



## Outdoor Burning / Silvicultural CHANGES IN BURN PERMIT FEE

### Which landowners pay burn permit fees?

Burn permit fees are paid by forest landowners across the state on whose lands DNR has jurisdiction to help prevent and fight wildfires. This includes all industrial and small forest landowners. It applies to the burning of all forest debris on DNR protected forestlands—that is, silvicultural burning.

### How does the forest landowner benefit from having a burn permit?

In addition to making sure that your planned burning is legal and as safe as possible, following the conditions in the permit protects you and your neighbors from potential wildfire and smoke pollution. Following permit conditions also helps protect the burner should the fire escape, since a person who negligently causes a wildfire is responsible for the fire suppression costs.

### Why is DNR increasing burn permit fees?

The Washington State Clean Air Act (RCW 70.94.6534) directs DNR to set burn permit fees at the level necessary to cover the costs of its burning permit program. Current burn permit fees only cover about 18 percent of program costs. The 2011 Legislature authorized DNR to increase permit fees by \$80 plus \$0.50 per ton for each ton of material burned in excess of 100 tons. Increasing permit fees as authorized by the Legislature allows DNR to comply to the maximum extent possible with the statutory direction in the Clean Air Act.

Nevertheless, the new fees will not cover the costs of the program as implemented in past years, resulting in an expected 40 percent overall reduction in funding available to implement the silvicultural burn program.

### What changes are expected in the cost of permit fees?

Permit fees are based on the tonnage of forest debris to be burned. The minimum permit cost (burns with 100 tons or less of fuel) will increase from \$25.50 to \$105.50. The table here compares the current fees with the new fees.

Tons	Current Fee	New Fee
0-100	\$ 25.50	\$ 105.50
101-500	127.00	357.00
501-1,000	391.00	846.00
1,001-1,500	651.00	1,356.00
1,501-2,000	914.00	1,869.00
2,001-2,500	1,175.00	2,380.00
2,501-3,000	1,438.00	2,893.00
3,001-3,500	1,697.00	3,402.00
3,501-4,000	1,959.00	3,914.00
4,001-4,500	2,222.00	4,427.00
4,501-5,000	2,483.00	4,938.00
5,001-5,500	2,746.00	5,451.00
5,501-6,000	3,007.00	5,962.00
6,001-6,500	3,271.00	6,476.00

6,501-7,000	3,532.00	6,987.00	
7,001-7,500	3,794.00	7,499.00	
7,501-8,000	4,056.00	8,011.00	
8,001-8,500	4,318.00	8,523.00	
8,501-9,000	4,580.00	9,035.00	
9,001-9,500	4,843.00	9,548.00	
9,500-10,000	5,102.00	10,057.00	
10,001 plus	5,365.00	10,395.00	plus .50 per ton for tons over 10,000

---

## How will the 40 percent reduction in funding affect forest landowners?

In past years, forest landowners requested a burn permit from DNR either by phone or by going to their DNR region office. The large majority of permits were requested by phone. DNR field staff scheduled on-site visits to review planned burns. DNR used the site visits to provide landowners with pertinent wildfire safety and prevention information, calculate the forest debris tonnage to be burned under the permit to determine the fee amount, determine site specific permit conditions, issue the permit, and collect the permit fee.

Under the new fee schedule with its 40 percent reduction in program funding, DNR will significantly reduce the number of burn sites visited. DNR is working to find the most effective and efficient ways to monitor and provide this service. The new process includes:

- Reduced on-the-ground monitoring; less assistance for landowners with wildfire safety and prevention information.
- Landowners will have more responsibility to plan their legal and safe burn.
- Landowners will submit an application for a burn permit through their DNR region office. (Application will be available on the DNR website and at region offices.)
- Landowners are to provide accurate information on the amount of forest debris (tonnage) they plan to burn.
- Completed applications will provide DNR with necessary information to determine burn location, permit conditions, and permit fee.
- After review, DNR will mail permit to the landowner, or the landowner may pick up permit at their DNR region office.

## What is the process for increasing fees?

Silvicultural burn fees are set by rule in the Washington Administrative Code (WAC). Current fees are defined in [WAC 332-24-221](#). DNR will increase burn fees by amending [WAC 332-24-221](#) following the requirements of the [Administrative Procedures Act](#).

## When will the new silvicultural burn fees be implemented?

Following completion of the public rule-making process that amends [WAC 332-24-221](#), it is anticipated that the new fees will go into effect on January 1, 2012.

## What will the new silvicultural burn fees apply to?

When amended, the new burn permit fees will apply to all new DNR burn permits plus any existing permits that have not been validated and paid for. Fees will not be retroactive to burn permits validated and paid for prior to the effective date of the new fees.

## How can I provide comments on the new fees?

You may provide formal comments at our two [public hearings](#) as DNR moves forward with silvicultural fee increase rule-making process to amend [WAC 332-24-221](#). DNR also will accept written comments during the comment period. Information and process for written commenting are on our website at [www.dnr.wa.gov](http://www.dnr.wa.gov).