



King County

Department of Local Services  
Permitting Division  
206-296-6600

[www.kingcounty.gov/permits](http://www.kingcounty.gov/permits)

## Forest Practice Moratorium Relief: Instructions & Information

For alternate formats, call 206-296-6600.

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### General Information

The following is a summary of the Forest Practice Moratorium Relief process and a description of the application submittal requirements. The information for this application is necessary in order to evaluate the merits of a proposal with applicable county and state regulations and to assess the potential community environmental impacts.

An application will be evaluated on the basis of the information provided by the applicant, the King County Comprehensive Plan, pertinent provisions of the King County Code (KCC), site inspection, and comments submitted by citizens and interested public agencies. If critical areas (i.e., landslide, steep slope, erosion, seismic, flood, coal mine hazard, wetland, aquatic, critical aquifer recharge, wildlife, conservation areas) exist on the subject property, the applicant may be required to submit a special study produced by a qualified professional to address the identified critical area features on the subject property.

Copies of the KCC and Comprehensive Plan are available for inspection at the Department of Permitting and Environmental Review (Permitting) Permitting Services Center and at the Main Branch of the Seattle Public Library. KCC and other development regulations are also available on the Internet via the King County Web site at [www.kingcounty.gov](http://www.kingcounty.gov).

Questions related to Forest Practice Moratorium Relief may be answered by contacting:

Department of Local Services, Permitting Division  
919 SW Grady Way, Suite 300  
Renton, WA 98057  
Telephone: 206-296-6600

### Filing an Application

A Forest Practice Moratorium Relief application must be filed in person at the Department of Permitting. An appointment is required to file the application. Please call 206-296-6780 to schedule the appointment. The minimum submittal requirements necessary to file the application are described below. Permitting staff has twenty-eight (28) days from the date of filing to determine whether or not the application is complete. An application that fails to meet the submittal requirements described herein will be deemed incomplete.

## **Notice of Application**

Public Comment Period: After Department of Permitting staff determines that a Forest Practice Moratorium Relief application is complete, a Notice of Application is issued as specified below. The minimum public comment period is 21 days, although public comments may be submitted and considered until the time of the decision.

1. The Department of Permitting will send out a notice of the application to property owners within a 500-foot radius of the subject property.

If the area is rural or lightly populated, the notice must be mailed to at least 20 different property owners; or, in other appropriate cases, the division may determine it is necessary to notify additional property owners.

2. A notice of the application will be published by the Department of Permitting in the official county newspaper and another newspaper of general circulation.
3. The applicant is required to install a notice board that must be placed in a conspicuous place on the property throughout the permit process so that it is visible to people passing by the property. Additional notice boards may be required as determined by the Department of Permitting.

The cost of the board is the applicant's responsibility. The Department of Permitting will send the applicant written instructions regarding the specific requirements for the notice board.

4. Notice of the application is also provided to anyone who writes to the department requesting information regarding the Forest Practice Moratorium Relief request.

## **Method for Processing**

The Director of the Department of Permitting has appointed a representative to make final decisions regarding Forest Practice Moratorium Relief. This process generally takes 120 days provided no appeals are filed or substantial additional information is required. Upon conclusion of review of the Forest Practice Moratorium Relief application materials, the representative issues a written decision based on the written record. A copy of the decision is mailed to all parties who have written to the division. There is a 14-day appeal period whereby an aggrieved person can file an appeal together with an appeal filing fee to the King County Hearing Examiner.

In cases where a proposed action also requires county permits, the following procedures shall apply:

1. When other permits require a public hearing before the Hearing Examiner, the review of the Forest Practice Moratorium Relief request shall be combined with the other permit(s), and the Examiner shall act on behalf of the representative for the purpose of the Forest Practice Moratorium Relief request decision.
2. When other permits are administratively approved, review of the application may be combined with other permits dependent on the granting of a Forest Practice Moratorium Relief request. If not combined, other permits may proceed prior to review and approval of such Forest Practice Moratorium Relief request.
3. In those cases where the Hearing Examiner is presiding, the Examiner will also act as the decision-maker and rule on the Forest Practice Moratorium Relief request.
4. In all cases of combined review, the most informative provisions for notification and processing shall govern the review of Forest Practice Moratorium Relief requests.

**Check out the Permitting Web site at [www.kingcounty.gov/permits](http://www.kingcounty.gov/permits)**