



DESIGNATED FOREST LAND

As a way to encourage sound forestry practices and conserve healthy, working forests in Washington state, many counties offer landowners the option to have their land designated as forests. This designation often results in lower assessed value, and lower taxes, on a property. But with this designation comes responsible stewardship.

HISTORY OF DESIGNATED FOREST LAND

The Designated Forest Land Program, RCW 84.33, was established in 1970 by the Washington State Legislature under the Open Space Taxation Act. This Act states that it is in the best interest of Washington to maintain, preserve, conserve, and otherwise continue open space lands, and allows eligible property owners to have their open space, farm and agricultural, and timber lands valued at their current use rather than at their highest and best use.



IS MY FOREST LAND ELIGIBLE?

Managed by the Washington Dept. of Revenue, your County Assessor office can answer questions on whether your property would be eligible for designation as forest land. Although not the only criteria, you'll need to ensure that you have at least five acres of land which can be dedicated primarily to the growth & production of timber. Get started at tinyurl.com/qoatxbq.

FORESTRY RESOURCES FOR LANDOWNERS

Attend educational courses on forest stewardship provided by your local extension office. Schedule a free site visit with a local conservation district, or by your state's Department of Natural Resources. Take advantage of cost-share funding opportunities through your local USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service office.





Depending on your location, your local CD may offer forestry workshops and hand-on learning opportunities.

WORK WITH LOCAL SILVICULTURAL PROFESSIONALS

A Timber Management Plan is required by most counties when applying for Designated Forest Land status. This plan provides you with valuable information about your forest, and outlines your goals and management decisions. A forester or professional having adequate knowledge of timber management practices should write it with you. To learn more, visit tinyurl.com/tykh4ym.



TIMBER MANAGEMENT PLANS

Our region is host to numerous silvicultural professions that can be of assistance to you. Consulting foresters, loggers, reforestation specialists, and more can be located by county at the online Washington State Consulting Forester and Silvicultural Contractor Directory at forestry.wsu.edu/consultingdirectory/, a resource provided by WSU Extension Forestry.

Don't overlook your local forester! Snohomish Conservation District has a forester who can visit your property for free and offer ideas and resources. Contact Stacey Dixon for information on managing your forest for long-term health, wildlife habitat, natural beauty, and timber at sdixon@snohomishcd.org or call (360) 453-7163. If you do not live in Snohomish County, visit betterground.org to find your local conservation district.



WANT HELP GETTING STARTED?

Conservation Districts work cooperatively with thousands of landowners a year to provide free services on private property. Learn more at snohomishcd.org.

