

NEWS RELEASE
JANUARY 23, 2008

MASON COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
P.O. BOX 186
SHELTON, WA 98584

TO: KMAS, KRXV, SHELTON-MASON COUNTY JOURNAL, THE OLYMPIAN, MASON
COUNTY, SHELTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, NORTH MASON CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE, CITY OF SHELTON, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL, THE SUN

RE: ELIMINATION OF SMOKE MANAGEMENT ZONES/LAND CLEARING BURNING PERMITS

At their meeting of January 22, 2008, the Mason County Board of County Commissioners voted unanimously to eliminate all Smoke Management Zones within Mason County.

Mason County will continue to issue and enforce all Land Clearing Burning Permits countywide, through a Memorandum of Agreement with the Olympic Region Clean Air Agency (ORCAA). Application for Land Clearing Burning Permits can be made at the Mason County Department of Community Development/Permit Assistance Center located at 426 West Cedar Street, Shelton.

Land Clearing Burning Permits are regulated under RCW 70-94.750, the Clean Air Act and general rules as outlined in the Washington Administrative Code (WAC 332-24-205) establishing minimum requirements for all burning within the State.

Outdoor burning, including land clearing projects, will continue to be prohibited during any period of impaired air quality as designated by ORCAA or the Washington State Department of Ecology, or during extreme fire danger due to dry weather conditions as designated by the Washington State Department of Natural Resources, the Mason County Fire Marshal or the Washington State Fire Marshal. Outdoor burning is still prohibited in the Allyn, Belfair and Shelton Urban Growth Areas.

Management of smoke is still an essential component of any outdoor burning. Fires shall not create a nuisance from smoke, obscure visibility on public roads and highways or endanger life and property.

Any questions concerning the Land Clearing Burning Permit Program, please contact the Mason County Fire Marshal's office by phone at 360-427-9670, Ext. 273 or Ext. 459.

Barb Robinson, Director
Department of Community Development