



FOREST PRACTICE APPLICATION (FPA)

Forest Practice applications (FPA) are regulated through the Washington State Forest Practices Act RCW 76.09 and the Kitsap County Timber Harvest Ordinance 150-1993. The purpose of the Timber Harvest Ordinance is to identify potential impacts from logging on drainage courses and critical areas.



An FPA may be required when you are cutting down trees. **If you are considering the removal of trees from your property, you should ask yourself these four questions:**

1. Am I going to develop my land?

If you intend to develop your property within six years of logging, you will need a Timber Harvest Permit from Kitsap County and a “Conversion” FPA from the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). You will need to tell Kitsap County what type of development you are planning. In some cases, you may need to obtain approval of your development before approval of your Timber Harvest Permit.

2. Am I going to keep growing trees?

If you intend to keep growing trees for at least six years, after you cut them down, you will need to contact the DNR to obtain a Non-Conversion Forest Practices Application. A Non-Conversion Application will invoke an automatic 6-year moratorium. It is Kitsap County policy to deny building permits, subdivision and land-use permits on all land logged under a Non-Conversion Application or without an FPA.

3. Am I undecided of my future plans?

If you are undecided, you may apply for a Conversion Option Harvest Plan (COHP) with the County before filing a Non-Conversion FPA with the DNR. A COHP is an agreement between you and Kitsap County that may allow you to harvest some of your trees under a Non-Conversion FPA subject to conditions. Kitsap County agrees not to impose a moratorium if you comply with County requirements. If you violate the terms of a COHP, the County may impose a moratorium on building permits and subdivision and land-use permits on all land logged under the agreement.

It should be noted that the conditions of the COHP may limit your overall harvest.

4. What happens if I change my mind?

As of October 27, 2007, Kitsap County will impose an automatic 6-year moratorium on all non-conversion applications. Property logged without an FPA will receive an automatic 6-year moratorium.

What is Kitsap County Public Works’ involvement in Timber Harvest Permits and Conversion Option Harvest Plans?

Public Works reviews each application for potential drainage impacts due to the proposed clearing. Mitigation measures for silt and erosion control are made a condition of FPA approval. In addition, if grubbing or stumping of the clearing areas is proposed, additional permits and requirements apply.

How do I apply for a timber Harvest Permit or a Conversion Option Harvest Plan?

Direct the Forest Practice Application, SEPA checklist, Conversion/Conversion Option Harvest Plan Statement, and the Logging Site Plan to Steve Heacock, Department of Community Development. For questions regarding Timber Harvest Permits or COHP contact the Department of Community Development at (360) 337-7181.

How much do FPAs cost?

A separate fee schedule can be obtained from the Department of Community Development.

What other permits may I need?

You may need one or more of the following permits:

- Site Development Activity Permit (SDAP for grading,
- Permit to Work in a County Right-of Way,
- Permit to Open and Improve Unopened County Right-of Way,
- Road Approach Permit (for Access road installation).