



## Department of Natural Resources and Parks (DNRP)

King Street Center  
201 S Jackson St  
Seattle, WA 98104

February 27, 2026

### Landsburg Thin SEPA Comment Summary

King County Department of Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation Division proposed a 29-acre forestry thinning project on parcel 1922079002 in Landsburg Reach Natural Area, east of Maple Valley, WA. The County issued a SEPA Checklist and Determination of Non-Significance (DNS) on January 20, 2026. This document summarizes the responses we received and includes comments we heard at public meetings that took place in addition to the SEPA process.

SEPA information:

<https://kingcounty.gov/en/dept/dnrp/nature-recreation/parks-recreation/king-county-parks/parks/public-notice>

Please consult the Landsburg Reach Natural Area website for more information and ongoing project updates:

<https://kingcounty.gov/en/dept/dnrp/nature-recreation/parks-recreation/king-county-parks/natural-working-lands/landsburg-reach-natural-area>

You can also reach out to the project manager Paul Fischer at his contact information below.

#### 1) What has the County done to survey for cultural and historic resources?

- King County's Historic Preservation Program (HPP) senior archeologist conducted a desktop review of the property and identified areas that had a higher probability of cultural or historic significance.
- King County's field archeology team conducted on-the-ground surveys in the higher-probability areas.
- HPP determined the forestry project could proceed with two conditions:
  1. Workers must undergo inadvertent discover training
  2. Workers have a copy of the County's Inadvertent Discovery Plan on-site at all times.
- King County reached out to Tribes prior to issuing the SEPA Determination of Non-Significance, and will continue to work with Tribes to address any concerns they may have.

#### 2) Specific cultural resource concerns:

- *Retain mature trees.* The County will retain the largest trees in this project. In one area, mature trees will be removed to mitigate risk to nearby structures.

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- Retain culturally modified trees. The County will retain all cedar, and will cut only second-growth Douglas-fir which are unlikely to have been culturally modified. All stumps, including previously-logged old growth stumps, will be retained.
- Plant with native vegetation. The County will plant the site with native species that are adapted to root rot, including western white pine (which was historically more common but was wiped out by white pine blister rust - the County uses blister rust-resistant stock), bigleaf maple, and western redcedar among others.
- Observe protective buffers around streams, wetlands. This project meets or exceeds all DNR regulatory buffers, and no work will take place in or near any stream or wetland.

### 3) King County Roads Traffic Review

- No concerns.

### 4) Neighbor Comments

- Neighbors had questions about the tree cutting parameters and replanting plans. This project will typically remove the smallest Douglas-fir trees and retain the largest. Western hemlock, although susceptible to some diseases and drought, will not be cut in order to retain species diversity. Newly planted trees will not include Douglas-fir because of the widespread laminated root rot. Other species such as western white pine and bigleaf maple will be planted. Shrubs such as salal and vine maple will not be cut, but will suffer damage from logging equipment. These species quickly rebound in the following growing season. The County will need to cut back that native vegetation from around the planted seedlings to allow the seedlings the light and water they need to grow.
- Neighbors were also concerned about unauthorized access to the park and requested a gate during the project, and seal off the access road after the project. The County does not plan to install a gate while work is taking place. Contractors and County staff will be on site daily. Once the tree cutting and removal work is complete, the County will obliterate access to the temporary road with a steep ditch (called a “tank trap”) and/or boulders, cement barriers, soil berms, or large logs to permanently eliminate access to the temporary road corridor. Parks will request that Park Rangers and Operations staff regularly check on that area to prevent dumping and other prohibited uses.

### 5) Comments from public outreach outside of SEPA

The County conducted two public meetings and directly mailed letters to neighbors, and posted notices about the project. Several comments came from these efforts. Some of these comments did not come up in the SEPA comments, but the County includes them here for a complete summary of comments and concerns we heard throughout the planning stages of this project.

- Concern: Using SE 247<sup>th</sup> St for log truck access is undesirable. Are there alternatives?
  - Resolution: We could not find a suitable alternative. We looked into access via the southern end of the unit at the Cedar River Trail parking lot, but in consultation with Washington Department of Natural Resources, they would be unlikely to allow that route due to proximity to Cedar River. Vehicle safety is also a concern, as slow-

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moving log trucks would enter Landsburg Road at the valley bottom, unable to get up to speed

- Concern: Is SE 247<sup>th</sup> St privately owned, and if so, wouldn't the County need neighbor permission to use it?
  - Resolution: The portion of SE 247<sup>th</sup> St that King County would use to access the project is public right-of-way (ROW). West of the project area, the public ROW ends and it crosses private ownership; however, two easements are in place that allow access. The County will not use the portion of SE 247<sup>th</sup> St that has easement permission for this project.
  - The public ROW is not maintained by King County Roads. Maintenance responsibilities fall on adjacent landowners, in this case, King County Parks and other neighbors. Parks commits to maintaining the gravel road in the same or better condition during and at the conclusion of the proposed project.
  - The documentation for this conclusion is included in the materials submitted in support of the SEPA DNS, which is available to the public at the SEPA website lined at the top of this comment summary.
- Concern: Children's safety at school bus pick up on SE 247<sup>th</sup> St at Landsburg Road.
  - Resolution: King County will contact local public schools to determine if buses stop at the intersection of SE 247<sup>th</sup> St and Landsburg Rd. If so, the County will arrange safety zones for students and pedestrians such as flagging or barricades.
- Concern: Fire
  - Resolution: Logging will follow all state regulations regarding wildfire risk and abatement. Logging is regulated by the Industrial Fire Precaution Level restrictions. The WA DNR updates fire risk levels daily and limits when work can take place—Parks will adhere to all guidance from WA DNR during logging activities.
  - Loggers are required to have fire-fighting equipment on site including 300 gallon water tanks with pumps during the fire season.
  - The project will reduce fuel loads relative to the untreated condition, and plant more hardwoods that may reduce the spread of fire.
- Concern: Visual impacts from bordering roads
  - Resolution: Tree retention requirements and retained shrubby vegetation will break up sightlines through the project area and provide screening from both Landsburg Rd and SE 247<sup>th</sup> St. The County marked clumps of trees for retention to ensure variability in the forest which will limit being able to see far through the forest. Also, the temporary road is designed with a bend shortly after departing SE 247<sup>th</sup> St. to break up sightlines along that corridor.

Sincerely,

Paul Fischer  
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