

**CLARK COUNTY  
STAFF REPORT**

**DEPARTMENT/DIVISION:** Environmental Services / Resource Enhancement and Permitting

**DATE:** June 17th, 2014

**REQUEST:** Review and approve the 2013 Current Use Assessment Program requests (Timberland/Open Space)

**CHECK ONE:**                     Consent         Hearing         Chief Administrative Officer

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**BACKGROUND:** This is the 28<sup>th</sup> year the county has reviewed Current Use Assessment applications. The Department of Environmental Services (DES) and Assessor's Office staff have reviewed the Current Use Assessment requests accepted during 2013. Approved requests will be reflected on the first half tax statements for the year 2015. As required by Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 84.34.037, Current Use Assessment requests are processed in the same manner as a Comprehensive Plan Amendment. Requests are usually evaluated after receiving the applications late in the calendar year preceding the year of tax assessment to be under Current Use.

All requests for "Timberland" and "Open Space" classification require Planning Commission review and approval by the Board of County Commissioners. Planning Commission review occurred on May 15, 2014. The Timberland classification requires a 5-acre minimum parcel size, exclusive of a one acre home site, and parcels may be transferred from Designated Forest Land or Farm & Agriculture. Stocking and management requirements are enumerated in County Code Chapter 3.08.070. Open Space classification criteria vary according to category.

**COMMUNITY OUTREACH:** Notification about this program occurs through stakeholders such as the Washington Farm Forestry Association's Clark County Chapter, local agricultural groups (i.e NRCS and WSU Cooperative Extension). Outreach events included a forest planning seminar in Kelso in the fall of 2013 for this year's applicants.

**BUDGET AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS:** Fee revenue for each case has been received to support staff reviews and processing. There are no budget or policy implications for this action.

**FISCAL IMPACTS:**                     Yes (see Fiscal Impacts Attachment)  No

**ACTION REQUESTED:** Review and approve the 2013 Current Use Assessment Program requests (Timberland/Open Space)

**DISTRIBUTION:** Please return the approved staff report to DES Administration.

  
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Kevin Tyler  
Division Manager

  
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Don Benton  
Environmental Services Director

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_  
CLARK COUNTY, WASHINGTON  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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