



FOREST PRACTICE REVIEWS

What is the purpose of a forest practices review?

Forest Practice Applications (FPA's) are regulated through the Washington State Forest Practices Act in the Revised Code of Washington (RCW 76.09) and in Clark County Code (CCC 40.260.080).

The purpose of these codes is to identify potential effects from logging on critical areas, such as wetlands, steep slopes, stream buffers, archaeological sites, and areas of known endangered species.

Since July 30, 2007, Clark County has imposed an automatic 6-year parcel hold on all Non-Conversion FPA's. Any property logged without an FPA will receive a 6-year parcel hold. An FPA may be required when there is a proposal to cut trees.

The following questions should be taken into consideration before removing trees on your property:

Will land be developed to create building lots?

If property is intended to be developed within six years of logging, a Conversion Forest Practices Permit will be needed from Clark County. In some instances, prior approval of the development and compliance of critical area permits may be necessary before the timber harvest permit is approved.

What if there is NO intention to develop at this time?

If trees will be grown for at least six years after a harvest, a Non-Conversion Forest Practices Application may be obtained from the Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

When filing a DNR Non-Conversion Forest Practices Application, an automatic parcel hold prohibiting development for 6-years is invoked. Specifically, building permits, land division and other development permits on all land logged under a DNR Non-Conversion Forest Practices Application are prohibited.

An owner of a legally established lot may apply for a waiver to the parcel hold for a single-family home as discussed below.

Uncertain of future plans for the land?

You may apply to Clark County for a Conversion Option Harvest Plan (COHP) before filing a Non-Conversion Forest Practices Application with the DNR. A COHP is an agreement between the landowner and the County that may allow you to harvest some of your trees subject to specific conditions of approval. The conditions of approval will be determined after review of your proposal relative to your specific site's physical attributes.

For its part, Clark County agrees not to impose a parcel hold if there is compliance with the conditions of approval of the COHP. If the terms of the COHP are violated, the County will impose a six-year parcel hold on building permits, subdivision and other land use permits on all land logged under the agreement.

It should be noted that the conditions of approval of a COHP might limit the size or location of an overall harvest.

What is Clark County's involvement in Timber Harvest Permits and Conversion Option Harvest Plans?

The Department of Environmental Services reviews each application for potentially adverse impacts to critical areas and drainage caused by the proposed clearing. Mitigation and/or prevention measure to limit adverse environmental impacts to critical areas and for site and erosion control are made as conditions of approval for the FPA. Additional permits and requirements may apply when any grubbing or stumping of the harvested areas is proposed.

A Clark County Forester will monitor Timber Harvests for compliance with approved applications.

What is the application process?

The first step is to submit a completed FPA form and fees, together with the required submittal items (see attached list) to the Permit Services Center. Applications cannot be accepted through the mail.

What if I didn't submit all the required information?

The County Permit Services staff will check to ensure that the application is complete before they accept the application over the counter. Once your application is accepted, copies of your submittal package are routed to the necessary review staff. Staff will notify the applicant if additional information is needed.

What if I have a tree that is a hazard to me or my house?

If you have a tree, or several trees, that you believe pose a danger to people or property, the County could allow for some trees to be removed as "hazard trees". While these trees often may be removed without a timber harvest permit, in many cases their removal may need to meet the county critical areas ordinances.

To qualify for a hazard tree removal permit (as opposed to a timber harvest permit), you will need to show or prove that the tree(s) in question pose a threat, and why. The information you provide will be what the County Forester will use to determine whether or not the tree(s) are a hazard

To streamline this evaluation process, the County has developed two options. First, you can apply for a hazard tree determination using the attached form. If need be, you may request the County Forester to come to your property in order to help determine how much of a hazard is posed and whether it can be removed without a timber harvest permit. The review service will cost \$135, plus an additional \$230 if a site inspection is requested or required.

The second option is to hire a certified arborist to evaluate the potential hazardous tree(s). They will then produce a report which can be submitted to the county. The County Forester will then review this report as part of his hazard tree determination. The cost to review this report will cost \$135, plus an additional \$230 if an inspection is requested or required.

Regardless of which method you choose, during that review Environmental Services staff will determine whether any of the trees removed trigger critical area permits.

Note: This handout is not a substitute for county code. For more detailed information, please refer to Clark County Code Chapter 40.260.080.

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES FOREST PRACTICE REVIEW FEE SCHEDULE

Conversion Option Harvest Plan (COHP) with approved current use timber management plan:	\$542
COHP without approved current timber use management plan:	\$1,030
Class I (Non-Exempt) Forest Practice:	\$425
Class IV g:	\$1,882
Hazard Tree Removal Determination (stand alone):	\$135
Site Inspection fee (for each Hazard Tree Removal Determination when a site visit is needed):	\$230
Type I Moratorium Waiver (Single Family Residence):	\$624
Type III Moratorium Waivers:	\$4,090
Public Hearing Fee:	\$2,461
Open Space/Current Use Taxation:	\$1,882

Note: All Forest Practice applications must be accompanied by an issuance fee.

Issuance Fees paid to Community Development for each application:	\$94
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**Department of Environmental Services
Public Service Center
1300 Franklin Street
P.O. Box 9810
Vancouver, WA 98666-9810
(360) 397-2121
www.clark.wa.gov**



For other formats, contact the Clark County ADA Office: **Voice** (360) 397-2322;
Relay 711 or (800) 833-6388; **Fax** (360) 397-6165; **E-mail** ADA@clark.wa.gov.

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES FOREST PRACTICE APPLICATION SUBMITTAL REQUIREMENTS

The following checklist identifies information required to be included with a Forest Practice Application.

ALL APPLICATIONS

1. _____ **APPLICATION FORM** - The application form shall be completed and signed in ink by the applicant.
2. _____ **APPLICATION FEE** - The requisite fee for the FPA shall accompany the application. Make checks payable to "Clark County Environmental Services."
3. _____ **LOGGING SITE PLAN** – Including water types and critical areas.

Class IV g Forest Practice

4. _____ **STATE ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT (SEPA) CHECKLIST**- The checklist must be completed, signed in ink by the applicant, and be accompanied by all information required to process the SEPA.

Conversion Option Harvest Plan. (COHP)

4. _____ **CONVERSION NARRATIVE** - A narrative describing:
 - Objectives of the timber harvest;
 - Relationship of the harvest to future development of the site;
 - Built and natural features present at the site;
 - Measures to be take to preserve and protect critical areas;
 - Harvest method including type of equipment to be used; and,
 - Expected dates of commencement and completion of all harvest activity.
5. _____ **CONCEPTUAL DEVELOPMENT PLANS** – A conceptual layout of a probable future site development that is:
 - Drawn to Scale;
 - Based on the exiting zoning and physical limitations of the property; and,
 - Based on the likely building areas, roads, driveways, septic system areas and lot configuration.

This application was determined to be counter complete on:

____/____/____

Community Development Permit Technicians: _____