Overview

This brochure summarizes the requirements of Spokane County Code Chapter 3.19 which implements the Washington State Forest Practices Act (76.09 RCW). Within Spokane County, the authority to engage in logging operations or other types of forest practices may be granted from either the Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) or from Spokane County Department of Building and Planning, depending upon the activity and its location.

Forest Practice Permits are administered by the DNR for logging and other activities that impact forested areas. They are generally applicable to forest lands intended to remain as forest lands. A forest practice can be classified as I, II, III, or IV Special or General. For information and assistance, contact the Washington State Department of Natural Resources, Northeast Regional Office in Colville, Washington, or call 1-800-527-3305.

Timber Harvest Permits issued by Spokane County are required for logging activities on lands that have been or are being converted from timberland.

Typically a Timber Harvest Permit is required for logging activities that:

- Occur on lands platted after January 1, 1960
- Result in the conversion of forest land to any other use
- Take place on lands designated as “areas likely to convert”
- Are conducted on any lands within the Urban Growth Area (UGA)
- Occur in conjunction with road construction within the UGA

Work Exempt from a Spokane County issued Timber Harvest Permit includes:

- Timber harvests covered by a Forest Practice Permit issued by the DNR on lands outside the UGA
- Logging on lands within the UGA where a non-conversion commitment has been negotiated with the DNR
- Logging on land which has already been recognized for conversion by a prior land use action supplemented with a completed Environmental Checklist and logging was part of that proposal.
- Harvests of less than 5,000 board feet for personal use
- Additional exemptions may be available. Contact our office to see how they may apply to your harvest

How Do I Apply For A Permit?

For properties already converted:

These are properties where the land use is no longer forestry e.g. - it has been converted to residential, commercial or industrial uses, or it can be Rural land which cannot be further subdivided due to zoning minimum lot size requirements.
Timber Harvest permits for these sites require:
- Completed Project Application
- Conversion Site Development Plan
- Logging Site Plan
- Necessary Fees

Generally applications are reviewed for conformance with County Ordinances such as Critical Areas (Wetland, Riparian areas), Erosion and Sediment Control and others. Harvest within stream and wetland buffers is generally not permitted without mitigation plans.

**For properties to be converted:**

These are properties which have been in a forest land status that are or will be divided or converted to other uses such as residential.

Timber Harvest Permits for these parcels require the same items as noted above, and additionally require submission of a Environmental Checklist.

**Additional Submittal Requirements That May Be Needed**
- Drainage Plan & calculations
- Soils/geotechnical report
- Wetlands/stream delineation report
- Road plans
- Erosion sediment control plan

**What is a Moratorium?**

Some properties may have Forest Practice Moratoriums placed on them from past logging operations. These moratoriums can last for 6-10 years and preclude development or conversion of properties.

**Are there exceptions to Moratoriums?**

Very limited provisions exist within the Timber Harvest Ordinance to lift or grant exceptions to a moratorium.

An Administrative Exception to a moratorium may be granted to allow construction of a single family home and accessory structures. Full release from a moratorium must follow procedures for land use actions and may include a public hearing before the County Hearing Examiner dependent upon location.

**Associated Fees**

- Timber Harvest Application: $500
- Environmental Checklist: $81
- Approach Permit: $30
- Administrative Exception: $100

For more information or an appointment contact:
Spokane County Department of Building and Planning
1026 W. Broadway Avenue
Spokane, WA 99260-0050
(509) 477-3675   bp@spokanecounty.org
http://www.spokanecounty.org/bp
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 or staff.

Name: ____________________________

Address: __________________________

Legal Description: ____________________

Parckel Number: ____________________

Proposed Conceptual Conversion Map Required