



FOREST PRACTICES NOTICE

TRANSFER OF JURISDICTION

CLASS IV-GENERAL FOREST PRACTICES PERMITS
from
WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT of NATURAL RESOURCES
to
PIERCE COUNTY

EFFECTIVE MARCH 1, 2007

The Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has approved the transfer of jurisdiction over **Class IV-General** forest practices permits to Pierce County, with an **effective date of March 1, 2007**. **Class IV-General** forest practices include logging activities associated with the development (conversion) of property and are defined by the State Forest Practice Rules as forest practices (logging) which take place on (1) lands platted after January 1, 1960; (2) lands that have or are being converted to another use; or (3) lands located within an Urban Growth Area (#3 does not apply when harvesting less than 5,000 board feet of merchantable timber for personal use only.)

Until recently, all forest practices on non-federal lands, including Class IV-General forest practices associated with the development of property, were regulated by the Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR). In 1997, the State Forest Practices Act was amended giving authority to each city and county to exercise jurisdiction over all **Class IV-General** forest practices.

On January 2, 2007, the DNR transferred the administration and enforcement of **Class IV-General** forest practices conducted within unincorporated Pierce County to Pierce County. The DNR retained jurisdiction over Class II, III, and IV-Special forest practices. These permits are issued for commercial forestry operations where the property is only being logged, and is not being developed (converted).

Class IV-General forest practices permits will be administered by Pierce County through the Department of Planning and Land Services. The application fee for a **Class IV-General** forest practices permit will be \$500. (This is the fee currently charged by the DNR.)

The Department of Revenue (DOR) Forest Tax Program has an agreement with Pierce County to collect the Forest Excise Tax due on the stumpage value of the harvested timber. Eighty percent of the Forest Excise Tax collected in Pierce County is returned to Pierce County for funding public services and infrastructure. In 2005, Pierce County received \$2,200,000.00 in Forest Tax Revenues. The DOR currently relies on forest practices permits issued by the DNR, including **Class IV-Generals**, to register timber harvesters for payment of the Forest Excise Tax. Pierce County will require that all **Class IV-General** forest practices permit applications include a Forest Tax Reporting Account Number for the timber owner (available from the DOR by calling 1-800-548-8829) and will also distribute all approved **Class IV-General** forest practices permits to the DOR.

- The following items must be completed before a **Class IV-General** forest practices permit application may be approved:
 - ✓ The proposed forest practices activities must undergo an environmental review by Pierce County, in accordance with the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA). The proposed forest practices may have already undergone environmental review if environmental review was required in association with the proposed development. Examples of projects typically required to undergo environmental review include preliminary plats (subdivisions) and commercial buildings, in which case no additional environmental review would be required for the proposed Class IV-G forest practices permit. Environmental review will be required, however, if the proposed forest practices have not been previously evaluated through the environmental review process. An environmental determination (DNS, MDNS), which concludes the environmental review process, will not be issued until any and all studies required by Title 18E, Critical Areas (wetlands, streams, wildlife habitat) have been reviewed and approved;
 - ✓ A Notice of Application (NOA) must be provided to surrounding landowners. This is prepared and distributed by Pierce County. The NOA provides a 28 day review and comment period;
 - ✓ The property must be posted by the landowner/applicant with a Pierce County Public Notice Sign within 14 days of filing application. (The sign is yellow, measuring 1-1/2- by 2 feet, and is purchased at the Pierce County Planning and Land Services Department Development Center for \$4.35.) The sign must remain posted until the NOA comment period has expired;
 - ✓ A Tree Conservation Affidavit must be submitted for property which is subject to a previously approved Tree Conservation Plan;
 - ✓ A Site Development permit addressing clearing, or written documentation that a Site Development permit is not required in association with the proposed logging must be issued by Pierce County; and
 - ✓ Any pending development permit application, such as a preliminary plat, short plat, use permit, commercial building permit, or single or two-family residential building permit that is associated with the project must be approved/issued.

A Class IV-General forest practices permit application should be submitted as early as possible in the land development permitting process and must be submitted prior to conducting logging on the site. In those instances where the proposed forest practices are not associated with an application for land division or subdivision, use permit, commercial building permit, or single- or two-family residential building permit, (i.e., only on-site septic system design and/or site development permit) no more than 35% of the volume of timber on the site may be harvested.

You may view a copy of Title 18H, Forest Practices and Tree Conservation on the Pierce County Internet Site at www.piercecountywa.org/pals, under Regulations.

Additional information on the State Forest Practices Act and Rules is available through the DNR web page at www.dnr.wa.gov/forestpractices or by contacting the Forest Practices Section of the DNR at their South Puget Sound regional office in Enumclaw at 360-825-1631.

Information on the Forest Tax Program and Forest Excise Tax is available by contacting the Washington State Department of Revenue at 1-800-548-8829 or <http://dor.wa.gov/> (Search under Timber).

Questions should be directed to Adonais Clark, Senior Planner, by phone at 253-798-7165 or by e-mail at aclark@co.pierce.wa.us or to Diane Marcus-Jones, Associate Planner, by phone at 253-798-2616 or by e-mail at dmarcus@co.pierce.wa.us.