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:**

   Taylor Mountain Forest
   West Carey Forestry Project

2. **Name of applicant:**

   King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks

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

   Paul Fischer, Senior Forester
   Environmental Policy & Initiatives Unit
   King County Parks and Recreation Division
   201 South Jackson Street, Room 5702
   Seattle, WA 98104
   206-477-7372 (SEPA)
   KCParks.SEPA@kingcounty.gov

4. **Date checklist prepared:**

   8/11/2023

5. **Agency requesting checklist:**

   King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks

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

   Timing for this project is for an estimated 8-week period to be determined between September 2023 and January of 2024. All trail and road closures will occur only during active operations.

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. Generally, Taylor Mountain Forest is one of King County's "Working Forests" described in the 2022 King County Open Space Plan Update and Taylor Mountain Forest Stewardship Plan, where timber production is added to the County's suite of climate-, ecological- and public use-oriented objectives. Similar forestry projects similar are likely to take place elsewhere in Taylor Mountain Forest in the future. These potential projects have not been scoped and would be unrelated to this forestry project.

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

   This information is available for review on the King County website at: http://www.kingcounty.gov/parks/publicnotices

   Taylor Mountain Forest Stewardship Plan (August 2003)
   Taylor Mountain Forest Stewardship Plan 10-Year Update (2015, King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks).

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.**

   A SEPA checklist for the King County DNRP Sustainable Trail System Improvements project in Taylor Mountain Forest is also in development. That project will install multiple backcountry trail bridges and develop new trails throughout the forest. That project, while geographically close, is unrelated to this forestry project and the two projects will not affect each other. That project will overgo a separate review under SEPA.

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

    Washington (WA) Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Forest Practices Application

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.)**

    Taylor Mountain Forest is a Forest Stewardship Council® (license code FSC-C008225) certified working forest demonstrating how environmentally sound forest management protects and restores 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. DNRP identified forest conditions that are not believed to be resilient to the effects of climate change. One of the most common forest conditions that is not thought to be resilient is hardwood-dominated forests, in particular forests with high red alder and

high multi-stem maple components. These trees are either short-lived or are already suffering from hotter, drier summers that will become commonplace with climate change. These are ecologically valuable native habitats, but they are not likely to survive into the future on many sites. The County is targeting these forest condition on south- and west-facing aspects and on well-drained glacial till soils where the effects of drought are more likely to be severe. Our objective in these forest conditions is to shift species composition towards more drought-tolerant, long-lived species at somewhat lower densities than may have occurred historically. Taylor Mountain Forest has around 1,500 acres of hardwood-dominated forest conditions, which is around ¾ of the land area of the forest. The County intends to address several hundred acres of this forest condition over the next several years and will retain several hundred acres as well for current habitat value.

Taylor Mountain Forest is also one of King County's "Working Forests" described in the 2022 *King County Open Space Plan Update* and *Taylor Mountain Forest Stewardship Plan*. In working forests, timber production is added to the County's suite of climate-, ecological- and public use-oriented objectives. This working forest status further motives a commercial forestry project to achieve the climate resilience objectives.

King County Parks and Recreation Division (Parks) is proposing 98 acres of commercial tree harvesting in two separate units. The objectives are to remove tree species that are likely to be vulnerable to the effects of climate change, replant the sites with climate-resilient, long-lived conifers, and 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 1 covers 60 acres of maturing broadleaf trees, including red alder, bigleaf maple, and cottonwood. Unit 2 covers 38 acres of mostly multi-stem second-growth bigleaf maple.

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 around 90% of the following three broadleaf species by basal area: red alder, bigleaf maple, and black cottonwood. All other species would be retained. About 10% of large trees will be retained for wildlife and habitat purposes. The cut trees would be sold for lumber, pulp, veneer, firewood, or other uses as markets allow. Stumps would remain in place and will not be grubbed or pulled.

No permanent new roads are proposed; however, one new gravel truck turn-around will be constructed and left in place after the project. Other than that, existing permanent roads will be suitable for this project. Two or more temporary roads up to 4,900 feet total may be constructed following WA DNR Forest Practices standards (Title 222 WAC) and will be removed after the project is complete. These roads would be natural surface from the underlying glacial till soil, with spot rock, temporary culverts, water bars, and other drainage features added if needed.

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.

Unit 1: Portions of: T23 R07 S32 SW, T23 R07 S31 SE; parcels 3123079003, 3223079015, 3223079011, 3223079001

Unit 2: Portions of: T23 R07 S32 NW, T23 R07 S32 NE; parcels 3223079027, 3223079021

The project site includes two units in central Taylor Mountain Forest. Taylor Mountain Forest is owned by King County Parks and is located between Issaquah and Maple Valley, near the community of Hobart. State Route 18 is along the property's western border. The site can be accessed from Issaquah-Hobart Road by turning east onto "Road A", just south of SE 188th Street. There is a small parking lot for cars and a much larger horse trailer parking area. To reach the units, continue up the road through the locked gate. Unit 1 is located about 1 mile from the gate, with Road A mainline as its southern boundary, Road D on its western boundary and Road E cutting through its eastern end. Unit 2 is about 2.2 miles from the gate via Road E. From Road A mainline, turn north on Road E and continue past the open area where it changes name to Road K.

B. Environmental Elements

1. Earth

a. General description of the site:

Both units in the project are forested areas bounded by gravel roads and singletrack trails. The forests are populated with third-growth broadleaf forest including red alder, bigleaf maple, and black cottonwood. Conifers make up less than 5% of the tree cover. Alders are in age-related decline. Most of the maples originated from cut stumps as the resulting multi-stem sprouts. No understory tree regeneration is taking place. Shrubs and forbs include salmonberry, sword fern, salal, and other native species. Invasive plants are uncommon but include English holly and invasive blackberry.

Circle or highlight one: Flat, rolling, <u>hilly</u>, steep slopes, mountainous, other:

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

40%

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 in the project area are a mix of Chuckanut gravelly ashy sandy loam, Ragnar loam and Ragnar-Lynnwood complex soils. These soils are deep, 4 feet to more than 6 feet deep in most places. They are moderately well-drained to well-drained with very low to zero ponding potential. There is a moderate to high potential for compaction, though resistance to compaction is moderate, and, where slopes are present, a moderate potential for erosion exists. The site index is 126, which is site class II. Vulnerability to drought is low to moderate and there is a high

likelihood of plant competition following harvest.

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 aeras. Careful field verification when scoping this project included 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.

A truck turnaround will be developed along Road K. This involves widening the existing road to cover approximately 4,500 square feet, creating a total of a 45-foot radius circle that includes the current road footprint. This will require 150 yards of fill. Fill is from on-site. A previous project resulted in a stockpile of fill staged at the intersection of Road K and Road E about ¼ mile south of Unit 2. This will be the sole source of fill for this project. Surfacing gravel will be purchased from King County approved off-site commercial gravel sources.

Approximately 4,900 linear feet of temporary road will be constructed and then removed through soil ripping and replanting with native vegetation.

Maintenance of existing forest roads will take place including, surface grading, brushing, spot rock, and drainage maintenance.

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

Some minor erosion could occur on some areas of the project area. Logging equipment can cause ruts and soil compaction that increase the risk of erosion. Slopes are generally 20% grade or less, though the steepest areas are up to 40% grade. The area is heavily vegetated with shrubs and ground plants, no root grubbing occurs, and road maintenance best management practices such as water bars, appropriate drainage structures (typically culverts), and crowning and grading angles that promote drainage will be used, the risk of erosion will be minor. Winter logging will be permitted for this project, increasing the risk of rutting, compaction, and erosion. Logging operations are designed to avoid uphill yarding. 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 will be suspended on days where operations would cause damage to water quality, road systems or soils during wet weather.

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

Less than 2% of the site, which includes gravel roads, will be covered with impervious surface after project construction. Permanent roads are pre-existing gravel-surfaced and compacted and function as impervious surface. The only new increase in impervious surface will be about 1/10th of an acre of road widening to allow for log truck turn-around. Up to 4,900 linear feet of temporary road will be constructed and then removed through soil ripping and replanting with

native vegetation.

Hiking trails in and near the project area will be naturally surfaced with native mineral soil and rock. If necessary, some trail surfaces may be hardened with gravel and other various sizes of native on-site rock.

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. Shovel yarding (using tracked equipment to grapple logs and swing them through the air, pile by pile) or a forwarder (rubber-tire or tracked equipment that cuts, bucks, and transports logs in the woods) will be specified in contract documents as the preferred approach, over skidding, which invovles tracked or rubber tire equipment dragging logs over the ground. 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 or drivable berms and dips. Logging operational layout is designed to avoid steep slopes, yarding on side slopes, minimize temporary roads, and other factors that lead to soil compaction and erosion.

Permanent existing roads will be maintained by the King County Parks heavy equipment crew 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 Chapter 3 - Guidelines for Forest Roads*.

Temporary roads would be natural surface from the underlying glacial till soil, with spot rock, temporary culverts, water bars, and 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 Chapter 3 - Guidelines for Forest Roads*. "Removal" of the temporary roads follows WAC 22-24-052 requirements for "Abandoment" and goes beyond these stands to facilitate replanting the temporary road grades. Examples include roughing the top six to twelve inches of compacted soil with an excavator or log loader or similar equipment, adding water bars or other features to prevent surface water flow, followed by replanting with native trees in the next planting season. Park would block access to the removed roadbed with soil berms or trenches, logs, rocks, 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 operations of cutting timber on site. Feller-bunchers, skidders, shovel yarders, frwarders, processors, and loaders may be used. Emissions include carbon monoxide and dioxide, reactive organic gasses, and nitrogen oxide. Airborne dust particles and sawdust may result from harvesting activities.

In the short-term, removing the majority 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 replanted conifers will eventually exceed the carbon sequestration potential of the current forest around 30 years

after the project takes place, based on internal King County Parks forest growth modeling assessments. In very long timeframes (50 to 100+ years), the large long-lived conifers will greatly exceed carbon sequestration compared to existing conditions, even accounting for future forestry thinning harvests that are likely to take place.

Maintenance -related emissions include heavy equipment maintaining roads and periodic visits in pickup truck or similar vehicles for monitoring and forest health assessments.

b. Are there any off-site sources of emissions or odor that may affect your proposal? If so, generally describe.
Offsite emissions will come from diesel trucks used to transport cut and processed logs to the mill. 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.

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control emissions or other impacts to air, if any.
Equipment operators will be encouraged 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.**
The project area is within 200 feet of the following hydrologic resources, as defined by WA DNR Forest Practices Rules (WAC Sections 222-16-030 through 222-16-036).

- Stream Segment 1: A tributary to Carey Creek, seasonal non-fish bearing – WA DNR Type Ns.
  - Located within Unit 1
- Wetland A: WA DNR Type A wetland, greater than 0.5 acres and less than 5 acres
  - Located outside of project units but within 200 feet of Unit 2 (approximately 150 feet at closest point)
- Wetland B: WA DNR Type B wetland, greater than 5 acres
  - Located outside of project units but within 200 feet of Unit 1 (approximately 100 feet at closest point)
- Wetland C: WA DNR Type B wetland, greater than 0.5 acres and less than 5 acres
  - Located outside of project units but within 200 feet of Unit 1 (approximately 80 feet at closest point)

The project area is located within Water Resource Inventory Area (WRIA) 8 Cedar-Sammamish. All waterways eventually flow into Holder Creek or Carey Creek, part of the Issaquah Creek Basin, with both eventually flowing into Middle Issaquah Creek.

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.**
Yes. The project observes all WA DNR Forest Practices regulations for riparian management

zones (RMZs) and wetland management zones (WMZs). See the attached Taylor Mountain Forest West Carey Forestry Project Waterbodies map.

Stream Segment 1 is within Unit 1. Work will follow WA DNR forest practices regulations for Ns stream RMZs and will maintain a 30-foot Equipment Limitation Zone where trees may be cut and harvested but equipment wheels/treads my not enter.

No work will take place in or over the remaining waters described in 3.a1 above (Wetlands A, B, and C). Work will take place within 200 feet of Wetlands A, B, and C. The project observes all WA DNR Forest Practices regulations for WMZs.

- Wetland A
  - DNR Forest Practices requires an average 50-foot wetland management zone (no-harvest area) with a maximum 100-foot WMZ for Type A wetlands >0.5 to 5 acres.
  - The distance of this wetland to the unit boundaries of approximately 150 feet exceeds the WMZ required under WA DNR regulations.

- Wetland B
  - DNR Forest Practices requires an average 50-foot WMZ (no-harvest area) with a maximum 100-foot WMZ for Type B wetlands >5 acres.
  - The distance of this wetland to the unit boundaries of approximately 100 feet exceeds the WMZ required under WA DNR regulations.

- Wetland C
  - DNR Forest Practices requires a 25-foot WMZ (no-harvest area) for Type B wetlands >0.5 to 5 acres.
  - The distance of this wetland to the unit boundaries of approximately 80 feet exceeds the WMZ required under WA DNR regulations.

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.**
   None.

4) **Will the proposal require surface water withdrawals or diversions? Give a general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known.**
   None.

5) **Does the proposal lie within a 100-year floodplain? If so, note location on the site plan.**
   None.

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.**
   None.

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.**
   None.

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.**
   None.

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.**
   The primary source of runoff will be from precipitation. Storm water runoff could collect and flow along two features in the project area yarding corridors and logging roads. Runoff abatement measures will prevent surface water from flowing into adjacent water bodies:

   a) Yarding corridors created by the logging operations. This project site has mostly gentle to moderate slopes (typically around 20% grade or less, and steepest slopes are up to approximately 40%) 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 yarding corridors with soil disturbance to effectively mulch the trails to further reduce the risk of surface water flow.

   b) Logging roads. Logging roads are built to WA DNR and King County specification to minimize surface water flow and avoid discharge into other waters. Appropriate crowning and grading angles, water bars, and drainage culverts will be installed to meet WA DNR Forest Practices best management practices standards.

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 on site at all times. All spills will be cleaned up including removal 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 remain heavily vegetated with existing shrubs and forms, reducing the risk of surface water flow. Newly planted trees following tree removal will eventually resume rainfall interception and transpiration as they grow tall and increase foliar surface area. Long-term, the long-lived conifers that will be planted will retain and transpire substantially more than the declining deciduous trees that will be removed in this project.

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 yarding corridors anywhere surface water flow is likely to take place or had been observed taking place.

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 452 thousand board feet (mbf) of red alder, cottonwood, and bigleaf maple timber and pulp will be removed from the site. That is equivalent to around 100 loaded log trucks. Logs will be processed on site; slash will be scattered across yarding corridors (not piled). No other species of trees are to be cut unless required for road maintenance, temporary roads, 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 due to resilient root stocks. Areas of shrubs and forbs will be intentionally cleared to create space for temporary roads

and landing for logs and equipment at four to six landings, totaling approximately one to three acres within the project area footprint. Landings will be replanted with mixed native tree species and are expected to re-vegetate with native understory plants naturally.

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

Washington Department of Natural Resources Natural Heritage Program database was checked on 6/7/2023 did not indicate any threatened or endangered 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. No other threatened or endangered species are known to occur on or near the site.

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 all other tree species other than red alder, bigleaf maple, and black cottonwood. At least ten percent of these three species will be retained for ecological structure and function (by basal area). All other tree species will be retained, unless removal is unavoidable for operational needs such as road maintenance, temporary roads, yarding corridors or landings. 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 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, mountain goats, bear, beavers, cougars, bobcats, coyotes, fox raccoons, mountain beavers, pikas, hares, weasels, skunks, bats, rodents, shrews, moles, and others
- **Fish: bass, salmon, trout, herring, shellfish, other:**
  Trout, salmon, shellfish (freshwater)

- **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.

An April 2023 search of the WDFW Priority Habitat and Species Web Tool was conducted. A search of the Web Tool indicated northern spotted owl habitat may occur within the same township as the project area (Township 23, Range 7N). A township is a planning unit of 36 square miles. This species is federally threatened and state endangered. According to the WDFW northern spotted owl informational webpage, northern spotted owls live in mid and late seral coniferous forests; typical habitat characteristics include generally high canopy closure, complex canopy structure involving trees of multiple age or size classes, large decaying trees and/or snags, and a high volume of downed wood. The entirety of Taylor Mountain Forest has been harvested at least twice since European settlement. Additional review of canopy tree height models using 2016 LiDAR data shows relatively small trees and simple habitats compared to the old, large, and complex forests that the spotted owl needs. Taylor Mountain Forest does not include any old growth forest and no other forest conditions that could provide suitable habitat for spotted owls.

Holder Creek and Carey Creek and its fish-bearing tributaries may host the following priority habitat species: coho salmon, bull trout, chinook salmon (Puget Sound population), resident coastal cutthroat trout and steelhead (Puget Sound population). Three of those species have state or federal status: bull trout in the coastal Recovery Unit (state Candidate and federally Threatened), chinook salmon (federally Threatened) and steelhead (federally Threatened).

Elk and a species of Myotis bat (*Myotis yumanensis/lucifigus*) are other priority habitat species found in this area. Neither are state or federally listed.

No other threatened or endangered species are known to occur on or near the site. A Washington State Candidate Species was found in Taylor Mountain in the past: western toad (*Anaxyrus boreas*).

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 will be protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act.

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

King County's *Taylor Mountain Forest Stewardship Plan* provides guidance for this proposal, protecting, enhancing, and restoring ecological systems and restoration of forest health and diversity, while providing passive recreation opportunities for the public.

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. 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. Across the landscape of Taylor Mountain Forest and surrounding ownership, this project increases habitat diversity and habitat quality over very long timeframes relevant to forest development and climate change.

Appropriate biologist guidance on proper project buffering and/or required protective measures, or area avoidance, will be followed during project implementation.

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, 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 vehicle used to cut, process, and transport the removed timber.

b. Would your project affect the potential use of solar energy by adjacent properties? If so, generally describe.
No. Changes in light or shade due to tree removal or growth will not reach property boundaries.

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.
None.

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 depending on the season in which logging operations will be conducted. Fall, winter, and spring logging will maintain low fire risk, while summer may pose a higher fire risk. The logging operations will be required to adhere to all requirements of WA DNR's Industrial Fire Precaution Levels (IFPL)such as 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 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 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.

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 in the general project vicinity but are located at a safe distance away from proposed project and can easily be avoided.

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 HPA 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. Wildland fire response may be required should a fire break out on site.

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 State Route 18, or from airplanes flying overhead. Vehicle noise may be more frequent during the spring, summer, and autumn when weather is more favorable for driving. There is occasional noise from motorized equipment used by King County Parks employees doing trail or road maintenance. Private residences along the property's southern 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. Certain forestry activities, including those propsed in this SEPA checklist, are exempt from King County Noise Ordinance, Title 12, when the areas receiving the noise are designated residential areas (RA or R zoning) described in 12.86.500.K. All areas within 3 miles of the project area are zoned RA or F. Noise from the project would take place from approximately 6am to 5pm on weekdays. Work typically will not take place on weekends. If work takes place on weekends, noise from the project will take place between 7am to 5pm on Saturday and Sunday.

3) **Proposed measures to reduce or control noise impacts, if any.**
Noise pollution from operations will be controlled by limiting operational hours of equipment. Due to the proximity to private residences in designated rural zones, King County will opt to restrict heavy equipment noise to 6am -5pm Monday through Friday, and 7am to 5pm on Saturday and Sunday. Work typically will not take place on Saturay and Sunday. Non-heavy equipment such as pickup trucks may create noise for a limited time before and after those timeframes.

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.**
The proposed project site is categorized as a "Working Forest," within the 2022 King County Open Space Plan Update and Taylor Mountain Forest Stewardship Plan. The King County Open Space Plan definition of "Working Forest" is *land managed to balance sustainable timber production with conservation, ecological restoration, and public use. These sites also support research related to forestry practices*. This proposal will not affect current land uses on nearby or adjacent properties.

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 a variety of goals, such as: sustainable timber harvesting to generate revenue with compatible public access, and protected forest lands to the east managed by the City of Seattle for providing safe and clean drinking water within the Cedar River Watershed. Some private residences are adjacent to the project proposal vicinity, predominantly at the southern Taylor Mountain Forest boundary. Timber extraction, from prior landowners, has occurred within the majority of the

proposed Taylor Mountain Forest project areas. This project will not change the status of how Taylor Mountain Forest, or the adjacent lands in the project vicinity are managed.

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?**
   No, there are no significant anticipated affects 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 related management activities.

c. Describe any structures on the site.
No structures are located within the project area. Elsewhere in Taylor Mountain Forest, some minor structures are present near the project sites, which are 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?
None.

e. What is the current zoning classification of the site?
The proposed project sites are located within Taylor Mountain Forest and the parcels have a zoning classification of F- Forest.

f. What is the current comprehensive plan designation of the site?
The current comprehensive plan designation of Taylor Mountain Forest is OS (Open Space), King County open space system.

g. If applicable, what is the current shoreline master program designation of the site?
Not applicable. The designated shoreline management area in Taylor Mountain Forest, near Holder Creek, is outside the project boundary.

h. Has any part of the site been classified as a critical area by the city or county? If so, specify.
Yes. Multiple water bodies and wetlands existing in Taylor Mountain Forest and are classified as critical areas in the King County Code. Portions of the project area are classified as Erosion Hazard according to King County iMap.

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.

k. Proposed measures to avoid or reduce displacement impacts, if any.
Not applicable.

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

The King County Taylor Mountain Forest was acquired to preserve the natural resources located on Taylor Mountain including the headwaters of lssaquah Creek (Holder and Carey Creeks), to demonstrate environmentally-sound forest management, to enhance flood protection for Issaquah Creek, and to 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 Taylor Mountain Forest Stewardship Plan.

The 2022 *King County Open Space Plan* update also helped to guide this proposal. This effort updates Parks' 2016 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. These related efforts often include their own goals, objectives and targets that help Parks prioritize projects, programs, and investments. Taylor Mountain Forest is identified as a rural "working forest," Open Space Park Classification, within the 2022 King County Open Space Plan. This project proposal is compatible with this land use type classification, of "land managed to balance sustainable timber production with conservation, ecological restoration, and public use. These sites also support research related to forestry practices."

The *Taylor Mountain Public Use Plan and Trails Assessment* (completed October 2004) and *Taylor Mountain Forest – Forest Stewardship Plan* (completed August 2003, updated 2015) 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 recreation planning and outreach processes actively engaged the public and helped contribute to developing the recreation planning concepts and proposals for Taylor Mountain Forest.

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

The proposed project site is located within forest lands designated as rural "working forest," Open Space Park Classification, within the 2022 King County Open Space Plan Update. This project proposal is compatible with this land use type classification, of "land managed to balance sustainable timber production with conservation, ecological restoration, and public use. These sites also support research related to forestry practices." The proposed projects directly accomplish the stated objectives, and will provide timber production and other forest health actions. Adjacent private and state-owned forest lands of long term-commercial significance including revenue generating State Department of Natural Resources-managed trust lands, Tiger Mountain & Raging River State Forests,

are nearby and this proposal is compatible with state trust land management. Locating facilities and trails in long-term sustainable locations, while coordinating trail development and maintenance with forest health and stewardship actions is an ongoing King County-management process that seeks to strike a balance between limiting the timeframe of temporary trail access closures, while continuing to actively implement forest stewardship activities.

9. Housing

a. Approximately how many units would be provided, if any? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing.
None proposed, no housing will be provided.

b. Approximately how many units, if any, would be eliminated? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing.
None proposed, no housing will be eliminated.

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control housing impacts, if any.
Does not apply, there will be no housing impacts.

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 potentially create views to the south and southwest from Road K, Road I and the old SE 188th St road segment located within Taylor Mountain. Mt Rainier may be visible.

Private residences south and southwest of Taylor Mountain may see the harvest project from their properties. More extensive harvest projects recently took place on private land north of Taylor Mountain uphill of this project; there is an existing mosaic of forestry harvests on this slope of Taylor Mountain within and outside of King County's Taylor Mountain Forest that are currently in the viewshed.

Park users on trails adjacent to the project area will experience disturbed forest conditions for 1 to 5 years which most people find aesthetically displeasing. Within a couple of growing seasons, planted trees and legacy shrubs and forbs grow up and restore a more pleasing visual experience. The nature of the forested view will change from a hardwood-dominated forest canopy to a young conifer forest with remnant maturing or declining hardwoods.

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control aesthetic impacts, if any.
Relatively high tree retention will visually break up the harvest area, providing more aesthetically pleasing tree patterns relative to heavier clearcut 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.

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?
No.

c. What existing off-site sources of light or glare may affect your proposal?
None.

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?
Designated recreation opportunities in the immediate vicinity include a trail loop located west of Taylor Mountain Forest, on south Tiger Mountain State Forest, which is open to equestrian and hiking travel and a trail system primarily managed for mountain biking access in the east Tiger Mountain State Forest area. To the northeast of Taylor Mountain, the Rattlesnake Mountain hiking-only trail is located within the Rattlesnake Mountain Scenic Area. Primary management objective mountain biking trails are located south of Rattlesnake Mountain, and to the northeast of Taylor Mountain, within Raging River State Forest. A forest road network within Raging River State Forest is open to non-motorized equestrian, hiking, and mountain biking access. Informal hunting on game management units is allowed per Washington State Department of Fish & Wildlife rules and regulations, on state trust lands, and occurs within the Raging River State Forest area. Taylor Mountain, to the south of Raging River State Forest, offers approximately 30-miles of multi-use trail access for non-motorized visitors, and is primarily used by the equestrian community, but includes secondary trail access for hiking and mountain biking, with all users yielding to equestrian travel along the trails.

b. Would the proposed project displace any existing recreational uses? If so, describe.
No. This proposal will cause temporary closures of existing trails, but no physical impacts and no long-term closures to trails are part of this proposal. A planned trail within Unit 2 will be protected from heavy equipment crossings. Road K will be used for logging operations. Road K is currently rutted and not useable for vehicle use, though it is part of Taylor Mountain's designated road network. This project will return the road to useable condition.

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts on recreation, including recreation opportunities to be provided by the project or applicant, if any.
A 30-foot equipment limitation zone will be observed along a proposed trail route in Unit 2 to prevent damage to the proposed corridor. The forester may designate approved yarding corridors across the trail corridor only when it is unavoidable for logging operations. If yarding takes place across the corridor, disturbed soil will be re-graded to the original contours by the end of the project.

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, listed in or eligible for listing in preservation registers. The nearest recorded cultural resources are sites associated with logging at the historical town of Kerriston, which are documented on State land over 3 miles east of the project, and historical public works along Rock Creek at Walsh Lake, which are over 2.5 miles south of the project.

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.

There are no known cultural landmarks, features, burials, artifacts, areas of cultural importance, or other material evidence of Indian or historic use or occupation in or near the project area.

Predictive models of the project vicinity indicate the timber harvest areas have low to moderately low archaeological sensitivity. The King County Historic Preservation Program reviewed this project following King County LUD-16-1-1-EP and recommended no cultural resources field studies are required prior to timber harvest. The King County Historic Preservation Program requires that field crews be trained how to recognize cultural resources and what to do if cultural resources are encountered during timber harvest following an Inadvertent Discovery Plan.

The timber harvest areas generally slope steeply and are situated on glacial till and/or Eocene bedrock. Therefore, sediment deposition and soil formation are expected to be limited. Since the area was logged more than once in the past, the soils are thin, and the area is sloped, there is low potential for encountering intact, buried archaeological sites in the project area.

The 1907-1908 Timber Cruiser's Report shows logging skid roads crisscrossing the project vicinity, so cultural resources associated with historical logging could be on the surface in the project area. Those artifacts should be readily identifiable by field crews that have been trained to recognize cultural resources, and they can be avoided during harvest.

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.

The King County Historic Preservation Program assessed potential impacts to any cultural and historic resources that may be in or near the project area by reviewing the following information sources: internal King County predictive GIS map layers, the state Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation's predictive modeling in the Washington Information System for Architectural and Archeological Records Data, the locations of known cultural resources nearest to the proposed project areas, several historical maps, aerial photographs, environmental conditions, natural resources, slope, soils, and previously completed cultural resources assessments.

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 Taylor Mountain Forest, 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 concerned 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 concerned 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 Taylor Mountain Forest Trailhead currently serves and will continue to provide vehicle parking access for visitors accessing proposed trail system improvements. The Taylor Mountain Forest Trailhead access road entry is located at the eastern junction of SE 188th Street and 276th Avenue SE, Issaquah, WA 98027, just south of State Route 18.

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 Taylor Mountain Forest Trailhead parking area. King County Metro Bus Route 143 and DART Route 907 offer public transit bus stops nearby.

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).
This proposal does not involve new or improvements to existing roads or transportation facilities outside of Taylor Mountain Forest. Existing gravel roads within Taylor Mountain Forest will undergo routine maintenance including grading, drainage maintenance, and brushing. A truck turn-around will be constructed as part of this work. Temporary roads into harvest units will be created and will be removed through soil ripping and replanting with native vegetation.

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 two to five log truck loads per day would leave the site over an eight to ten week period, totaling around 100 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 vehicles traffic from people using the park for recreation.

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.
No, the proposal is located within Taylor Mountain Forest, which has a King County Open Space Plan classification of "Working Forest." The Open Space Plan definition of "Working Forest" is "land managed to balance sustainable timber production with conservation, ecological restoration, and public use. These sites also support research related to forestry practices." Forests can also provide economic value, both as a source of revenue generated from harvesting timber and other forest products and as a recreation destination. King County supports working forests, and as such classifies some forested properties as working forestlands. These lands preserve contiguous tracts of forested property (primarily in the Rural Forest Focus Areas and the Forest Production District) to retain active forestry, protect areas from development and/or provide a buffer between commercial forests and adjacent residential development.

King County's working forests were acquired for, and are managed to support, sustainable timber production in service to conservation and restoration objectives. These lands also provide for public use where appropriate. King County conducted forest health thinning projects in the past with the goal of forest stand health improvement. King County will conduct similar forest stewardship activities in the future. King County Parks has received certification from the Forest Stewardship Council for sustainably managing Taylor Mountain Forest.

g. Proposed measures to reduce or control transportation impacts, if any.
Drivers 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 Issaquah-Hobart Road at Taylor Mountain entrance.

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. However, self-contained vault sanitation toilets are located at the Taylor Mountain Forest designated trailhead parking facility that may be used by project workers.

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.

Signature: DocuSigned by: Paul Fischer CFD3DDD8498D454... **Date:** 8/21/2023 | 12:45 PM PDT

Paul Fischer, Senior Forester
Environmental Policy & Initiatives Unit
King County Parks and Recreation Division