



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>

SEPA ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

A. Background

1. Name of proposed project, if applicable:

Landsburg Thin Forestry Project

2. Name of applicant:

King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks, Parks and Recreation Division

3. Address and phone number of applicant and contact person:

Paul Fischer, Senior Forester
King County Parks and Recreation Division
201 S Jackson Street, KSC-NR-6500
Seattle, WA, 98104
206-477-7372 (SEPA)
KCParks.SEPA@kingcounty.gov

4. Date checklist prepared:

November 5, 2025

5. Agency requesting checklist:

King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks

6. Proposed timing or schedule (including phasing, if applicable):

The proposed thinning is estimated to take 4 to 8 weeks and will occur either January to April of 2026 or August to December 2026.

- 7. Do you have any plans for future additions, expansion, or further activity related to or connected with this proposal? If yes, explain.**

No further actions will take place related to this proposal.

- 8. List any environmental information you know about that has been prepared, or will be prepared, directly related to this proposal.**

Landsburg Natural Area and Big Bend Natural Area and Park Forest Stewardship Plan (June 2023, King County Parks)

This information is available for review on the King County website at:

<http://www.kingcounty.gov/parks/publicnotices>

- 9. Do you know whether applications are pending for governmental approvals of other proposals directly affecting the property covered by your proposal? If yes, explain.**

There are no other known applications directly affecting the property covered in this proposal.

- 10. List any government approvals or permits that will be needed for your proposal, if known.**

This is a Class IV Special Forest Practice regulated by Washington (WA) Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Forest Practices under Title 222 WAC and RCW 76.09. King County will obtain a Forest Practices permit from WA DNR before work will begin. King County DNRP will coordinate with King County Department of Local Services for any necessary permits.

- 11. Give a brief, complete description of your proposal, including the proposed uses and the size of the project and site. There are several questions later in this checklist that ask you to describe certain aspects of your proposal. You do not need to repeat those answers on this page. (Lead agencies may modify this form to include additional specific information on project description.)**

King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks (DNRP) is proposing 29 acres of commercial tree thinning and harvesting in one unit within the Landsburg Reach Natural Area. The total parcel size is approximately 34.5 acres. The objectives for this project are: alleviate dense conditions in second-growth Douglas fir to improve growth and resilience of the trees retained; improve resilience to drought; minimize the spread of laminated root rot throughout the forest; and initiate a new cohort of root rot-resistant trees through improving light conditions and planting trees. We propose a variable density thin "from below," meaning typically removing the smallest trees and retaining the biggest and best trees. The project will remove around one third of the biomass, which is about half of the trees in the forest. The project will result in a more species- and age-diverse forest that is resistant to laminated root rot and more resilient in the hotter and drier summers anticipated to occur with climate change.

Improving forest conditions will help the forest store more carbon long-term. The retained trees, which are larger and store the most carbon relative to the smaller trees that will be felled, will have access to more water and light which will make them better able to resist laminated root rot. The new cohort of rot-resistant native trees will be planted and grow into the future carbon-storing trees at this site.

The County proposes using logging equipment such as feller-bunchers, tracked or wheeled skidders, processors, log loaders, forwarders, shovel yarding, or other similar mechanized methods of tree cutting to remove a portion of the Douglas fir trees in the unit. Trees showing signs of root rot, trees with low proportion of live foliage, and suppressed trees overtopped by the crowns of neighboring trees will be preferentially removed, while large and vigorous trees will be retained. Only Douglas fir trees will be removed; all other tree species will be retained. The cut trees will be sold for lumber, chips, pulp, veneer, firewood, or other uses as markets allow. Stumps typically will remain in place and will not be grubbed or pulled.

No permanent new roads are proposed. One temporary road 1,400 feet in length is planned following WAC 222-24 Road Construction and Maintenance and *WA DNR's Forest Practices Board Manual Section 3 - Guidelines for Forest Roads* and will be decommissioned after the project is complete. This road will be natural surface from the underlying glacial till soil, with spot rock or quarry spauls added if needed to minimize environmental damage.

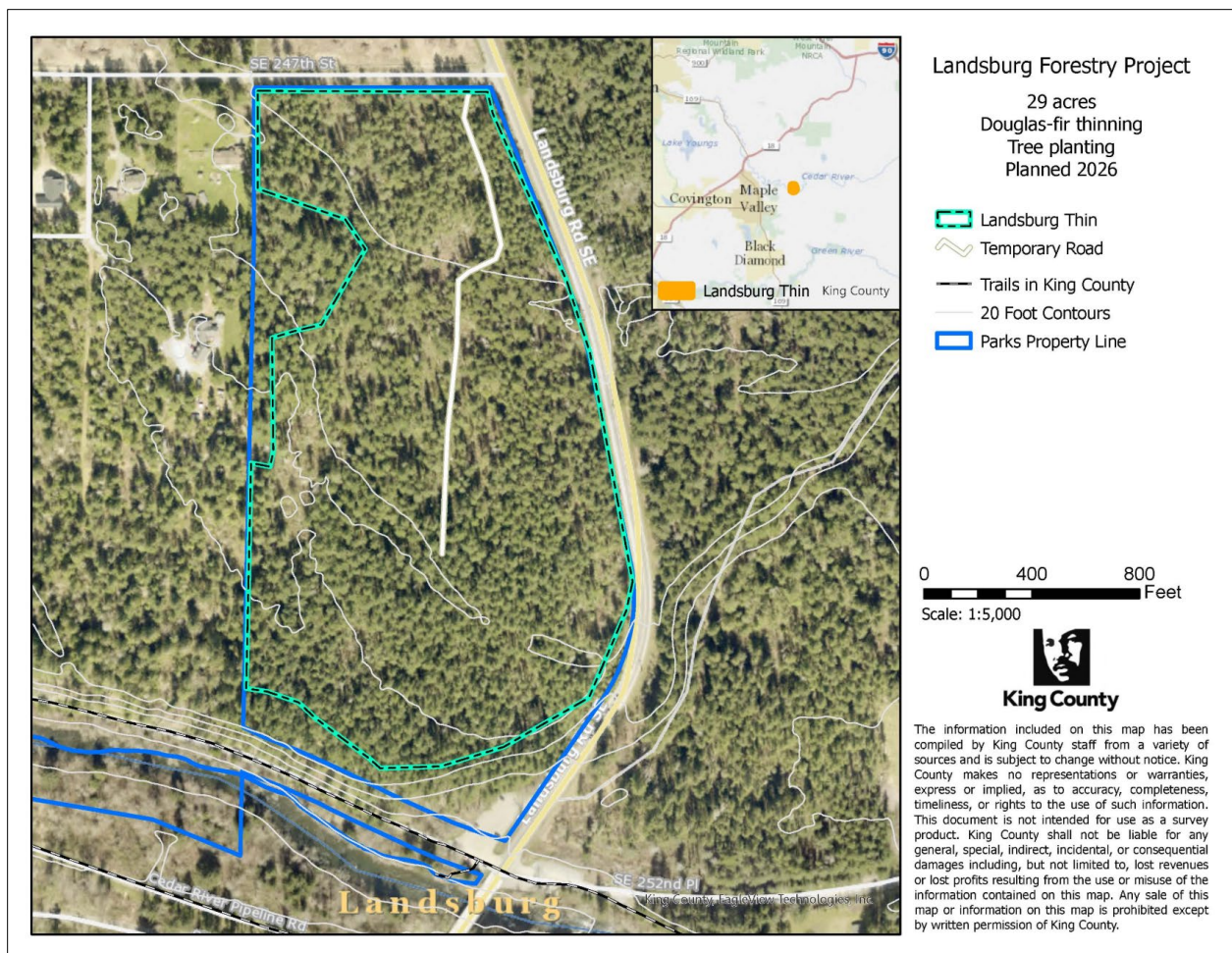
12. Location of the proposal. Give sufficient information for a person to understand the precise location of your proposed project, including a street address, if any, and section, township, and range, if known. If a proposal would occur over a range of area, provide the range or boundaries of the site(s). Provide a legal description, site plan, vicinity map, and topographic map, if reasonably available. While you should submit any plans required by the agency, you are not required to duplicate maps or detailed plans submitted with any permit applications related to this checklist.

The project site lies immediately west of Landsburg Road SE between SE 247th Street to the north and the Cedar River Trail to the south. There is a gravel parking lot at the intersection of Landsburg Road SE and the Cedar River Trail that allows off-trail foot access to the project area. Access can also be gained from SE 247th Street.

Legal Description: PORTION W HALF W HALF STR 19-22-04 LYING NORTH OF CEDAR RIVER & WEST OF LANDSBERG RD SE & SOUTH OF SE 247TH ST EXC BURLINGTON NORTHERN RR RIGHT OF WAY

Parcel: 192207-9002

Quarter-Section-Township-Range: Portions of NW and SW quarters of Section 19, Township 22N, Range 07E, Willamette Meridian



SITE MAP

B. Environmental Elements

1. Earth

a. General description of the site:

The unit in this project is a forested area bounded by a gravel county road (SE 247th Street) to the north, Landsburg Road SE to the east, the Cedar River Trail to the south, and private property to the west. A parking lot for the Cedar River Trailhead is located near the project's southeast corner, and the Cedar River Trail is within 200 feet of the project's southern boundary. The forest is composed of dense, homogenous, second-growth Douglas fir trees. The unit was likely not pre-commercially thinned, leading to self-thinning as trees competed for canopy space and sunlight. During self-thinning, the stand was at an increased risk for mortality from pests, pathogens, and drought stress. Very high tree density and lack of biodiversity allowed laminated root rot to spread throughout the unit, infecting many Douglas fir trees. As the rot progressed and trees died, a number of large openings in the canopy were created. No understory tree regeneration is taking place. Shrubs and forbs in the understory

include salal, evergreen huckleberry, vine maple, and other native species. Invasive plants are uncommon but include Himalayan blackberry and Scotch broom.

Circle or highlight one: **Flat**, rolling, hilly, steep slopes, mountainous, other:

b. What is the steepest slope on the site (approximate percent slope)?

The steepest slope on the site is approximately 15%.

c. What general types of soils are found on the site (for example, clay, sand, gravel, peat, muck)? If you know the classification of agricultural soils, specify them, and note any agricultural land of long-term commercial significance and whether the proposal results in removing any of these soils.

Soils on the site are mapped as Barneston gravelly ashy coarse sandy loam. These soils are deep, 5 feet in most places. They are somewhat excessively drained with no ponding potential. Compaction potential and resistance are both low throughout the site, with slight erosion potential off-road and off-trail. Site index, a measure of the forest's potential productivity based on soil characteristics, is moderate at 118. Site class is a shorthand system of categorizing site index and is more commonly used in forestry. This project area has a site class of III, which represents moderate productivity. Vulnerability to drought is slight and there is a high likelihood of plant competition following harvest. Plant competition is how vigorously plants and shrubs will grow after logging. The plants can overgrow and lead to the mortality of planted tree seedlings. High plant competition means forest managers will need to actively cut back the plants and shrubs to allow the planted tree seedlings space and light to grow.

d. Are there surface indications or history of unstable soils in the immediate vicinity? If so, describe.

No indications or history of unstable soils are known in the immediate vicinity of the proposed harvest areas. Existing King County landslide mapping does not show mass wasting activity near the proposed harvest areas. Careful field verification when scoping this project included an assessment for features associated with landslides, following Section 16 of the *WA DNR Forest Practices Board Manual* standards. Features such as headwalls, gorges, trees with "pistol butt" growth form, etc. that indicate unstable soils were not found.

e. Describe the purpose, type, total area, and approximate quantities and total affected area of any filling, excavation, and grading proposed. Indicate source of fill.

Approximately 1,400 linear feet (16,800 square feet) of temporary road will be constructed and then decommissioned by blocking access and planting with native vegetation.

No filling or excavation is proposed. New temporary road spurs and log landings will undergo minor grading to establish a safe, stable area for operations. Imported spot rock may be utilized as needed.

f. Could erosion occur because of clearing, construction, or use? If so, generally describe.

Logging equipment can cause ruts and soil compaction that increase the risk of erosion. To minimize impacts to nesting birds, winter logging will be permitted for this project, which further increases the risk of rutting, compaction, and erosion. However, site conditions reduce the risk of erosion, including slopes generally less than 10% grade and dense shrubs and groundcover in the understory. The use of appropriate best management practices (BMPs) will further reduce the risk of erosion as described below under B.1.h.

g. About what percent of the site will be covered with impervious surfaces after project construction (for example, asphalt or buildings)?

No new impervious surfaces will exist after the project construction. Up to 1,400 linear feet of temporary road will be constructed and then abandoned following WA DNR Forest Practices rules and replanting with native vegetation.

h. Proposed measures to reduce or control erosion, or other impacts to the earth, if any.

Low-impact yarding methods will be used whenever feasible to minimize impacts. Slash will be spread out over yarding corridors to reduce soil disruption and compaction. Standard best management practices will be used on logging roads such as water bars, drivable berms and dips, and crowning and grading angles that promote proper drainage. Logging operational layout will avoid steep slopes, uphill yarding, and yarding on side slopes. Yarding corridors will follow low-angle routes along slopes, and use of more, smaller landings will reduce the compaction and erosion risk of logging in potentially wet conditions. Logging operations will minimize the use of temporary roads and other factors that lead to soil compaction and erosion. Logging will be suspended on days where operations would cause damage to water quality, road systems, or soils during wet weather. Steeper slopes on the south end of the parcel, which are more prone to erosion, were intentionally excluded from the project boundary.

Permanent existing roads including SE 247th Avenue will be maintained to the *King County Road Design and Construction Standards for Unincorporated King County* and according to WAC 222-24 Road Construction and Maintenance and WA DNR's *Forest Practices Board Manual Section 3 - Guidelines for Forest Roads*.

Temporary roads will be natural surface from the underlying glacial till soil, with imported spot rock, water bars, or other drainage features utilized as needed. Temporary road construction will also follow WAC 222-24 Road Construction and Maintenance, and WA DNR's *Forest Practices Board Manual Section 3 - Guidelines for Forest Roads*. Decommissioning of the temporary roads will follow WAC 222-24-052 requirements for "abandonment" and goes above and beyond these standards to facilitate replanting the temporary road grade. Examples include roughing the top six to twelve inches of compacted soil with an excavator, log loader, or similar equipment, adding water bars or other features to prevent surface water flow, and replanting with native trees in the next planting season. King County will

block access to the decommissioned roadbed with soil berms or trenches, logs, rocks, concrete barriers, or other physical barriers.

2. Air

- a. What types of emissions to the air would result from the proposal during construction, operation, and maintenance when the project is completed? If any, generally describe and give approximate quantities if known.**

Diesel vehicle and machine exhaust will be emitted during the logging operations. Feller-bunchers, skidders, shovel yarders, forwarders, processors, and loaders may be used. Emissions include carbon monoxide and carbon dioxide, reactive organic gasses, and nitrogen oxides. Airborne dust particles and sawdust may result from harvesting activities.

In the short-term, removing a percentage of the tree canopy will result in a net loss of carbon sequestration, even when accounting for carbon stored in long-lived wood products. The remaining conifers will eventually exceed the carbon sequestration potential of the current forest. Forest carbon modeling is complicated by laminated root rot quickly killing maturing trees, which decreases sequestered carbon in a no-action alternative. In long timeframes relevant to forest growth and development (20+ years), the reduced rates of root rot-induced mortality, increased growth rates of the retained large, long-lived conifers, and carbon sequestration of the rot-resistant planted trees, will substantially increase carbon sequestration.

On-going maintenance-related emissions include the use of heavy equipment for maintaining SE 247th Street and periodic visits in pickup trucks or similar vehicles for monitoring and forest health assessments.

Offsite emissions will come from diesel trucks used to transport cut and processed logs to the mill; approximately 80 truckloads are anticipated. Mills typically burn unusable wood residues of the sawmill process in high-efficiency biomass generators to power milling operations. This will not affect the proposal.

- b. Are there any off-site sources of emissions or odor that may affect your proposal? If so, generally describe.**

There are no off-site sources of emission or odor that may affect this proposal.

- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control emissions or other impacts to air, if any.**

Equipment operators must follow RCW 46.61.600 to limit time with the machines idling.

3. Water

a. Surface Water:

- 1. Is there any surface water body on or in the immediate vicinity of the site (including year-round and seasonal streams, saltwater, lakes, ponds, wetlands)? If yes, describe type and provide names. If appropriate, state what stream or river it flows into.**

There are no surface water bodies within the project boundary or within 200 feet of the project boundary. The project boundary is over 200 feet from the following hydrologic resources, as defined by WA DNR Forest Practices Rules (WAC Sections 222-16-030 through 222-16-036).

Stream Segment 1: Lower Cedar River

- Shoreline of the state, fish bearing – WA DNR Type S
- Located outside of project (greater than 200 feet at closest point)

The project area is located within Water Resource Inventory Area (WRIA) 8 Cedar-Sammamish. The Cedar River eventually flows into Lake Washington, which eventually flows to the Puget Sound.

- 2. Will the project require any work over, in, or adjacent to (within 200 feet) the described waters? If yes, please describe and attach available plans.**

No work will take place over, in, or adjacent to the waterbody described in 3.a.1 above (Stream Segment 1 Cedar River).

- 3. Estimate the amount of fill and dredge material that would be placed in or removed from surface water or wetlands and indicate the area of the site that would be affected. Indicate the source of fill material.**

No fill or dredge material will be placed in or removed from surface waters or wetlands.

- 4. Will the proposal require surface water withdrawals or diversions? Give a general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known.**

The proposal will not require surface water withdrawals or diversions.

- 5. Does the proposal lie within a 100-year floodplain? If so, note location on the site plan.**

The project does not lie within a 100-year floodplain.

6. Does the proposal involve any discharges of waste materials to surface waters? If so, describe the type of waste and anticipated volume of discharge.

The project does not involve any discharges of waste materials to surface waters.

b. Ground Water:

1. Will groundwater be withdrawn from a well for drinking water or other purposes? If so, give a general description of the well, proposed uses and approximate quantities withdrawn from the well. Will water be discharged to groundwater? Give a general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known.

Groundwater will not be withdrawn from a well for any purpose.

2. Describe waste material that will be discharged into the ground from septic tanks or other sources, if any (domestic sewage; industrial, containing the following chemicals...; agricultural; etc.). Describe the general size of the system, the number of such systems, the number of houses to be served (if applicable), or the number of animals or humans the system(s) are expected to serve.

No waste material will be discharged into the ground.

c. Water Runoff (including stormwater):

1. Describe the source of runoff (including storm water) and method of collection and disposal, if any (include quantities, if known). Where will this water flow? Will this water flow into other waters? If so, describe.

Storm water runoff could collect and flow along two features in the project area: skid trails/yarding corridors and logging road. Runoff abatement measures will prevent surface water from flowing into adjacent water bodies:

Skid trails/yarding corridors created by the logging operations: This project site has mostly gentle to moderate slopes (typically around 10% grade or less, and steepest slopes are up to 15%) and is well-vegetated. Storm water surface flow will dissipate in the adjacent vegetation and not enter other waters. Logging slash (cut tops and branches not suitable for forest product markets) will be re-distributed over the skid trails/yarding corridors with soil disturbance to effectively mulch the trails to further reduce the risk of surface water flow.

Logging road: The logging road will be built to WA DNR and King County specifications to minimize surface water flow and avoid discharge into other waters. Appropriate crowning and grading angles, water bars, or other drainage features as needed will be installed to meet WA DNR Forest Practices best management practices.

2. Could waste materials enter ground or surface waters? If so, generally describe.

Fuel, oil, coolant, solvent, or hydraulic fluid are all waste materials that could potentially enter the ground or surface waters during work on this project due to equipment breakdowns in logging machines. The logging contract will require a Washington Department of Ecology (WA DOE) Spill Kit to be on-site at all times. All spills will be promptly cleaned up, including removal and appropriate disposal of contaminated soil. Large quantities of bulk fuel/other hazardous materials will not be stored on site. Any release of oil or hazardous materials to the environment will be reported to the WA DOE.

3. Does the proposal alter or otherwise affect drainage patterns in the vicinity of the site? If so, describe.

The project will increase the amount of rain reaching the ground surface and percolating into the soil profile. Tree removal projects increase the amount of rainwater that reaches the soil due to fewer trees encountering and physically retaining rain on leaves and branches. Also, tree removals will increase water in the soil profile due to the loss of trees that draw water from the soil and transpire the moisture into the air. Existing drainage patterns may experience increased flow. The site will retain the majority of its tree canopy and will remain heavily vegetated with existing shrubs and forbs, reducing the risk of surface water flow. Newly planted trees will eventually resume rainfall interception and transpiration as they grow tall and increase foliar surface area.

4. Proposed measures to reduce or control surface, ground, and runoff water, and drainage pattern impacts, if any.

Best management practices such as water bars and drivable berms will be installed on roads and skid trails/yarding corridors anywhere surface water flow is likely to take place or observed taking place. Slash will be distributed on temporary roads and throughout the site to further minimize runoff. See additional measures under B.1.h.

4. Plants

a. Check the types of vegetation found on the site:

- deciduous tree: alder, maple, aspen, other**
- evergreen tree: fir, cedar, pine, other**
- shrubs**
- grass**
- pasture**
- crop or grain**
- orchards, vineyards, or other permanent crops.**
- wet soil plants: cattail, buttercup, bullrush, skunk cabbage, other**
- water plants: water lily, eelgrass, milfoil, other**
- other types of vegetation**

b. What kind and amount of vegetation will be removed or altered?

Approximately 375 thousand-board-feet (mbf) of Douglas fir timber and pulp will be removed from the site. That is equivalent to around 80 loaded log trucks. Logs will be processed on site; slash will be scattered across skid trails/yarding corridors (not piled and burned). No other species of trees are to be cut unless required for safety, road maintenance, temporary roads, or operational feasibility within skid trails/yarding corridors or landings.

Some of the understory shrubs and forbs will be damaged in the project area due to the movement of logging equipment. Species typically found on site include sword fern, vine maple, evergreen huckleberry, salal, Oregon grape, trailing blackberry, and other native species. These shrubs and forbs will rapidly regrow after operations have been completed. Areas of shrubs and forbs will be intentionally cleared to create space for temporary roads and landing for logs and equipment, totaling approximately 1.5 acres within the project area footprint, or approximately 4% of the total site. These areas will be replanted with a mix of native tree species and are expected to naturally re-vegetate with native understory plants.

Long-term maintenance such as invasive plant management, care for planted tree seedlings, or other vegetation management will take place after logging and tree planting are complete. In 5-10 years, a small tree thin will take place to alleviate crowding of natural and planted trees.

c. List threatened and endangered species known to be on or near the site.

The [WA DNR Natural Heritage Program Rare Plant and Ecosystems database](#) was checked on October 1, 2025, and did not indicate any threatened or endangered plant species on or near the project site. If observed during construction, King County will seek biologist guidance on proper project buffering and/or required protective measures.

d. Proposed landscaping, use of native plants, or other measures to preserve or enhance vegetation on the site, if any.

The project will include the retention of approximately 60% (by basal area) of the existing Douglas fir stand in the conifer thinning unit for ecological structure and function. All other tree species will be retained, unless removal is unavoidable for operational needs such as safety, road maintenance, temporary roads, skid trails/yarding corridors or landings. Clearing for access and operational needs will be the minimum area necessary. Any non-Douglas fir trees that are cut for operational needs will remain on-site and will not be removed or sold. The project area where root rot exists and has killed most trees will be interplanted with native root rot-resistant tree species at higher rates than the other surrounding thinned areas to account for expected overstory tree mortality. The project area will be replanted with 300 to 450 trees per acre of native conifers and some hardwood species. All areas of the project will meet WA DNR retention and reproduction requirements.

e. List all noxious weeds and invasive species known to be on or near the site.

The general project area contains isolated patches of tansy ragwort (King County regulated Class B noxious weed), bohemian knotweed (King County non-regulated Class B noxious weed), English holly (King County non-regulated, weed of concern), Himalayan blackberry (King County non-regulated, Class C), foxglove (King County non-regulated, weed of concern), and scotch broom (King County non-regulated Class B).

5. Animals

a. List any birds and other animals that have been observed on or near the site or are known to be on or near the site. Examples include:

- **Birds: hawk, heron, eagle, songbirds, other:**
Hawk, heron, eagle, songbirds, barred owls, pygmy owls, pileated woodpeckers, common raptors, peregrine falcon, northern goshawk, migratory neotropical waterfowl, woodpeckers, and common game birds.
- **Mammals: deer, bear, elk, beaver, other:**
Columbia black-tailed deer, Roosevelt elk, bear, beavers, cougars, bobcats, coyotes, fox, raccoons, mountain beavers, hares, weasels, skunks, bats, rodents, shrews, moles, and others.
- **Fish: bass, salmon, trout, herring, shellfish, other:**
Chinook salmon, coho salmon, sockeye salmon, kokanee, winter steelhead, bull trout, coastal cutthroat, river mussels, several other fish species in the Cedar River.
- **Reptiles/Amphibians:**
Pacific tree frog, other common toads, frogs and salamanders, garter snake.

b. List any threatened and endangered species known to be on or near the site.

A November 21, 2025, search of the [WDFW Priority Habitats and Species online database](#) and the WDFW limited-access database was conducted. No threatened or endangered terrestrial species are known to occur on the site or in the vicinity. The Cedar River and its fish-bearing tributaries may host the following threatened or endangered species: coho salmon (federal Candidate), Chinook salmon (federally Threatened) and steelhead (federally Threatened). No threatened or endangered species are anticipated to be affected by the project.

c. Is the site part of a migration route? If so, explain.

The project site is located within the Pacific Flyway, which is a major north-south route of travel for migratory birds in America, extending from Alaska to Patagonia. Migrating and nesting birds within the project area are protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act.

The project site is also within the Green/Cedar River winter elk range and may host winter migratory elk. Project activities may temporarily discourage elk from using the site but will not affect long-term use of the site by elk.

d. Proposed measures to preserve or enhance wildlife, if any.

King County's *Landsburg Reach Natural Area Site Management Guidelines* and *Forest Stewardship Plan* provide guidance for this proposal, protecting, enhancing, and restoring ecological systems and restoration of forest health and diversity.

This project is designed to improve wildlife habitat over the long timeframes that are necessary for forest development and maturation. Tree selection criteria will retain large individual trees that provide the greatest habitat elements in the near-term. Snags will be retained for invertebrates and cavity nesting birds. The diverse vegetation conditions at the site will be preserved, with added species diversity from tree plantings. Adjacent areas that are suitable for harvest have been excluded from the project area to provide refuges for wildlife that depend on the current forest conditions. Within the project boundary are two smaller-scale "skips" of no-cut areas around half of an acre each, as well as "clumps" of clustered no-cut trees. No-cut areas make up 15% of the forested parcel area.

To avoid impacts to pollinators, there will be no herbicide usage on invasives when flowers or fruit are present.

To protect nesting birds, King County will voluntarily adopt a primary nesting season best management practice from April 15 - July 31. Activities that impact vegetation will occur outside of the nesting season. Actions that do not impact vegetation can occur between April 15 and July 31.

This bird nesting season best management practice applies to this project and future major forestry projects as an interim policy. During the interim period, the County will meet with local bird advocacy organizations and wildlife biologists to determine guidelines for bird nesting season as a long-term forestry policy. The County estimates the final policy will be established in 2026.

King County chooses to exceed regulatory riparian buffers along the Cedar River. While tree thinning is allowed within 140 of the edge of Cedar River, this project observes at least 200 feet of no-cut riparian buffer and excludes any work on the steep slopes leading to the Cedar River to avoid impacts to vegetation and erosion.

Across the landscape of Landsburg Reach Natural Area and surrounding ownership, this project increases habitat diversity and habitat quality over the long timeframes relevant to forest development and climate change.

e. List any invasive animal species known to be on or near the site.

Invasive animal species known to inhabit areas within or near the project area include starlings, house sparrows, eastern gray squirrel, Eurasian collared-dove, barred owl, and bullfrogs which are found throughout the lowlands of western Washington.

6. Energy and Natural Resources

- a. **What kinds of energy (electric, natural gas, oil, wood stove, solar) will be used to meet the completed project's energy needs? Describe whether it will be used for heating, manufacturing, etc.**

Diesel and gasoline fuels will be used during the operations of this project. This energy will be used to power machines and vehicles used to cut, process, and transport the removed timber. Post-project energy needs will be limited to fuel for maintenance vehicles and equipment to be periodically used at the site.

- b. **Would your project affect the potential use of solar energy by adjacent properties? If so, generally describe.**

Changes in light or shade due to tree removal or growth will reach property boundaries. The expected outcome is a modest increase in light/solar energy to adjacent properties due to tree removal.

- c. **What kinds of energy conservation features are included in the plans of this proposal? List other proposed measures to reduce or control energy impacts, if any.**

Because the project will not create a need for long-term energy use, no energy conservation features are included in the project.

7. Environmental Health

- a. **Are there any environmental health hazards, including exposure to toxic chemicals, risk of fire and explosion, spill, or hazardous waste, that could occur because of this proposal? If so, describe.**

Fire is a potential risk which will be minimized by limiting project activities to the fall, winter, and spring months. The logging operations will be required to adhere to all requirements of [WA DNR Industrial Fire Precaution Levels \(IFPL\)](#) such as requiring firefighting hand tools and fire extinguishers in every vehicle; water tank, pump, and hoses on-site; a person dedicated to watching for signs of fire after work ceases each day; and operating time limitations to stop work in the hot afternoons or prohibit work entirely. WA DNR closely monitors fire risk factors, including humidity and wind, and issues daily limitations on logging operations as needed to reduce the risk of fire through IFPL. IFPL is the regional standard for wildfire risk reduction in forestry operations.

Should a fire start, King County emergency response systems and WA DNR wildfire crews would respond. The project area has cell phone coverage and good road access to facilitate a rapid response to wildfire.

Loggers will be required to scatter slash on site. This increase in small-diameter dead wood will increase the fuel load for an estimated one to three years above current conditions. After that time, the wood will have decomposed enough and be settled close enough to ground level to maintain high moisture content to not increase fuel loads above current conditions.

There is also potential for fuel, oil, hydraulic fluid, or other fluid leaks from the machines and equipment used for the logging operations. The logging contract will require a WA DOE Spill Kit on-site at all times. All spills will be promptly cleaned up, including removal and appropriate disposal of contaminated soil. Large quantities of bulk fuel/other hazardous materials will not be stored on site. Any release of oil or hazardous materials to the environment will be reported to the WA DOE.

1) Describe any known or possible contamination at the site from present or past uses.

No known contamination exists at this site. The [DOE Confirmed and Contaminated Sites](#) table shows no confirmed or suspected contaminated sites.

2) Describe existing hazardous chemicals/conditions that might affect project development and design. This includes underground hazardous liquid and gas transmission pipelines located within the project area and in the vicinity.

Electric transmission lines are located on the eastern side of the project area along Landsburg Road SE. The County has coordinated with the utility that owns the powerlines to safely perform the work to the utility's best management practices for tree cutting near power lines.

3) Describe any toxic or hazardous chemicals that might be stored, used, or produced during the project's development or construction, or at any time during the operating life of the project.

Diesel fuel, gasoline, oil, hydraulic fluid, grease, and other fluids used to maintain and operate power equipment will be kept on-site during logging operations. Equipment will produce temporary emissions during construction phase of the project. IFPL requirements and WDFW hydraulic code rules/regulations will be followed to ensure safe fuel storage and acceptable re-fueling locations that will protect resources.

4) Describe special emergency services that might be required.

Fire or emergency medical response may be required if an accident occurs during project implementation. Any oil or fuel spills discovered from equipment or vehicles will be appropriately cleaned and/or removed immediately, and DOE notified if necessary. Wildland fire response may be required should a fire break out on site. No special emergency services will be required post-project.

5) Proposed measures to reduce or control environmental health hazards, if any.

Careful equipment fuel storage in spill-proof containers will be utilized during project implementation. Machine operators are required to have proper training to operate equipment safely. Machines will be regularly inspected for leaks. Spill response kits will be present for each vehicle on-site to start the cleanup process as soon as possible after a detected leak or spill. If contamination of the environment is suspected, King County is required to contact the Department of Ecology to determine the necessary cleanup actions, if any, depending on the content and severity of the spill. Fire response equipment will also be present on site, and any IFPL rules for the area will be observed.

b. Noise

1. What types of noise exist in the area which may affect your project (for example: traffic, equipment, operation, other)?

There is limited anthropogenic noise on this site. Occasional traffic can be heard from the main road, from Landsburg Road SE, or from airplanes flying overhead. There is occasional noise from motorized equipment used by King County Parks employees doing trail or road maintenance. Private residences along the property's western border occasionally create low amounts of noise such as from residential power tools or yard equipment.

2. What types and levels of noise would be created by or associated with the project on a short-term or a long-term basis (for example: traffic, construction, operation, other)? Indicate what hours noise would come from the site)?

There is no expected long-term noise associated with this project. Short-term noise will be from the operation of diesel machinery, log trucks, and vehicles. The cutting and dropping of trees will also produce noise. Offsite noise will come from diesel trucks transporting timber from the site along public roads. Noise from log trucks on Landsburg Road SE could occur in the pre-dawn hours, with three to six log trucks traveling the road per day. Certain forestry activities, including those proposed in this SEPA checklist, are exempt from King County Noise Ordinance, Title 12, when the areas receiving the noise are designated as a "rural, commercial or industrial district of King County" described in KCC 12.86.500(K) and defined in KCC 12.86.030(E). This includes 'A' and 'RA' zoning, among others. All areas within one mile of the project area are zoned 'RA' or 'F'. Noise from the project would take place from approximately 5am to 5pm on weekdays. Light-duty equipment such as pickup trucks or chainsaws may create noise for a limited time before and after those timeframes. Work typically will not take place on weekends. If work takes place on weekends, noise from the project will take place during the same time frame.

3. Proposed measures to reduce or control noise impacts, if any.

Work typically will not take place on Saturday and Sunday. Due to the rural location of the project, work will take place as needed.

8. Land and Shoreline Use

- a. What is the current use of the site and adjacent properties? Will the proposal affect current land uses on nearby or adjacent properties? If so, describe.**

Current use of the site is undeveloped forest land with no trails into the project boundary. Outside of the project boundary, and on the same parcel, is parking for public non-motorized recreation on the Cedar River Trail. Adjacent properties include limited-access municipal watershed property, private forest land, and private residential property.

This proposal will not affect current land uses on nearby or adjacent properties over the long term. Short-term weekday closures or restrictions on the Cedar River Trail or Cedar River Trailhead parking lot may occur for up to one week while tree cutting takes place along the southern edge of the project area.

- b. Has the project site been used as working farmlands or working forest lands? If so, describe. How much agricultural or forest land of long-term commercial significance will be converted to other uses because of the proposal, if any? If resource lands have not been designated, how many acres in farmland or forest land tax status will be converted to nonfarm or nonforest use?**

Most of the lands within and adjacent to the proposed project areas are managed as forest lands for timber harvesting and/or public access. Protected forest lands to the east are managed by the City of Seattle for providing safe and clean drinking water within the Cedar River Municipal Watershed. Some private residences are adjacent to the western edge of the project site. Timber extraction, from prior landowners, has occurred within the majority of the project site. This project will not change the status of how Landsburg Reach Natural Area or the adjacent lands in the project vicinity are managed, and no part of the project site will be converted to non-forest uses as part of this project.

- 1. Will the proposal affect or be affected by surrounding working farm or forest land normal business operations, such as oversize equipment access, the application of pesticides, tilling, and harvesting? If so, how?**

There are no significant anticipated effects to surrounding forest land operations or management, other than the periodic need for communicating the temporary public access recreation closures required to safely perform active forest health management activities.

- c. Describe any structures on the site.**

No structures are located within the project area. Elsewhere in Landsburg Reach Natural Area, some minor structures are present, predominantly for managing existing recreation use and for security and safe recreation and vehicle travel along King County forest management access roads. Examples include forest road gates, forest road bridges, recreation information kiosks, trail bridges, and self-contained vault toilets at the trailhead.

d. Will any structures be demolished? If so, what?

No structures will be demolished as part of the project.

e. What is the current zoning classification of the site?

The site is currently zone as 'F' for forest uses.

f. What is the current comprehensive plan designation of the site?

The current comprehensive plan designation of Landsburg Reach Natural Area is 'OS' (Open Space).

g. If applicable, what is the current shoreline master program designation of the site?

The southern portion of the project parcel, outside of the project area, is designated as Conservancy and Forestry shorelines. No portion of the project area occurs within King County shoreline jurisdiction.

h. Has any part of the site been classified as a critical area by the city or county? If so, specify.

The entirety of the site has been designated as an area susceptible to groundwater contamination, a critical aquifer recharge area (Categories 1 and 2), and a sole source aquifer. Additionally, there are minor areas designated steep slope hazards along a grade change in the northern portion of the parcel and at the southern end of the parcel. A portion of the southern end of the parcel, but not the project area, is within the channel migration hazard area and aquatic area buffer associated with the Cedar River, which is also a designated wildlife habitat network.

Outside of the project boundary in the riparian buffer zone are environmentally sensitive areas for lower tributary basins (2005 CAO), potential landslide and steep slope hazards, Erosion hazard, Chinook salmon distribution, wildlife network, and channel migration hazards.

i. Approximately how many people would reside or work in the completed project?

Not applicable. This project does not include housing.

j. Approximately how many people would the completed project displace?

Not applicable. The project will not displace any people.

k. Proposed measures to avoid or reduce displacement impacts, if any.

Not applicable. No displacement will occur.

I. Proposed measures to ensure the proposal is compatible with existing and projected land uses and plans, if any.

The King County Landsburg Reach Natural Area was acquired to preserve the natural resources, demonstrate environmentally-sound forest management, enhance flood protection for the Cedar River, and provide passive recreational opportunities for the public. Forestry and recreational uses must preserve the site's ecological, wildlife, and water quality values. A Forest Stewardship Plan has been prepared for the site, with guidance to protect and restore the health and diversity of the forest, while providing passive trail access in concert with protecting the site's conservation values. This proposal is compatible with the various strategies and goals outlined in the *Landsburg Natural Area & Big Bend Natural Area and Park Stewardship Plan*.

The 2022 King County Open Space Plan update also helped to guide this proposal. This effort updates Parks' 2016 Open Space plan, reflecting the current factors that influence how King County provides parks and recreation service. The Open Space Plan reconfirms the agency's mission and goals of stewarding regional and local parks, regional and backcountry trails, natural areas, and forests to provide recreation and environmental benefits. The plan addresses the King County Strategic Plan's goals of achieving environmental and social justice, public engagement, environmental and financial sustainability, quality local government, and regional collaboration. In addition, many of Parks' goals and objectives are informed by the Clean Water Healthy Habitat Strategic Plan, Land Conservation Initiative, Strategic Climate Action Plan, 30-Year Forest Plan, and Salmon Recovery Plans.

The *Landsburg Natural Area & Big Bend Natural Area and Park Stewardship Plan* (completed June 2023) identified objectives, strategies, management, and implementation plans that are consistent with the components of this project proposal. More recently, King County conducted virtual public meetings and several targeted recreation and non-profit group outreach efforts. These forestry planning and outreach processes actively engaged the public and helped contribute to developing the recreation planning concepts and proposals for Landsburg Reach Natural Area.

m. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts to agricultural and forest lands of long-term commercial significance, if any.

Although restoration is this project's objective, harvesting wood products will improve the economic viability of sustainable, ecologically-oriented forestry compared to current conditions. The project will not negatively impact agricultural or forest lands.

9. Housing

a. Approximately how many units would be provided, if any? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing.

No housing will be provided by the project.

- b. Approximately how many units, if any, would be eliminated? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing.**

No housing will be eliminated by the project.

- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control housing impacts, if any.**

There will be no housing impacts associated with the project.

10. Aesthetics

- a. What is the tallest height of any proposed structure(s), not including antennas; what is the principal exterior building material(s) proposed?**

No permanent or temporary structures will be constructed as part of this project.

- b. What views in the immediate vicinity would be altered or obstructed?**

The forestry project will not alter or obstruct views.

Private residences north and west of Landsburg Reach Natural Area may see the harvest project from their properties. More extensive harvest projects recently took place on private land north of Landsburg Reach Natural Area uphill of this project.

Park users on Cedar River Trail and the Cedar River Trailhead, and drivers on adjacent roads, may be able to see into the forested unit slightly more after the thinning takes place. Since the project retains a substantial proportion of the mature trees, changes in views into the forest will be minor.

Within the project area, not easily seen from adjacent recreation and road corridors, the views will show disturbed forest conditions for one to three years, which some people may find aesthetically displeasing. Within a couple of growing seasons post-harvest, planted trees and legacy shrubs and forbs will grow up and restore a more pleasing visual experience. The nature of the forested view will change from a dense, homogenous, even-aged Douglas fir dominated forest with shrub openings, to a multi-age and species-diverse forest.

- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control aesthetic impacts, if any.**

Relatively high tree retention will visually break up the harvest area, providing more aesthetic tree patterns relative to heavier even-age forestry harvests. Logging slash will be re-distributed through the project area, and no substantial slash piles will be left after the work is complete. Any aesthetic impacts will be short-lived as the forest regenerates.

11. Light and Glare

- a. What type of light or glare will the proposal produce? What time of day would it mainly occur?**

Some light will be produced from the safety lights of logging equipment and head and tail lights of log trucks. This light will occur only during operational hours as described above in question 7.b.2 (Noise).

- b. Could light or glare from the finished project be a safety hazard or interfere with views?**

The completed project will not result in light or glare.

- c. What existing off-site sources of light or glare may affect your proposal?**

The project will not be affected by off-site sources of light or glare.

- d. Proposed measures to reduce or control light and glare impacts, if any.**

Limiting heavy equipment operations to hours described in question 7.b.2 (Noise) will also limit the light or glare to (roughly) daytime hours.

12. Recreation

- a. What designated and informal recreational opportunities are in the immediate vicinity?**

The Cedar River Trail runs adjacent to Landsburg Reach Natural Area parcels on the right bank of the river; the Cedar River Pipeline Road runs adjacent to the Landsburg Reach Natural Area parcels on the left bank of the river. With the exception of the Cedar River Trail, all trails and former roads on King County land are unmaintained. The City of Seattle's Cedar River Pipeline Road is regularly used as a trail. The Cedar River Trail provides access for non-motorized visitors and is primarily used by the pedestrian community, but includes secondary trail access for hiking, horseback riding, and mountain biking. There is a large parking lot at the Cedar River Trailhead.

- b. Would the proposed project displace any existing recreational uses? If so, describe.**

This proposal may cause temporary closures of existing trails and/or trailhead parking, but no physical impacts and no long-term closures to trails or trailhead parking are part of this proposal. Short-term weekday closures or restrictions on the Cedar River Trail or Cedar River Trailhead parking lot may occur for up to one week while tree cutting takes place along the southern edge of the project area. Trail users have alternative trailheads to the Cedar River Trail within a 10-minute drive of the Landsburg trailhead.

- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts on recreation, including recreation opportunities to be provided by the project or applicant, if any.**

The smallest length of trail possible will be closed, provided all public safety concerns are addressed. Trail closures will be based on actual safety risk; once the forestry operations are completed near one trail segment, Parks staff will re-open that segment as safety allows even if the rest of the project is not yet complete. No physical impacts to trails are planned, but should any damage to trails occur during logging operations, it will be repaired before reopening of trails to the public.

13. Historic and Cultural Preservation

- a. Are there any buildings, structures, or sites, located on or near the site that are over 45 years old listed in or eligible for listing in national, state, or local preservation registers? If so, specifically describe.**

There are no known buildings, structures, or sites located on or near the proposed project areas that are over 45 years old and listed in or eligible for listing in preservation registers. The nearest recorded cultural resource is the Landsburg Headworks Historic District, which is outside of the project area.

- b. Are there any landmarks, features, or other evidence of Indian or historic use or occupation? This may include human burials or old cemeteries. Are there any material evidence, artifacts, or areas of cultural importance on or near the site? Please list any professional studies conducted at the site to identify such resources.**

Cultural resources review and surveys were conducted by King County Historic Preservation Program archaeologists who determined that no cultural resources are known to occur on the site.

- c. Describe the methods used to assess the potential impacts to cultural and historic resources on or near the project site. Examples include consultation with tribes and the department of archeology and historic preservation, archaeological surveys, historic maps, GIS data, etc.**

King County Parks submitted this project to the King County Historic Preservation Program for review to assess the potential impacts to cultural and historic resources on or near the project. The King County Historic Preservation Program reviews data from previously completed archaeological surveys, other nearby investigations, historic maps, aerial images, GIS data, ethnographic information, and state databases to assign a sensitivity risk factor to the project and provide treatment recommendations.

The King County Historic Preservation Program determined there is low potential for encountering intact buried archaeological sites in the forest thinning area based on environmental and other factors such as the glacial soils and past logging disturbance. The

King County Historic Preservation Program said that work by trained individuals may proceed following the standard Inadvertent Discovery Plan (IDP) and recommended consultation with the local Tribes about the project. King County Parks will contact the interested Tribes to inform them about the project separately from this SEPA notice, as well as to solicit comments or concerns and to exchange information about potential impacts to resources on or near the project area.

d. Proposed measures to avoid, minimize, or compensate for loss, changes to, and disturbance to resources. Please include plans for the above and any permits that may be required.

Timber harvest in Landsburg Reach Natural Area, as planned, is not expected to have negative impacts or adverse effects to any recorded cultural resources. No permits related to cultural resources are currently required. The project work will comply with all applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations concerning cultural resources.

The King County Parks Inadvertent Discovery Plan will be reviewed with the timber harvest field crews prior to the start of their work and whenever needed to ensure all staff are familiar with what to look for while completing their jobs, as well as what to do if there is unanticipated discovery of cultural materials.

In the unlikely event that cultural resources are identified during project activities, work in the immediate vicinity will stop, the area will be secured, and the appropriate staff at the King County Historic Preservation Program, the state Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, and the affected Tribes will be notified following protocol laid out in the Inadvertent Discovery Plan.

All efforts will be made to avoid any impacts to significant cultural resources in the project area during timber harvest. If negative impacts to cultural resources cannot be avoided, then King County Parks will discuss measures to minimize adverse effects through consultation with the King County Historic Preservation Program, the state Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, and the affected Tribes.

14. Transportation

a. Identify public streets and highways serving the site or affected geographic area and describe proposed access to the existing street system. Show on site plans, if any.

The existing Cedar River Trailhead currently serves and will continue to provide vehicle parking and access for visitors through the project period. The Cedar River Trailhead access road entry is located at the western junction of SE 252nd Place and Landsburg Road SE. Log

trucks and logging equipment will access the project area from Landsburg Road SE to SE 247th Street, a gravel County right-of-way that is not maintained by King County Roads.

- b. Is the site or affected geographic area currently served by public transit? If so, generally describe. If not, what is the approximate distance to the nearest transit stop?**

Public bus transit service stops are nearby, but do not currently directly stop at the Cedar River Trailhead parking area. King County Metro Bus Route 143 and DART Route 907 offer public transit bus stops nearby. Neighbors of the project informed County staff that school buses stop on SE 247th Street.

- c. Will the proposal require any new or improvements to existing roads, streets, pedestrian, bicycle, or state transportation facilities, not including driveways? If so, generally describe (indicate whether public or private).**

Minor enhancements to the gravel surface through additional layers and size of gravel may be required for the SE 247th Street access road. This is a public right-of-way that is not maintained by King County Roads. For descriptions of road modifications within the project area, please refer to questions A.11 and B.1.e. King County DNRP will coordinate with King County Department of Local Services for any necessary permits.

- d. Will the project or proposal use (or occur in the immediate vicinity of) water, rail, or air transportation? If so, generally describe.**

There will be no use of water, rail, or air transportation.

- e. How many vehicular trips per day would be generated by the completed project or proposal? If known, indicate when peak volumes would occur and what percentage of the volume would be trucks (such as commercial and nonpassenger vehicles). What data or transportation models were used to make these estimates?**

Approximately three to six log truck loads per day would leave the site over a four- to eight-week period, totaling around 80 log truck loads. In addition, there would be a few trips per day to and from the site in personal vehicles by logging contractors, consultants, and/or County staff. We do not anticipate changes to vehicle traffic from people using the park for recreation or for local residents who utilize SE 247th Street.

- f. Will the proposal interfere with, affect, or be affected by the movement of agricultural and forest products on roads or streets in the area? If so, generally describe.**

There will be no substantial interference with the movement of agricultural or forest products on the roads and streets in the area.

g. Proposed measures to reduce or control transportation impacts, if any.

Logging trucks will reduce impacts to transportation by avoiding surface street usage where possible, utilizing the nearby highway. Signage alerting vehicles of log trucks entering the road will be posted on the Landsburg Road SE near the junction with SE 247th Street. King County will work with local residents and the Tahoma School District to establish safe school bus pick-ups.

15. Public Services

a. Would the project result in an increased need for public services (for example: fire protection, police protection, public transit, health care, schools, other)? If so, generally describe.

During project work, there is a chance that public firefighting resources will be needed due to slightly elevated risk of fire ignition. After the project is complete, we do not foresee any increased need for public services.

b. Proposed measures to reduce or control direct impacts on public services, if any.

WA DNR IFPL requirements will be followed, including keeping fire mitigation tools on-site at all times during operations to reduce the risk of fire ignition.

16. Utilities

a. Circle utilities currently available at the site: electricity, natural gas, water, refuse service, telephone, sanitary sewer, septic system, other:

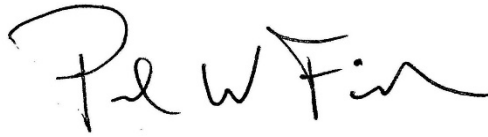
No utilities are directly located at the site.

b. Describe the utilities that are proposed for the project, the utility providing the service, and the general construction activities on the site or in the immediate vicinity which might be needed.

No utilities are proposed for the project.

C. Signature

The above answers are true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand that the lead agency is relying on them to make its decision.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul W Fischer". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "P" and "F".

Type name of signee: Paul W Fischer

Position and agency/organization: King County Parks and Recreation Senior Forester

Date submitted: 12/17/2025