

Forest Stewardship Plan

What Is a Forest Stewardship Plan?

A Forest Stewardship Plan is a management plan that helps you reach your individual ownership objectives and integrates the protection and/or enhancement of multiple forest resources.

Developing a Stewardship Plan will help you clarify your short and long term objectives for your property. Through the process you analyze current conditions of your forest resources, determine what resource protection or enhancement measures would be beneficial and develop an organized sequence of activities to accomplish your objectives.

When Is a Plan Required in King County?

- To apply for Forestlands, Timberlands or the Forest Stewardship Land category of the Public Benefit Rating System current use taxation programs;
- To apply for a building permit within the Forest Production District;
- To accompany a Transfer of Development Credits or Forest Legacy application;
- To be eligible to apply for Forest Land Enhancement Program (FLEP) cost sharing funds (federal funds administered by WA DNR);
- To receive recognition as a "Stewardship Forest" (property sign and certificate); and
- To harvest timber on land platted after 1960 under a Class IV-G Non-Conversion permit administered through King County Department of Development and Environmental Services.

How Do I Get a Forest Stewardship Plan for My Property?

- You can participate in a Forest Stewardship Class with instruction and personalized coaching from natural resource professionals. In King County these classes are offered by Washington State University Extension in cooperation with King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks and the Snoqualmie Watershed Forum.
- You can hire a natural resource consultant to prepare a plan for you.
- You can write your own plan. Technical assistance is available from King County foresters to help you know what to include and how to evaluate your resources.

Criteria to Be Met for Plan Approval

- Must be signed by the landowner;
- Must address protection and/or enhancement of the forest resource categories;
- Must cover a time frame of at least 10 years, longer planning range is encouraged;
- Must cover the entire forested ownership and/or any land that will be planted to forest vegetation; and
- Recommended management activities should be consistent with stated landowner objectives.

In addition, to be accepted in conjunction with the USDA cost sharing Forest Land Enhancement Program in years that the program is available, the plan:

- Must be prepared by, or in close consultation with a natural resource professional; and
- Must be approved and signed by the Washington Department of Natural Resources Stewardship Coordinator/Forester or designee.

Forest Stewardship Plan Format

- Cover Page with property owner and parcel information
- Table of Contents
- Description of Landowner's Objective(s)
- General Property Description
- Resource Descriptions and Recommended Treatments
 - Resource Category 1: Forest Health
Insects, diseases, fire protection, environmental factors, animal damage potential, and invasive species
 - Resource Category 2: Timber, Wood Products, and Firewood Cutting
Species composition, age, size, quality, site class, competing vegetation, density/stocking, location of planned activities, proposed methods and equipment, operability, silvicultural alternatives.
 - Resource Category 3: Soils
Soil types, slope stability, erosion potential, road construction considerations.
 - Resource Category 4: Water Quality, Riparian and Wetland Areas
Stream types, streambank stability, riparian vegetation, percent tree cover (shade), floodplains, wetland locations, domestic water sources, any herbicide applications
 - Resource Category 5: Fish and Wildlife Habitat
Species present or observed, food, water, resting and hiding cover, thermal cover, nesting and rearing habitat, travel corridors, habitat on adjacent properties
 - Resource Category 6: Threatened and Endangered Species & Cultural Resources
Any listed species observed.
 - Resource Category 7: Aesthetics and Recreation (optional)
Trails present or desired, significant views, recreational opportunities, scenic view enhancement, opportunities for cooperation with adjacent parcels.
 - Resource Category 8: Agro-forestry/Special Forest Products (optional)
Floral greenery, mushrooms, edible and medicinal plants.
- Management Timetable
- Signature Page (landowner, DNRP forester)
- Photo and/or Site Maps, Assessor's Map
- Supplemental Materials (optional)

Assure that on the cover page and all maps etc. the parcel identification number is included for reference.

Link to King County Department of Natural Resources Forestry Program:
<http://edit.kingcounty.gov/Sites/environment/waterandland/forestry.aspx>

Link to WSU Extension Puget Sound Forestry Program:
<http://snohomish.wsu.edu/forestry/index.htm>