



King County

Department of Natural Resources and Parks
Parks and Recreation Division

King Street Center
 201 South Jackson Street, Suite 5702
 Seattle, WA 98104
<http://www.kingcounty.gov/parks>

State Environmental Policy Act Determination of Non-Significance

Date of Issue: May 21, 2024

Name of Proposal: Island Center Forest Bypass Thin

Location of Proposal: The project site includes nine units in the eastern half of Island Center Forest (parcels 3623029013, 3123039023, 3123039019, 3123039162). Island Center Forest is southwest of the town center of Vashon, on Vashon Island. See map.

Description of Proposal: Island Center Forest is a Forest Stewardship Council® (FSC-C008225) certified working forest demonstrating environmentally sound forest management to protect and restore ecological systems while providing recreational opportunities. King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks (DNRP) has a 30-Year Forest Plan that focuses on climate resilient forests. Long-lived conifer species are typically more climate resilient, but overcrowded, even-aged stands like at Island Center Forest suffer from water and light competition, making them more susceptible to disease and drought. Hotter, drier summers will become common with climate change and exacerbate this problem. The red alder-dominated stands are already suffering from age-related mortality.

DNRP is proposing 45.4 acres of commercial tree harvesting in Island Center Forest across five units and 4.7 acres of drop-and-leave cutting in four alder “gap” cuts. The objectives for the Douglas-fir treatments are to shift from overly-dense stands to less-dense, more diverse and drought-resistant conifer stands; prevent density-dependent tree mortality; slow the spread of laminated root rot and plant with rot-resistant species. In the red alder stands, treatments will transition the forest from declining alders to more diverse, climate resilient mixed species stands. The treatments will generate timber revenue to support forest stewardship in line with the property’s working forest designation, defined in King County’s Comprehensive Plan (2022). Unit A covers 12.9 acres, Unit B covers 7.6 acres, Unit C covers 7.7 acres, Cemetery Unit covers 8.1 acres, E units cover 9.1 acres, and alder gap cuts cover 4.7 acres total.

DRNP proposes using logging equipment such as feller-bunchers, skidders, processors, log loaders, forwarders, shovel yarding, or other similar mechanized methods of tree cutting to remove Douglas-fir up to 24” diameter at breast height (DBH). Western redcedar and other root rot-resistant species would be retained. Most declining red alder over 8” DBH in E units would be removed, and all other species retained. The cut trees would be sold for lumber, chips, pulp, veneer, firewood, or other uses as markets allow. Stumps will typically remain unless pulled in root rot-infested stands to deter spread.

Proponent/Lead Agency: King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks
 Parks and Recreation Division

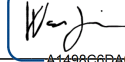
Responsible Official: Warren Jimenez
 Division Director, Parks and Recreation Division

Address: 201 South Jackson Street, Suite 5702
Seattle, WA 98104-3855

DATE: 5/6/2024 | 4:12 PM PDT

SIGNATURE:

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The lead agency for this proposal has determined that it does not have a probable significant adverse impact on the environment, and an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is not required. This determination was made after review of a completed environmental checklist and other information on file with the lead agency as set forth in Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 197-11-330 and Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 43.21C.030. This information is available to the public on request (for a nominal photocopying fee). It is also available on the King County website at: <http://www.kingcounty.gov/parks/publicnotices>

This Determination of Non-Significance (DNS) is issued under WAC 197-11-340(2). The lead agency will not act on this proposal until after **June 4, 2024**. Comments must be submitted or postmarked by 4:30 PM on **June 4, 2024**. To provide comments or request additional information please contact:

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206-477-7372 (SEPA) or KCParks.SEPA@kingcounty.gov

For email comments, please use the email address noted above and put "Island Center Forest Bypass Thin" in the Subject line.

