

DO I NEED A PERMIT FOR THIS?

PUGET SOUND FOREST LANDOWNERS

This list is **not comprehensive** and does not replace consultation with a professional forester or county/state permitting department.

When in doubt, contact a conservation district forester and double-check state and local regulations. Visit **betterground.org** to find your local conservation district.



No permit or notification required

If you're unsure, reach out to your conservation district forester.



Talk to County Planning Department

Each county has its own regulations and may require other permits. Contact your county for guidance.



Forest Practices Application to Dept. of Natural Resources

This ensures your actions follow state regulations. Forms and application instructions are online at dnr.wa.gov.



May require State Environmental Policy Act checklist

This checklist is used to determine the environmental impact of your project. Fill out the checklist at ecology.wa.gov.

Common Terms

Board foot: a common forestry unit of volume measuring 1 ft wide by 1 ft long by 1 inch thick. An average truck load contains 5,000 board ft.

Forest land: all land that is capable of supporting a merchantable stand of timber and is not being actively used for something incompatible with growing timber.

Forest practice: any activity on or related to forestland and involving growing, harvesting, or processing timber.

Critical area: environments protected by county laws, including wetlands, fish and wildlife habitat, frequently flooded areas, geologically hazardous areas, and critical aquifer recharge areas.

Precommercial thinning: cutting young trees to reduce forest density. These trees are small enough that they have no timber value and are usually removed with hand tools or small equipment.

Hazard tree: a tree with a structural defect, like decay or a weak branch, that poses a risk to people or property.

Tree Cutting

Permit Requirement

Precommercial thinning



Harvesting less than 5,000 board ft per year for personal use (live, dead, and down materials)



Hazard tree cutting within 1.5 tree lengths of a building or in an Urban Growth Area



Harvesting any timber for sale or more than 5,000 board ft per year for personal use



Harvesting on potentially unstable slopes or landforms



Harvest near or in critical habitats of threatened or endangered species, in high avalanche hazard areas, or on historic archaeological resources including sites containing evidence of Native American cairns, graves, or glyptic records



Clearcutting or heavy thinning without replanting if there are less than 100 mature trees or 190 seedlings left per acre



Converting land to non-forestry use



Streamside

Forest practice hydraulic projects (in-stream work: moving material in a lake or stream, including altering stream flow)



Replacement of bridges or culverts across flowing surface waters



Movement of material with potential to enter flowing surface waters or wetlands



Roads

Permit Requirement

Basic road maintenance and less than 600 ft of new construction on ground of less than 40% slope and not within 200 ft of a stream, river, or wetland



Small landings less than 1 acre in size and not within 200 ft of a stream, river, or wetland



New road or landing construction on potentially unstable slopes or landforms



Road construction in or near critical habitats of threatened or endangered species, in high avalanche hazard areas, or on historic archaeological resources including sites containing evidence of Native American cairns, graves, or glyptic records



Burning

Small pile burning that meets the DNR “[Rules for Burning Without a Permit](#)” when there is no burn ban in place



Using a flame cap kiln to produce biochar from forest activity residues, provided the DNR “[Rules for Burning Without a Permit](#)” requirements are met (consider season of the burn and the size of your kiln)



Pile burning or use of a flame cap kiln that does not meet the DNR “[Rules for Burning Without a Permit](#)” (consider season of the burn and the size of your kiln)

Burn Permit (DNR)

Slash burning or other broadcast prescribed fire

Burn Permit (DNR)

Vegetation Management*

Tree and shrub planting and seeding



Ground application of pesticides not in or within 200 ft of water, wetlands, or other critical areas (always read and follow all label directions — the label is the law)



Noxious weed control of non-native, noxious plants such as Himalayan blackberry or English ivy not near water or critical areas (some cities or counties have volume or area thresholds above which requires a permit)



Noxious weed control, native brush reduction, or ground application of pesticides within 200 ft of a critical area



Ground application of pesticides within wetlands



***Even if a practice doesn't require a permit, managing trees has long-term implications as they grow. To help prevent future hazard tree situations, consult your local conservation district forester.**



No permit or
notification required



Forest Practices Application
to DNR



May require SEPA
checklist



Talk to County Planning
Department



BETTER GROUND

Free advice & services from your Conservation District.