



King County

Department of Natural Resources and Parks
Parks and Recreation Division

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

State Environmental Policy Act Determination of Non-Significance

Date of Issue: September 8, 2023

Name of Proposal: Taylor Mountain Forest West Carey Forestry Project

Location of Proposal: The project site includes two units in central Taylor Mountain Forest (parcels 3123079003, 3223079015, 3223079011, 3223079001, 3223079027, 3223079021). Taylor Mountain Forest is located between Issaquah and Maple Valley, near the community of Hobart. See map below.

Description of Proposal: 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's objective in these forest conditions is to shift species composition towards more drought-tolerant, long-lived species at somewhat lower densities. Taylor Mountain Forest has around 1,500 acres of hardwood-dominated forest conditions, which is around 3/4 of the land area of the forest.

DNRP is proposing 98 acres of commercial tree harvesting in Taylor Mountain Forest 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.

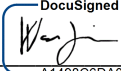
Parks proposes using logging equipment such as feller-bunchers, tracked or wheeled skidders, processors, log loaders, forwarders, shovel yarding, or other similar mechanized methods of tree cutting to remove around 90% of three broadleaf species by basal area: red alder, bigleaf maple, and black cottonwood. All other species would be retained. About 10% of large trees will be retained for wildlife and habitat purposes. Cut trees would be sold for lumber, pulp, veneer, firewood, or other uses as markets allow. Stumps would remain and would not be removed.

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

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

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

DATE: 8/23/2023 | 1:30 PM PDT

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

This Determination of Non-Significance (DNS) is issued under WAC 197-11-340(2). The lead agency will not act on this proposal until after **September 22, 2023**. Comments must be submitted or postmarked by **4:30 PM on September 22, 2023**. To provide comments or request additional information contact:

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201 South Jackson Street, Room 5702
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206-477-7372 (SEPA) or KCParks.SEPA@kingcounty.gov

For email comments, please use the email address noted above and put "Taylor Mountain West Carey Forestry" in the Subject line.

