Agricultural Burning Permit: Application for Pile Burns

Do You Need an Agricultural Burn Permit?

If you are a commercial farmer and you are piling up agricultural vegetation to burn on land that is going to stay in agriculture, you must get a Pile Burn permit from Ecology. You may also use this application if you have a documented pest emergency.

If you are a commercial farmer, you do not need a permit from Ecology for the following types of agricultural burning: annual orchard prunings, organic debris along fence lines, irrigation and drainage ditches, or organic debris blown by the wind. However, even if you don’t need a permit, you must still notify local fire authorities before you burn and follow all local fire safety regulations. You may not burn during an air pollution episode or any stage of impaired air quality (burn ban). To check for burn bans call 1-800-406-5322 before you burn or sign up for email at www.ecy.wa.gov.

Instructions

1. Fill out the application completely.
2. Attach a map of the acreage you are proposing to burn (see details in Section 3).
3. Attach additional documentation as needed to include:
   - report from third party agronomic or pest expert that helps to demonstrate the need to burn; and
   - compliance with soil loss standards.
4. Calculate tonnage and the fee in the space provided. (*Minimum fee is $80.00)
5. Sign and date the application.
6. Mail the application and check for the permit fee to:
   Washington State Department of Ecology
   Cashiering Unit
   PO Box 47611
   Olympia, WA 98504-7611
   OR to your delegated permitting authority
7. Make check payable to: Agricultural Burning Account (or your local permitting office).
8. Application must be filled out completely and correctly, and submitted with the entire permit fee, before Ecology or a delegated authority will issue a permit.

Permit Fee (minimum fee is $80.00 for up to 80 tons)

Orchards: Acres _____ X _____ age of trees = _____ X .7 (tons/year) = ________ Total Tons

If total tons = less than 80 tons your permit fee is $80.00.
If total tons = more than 80 tons multiply tons x $1.00/ton and this is your fee.

Estimating pile tonnage

Examples: 10 acres X 25 year old trees = 250 X .7(tons/year) = 175 total tons x $1.00 = $175.00 fee
   5 acres X 10 year old trees = 50 X .7(tons/year) = 35 total tons = $80.00 Minimum fee

Alternative methods to estimate pile tonnage are also available based on pile size. If you would prefer to use one of these methods to calculate tonnage, please refer to Ecology Publication Number 10-02-045 included in this application as page 5, and Guidelines for Estimating Volume, Biomass, and Smoke Production for Piled Slash, available at http://www.fs.fed.us/pnw/publications/pnw_gtr364/, or call your permitting authority; the phone numbers are available on page 4 of this application.
Section 1 – Applicant and Operator Information

☐ Check this box if the burn location is in the following Counties: Chelan, Douglas, Kittitas, Klickitat or Okanogan

Who is the farmer/applicant?
This means any person engaged in the business of growing or producing for sale any agricultural product upon their own lands, or upon the land in which they have a present right of possession, any agricultural product. Farmer does not mean persons growing or producing such products primarily for their own consumption.

Name: ____________________________
Business Name: ____________________________ Contact Person: ____________________________
Mailing Address: ____________________________  City State Zip
Home Phone: ______________ Work Phone: ______________ Cell Phone: ______________
Email: ____________________________

Who is responsible for conducting the burn?
Same as farmer ☐ or Contractor Name: ____________________________
Business Name: ____________________________
Mailing Address: ____________________________  City State Zip
Contact Person: ____________________________  Cell Phone: ____________________________
Home Phone: ______________ Work Phone: ______________ Email: ____________________________

Section 2 – Residue Information

2.1 Common name (how do you refer to this section of orchard/farm?) ____________________________

2.2 Variety/Type of trees/residue being removed: ____________________________ Dwarf variety? Yes ☐ No ☐

2.3 Which Best Management Practice (BMP) are you using? (See Orchard Crops BMP Guidance Manual)
☐ Section 1 – Orchard Renewal  ☐ Section 2 – Insect Control  ☐ Section 3 – Disease Control
☐ Section 4 – Orchard Removal (only with signed Agronomic Professional Verification Document)
☐ Section 5 – Research  ☐ Section 6 – Orchard Transition: Must keep land in agriculture, submit plan & implement within 3 years.
If your circumstances do not match a BMP, contact your permitting authority or Ecology.

2.4 Have the trees/residue already been torn out? Yes ☐ No ☐ If yes, date torn out: ____________________________

2.5 When will you be ready to burn? ____________________________

2.6 By when do you need to be done burning? ____________________________

2.7 How do you plan to construct the burn piles?  Push trees into piles ☐  Pick up trees and place on piles ☐

2.8 Approximately what size will the piles be? 10’high x 20’wide ☐ 15’h x 30’w ☐ 25’h x 40’w ☐

Section 3 – Burn Pile Location
3.1 Provide the ¼ ¼, Section, Township and Range for the property where the vegetation is being removed and burned. **If the property is located in more than one Section, Township, Range, list each separately:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>¼</th>
<th>¼ of Section</th>
<th>Township</th>
<th>Range</th>
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</tbody>
</table>

3.2 Provide driving directions **from nearest town to the burn location**, include the street address if applicable:

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

3.3 ☐ Attach a map with the location where trees or other vegetation has been removed and locations of burn piles. Include Section lines, and Section, Township, and Range numbers.

3.4 Are any of these locations inside an urban growth area (UGA)? Yes ☐ No ☐

3.5 Fire Department/District (name and #) ______________________________ County: _________________

**Section 4 – Vegetation Management**

4.1 Why is the vegetation being removed? ____________________________________________

4.2 What are your plans for this acreage? ____________________________________________

4.3 Describe the alternatives you have researched, and why these are not effective (e.g. chipping, firewood, etc)

4.4 How do the costs of alternatives compare to the cost of burning? (provide cost estimates or comparisons)

4.5 How do you plan to protect the torn-out acreage from water and wind erosion? _________________

4.6 Has the orchard or field been inspected by a third party agronomic or pest expert? Yes ☐ No ☐

*If yes, what were the results of the inspection and what is your plan to manage the situation? (attach results) ☐*
Section 5 – Certification and Signature

Permit applicants are required to follow and obey all applicable provisions of the Washington Clean Air Act, Chapter 70.94 RCW and Chapter 173-430 WAC, Agricultural Burning.

I certify that:
• If granted a permit, I agree to comply with the conditions contained in the permit;
• The information provided is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge;
• The farm described in this application is an agricultural operation as defined in Chapter 173-430 WAC;
• If I am demonstrating necessity to burn by use of a Best Management Practice, I have read and understand, and will follow the Best Management Practices specific to this type of burning;
• I believe the proposed burning is reasonably necessary, and that no practical alternative exists, and;
• I grant the Department of Ecology, or its representative, access to all acreage listed on any agricultural burning permit application I submit or on any permit I am issued, including private roads or access ways under my control needed to access the listed acreage for the purpose of investigating conditions specific to the agricultural burning permit or application.
• I understand Ecology, to the extent reasonable and consistent with carrying out the duties of the agricultural burning permitting program, will notify me and give me the option to accompany Ecology, or their duly authorized representatives, when accessing the permitted property.

Signature of Responsible Party ______________________________________ Date __________

Mail the application, map, any supporting documentation and check for the permit fee to:
Agricultural Burning Account
Washington State Department of Ecology
PO Box 47611
Olympia, WA 98504-7611
OR to your County Permitting Authority

What Happens Next?

Ecology will evaluate your application and determine if you have demonstrated that burning is necessary to carry out your enterprise and that no practical alternatives exist. Ecology will act on a complete application within seven days and will either send you a permit or a written explanation as to why the application was denied. If we have questions we may contact you by telephone. Permits contain specific instructions including a requirement that burning be conducted on an Ecology determined burn day. It is important to read and understand all of the permit conditions prior to lighting a fire. If you have any questions, please feel free to call your permitting authority. Your permit, if issued, will be valid until the expiration date noted on the permit.

Refund Policy

Refunds may be available if no burning or partial burning takes place. Contact your permitting authority or see the “permit conditions” section of your permit for more information.

Have Questions or Need Help?

Call Ecology, your local air authority, or your delegated permitting authority:
• In Chelan, Douglas, Kittitas, Klickitat, Okanogan Counties: call Ecology’s Central Region 509-575-2490
• In Benton County, call the Benton Clean Air Agency 509-783-1304
• In Spokane County call the Spokane Regional Clean Air Agency 509-477-4727
• In Yakima County, call the Yakima Regional Clean Air Agency 509-834-2050
• For all other counties, call Ecology’s Eastern Region 509-329-3400

For more information: http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/air/aginfo/agricultural_homepage.htm
How to Estimate Tons Per Acre or Tons Per Pile of Orchard Tear-Out Debris

Use these instructions when applying for Ecology’s Pile Burn Permit.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Method 1: Estimate tons of wood per acre you propose to burn*</th>
<th>When to use</th>
<th>Variables</th>
<th>Calculation</th>
<th>Example</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Use when:                                                   |             | • Number of acres of orchard torn out = N  
• Age of trees torn out = A  
• Tons to be burned = T |
| Relies on the relatively constant growth rate of .7 tons per year (in terms of wood volume) of orchard trees. |             | $T = N \times A \times 0.7$ |
| For a 20- acre orchard tear-out with 12-year-old trees:     |             | • T = 20 acres \times 12\text{years} \times 0.7\text{tons/acre/year} = 168\text{tons} |
| • Fee for 168 tons = 80 ton base fee of $80 + 88 tons @ $1.00/ton = $88. = $168 total |

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Method 2: Find the tonnage of a pile of natural vegetation**</th>
<th>When to use</th>
<th>Variables</th>
<th>Calculation</th>
<th>Example</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Use when:                                                   |             | • Cubic feet of the pile = V (volume)  
• Weight/density of the wood in the pile = 55 lbs. per cubic ft. for green apple wood (most other fruit woods are of similar density)  
• Packing ratio = 15% (in other words, 85% of the pile volume is made up of air)  
• Height of the pile = h  
• Diameter of the pile = d  
• $\pi \approx 3.14$ |
| Determines the volume of your burn pile in order to figure out tonnage. Uses the cubic feet (ft$^3$) of the pile (or V for volume) multiplied by the weight (density) of the wood in the pile (55 lbs/ft$^3$ for green apple wood) multiplied by the packing ratio (conservatively 15%, because 85% of the pile is air in most stacked piles). |             | $V = \frac{\pi \times h \times d}{8}$ |
| For a roughly circular pile that is 20 feet tall (h) and 40 feet across (d): |             | • Step 1: For roughly circular piles, the calculation is:   
$V = \frac{\pi \times h \times d}{8}$ |
| • Calculation volume, divide the volume by 242 to take into account the density of the natural vegetation in the pile and the packing ratio. |             | • Step 2: After   
$12,560 \div 242 = 51.9$ tons of material |
| • Fee for 51.9 tons = less than 80 tons = base charge: $80 (See Ecology Pile Burn Permit Application for more fee information) |

* See Ecology Publication #10-02-047, Orchard Chipping Grant Report

**Formulas taken from USDA Forest Service Publication, Guidelines for Estimating Volume, Biomass, and Smoke Production for Piled Slash

Publication no. 10-02-045

If you need this publication in another format, call the Air Quality Program at (360) 407-6800. Persons with hearing loss can call 711 for Washington Relay Service. Persons with a speech disability can call 877-833-6341.