



# MASON COUNTY COMMUNITY SERVICES

Building, Planning, Environmental Health, Community Health  
615 W. Alder St. – Bldg. 8, Shelton, Wa 98584  
Phone: (360) 427-9670 ext. 352 ♦ Fax: (360) 427-7798

## DANGER TREE – CUTTING REQUEST

The Mason County Resource Ordinance provides the minimum requirements for vegetated buffers around marine shorelines, lakes, streams, floodways, wetlands, and steep slopes. Except for the removal of a small percentage of very young trees, native vegetation may not be harmed or removed within the resource OR within the protected buffers without permits and mitigation sequencing (avoid, minimize, and mitigate). An exception is provided for trees that meet the following definition:

**Definition of Danger Tree:** A tree with a high probability of falling due to a debilitating disease, a structural defect, a root mass more than 50% exposed, or having been exposed to wind throw within the past 10 years, and where there is a residence or residential accessory structure within a tree length of the base of the trunk, or where the top of a bluff or steep slope is endangered.

### REQUIRED MITIGATIONS for FWHCA (stream, lake, saltwater, listed species) BUFFERS

- A. Planting within the critical area or its buffer, a total of six new native trees, each a minimum of three years old.
- B. The trunks of felled trees shall be left within the critical area or buffer unless a submitted report warrants its removal to avoid spreading disease or pests. The trunk(s) tree may be segmented, but should be left in as large of segments as possible to provide habitat.
- C. Additional mitigation may be required if three or more trees are to be felled on one property within a 10 year period.

**Property Owner(s):** Fill out the backside of this form and **attach a site plan** showing the location of the proposed danger trees in relation to property lines and structures. Please also **submit photos** if you have them. **No request will be considered without a site plan.**

Please email this form with site plan and photos to [mfrazier@masoncountywa.gov](mailto:mfrazier@masoncountywa.gov), or mail it to Mason County Community Services Department, 615 W Alder St, Shelton, WA 98584.

FILL OUT INFORMATION BELOW:

(Site Address)	(Parcel Number)
(Property Owner Name)	(Signature)
(Email address)	(Phone)
(Mailing address)	

	Species (of tree)	Disease	Structural Defect	Roots Exposed >50%	Exposed to Windthrow
TREE # 1				Yes / No	Yes / No
TREE # 2				Yes / No	Yes / No
TREE # 3				Yes / No	Yes / No
TREE # 4				Yes / No	Yes / No
TREE # 5				Yes / No	Yes / No
TREE # 6				Yes / No	Yes / No

If, after reviewing this request, the danger is not apparent to the reviewing County Planner or if the trees are within 50 feet of a Landslide Hazard Area, you will be required to submit a report or letter prepared by a **professional forester or certified arborist**.

If the County determines that one or more of the trees are in a FWHCA buffer or Wetland buffer and do not meet the definition of danger tree, a Mason Environmental Permit and a Habitat Management Plan will be required to cut the tree(s). If the County determines that one or more of the trees are in a Landslide Hazard Area or buffer and do not meet the definition of danger tree, a Mason Environmental Permit and a Geotechnical Report will be required to cut the tree(s).

*Mason County Use Only:* Date Received: \_\_\_\_\_

Need a report/letter from a certified arborist or forester?: Yes / No    If yes, date received: \_\_\_\_\_

Approved (# of trees) \_\_\_\_ by (initials) \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_ with the following mitigation required:

Plant \_\_\_\_\_ native trees (min of 3 years old).

Leave tree trunk on ground in the buffer.

Additional: \_\_\_\_\_

Denied (# of trees) \_\_\_\_ by (initials) \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_ because \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_.