



Pierce County

Department of Planning and Land Services

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3 STEPS TO DETERMINE IF A FOREST PRACTICES PERMIT IS REQUIRED

Step 1

Determine if Merchantable Timber will be harvested on Forestland. If yes, operation considered to be a **FOREST PRACTICE**. Proceed to Step 2. If no, stop here.

Merchantable timber means trees that will yield logs and/or fiber suitable in size and quality for the production of lumber, plywood, pulp or other forest products. A variety of trees may be considered merchantable including, but not limited to, Douglas fir, Western red cedar, Western hemlock, big-leaf maple, alder, and black cottonwood.

Forestland means land which is capable of supporting a merchantable stand of timber and is not actively being used for a use which is incompatible with timber growing. Does not include land within 1 ½ tree lengths of an existing structure.

Harvest of Merchantable Timber on Forestland = **FOREST PRACTICE**

Step 2

Determine if operation is considered to be a **Class I** Forest Practice. If yes, no forest practices permit required. If no, proceed to Step 3.

Forest practices meeting either one of the following scenarios are defined as **Class I** forest practices. These activities do not require a forest practices permit. **Class I** forest practices must comply with applicable sections of Title 18H, Forest Practices and Tree Conservation and Title 18E, Critical Areas.

Scenario #1

The forest practices involve a single landowner where ***the parcel is less than two acres in size or where a single landowner owns contiguous parcels that together are less than two acres*** in size, provided none of the logging takes place within:

- *The 200-foot Shoreline Management Zone;*
- *a stream/stream buffer;*
- *a wetland/wetland buffer;*
- *the operation does not involve use of ground equipment on sideslopes greater than 40 percent; and*
- *will not impact any threatened or endangered species.*

OR

Scenario #2

The forest practices involve cutting **less than 5,000 board feet of merchantable timber** (approximately 1 ½ log trucks) for personal use (material will not be sold) in any consecutive 12-month period, **provided** the forest practices do not impact any of the areas listed under scenario #1 above.

Step 3

Determine what type of forest practices permit is required.

Class II and Class III Forest Practices Permits - Required for commercial logging operations, (thinning and/or clear cutting). 6-year Development Moratorium imposed on harvest area identified in permit.

Class IV-General Forest Practices Permits - Required when logging operation, which would otherwise be classified as a Class II or Class III forest practice, occurs under any one of the following instances:

1. On land in an Urban Growth Area (UGA); or
2. On land platted after January 1, 1960 (includes formal subdivisions, short plats, and large lot divisions); or
3. On land where an application for agricultural, residential, commercial, and/or industrial development has been submitted. Examples include, but are not limited to, Building permit, Conditional Use permit, Preliminary Plat, Short Plat, and Site Development permit for clearing.

Please note that while every effort is made to assure the accuracy of the information contained in this brochure it is not warranted for accuracy. This document is not intended to address all aspects or regulatory requirements for a project and should serve as a starting point for your investigation. For detailed information on a particular project, permit, or code requirement refer directly to applicable file and/or code/regulatory documents or contact the appropriate division of staff.