

FOREST EXCISE TAX
Reporting Information
Timber from Private Land and Public Land

Toll Free: 1-800-548-8829

Forest Excise Tax

Timber harvested in the State of Washington is subject to the Forest Excise Tax.

Registration

A Forest Excise Tax Registration Number is an individual account number assigned by the Department of Revenue to identify each harvester. (This is not a UBI number.)

Tax Paid by the Harvester

When timber is harvested from **private** land, the person who owns the timber at the time of the harvest is responsible for the Forest Excise Tax. Contractors performing labor and services for the timber owner are not responsible for the Forest Excise Tax. When the owner of the timber cannot be determined, the landowner at the time of harvest will be responsible for the Forest Excise Tax.

When timber is harvested from **public** lands, the timber owner is the first person (other than the public entity) to acquire title or possessory interest to the timber.

Export Restrictions

Please be advised that all timber harvested from public lands is **export restricted**. Purchasers have specific reporting requirements to the Department of Revenue, and logs must be properly painted and branded prior to leaving the harvest site. For a complete description of regulations, see WAC chapter 240-15. Contact the Department for additional information or reporting forms by calling 1-800-548-8829 or visiting us online at dor.wa.gov. Search the site by “forest” or “timber” and be routed to the forest tax page.

Reporting Periods

Forest Excise Tax is paid quarterly. For private land the tax is due at the end of the month following the quarter in which the timber is harvested. For public land the tax is due at the end of the month following the quarter in which the purchaser is billed by the seller for the timber.

Quarter 1

January 1 through March 31 due April 30

Quarter 2

April 1 through June 30 due July 31

Quarter 3

July 1 through September 30 due October 31

Quarter 4

October 1 through December 31 due January 31

Penalties

Late filing penalties are due on returns if payment is not received by the due date.

Forest Excise Tax Return

The Department of Revenue will mail tax returns at the end of each quarter to all harvesters with active permits.

All harvesters with active permits must file a return each quarter until the harvest is completed.

The tax rate is 5% and is calculated on the stumpage value of the timber. Stumpage Value Tables are published by the Department of Revenue twice a year for those reporting on the Standard Harvester return. Anyone who cuts less than two million board feet per calendar year has the option of using the Small Harvester return and calculates their tax based on the gross mill price minus the harvesting and marketing costs. For public harvesters, the taxable stumpage value is the actual amount paid for the timber in cash and other considerations.

Permits that are eligible for the EARR credit (Enhanced Aquatic Resources Requirements) receive a credit equal to 0.8% of stumpage value. Credit eligibility is determined by the Department of Natural Resources.

Harvesters owing tax less than \$50 (after EARR credit is applied) for the quarter (combined private and public land), are excused from payment of tax. However, they must complete and mail the return to the Department of Revenue.

If there is no harvest activity in a quarter, a “No Harvest” return must be filed to avoid delinquency. Check the No Harvest box (✓) on the return and mail it to the Department of Revenue. Check the appropriate closure columns if the harvest is totally complete or no future harvest is to be reported. You may also call our automated line at 1-800-547-9815 to report your “No Harvest” activity on a quarterly tax return.

Business and Occupation Tax (B&O)

Timber harvesting is considered a business activity under Washington law. Small harvesters with no other business activity will become liable for the B&O tax and must register, when the gross value of the harvest (annually) reaches \$225,000. For more information, call our toll free number 1-800-548-8829.

Records

For purposes of audit, the records used to determine the amount of tax due must be kept available for review by the Department of Revenue for five years (RCW 82.32.070).

For Help With Tax Returns

You may call a forester to make an appointment. The district offices and foresters telephone numbers are listed below.

You may call our toll free telephone number at 1-800-548-8829 for assistance Monday through Friday, 8:00am to 5:00pm.

You may visit our website at dor.wa.gov. You can search the site by “forest” or “timber” and be routed to the forest tax page.

District Offices

Bellingham

1904 Humboldt St
Suite A
Bellingham WA 98225
(360)594-4862

Olympia

Capital Plaza Building
1025 Union Ave SE
Suite 102
Olympia WA 98501
(360) 534-1324 or toll free
1-800-548-8829

Spokane

1330 N Washington,
Suite 5600
Spokane WA 99201-2456
(509) 937-4100

Tacoma

Home Street Bank
3315 S 23rd St
Suite 300
Tacoma WA 98405-1685
(253) 382-2180

Vancouver

8008 NE 4th Plain Blvd
Suite 320
Vancouver WA 98668
(360) 256-2126

Mailing Address

Department of Revenue
Special Programs Division
Forest Tax Program
PO Box 47472
Olympia WA 98504-7472

Toll Free: 1-800-548-8829

Website: dor.wa.gov

For tax assistance or to request this document in an alternate format, visit <http://dor.wa.gov> or call 1-800-647-7706. Teletype (TTY) users may call (360) 705-6718.