



## THURSTON COUNTY DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

### OPEN SPACE TAX PROGRAM

## APPLICATION PROCESS TIMBER LAND CLASSIFICATION

An application for timber land classification can take several weeks to prepare. Once the application is submitted, it can take up to six months for the County to complete the entire application review process.

The reduction in property taxes appears the second year after the application is submitted.

**Year 1:** Application Submitted (Any time during the year)

**Year 2:** Tax Rolls Changed for following year

**Year 3:** Taxes Reduced

Each application presents unique circumstances which may require more time for the process. Please talk with County staff if you have any questions about the process. We do our best to minimize delays.

### PROCESS STEPS

1. Consult with County staff and complete the application form; obtain all required documents. (1 week +)
2. Submit your application to Thurston County; **incomplete applications will be returned to the applicant.** (A few minutes if delivered in person; 2-5 days if mailed)
3. A County staff member will contact you for a site visit. (1-2 weeks)
4. County staff will complete a staff report and set a public hearing date with the Board of County Commissioners. (2-4 weeks)
5. The required "legal notice" of the public hearing is published in The Olympian at least 20 days before the hearing (2-3 weeks)
6. The Board of County Commissioners holds a public hearing and either approves or denies the application. (A few minutes at the Board's meeting)
7. If the application is approved, an agreement is prepared and mailed to you for a notarized signature. (1-2 weeks)