reach your individual ownership objectives and integrates the protection and/or enhancement of multiple forest resources.

Developing a stewardship plan will help you clarify your short and long-term objectives for your property. Through the process, you analyze conditions of your forest resources, determine what resource protection or enhancement measures would be beneficial and develop an organized sequence of activities to accomplish your objectives.

When is a plan required in King County?

- To apply for Timberlands or the Forest Stewardship Land category of the Public Benefit Rating System current use taxation programs.
- To apply for a building permit within the Forest Production District.
- To accompany a Transfer of Development Rights or Forest Legacy application.
- To receive recognition as a "Stewardship Forest" (property sign and certificate).
- To avoid being subject to a Forest Practice Moratorium in conjunction with a Washington State Class 2, 3 or 4S Forest Practice Permit, or a King County Non-Conversion Class 4G Permit.
- To obtain a Class 4G Non-Conversion Permit.
- To practice forestry in a resource tract of a cluster development or in a resource area.
- To allow in critical area buffers firewood cutting, habitat restoration, and vegetation removal for forest fire prevention.

How do I get a Forest Stewardship Plan for my property?

- You can participate in a Forest Stewardship class with instruction and personalized coaching from natural resource professionals in King County. These classes are offered in cooperation with Washington State University Extension, King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks, and Washington State Department of Natural Resources.

- You can hire a natural resource consultant to prepare a plan for you.
- You can write your own plan. Technical assistance is available from King County foresters to help you know what to include and how to evaluate your resources.

Criteria to be met for plan approval

- Must be signed by the landowner.
- Must address protection and/or enhancement of the forest resource categories as described in the Forest Stewardship Plan Public Rule: <http://www.metrokc.gov/recelec/archives/policies/put819pr.htm>.
- Must cover a timeframe of at least 10 years. Longer planning range is encouraged.
- Must cover the entire forested ownership and/or any land that will be planted to forest vegetation.
- Recommended management activities should be consistent with stated landowner objectives.

The Forest Stewardship Plan description, required elements and format can be found posted at the King County Records and Elections Policy Web site, <http://www.metrokc.gov/recelec/archives/policies/put819pr.htm>.

For further questions regarding the Forest Stewardship Plan, please contact a King County Forestry Program Staff or call 206-296-6519.

Forest Stewardship Plan Public Rule

Available at: <http://www.metrokc.gov/recelec/archives/policies/put819pr.htm>.

Requirements for forest harvest

In Washington State, the state has jurisdiction over forest practices through the State Forest Practices Act, RCW 76.09, and the State Forest Practices Rules, Title 222 WAC. The responsible agency is the Washington State Department of Natural Resources (WDNR), and for King County, the South Puget Regional office in Enumclaw.

For the most part, the state retains jurisdiction over forest practices on lands being retained in forestry (New Section 131, CAO and New Section 3.B C&G), and King County has jurisdiction over practices related to conversion of the property to another use. Class IV General Forest Practices are those on lands platted after 1960 and those that have been or are being converted to another use. As provided in RCW 76.09.240 in September 1999, the state transferred the administration and enforcement of Class IV General Forest Practices to King County.

Class IV General Conversion Forest Practice

If the forest practice is related to a conversion from forestry to another use or involves permanent clearing which will not be replanted, the activity requires a King County Clearing Permit and is subject to the county development standards.

Class IV General Non-Conversion Forest Practice (New Section 57, CAO)

If the forest practice takes place on a property that was platted after 1960 but is not a conversion to another use, and the property will be retained in forest use, the practice may be eligible for a King County Class IV General Non-Conversion Permit. (Refer to New Section 131, CAO). In order to qualify for a Class IV General Non-Conversion Permit, the applicant must have a long-term Forest Management Plan, also known as a Forest Stewardship Plan, and must sign a statement of intent not to convert the property from forestry within six years. Although the county administers the permit, it recognizes that the property is remaining in forest use and requires that the permit meets the standards in RCW 76.09 and Title 222 WAC, rather than King County development standards.

Forest practices moratorium

In order to receive a Forest Practice Permit from the Washington Department of Natural Resources, an applicant must sign a Notice of Moratorium on Non-Forestry Uses of the Land as required by RCW 76.09.060. The notice states that the land subject to the permit application will not be converted to an active use incompatible with timber growing within six years of permit approval. A copy of the notice is submitted to the local jurisdiction, which shall deny any applications for permits or approvals relating to non-forestry uses of the property. In King County, the moratorium is noted in the permit tracking data base used by the Department of Development and Environmental Services (DDES). In addition, for those forest practices outside the Forest zone, the notice is filed with King County Records per RCW 65.04. Similarly, King County places a six-year moratorium on properties harvested under a Class IV General Non-Conversion Permit.

King County will deny any development proposal on properties subject to a Forest Practice Moratorium for a period of six years after the forest practice commenced (K.C.C. 16.82.140). There are two ways the applicant can avoid the effects of the moratorium before commencing the forest harvest. One is to develop a Conversion Option Harvest Plan, which is a harvest plan reviewed and approved by DDES and attached to the state Forest Practice Permit. The other is to harvest consistent with a Forest Management Plan that is approved by King County and that excludes the area proposed for development. The purpose of the latter is to allow the applicant to conduct forest practices called for in his/her Forest Management Plan without

restricting the ability to build or remodel on the part of the property not covered by the Forest Management Plan. After the harvest, the moratorium can be lifted only with DDES Director determination that the applicant was the unknowing subject of criminal trespass, timber theft or fraud or the site is fully restored, meeting the requirements of K.C.C. 16.82.140.

Conversion Option Harvest Plan

With a Conversion Option Harvest Plan (COHP), forest practices can be conducted under state jurisdiction while the applicant retains the option to convert the property to another use within six years. Through a COHP, the applicant meets all development standards required by the county, thereby avoiding the Forest Practice Moratorium. The applicant applies to WDNR for the Forest Practices Permit and to DDES for the COHP.

Forestry resources

King County Forestry Program:

<http://dnr.metrokc.gov/wlr/lands/forestry>

Services:

Technical assistance with Forest Stewardship Plans

Contact:

Bill Loeber, Forester – 206-296-7821, bill.loeber@metrokc.gov

Additional information:

Forest Stewardship Plan Public Rule

<http://www.metrokc.gov/recelec/archives/policies/put819pr.htm>

King County Department of Development and Environmental Services (DDES)

<http://www.metrokc.gov/ddes/>

Services:

Permitting for Non-Conversion class 4G permits and Conversion Option Harvest Plans

Contact:

- Jim Ballweber – 206 296-6779, jim.ballweber@metrokc.gov
- Jon Pederson – 206-296-6781, jon.pederson@metrokc.gov

Additional information:

Conversion Option Harvest Plan (COHP) <http://www.metrokc.gov/ddes/forest/>

Washington State Department of Natural Resources

<http://www.dnr.wa.gov/>

Services:

- Permitting for Class 2, 3 and 4S Forest Practice permits
- Technical assistance to small forest landowners

Contact:

- South Puget Sound Region Office
360-825-1631
- Small Forest Landowner Office
360-906-1415
<http://www.dnr.wa.gov/sflo/>
sflo@wadnr.gov

Additional information:

- Forest Practices Division
<http://www.dnr.wa.gov/forestpractices/>
360-902-1400
- Forest Practice Act
<http://www.leg.wa.gov/RCW/index.cfm?fuseaction=chapterdigest&chapter=76.09>
- Forest Practice Rules
<http://www.dnr.wa.gov/forestpractices/rules/>
- Forest Practice Board Manual
<http://www.dnr.wa.gov/forestpractices/board/manual/>
- Backyard Forest Stewardship
<http://www.dnr.wa.gov/htdocs/rp/stewardship/bfs/WESTERN/introduction.html>

Washington State University Extension, Forestry Education Program

<http://www.metrokc.gov/dchs/csd/wsuc-ce/Forestry/index.htm>

Services:

Forest stewardship classes

Contact:

Amy Grotta – 206-205-3132, Amy.Grotta@metrokc.gov

Additional information:

List of forestry consultants

<http://www.metrokc.gov/dchs/csd/wsuc-ce/Forestry/forestryconsult.htm>