



PROPERTY OWNERSHIP AND LAND-USE HISTORY FOR KING COUNTY FORESTLAND

For your Forest Stewardship Plan

PROPERTY OWNERSHIP AND LAND-USE HISTORY FOR KING COUNTY FORESTLAND

By

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Abstract

A land-use history is a record of how land has been used by previous owners as well as natural disturbances that may have occurred. Understanding how your land has changed over time can provide insight into the overall quality of the land. As you consider your land management plan, researching the land-use history will deepen your discussion of resource conditions and management practices and help identify factors that may affect the use or management of your property. This manual provides step-by-step instructions for completing an ownership and land-use history in King County.

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Property Ownership and Land-use History for King County Forestland

Introduction

What is an ownership history?

An ownership history is the record of property ownership transfers through time. The result of this research will provide a listing of names and dates associated with each transfer of the property going back to the original private landowner. This information is commonly compiled by reviewing the tax assessment rolls to locate deeds or other vesting documents.

It is recommended to start your research when you (or the current owner) purchased the property, and then regress through time. After locating the name of the last seller of the property (as the grantor), you can then search backwards until you find when they purchased the property (as the grantee). Continue this process until finding the original landowner.

What is a land-use history?

A land-use history is the compilation of records identifying:

- how the land was utilized by the previous property owners, and
- natural disturbances that were identified to have occurred on the property.

The land-use history is usually secondary to the ownership history and can be much more difficult. Records for land-use are rare and may require specific information such as the exact date a claim was made. However, if these records are found, they can reveal detailed information about tree stocking, logging, topography, or mining.

Why perform property history?

Completing a property history can allow you to add a narrative to the landscape. With each new owner, a new chapter about the land is written, helping you to better understand the characteristics that make up your property today. Learning who owned the property and how it was used and valued in the past can contribute to a better understanding of the growth and changes within communities.

On an environmental level, understanding how the natural features on the land were altered over time can provide insight into the current quality of the land. Gathering information regarding native trees, logging history, location of water features, and agricultural and mining use can all point to potential explanations of soil quality, water storage, and wildlife presence.

How does this fit into my forest stewardship plan?

The [Washington State Integrated Forest Management Plan Guidelines](#) include an introductory overview of the property. In addition to providing an overview of the land features, you may wish to include a family and land-use history. This information will help identify the factors that may affect the use or management of your property. Including some history will deepen your discussion of the resource conditions and management practices that you will outline in your management plan.

This manual provides a step-by-step guide through the process of completing an ownership and land-use history. The manual explains how to use the free online records retrieval websites for King County as well as the process for retrieving records from other local archives.

This manual only covers the most basic requirements for an ownership and land-use history as they relate to a forest stewardship plan. There are other avenues you can explore on your own to delve deeper into the history of the previous owners of your property. (See the Other Resources section for more information.)

Online resources mentioned in this manual are hyperlinked within the text for easy web access. For readers viewing this offline, a Website Reference List with full-length URLs is also included.

Where do I start?

Personal knowledge and communication

It is easy to overlook the most accessible information available: personal knowledge. Start by asking yourself a few questions.

- Did you receive documentation about the property when it was purchased?
- Did the previous owner talk about current or previous land use?
- Did you inherit the property from family? If so, how did they utilize the land?

Neighboring property owners are also a great resource for learning more about the history of your property and the surrounding area.

Look up a historical overview of the property’s city or town

The [Online Encyclopedia of Washington State History](#) can be accessed for free. The encyclopedia has three libraries:

1. Cyberpedias (overview essays)
2. Timeline essays (events keyed to specific dates)

3. People’s Histories (reminiscences, documents, older historical accounts, and interpretations)

You can search these three libraries for your county, city, or town. To complete this search, visit the Online Encyclopedia of Washington State History and type in the name of your city or town in the search box on the right-hand side of the page (Figure 1).

Familiarize yourself with your regional archive branch

An archive is a collection of historical government records, which are available to the public for review. An archive holds collections of records about activities, programs, and decisions of government agencies and elected officials. The records are presented in many kinds of formats, including papers, photographs, maps, and audio-visual materials.

It is important to familiarize yourself with exactly what records are available online and in the archives. Knowing what records are available will give you a better idea about what to ask for when you make an appointment to complete your in-person research.



Figure 1. Use the Online Encyclopedia of Washington State History to search for the history of cities and towns within Washington State. Click on the Cities & Towns link, or enter your city or town in the Search box and click Go.

King County property owners can do this by accessing:

- [King County Recorded Documents](#)
- [The Puget Sound Region Guide to Holdings](#)
Explore the types of records by choosing from the Record Groups, or by using the keyword search.

The archives only have the records that the county makes available. If you cannot find the records you are looking for in the archives or online, try contacting the records office for more information.

Locate the legal description of your property

Most archive centers will be unable to identify your property by address. A parcel number and location within your section, township, and range are the most helpful.

If you do not know your parcel number, the easiest way to find it is to look at the bi-annual property tax statement you receive from the county. If you do not have a copy of these statements, you can search for this information on the King County

website (via the Parcel Viewer tool), or by calling your county assessor’s office. Once you have the parcel number, you can use it to find the property legal description from the assessor website.

Using the King County Parcel Viewer

[King County Parcel Viewer 2.0](#) allows you to search for your parcel by address. Access the Parcel Viewer.

- Once the page opens, click on the Start Parcel Viewer 2.0 button (Figure 2).
- Type your address into the upper left-hand corner of the map. When typing in your address, consider only entering the house number and street name. This may decrease your chances of receiving an error.
- Check that the box next to your address says “address,” then click Search (Figure 3).

The Parcel Viewer will then zoom into your parcel. Your parcel will be highlighted in yellow, and a box with your general tax information will pop up.

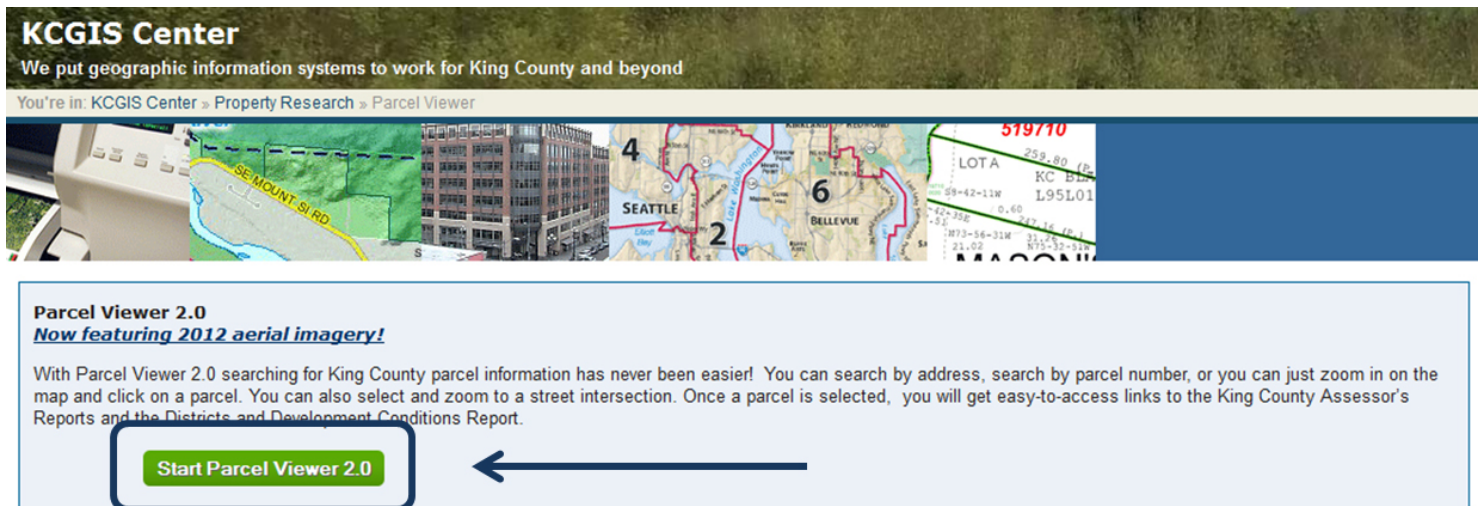


Figure 2. King County Parcel Viewer 2.0 start page.

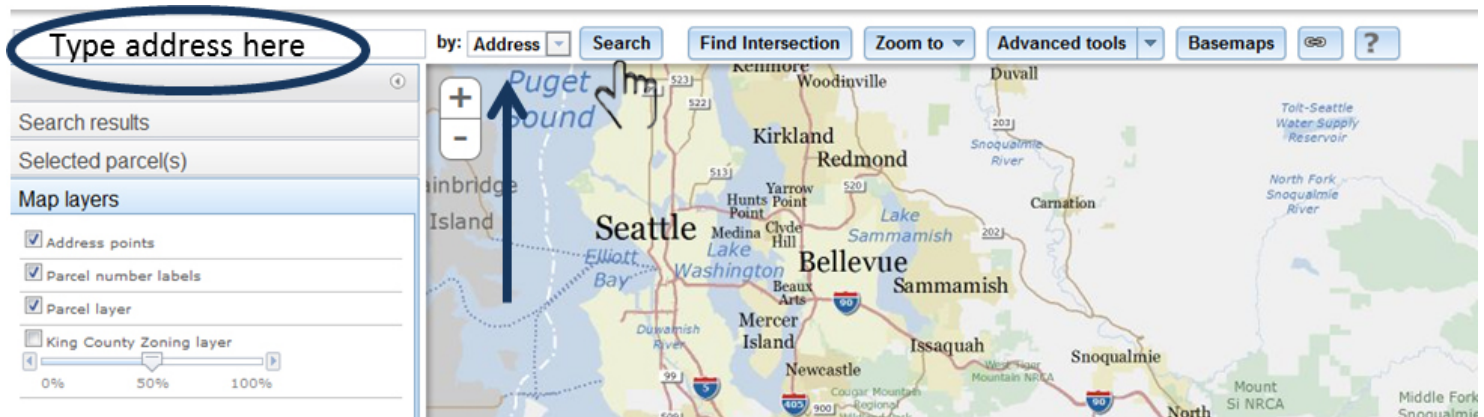


Figure 3. Address search box. Enter your address in the box and click search to find your parcel on the map.

- Click on the link to your Property Report (Figure 4).
- In the upper right corner of your Property Report click on the button that reads Property Detail (Figure 5).
- Take note of the parcel number, legal description, Quarter Section, and section-township-range of your property.

If you have trouble getting this information online, you can also contact the King County Assessor’s office by emailing assessor.info@kingcounty.gov or calling (206) 296-7300.

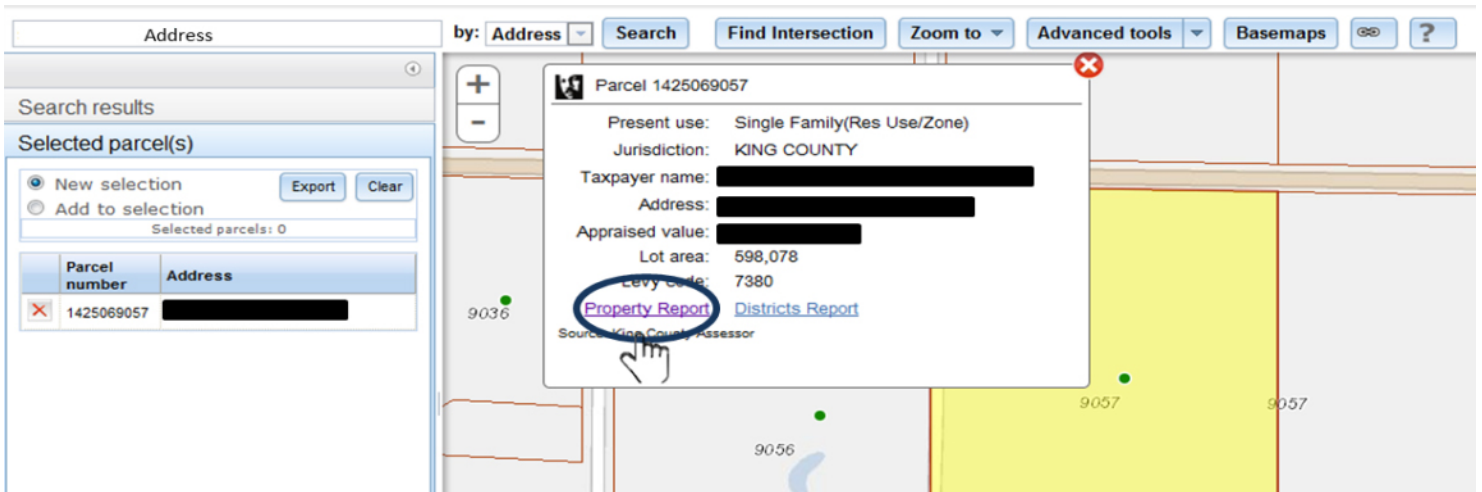


Figure 4. Selected parcel information and the link to the property report.

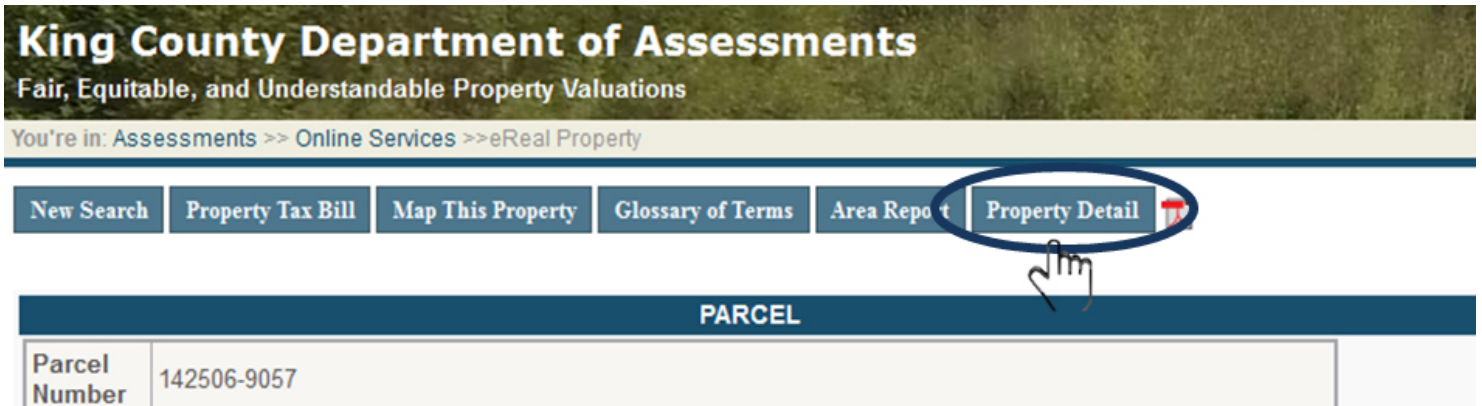


Figure 5. Button linking to property detail report. The property detail report will include the legal description of your property.

Make an appointment

Now that you have familiarized yourself with exactly what records are available in the archives and identified the legal description of your property, you are ready to make an appointment at the regional archives. Appointments need to be made at least two days in advance to give the archivist time to find your property's records. The two-day waiting time can be used for starting the online portions of your ownership or land-use history (outlined later in this manual).

When making your appointment, be specific about what information you are looking for (e.g., timber cruise records, aerial photos, tax assessment rolls, property record cards, etc.) and have your property's parcel number and legal description ready. These appointments are free and are typically 15 minutes long.

During the appointment, the research specialists will explain how to use the resources available and interpret the requested records. Once your time is up, the researcher may have to move on to another appointment, but should still be available for questions while you complete the rest of your research. The [Washington State Archives website](#) has additional research and contact information for each of the regional branches.

King County has two holding sites for their records and you will therefore need to make two appointments. First, make an appointment with the Puget Sound Regional branch in Bellevue to retrieve names of the taxpayers from property record cards (1937–1972) and tax assessment rolls (1866–1937). You will need this information to do deed and record research during your second appointment at the King County Archives. The Puget Sound Regional branch is closed for in-person research on Mondays and Tuesdays. The contact information to make a research appointment at The Puget Sound Regional branch is:

Puget Sound Regional Branch
Pritchard-Fleming Building
3000 Landerholm Circle SE, MS-N100
Bellevue, WA 98007-6484
Phone: (425) 564-3940
E-mail: psbrancharchives@sos.wa.gov

Make your second appointment with the King County Archives to research specific deed types and other land-use records, including timber cruises, mining records, and established county roads. Please note that mining claims are organized by name, date, or claim. This means that you would have to know ahead of time that someone claimed your property for mining and what their name was. This might be good for a second appointment if you find this out during the course of your research. The research room at the archives is open Monday through Friday by appointment only. You will need to request an appointment for all land-use records. If you are only interested in researching deeds and taxpayer information, then you do not need an appointment. This research is done in the microfilm research room and is also opened Monday through Friday. The staff there will happily show you how to use these resources when you arrive. The contact information to make a research appointment at The King County Archives is:

King County Archives
Building A
1215 E. Fir Street
Seattle, WA 98122
Phone: (206) 205-1399
E-mail: archives@kingcounty.gov

If you are unable to visit the archive branch in person, copies of records can be requested via phone or email. The staff can also be hired to complete the property history for you. Research performed by archives staff requiring more than 15 minutes will generate a fee. Research is defined by the Washington State Archives as “the collection, assembly, or extraction of data or information from records, or the analysis of information to provide a report.”

For exact pricing, consult the [Washington State Archives Services and Fees website](#) for the Northwest branch. If you decide this option is best for you, consider first completing the online portion of the ownership and land-use histories. The research you can do at home may decrease the research time needed by the archives staff. If you do not have a computer, or do not wish to do any of the research on your own, then an archives staff member will be able to do the online portion as well for an additional fee based on time spent.

Property ownership history

There are multiple ways to compile a list of property ownership changes through time. This section will discuss the online and in-person research options for identifying the names and dates associated with each transfer of the property going

back to the original land patent owner. Figure 6 offers a visual representation of the property ownership history search process explained in this section.

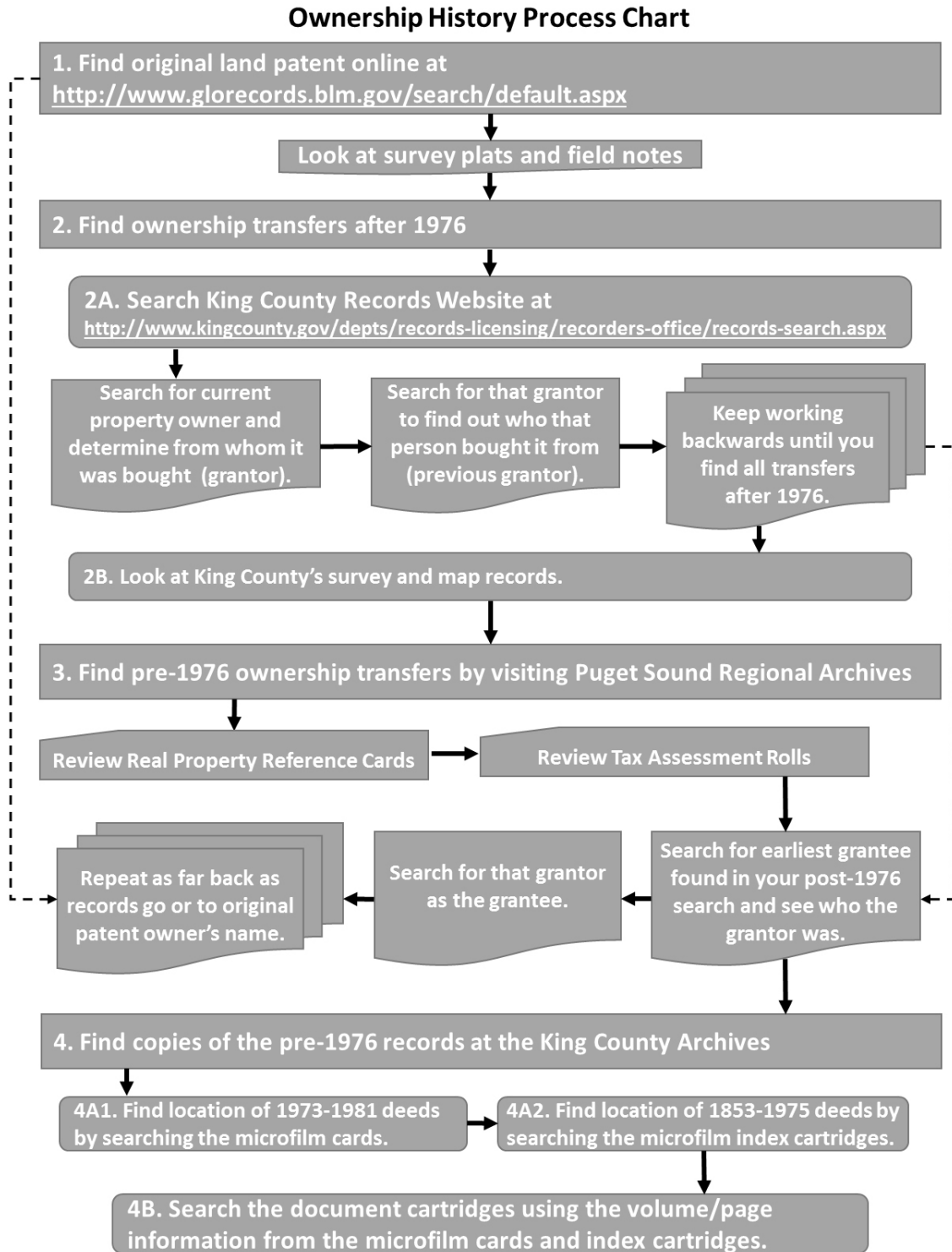


Figure 6. This flow chart offers a visual representation of the property ownership history search process explained in this manual.

Start online

Find the original land patent owner of your property

A land patent is an official document that identifies the title owner of a piece of land. These land patents reveal specific information on the initial transfer of land titles from the federal government to an individual. These patents also identify the specific locations for the patents and their issue dates. Land patent types include:

- Cash entry patents – a land patent in which the fees were paid in cash.
- Homestead patent – a land patent in which the fees were waived if the land had been lived on and cultivated for a minimum of three years.
- Military warrant patent – deeds issued to veterans in partial compensation for military service.

You can search for these patents by accessing the [Bureau of Land Management’s \(BLM\) General Land Office Records website](#) (Figure 7).

1. Under the Search Documents By Type tab on the far left you can search for the patents on your property by location and land description.
2. In the Location section, use the drop down arrows to find your State and County.
3. Enter your township, range, and section and click Search Patents.

All of the people that received patents within your township, range, and section will be listed. Refer back to the legal description of your property and match it with the aliquots (i.e., land subdivisions) of the original patent holders (Figure 8).

Figure 7. The Search Documents By Type tab, the patents section, and the location and land description search boxes are where you can look for the original land patent owner of your property.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR *PRIVATE CLAIMS*
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT General Land Office Records

Search Documents Reference Center Support Shopping Cart

Search Documents Results List Printer Friendly

Patents

Note: An *Italic* entry denotes data that has not been indexed against the land patent document, and has no image.

Image	Accession	Names	Date	Doc.#	State	Meridian	Twp - Rng	Aliquots	Sec. #	County
---	<i>WAOA 065002</i>	BARKER, WILLIAM W	3/25/1890	7808	WA	Willamette	025N - 006E	N1/2N1/2	14	King
---	<i>WAOA 064979</i>	MOORE, PHILIP D	5/3/1887	7509	WA	Willamette	025N - 006E	SE1/4	14	King
---	<i>WASAA 065103</i>	ODELL, JULIA J	6/9/1902	7444	WA	Willamette	025N - 006E	S1/2	14	King
---	<i>WASAA 065040</i>	SWARTWOOD, MARTIN V	3/7/1892	4200	WA	Willamette	025N - 006E	S1/2N1/2	14	King

Figure 8. The list of individuals that received land patents within the section-township-range that was searched.

Example: Using the legal description of a sample property, can you find the original patent owners?

SEC 34 TWP 32 RGE 05 TH PTN **NE1/4 NE1/4** LY WLY OF GULCH THERIN EXT IN NWLY DIR THRU SD SUB BEING THE E LN OF TR DESC IN SURVEY REC AUD FILE NO 7701210296 TGW **SE1/4 NE1/4** LESS BEG 1/4 COR ON N BDY SEC TH E 478FT TH S 410FT TH W 478FT TH N 410FT TO POB & LESS S 208.71FT OF E 208.71FT.

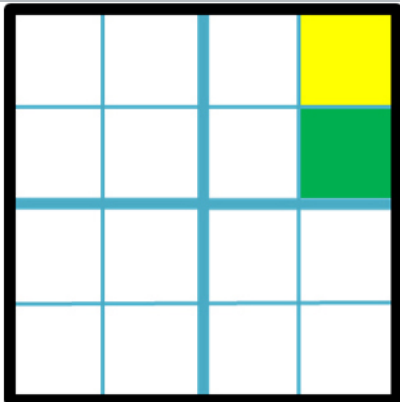


Figure 9. This is an example of how to find a property's location within the Public Land Survey System by looking for clues in the property legal description. The black box represents a section (section 34 of township 32, and range 05 east). This box is split into quarter sections, then quartered again. The legal description explains the location of your parcel within these quarters. Quarter sections are read from smallest to largest. The yellow and green highlighted descriptors in the legal description correspond with the colored boxes in the section.

In Figure 9, the large black box represents an entire section (section 34 of township 32, range 05 east). This box is split

into four smaller boxes denoted by a thick blue line. These smaller boxes are quarter sections. Each quarter section is quartered again, identified by the thin blue lines. The legal description explains the location of your parcel within these quarters. The quarter sections can be read from smallest to largest. The rest of the descriptors are in relation to government-owned roads and monuments. The yellow highlighted descriptors in the legal description correspond with the yellow box in the section, and the same is true of the green. The aliquots that overlap with your property description will identify the original patent owner(s).

This diagram helps us see that this property was originally owned by two people, as shown in Figure 8. William Barker owned the north half of the north half of the section (i.e., the top row of boxes) and thus owned the yellow portion of the property. Martin Swartwood owned the south half of the north half of the section (i.e., second row of boxes from the top) and thus owned the green portion of the property.

To see the original patents online, click on the patent image. Many of these patents will not be available as images online. If the images of the original patents for your property are not available online, you can email:

- The BLM to order a copy of the land patent: BLM_OR_SO_Land_Office_Mail@blm.gov
- The National Archives in Seattle to obtain a copy of the full patent file which may include correspondence and other records associated with the patent: archives@nara.gov

Bring the names of the original patent owners with you to your appointment at the regional archives. This information will help you to determine when you have gone as far back in the ownership history as you can go.

Look at the survey plats and field notes

The BLM General Land Office Records website also has records on survey plats and field notes. Survey plats are the graphic drawings of the boundaries involved with a survey and contain the acreage used in the legal descriptions. Field notes are the narrative of the survey. They contain detailed descriptions of the instrumentation and procedures used during the survey process.

To access these records, go back to the [Bureau of Land Management's \(BLM\) General Land Office Records](#) website.

3. Enter your township and range (Figure 10). You will not need a section here because the maps will contain all of the sections within your township.
4. Click on the Search Surveys button at the bottom of the page.
5. After the results page loads, click on the survey that you are interested in (Figure 11). The survey plat details will then open.

You can toggle through the tabs at the top to see the plat image and other related documents (Figure 12).

1. Select the Surveys tab in the far left margin.
2. In the Location section, use the drop-down arrows to find your State and County.



Figure 10. Search box for retrieving land surveys and field notes for the section your property is in.

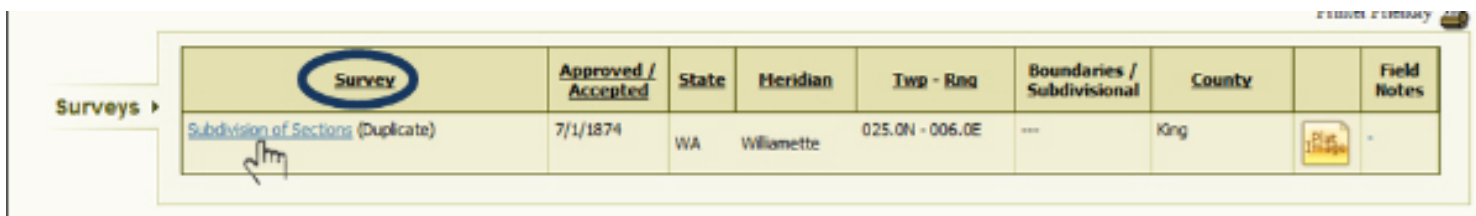


Figure 11. List of surveys available in your township.



Figure 12. Tabs offering information on the selected survey.

Find ownership transfers after 1976

Most ownership records after 1976 can be found online at the King County Records Search website. Searching online archives is the easiest way to find the most recent transfers in ownership of your property. In these searches you are mostly looking for deeds, which are legal documents regarding the transfer of property. However, these searches may reveal other types of documents as well. For example, a document type called an “agreement” might show the government claiming a critical wetland on your property. With this in mind, it may be helpful to read through some of the non-deed or mortgage documents listed.

Note: These online searches may not work for everyone. If you cannot find what you are looking for online, the researchers at the King County archive location can help you with what you need.

- Access the [King County Records website](#).
- Click the big button in the center of the page that reads Click Here to begin the search, read the terms of site entry, and accept (Figure 13).
- On the main menu you will see three search options. Locate Official Public Records at the top of the list and click Search (Figure 14).

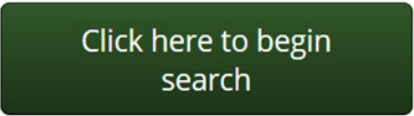
The official public records search engine should now be visible. Start by searching only the last name of the current owner of the property. This is suggested because the search engine looks for exact matches. If additional search parameters, such as middle initial, are used but that information is not on the document, then it will not be presented in the list of results. This may cause you to miss an important record. It is also suggested that you leave out the parcel number because they are not always included in all document listings. Therefore, if you search by parcel number it is possible to miss an important record that does not have the parcel number linked to it. Once you have entered your search criteria (Figure 15), click the search button at the bottom of the page.

A new page will load with the search results. Start by searching for the results that match the first name of the property owner you are looking for (Figure 16). If you searched the current owner, then you are looking for that name in the grantee column, or type “E” (meaning they obtained the property). The search will only show ten results at a time. Check all of the pages using the navigation tool just above the results box. Once you find the entry that you are looking for, take note of the grantor and open the document image.

[Home](#) » [Records & Licensing Services \(RALS\)](#) » [Recorder's Office](#) » [Online records search](#)

Online records search

Search our free online database of King County's Official Records



Click here to begin search

What can be searched

- Most documents recorded on or after August 1, 1991 are available [online](#). Documents that were recorded prior to August 1, 1991 are on microfilm and are only available from the [King County Archives](#).
- Certain restricted documents (1991 to present) are not available online but can be requested from the Recorder's Office or King County Archives.
- Birth and death records, divorce records, property tax records, and property assessment records are not available at the King County Recorder's Office.

Figure 13. Button to enter King County Records search site.

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Official Public Records Search

Official Public Records (OPR) consist of all publicly accessible documents recorded by this office and may include deeds, mortgage documents, easements, assumed names (d.b.a.), powers of attorney, bills of sale, and liens.

Figure 14. Search button for official public records.

Official Public Records

Search Criteria

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General

Party Name: (Lastname, Firstname)

Document Type:

Figure 15. This is the search box for the property owner name. Start by searching the last name, and then add the first name letter by letter in order to narrow down the results.

Official Public Records

Search Results

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Criteria: Name or Associated Name Begins with DUPPONG

Search Results - 35 matches

Displaying Records 1 to 10

Jump to Page: [1](#) [2](#) [3](#) [4](#)

Instrument Number	Book-Page	Date Filed	Document Type (+) = More Names	Name	Name Type (+) = More Names	Associated Name	Name Type	Legal Description	Image
20110429000007	000 - 000	04/29/2011	NOTICE			KING-COUNTY GOVT	E	SEC 14 TOWN 25 RANGE 06 142506-9025	
20110801000406	000 - 000	08/01/2011	AGREEMENT			KING-COUNTY GOVT	E	SEC 13 TOWN 25 RANGE 06 132506-9023	
20120619000679	000 - 000	06/19/2012	AGREEMENT			KING COUNTY	E		
199209291682		09/29/1992	WARRANTY DEED			WASHINGTON MUTUAL SAVINGS BANK (+)	E	LOT 04 1425069057 SHORT PLAT 376066	
199209291683		09/29/1992	DEED OF TRUST			UNION HILL JOINT VENTURE (+)	R	LOT 04 0000000000 SHORT PLAT 376066	Not scanned or not available online
199805142045		05/14/1998	WARRANTY DEED			SETJONO HERMAN (+)	R	1325069023 STR 13 25 06	
19990930001561		09/30/1999	FULL RECONVEYANCE			WASHINGTON RECONVEYANCE CO TRUSTEE (+)	R		

Figure 16. Results of a name search in King County's public records. Names have been redacted to protect the privacy of the property owners.

If there is no image, take note of the instrument number (this will lead you to the microfilm reel that has the deed), the names, and the name type (R = grantor; E = grantee). Repeat this process, searching the grantor's last name and look for

when she or he became the grantee. Continue working backwards like this until you find all of the transfers of property that occurred after 1976.

If you get stuck, it is likely because the transaction happened before 1976 and you will have to use your resources at your regional archive branch to continue your search. If the last purchase of property you are researching was before 1976, you will need to do all of your research in person at the Puget Sound Regional Branch and King County Archives. If this is the case, skip to the next section titled At the Puget Sound Regional Branch.

Look at survey and map records from after 1976

In addition to the BLM survey website, this search engine also allows you to search for surveys and maps completed since 1976. If you are close to a developing area, this information could be beneficial in determining how your section was subdivided into new parcels or consolidated into larger parcels.

- To do this, go back to the King County records search main menu and under Land Records, click on the link titled Maps (Figure 17).

Once the map search form loads, you can search for survey maps by the legal description.

- In the third box from the top, enter the section-township-range information for your property
- Click Search at the bottom of the page (Figure 18).

This will give you a broader search result than using a name. Searching just the name only identify records associated with that name. Searching by section-township-range will reveal all records within a square mile which can give you a better understanding of broader landscape surrounding your parcel, and will also help you find results if your parcel is fairly new (recently divided off of another parcel or lot). If you know the subplot number (from the survey maps and legal description) bring it with you to the archives.

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Official Public Records [Search](#)

Official Public Records (OPR) consist of all publicly accessible documents recorded by this office and may include deeds, mortgage documents, easements, assumed names (d.b.a.), powers of attorney, bills of sale, and liens.



Land Records

Document types available for search:

- [County Tax](#)
- [Maps](#) ←
- [Estate Name Reservations](#)
- [Registered Land \(Torrens\)](#)

Figure 17. Link to search for surveys and maps that pertain to your parcel.

Section Land

Section: Township: Range:

Qtr 1: Qtr 2:

Free Form

Freeform:

Figure 18. Map Survey search criteria form. The Section-township-range search box is third from the top.

At the Puget Sound Regional Branch

Before arriving at the Puget Sound Regional Branch, you should have made an appointment and talked with the archivist about which records you are coming to look at. For more information on appointments and available records, refer back to the sections titled Familiarize yourself with your regional archive branch and Make an appointment.

Commonly, the records on the cart brought out by the archivist will include property record cards (1937–1972) and a stack of tax assessment rolls (1937–1866). The property record cards often contain tax assessments, photographs of the building(s), segregation dates of property, some topography information, some ownership information, and some sales history. These record cards are organized by parcel number or legal description (subdivision name, block, and lot). It can be common for parcels to be subdivided after 1972, so a lot number from your plot survey map or a subplot number may not match the property record card but can be very helpful in determining the original one. If this is the case, the archivist can help you identify the lot number at the time of the property record card using Kroll’s atlases and Metsker maps. Once you find the correct card, take note of the owner and any transfer of ownership information. The owner at the time of the property record card will likely be the taxpayer for your lot in the most recent volume of the tax roll.

After you have studied the property record cards, you are now ready to locate the taxpayers for your property back to the original patent owner. Open the tax roll to the page with your property’s section-township-range using the index tabs on the side. Under each section is a list of the taxpayer for each lot within that section. Check that you have the correct legal description and then note the taxpayer at that time. Repeat this process for all of the tax roll volumes until you go as far back as the first records in 1866; or if you were able to find the original patent owner online, you can stop when you find his or her name. Once you finish this process, you are done at the Puget Sound Regional Branch.

Additional details on ownership record types found at the Puget Sound Regional Branch

Property Record or Reference Cards

These forms were used by the county assessor to record data on each parcel. They are organized by legal description and parcel number. Land-use code, zoning, acreage, and other features of the land may also be indicated on these forms. For properties with buildings, the cards will include the name of the plat, type of occupancy, date built, and other structural details used to assess the property value.

The information on these cards is abundant, so a sample card is provided here (Figure 19). Some of the key things to note for the purpose of this history are as follows:

- At the top of the card are the section, township, range, lot number, and property description. This is how you will determine that you have the correct property card.
- Just below, we can see that the owner, Beatrice Harsh, purchased this lot on June 26, 1931.
- Harsh purchased this property with a two-room cabin that was built in 1922, but it eventually burned down.
- The residents used a well for water and the land was farmed.

The bottom of the card describes the dimensions of the building and some cards may have a list of the owner or contract purchasers along with the date purchased. This may be another way to double check that you have the correct record card and line of ownership.

Follow the ownership records on the card forward in time. If the last owner on the card matches the owner from your online search, then you are on the right track. However, the likelihood of this is rare because when the cards became outdated, they were updated less and less. The original purchaser of the contract (Figure 19) will be the one that will help you to move back in time when reviewing the tax assessment rolls.

The back of the card will also be very helpful in terms of identifying divisions and consolidations of parcels or lots (Figure 20). For example, in 1952 this plot increased by almost 200 acres when eight lots were combined with this one. If your lot was subdivided, then check the property card of the lot it was subdivided from. If the property owners are the same, then you need to follow both of these lots through time when going through the tax assessment rolls.

Tax Assessment Rolls

Real property assessment and tax rolls were created to record the amount of property taxes assessed to real property. These records show the fee owner, the legal description of the property, the tax assessment, a record of payment, and who paid the taxes.

The tax rolls are very large, old books that need to be handled with care (Figure 21). On the side of the tax roll will be tabs indicating the township and ranges that the file covers. Open it to the township and range of your property. Flip to the page that has your section number on it. Each lot will be listed under the appropriate section (Figure 22). The first column is the taxpayer’s name, usually the owner, but not always. The second is the legal description within your section(s).

1. DISTRICT: ROAD 3

2. SECTION 14 TWP 25 N RANGE 6 TAX LOT NO. TAX LOTS
Tax Lot A/W 25

DESCRIPTION: S¹/₄ OF NE¹/₄ OF NE¹/₄ LESS W 60' AND S¹/₄ OF NE¹/₄ LESS W 60'

3. ADDRESS OF PROPERTY: Beatrice De Harsh

4. FEE OWNER: Beatrice De Harsh

5. ARCHITECT: G. J. P.

6. DATE: [blank]

7. CONDITION OF EXTERIOR: Poor

8. BUILDING: 1 Fmly Dwl, 1 Story, 2 Rooms, 1' 1st Flr, 1 Attic

9. CORNER JOINT: Log

10. FIRST FLOOR JOIST SIZE: 6" Poles AND 4" IRON CENTERS BRIDGED

11. FIRST FLOOR JOIST SUPPORT COLUMN OR POST SIZE: 10" Poles

12. CLASS OR GRADE NO.: Cabin

13. BUILDING FINISHED OR UNFINISHED: Finished

14. DEPRECIATION: CONDITION 80 % OBSOLETE % ECON. SUIT % TOTAL

YEAR BUILT 1922 REMODELED No EFFECTIVE AGE 20 YRS. FUTURE LIFE 5 YRS

15. SEWAGE: Static

16. DRAINAGE: [blank]

17. TREND: Static

18. LAND USE: [blank]

19. SOIL TYPE: [blank]

20. CROPS: [blank]

21. ROAD: Yes, Well

22. WATER: Res. Farming

23. PUMP: [blank]

24. USE: Res. Farming

25. LAND SIZE: [blank] X [blank] TOTAL NUMBER OF ACRES: [blank]

26. ASSESSED VALUE \$: [blank]

27. REMARKS: [blank]

28. MAIN BUILDING DIMENSION: 18 X 30 SQ. FT. AREA: 540

29. IMPROVEMENT VALUE: MAIN BUILDING \$ 40, OTHER BUILDINGS \$ 20, TOTAL \$ 60, ASSESSED VALUE 50% \$ 30, DATE 1/1/40-

200



Figure 19. The front, top half of a property record or reference card. This indicates the taxpayer, section, township, range, lot number, property description, buildings, and residential use.

DISTRICT: ROAD 3

SCHOOL: 125-208, 414-65

WATER: 59, FIRE: 34

SEWER: [blank], HOSPITAL: #2, AIRPORT: [blank], FERRY: [blank], PATTERSON: [blank], FLOOD ZONE: [blank]

DECREASE OR INCREASE IN AS: [blank]

YEAR	AC.	LAND	BLDG'S. (2)	TOTAL	DATE	BY	142506-025	4640
1940	25	260	110	370				
1950	11	280	110	390				
1952	218	1140	110	1250	11-20-51	Not (w)	(14)	(13)(14)(15)(16)(17)(20) killed (log # 6126)
1952	218	1150	110	1260	1-21-52	77x(w)		0 killed - log # 7295
1956	512	500	110	610	1/26/56	NL(B)		SEG 25 fr 17 SEG. D-586
1958	451	1510	110	1620	10-2-56	Arm H		low
1963		4640	280	4920	12-6-57	JT.		Bldg "A" Revalue
1963		4640	280	4920	9-20-61	Res		No
1968		4640	280	4920	11/13/61	RM.		200 Imp. Void - burned
1971		8990		8990	11-28-67	L. G. R. V.		R. V.
1971	L	17980	B	T	10/25/68	LS		R. V.
T 17980*142506-9025-0 8/9								

Figure 20. The back side of the record card will identify the assessed value of the property through time. Consolidations and subdivisions are indicated here. In 1952, this property was consolidated with eight additional lots.

PARCEL NUMBER	SALE DATE	E-NUMBER	SALE PRICE	INSTRUMENT	GRANTOR	GRANTEE
142506-9045	02/18/78	340289	0	SALE	ELOO INC	W SHIOMI
142506-9046	04/02/77	411514	19,000	CONTRACT	HANKEE KENNETH S WINTIFRED G	CARR, TILLMAN
142506-9047	10/20/73	327328	11,200	CONTRACT	ELOO INC	W SHIOMI
142506-9048	02/18/78	340290	0	SALE	ELOO INC	W SHIOMI
142506-9049	02/09/76	338740	21,250	CONTRACT	E M BUSCESS	J H KRANIG
142506-9050	02/09/76	338740	21,250	CONTRACT	E M BUSCESS	J H KRANIG
142506-9051	02/09/76	338742	22,500	CONTRACT	E M BUSCESS	J H KRANIG
142506-9052	04/02/78	340291	12,400	CONTRACT	W SHIOMI	G S TANGEN
142506-9053	10/21/78	362452	12,200	CONTRACT	SHIOMI WILCEMITSUKO	STUBBERG, DANIEL M
142506-9054	02/10/78	463729	30,000	CONTRACT	SHIOMI WILCEMITSUKO	SMITH, FREDERICK J
142506-9055	02/25/77	346799	12,000	CONTRACT	HANKEE KENNETH S WINTIFRED G	FOSTER, CLYDE E
142506-9056	02/25/77	346799	12,000	CONTRACT	FOSTER, CLYDE E	WILSON ENTERPRISES INC
142506-9057	07/15/77	440770	16,000	CONTRACT	HANKEE KENNETH S WINTIFRED G	NOBLE, WILLIAM D
142506-9058	10/21/77	440770	25,000	CONTRACT	SHERMAN EARL H BEATRICE B	MACKY, JOSEPH A
142506-9059	11/15/77	440770	16,000	CONTRACT	HANKEE KENNETH S WINTIFRED G	NOBLE, WILLIAM D
142506-9060	01/30/78	455418	21,200	CONTRACT	HANKEE KENNETH S WINTIFRED G	NOBLE, WILLIAM D

Figure 24. Microfilm card that contains information about property transfers between 1973 and 1981.

Transfers of property between 1853 and 1975

Locating the deeds for transfers of property between 1853 and 1975 is a two-step process that uses two different sets of microfilm cartridges. First you will need to use the grantor and grantee microfilm index cartridges. The index cartridge will identify the location (volume, document type, and page number) of the document cartridge. The document cartridge holds the copy of the deed for the owners that you identified at the Puget Sound Regional Branch.

The grantor and grantee index cartridges are on a spinning rack in the back right-hand side of the room (Figure 25). You can start your research from past to present or present to past. If you do your research from past to present, you will want to use

the grantor listings, but if you do your research from present to past, then you will need the grantee listings. The listings are on these index cartridges organized by last name and date (Figure 26). Pull the index cartridge (or two) that covers the dates and names in which your records show a transfer in ownership. Load that microfilm index cartridge, and search for the taxpayer name. Once you find the record you are looking for, make note of the volume, type of document, and page number. This information will lead you to the document cartridge that has the copy of the deed on it. You can do this for each of the grantors and grantees that you have listed throughout your property history.



Figure 26. Grantee microfilm index cartridge indicating the grantee names and dates of transfer it contains.



Figure 25. Grantor and grantee microfilm index.

Once you have the information on how to find the correct document cartridge with the deed on it, go into the volume room just to the right of the Index rack (Figure 27). The document cartridges are in these drawers based on the volume number. Load the microfilm document cartridge and fast forward to the page number that you recorded for your specific deed.

The type of deed will be displayed along with the grantor, grantee, and selling price. The example below is a sheriff deed from 1896 (Figure 28). Sheriff deeds were issued when a property was foreclosed on and resold by the sheriff to cover the property owner's neglected taxes. Just from this deed, we discovered that the owner could not pay their taxes, and the sheriff took control of the property, which was valued at \$1,920.45. This is interesting because there was a depression in the area during the time of this deed, suggesting that this property owner was unable to make enough money to pay their taxes. With dates, people, and deeds collected, you can start to piece together the narrative of your land's history.

You can repeat this process until you find all of the deeds and records from your property. Once you have completed this process, then your property history research at the archives is complete. If you choose, you can do additional genealogy research (beyond the scope of this manual) to learn more about each of the landowners.



Figure 27. Microfilm volume room.

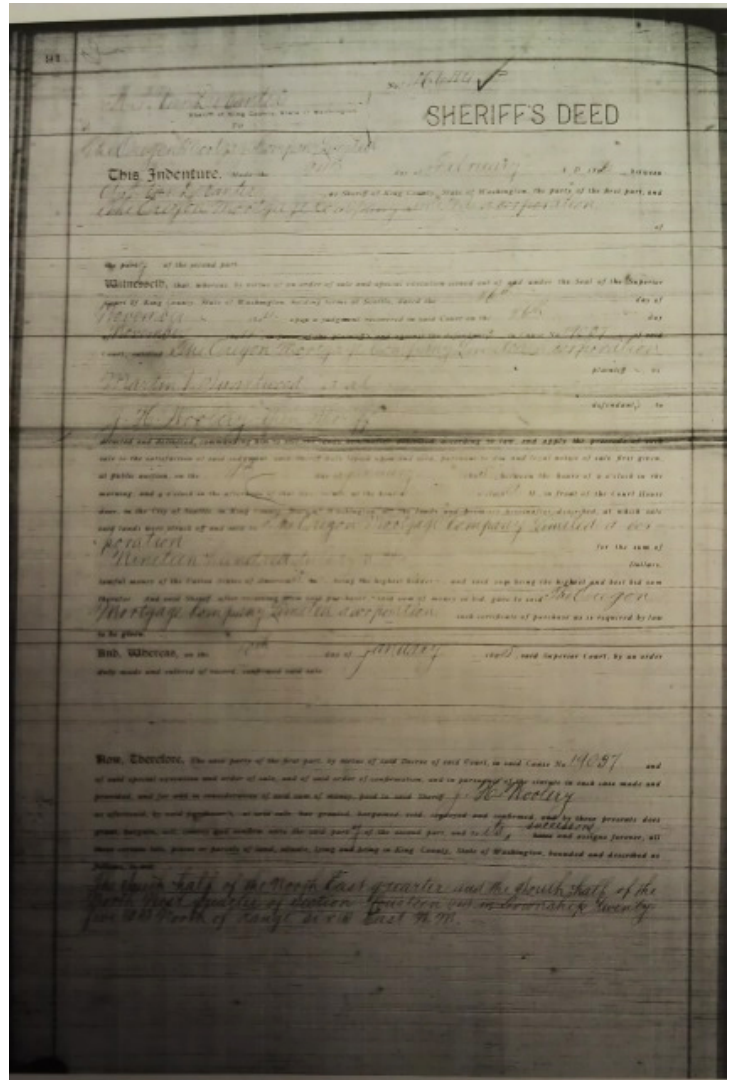


Figure 28. Example of a sheriff's deed from 1896. The property was valued at \$1,920.45.

Property land-use history

A land-use history is the compilation of records identifying how the land was used by the previous owners as well as natural disturbances that were identified to have occurred on the property.

This section will discuss the online and in-person research options for identifying some of the natural and anthropogenic disturbances that may have occurred on or around your property.

Land Use History Process Chart

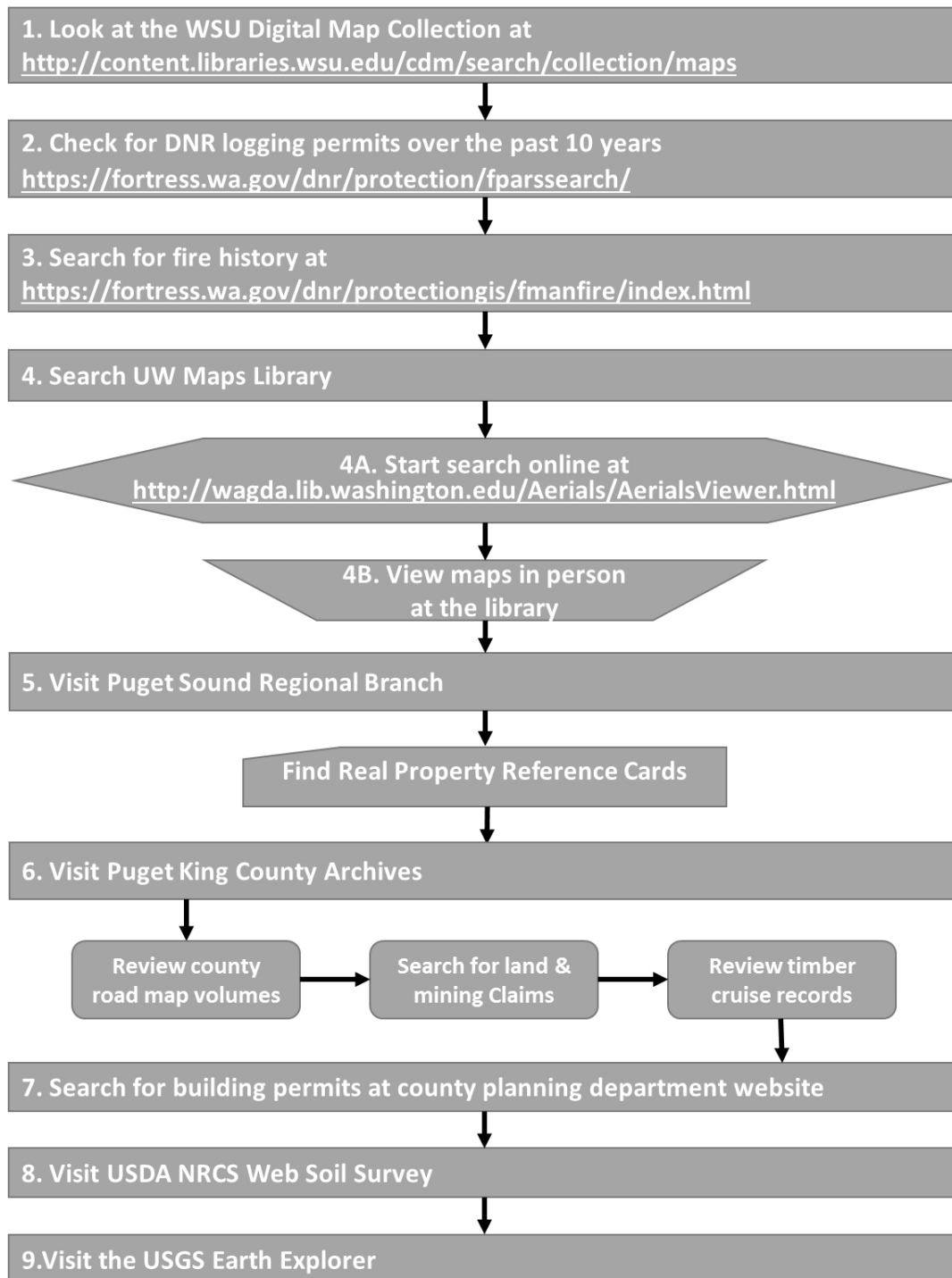


Figure 29. The following chart offers a visual representation of the land-use history search process explained in this section.

This manual covers only those research techniques that reveal records and information on natural and anthropogenic disturbances that have occurred in post-European settlement history. The complete history of land management in this region dates back thousands of years. Pre-European management and natural history research goes beyond the scope of this manual, but you are encouraged to explore this information on your own.

Figure 29 offers a visual representation of the land-use history search process explained in this section.

Start at home

Search Washington State University's Digital Collection

The [WSU Digital Collection](#) website has more than 925 high-quality historic maps available. You can search these maps by type, subject, location, date, and creator via the legend on the left-hand side of the page (Figure 30).

1. Start by choosing your map collection on the left. There are 85 to choose from, but only a few will pertain to land use.
2. After you choose your collection, enter the word "forestry" into the search bar at the top of the page. Maps about land classifications, tax designations, and forest characteristics are available.
3. Click on the title of the map to open it.

The map will open in a viewer that will allow you to zoom in and rotate the map (Figure 31). Below the map will be a list of the map's details. The map in Figure 31 is from 1898 and identifies the dominant timber species present in a particular area. These maps are very interesting because they can reveal not only the dominant species but also information about which trees were considered valuable and merchantable at the time. Other maps, like the land classification maps, will offer information about the logging regimes that have taken place. For example, there are maps that indicate locations that are naturally timberless or those that have experienced a fire, logging, or regeneration event. All of the WSU Digital Collection maps can be downloaded or printed for future observations.

The screenshot shows the WSU Digital Collections search interface. At the top, there are navigation tabs: "Digital Collections Home", "Early Washington Maps Home", and "Browse This Collection". A search bar contains the text "forestry" and has a "Search" button. Below the search bar, there are options for "within results" and "Advanced Search". On the left side, there is a section titled "Add or remove other collections to your search:" with several checkboxes, including "Early Washington Maps" which is checked. Below this is a "Narrow your search by:" section with expandable menus for "Type", "Subject", "Creator", "Date.Original", and "Location Depicted". The main content area shows search results for "Early Washington Maps". The search criteria are "All fields: forestry" and "(31 results)". The results are sorted by "Title" and displayed in a table with columns: "Thumbnail", "Title", "Date.Original", "Collection", and "Description".

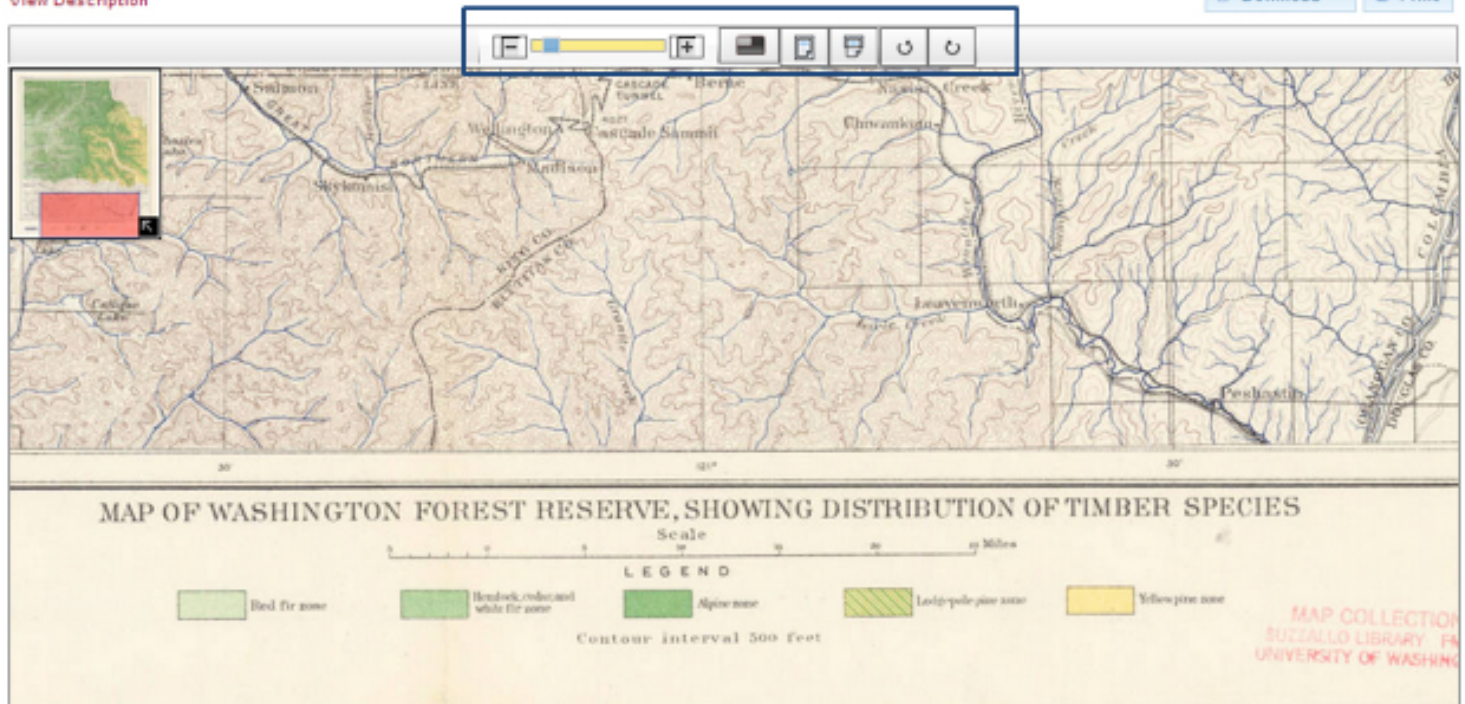
Thumbnail	Title	Date.Original	Collection	Description
	Density of forests Washington State, (1885)	1884	Early Washington Maps	1 map : col. ; 24 x 39 cm. Color shaded areas show ranges of "cords per acre". "Tenth Census of the United States" in upper right. Scale ca. 1:1,750,000.
	Forest type map, state of Washington, NE sheet (1936)	1936	Early Washington Maps	1 map : col. ; 97 x 158 cm. Relief shown by hachures and spot heights. Scale 1:253,440. 1 in. = 4 miles ; Lambert proj. (W 125° W 117° N 49° N 45°)

Figure 30. WSU Digital Collection search page and options. Search for maps by collection, keywords, type, subject, creator, date, or location.

Map of Washington Forest Reserve, showing distribution of timber species (1898). Washington Forest Reserve, map showing distribution of timber species (1898)

[View Description](#)

[Download](#) [Print](#)



Description

Rating: ★★★★★ Based on 0 rating(s)

Title: **Map of Washington Forest Reserve, showing distribution of timber species (1898). Washington Forest Reserve, map showing distribution of timber species (1898)**

Figure 31. WSU Digital Collection map viewer and map indicating the tree species distribution in the Washington Forest Reserve in 1898.

Find previous logging permits issued on your parcel

All landowners apply for logging permits through their regional Department of Natural Resources (DNR) office. Records for these permits have only recently become digitized and are now available via the [Forest Practices Review \(FPARS\) FPA/N search](#) site. Records are kept in this database for up to ten years, and then they are usually discarded. Unfortunately, it is very difficult to find records of logging permits for farther back in history than ten years from any given time.

1. To begin your search, enter your parcel number or legal description and click, Search (Figure 32). A list of permit applications will generate.
2. Click on the link to the document type to view the permit applications (Figure 33).

These permits and applications give information on the applicant, location and size of harvest, purpose of harvest, and approving forester. If you have any questions about using this system or logging permits, contact:

DNR’s Small Forest Landowner’s Office
 Address: PO BOX 47012
 Olympia, WA 98504-7012
 Phone: 360-902-1415
 Fax: 360-902-1428
 E-mail: sflo@dnr.wa.gov

Fire history and statewide assessment data

In an effort to support the National Fire Plan, the DNR has made their fire and forest inventory data available via the Fire Prevention and Fuel Management Mapping System. Historical records are available for information on fire history (1970–present), insects and disease (2007–present), historical vegetation, and tree mortality (1989–2008) throughout Washington State. Additionally, information about soils, forest disturbance, smoke management, and forest inventory can be accessed using this portal.

Figure 32. The forest permit search tool on the FPARS. Enter your parcel number or legal description to find logging permits applied for on or near your property.

FPAN	Notification Date	Document Type
2806136	09/16/2004	Entire Application As Adobe Acrobat File

Figure 33. To view the permit applications, click on the link to the Document Type.

Setting up the map:

1. To start, access the [Fire Prevention and Fuel Management Mapping System](#). When the page loads, you will see a map of Washington with preloaded fire data highlighted on the map in various colors (Figure 34).
2. On the top-right side of the map is a toolbar. Click on the search tool (🔍) and enter your section-township-range into the appropriate boxes. This will tell the map to zoom into the general area of your property.
3. You can customize the type of base map by clicking on the (🗄️). For example, if you click the 🗄️ and then choose Imagery, the background of the map will change to a satellite picture.

Looking at the data:

1. To the left of the map, you will see a legend with three tabs. The first tab is a list of the data that are available to load onto the map. Select the first folder or link called Wildfire & Prevention.
2. A sub-list should generate under the folder title. Each item in this list represents a different layer of information or data (Figure 35). There are boxes next to each data set. If you check the box, then that data set will become active. This means that the data will become highlighted on the map.
3. Next to the check boxes you will find an ⓘ. When you click on this icon, a description of the data set will pop up under the map. This information is useful to determine if you would like to make that data active or not.

4. Lastly, there will be a down arrow (⌵) on the right side of each of the datasets (Figure 35). When you click on this arrow, you will have the option to retrieve details, zoom in to, and adjust the transparency (ability to view multiple stacked layers at once) of that data set.
5. Clicking on the Wildfire & Prevention folder link again will close the list. You can repeat this process for each of the folders, activating and inactivating the datasets that are of interest to you.

The second tab is a list of the active layers. This will help you to keep track of the layer you have selected without having to rifle through the folders again and again. The third tab is a legend for those active layers (Figure 34). As you select layers to be active, different colored circles will appear on the map. The legend identifies what the colors represent. You can find more information about the circles by clicking on them (Figure 36). Make sure that you click the circle and not the map behind it.

Other useful tools:



This tool will allow you to zoom in and out of the map.



This tool will bring you back to the map of the whole state of Washington.



You can measure distances with this tool.



You can create a bookmark of your map using this tool. This will allow you to come back to the same map you have been working on.

If you run into trouble or have questions, click the Contact link in the top right-hand side of the map to send an email.

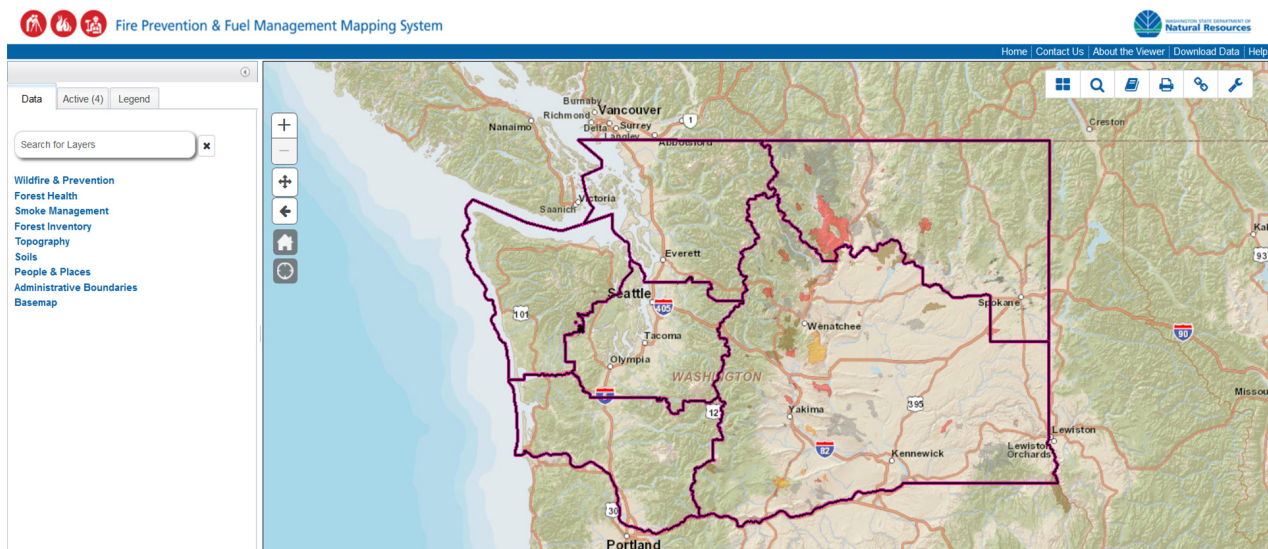


Figure 34. The Fire Prevention and Fuel Management Mapping System. Use this map to look up fire history and forest health data that may be relevant to your property.

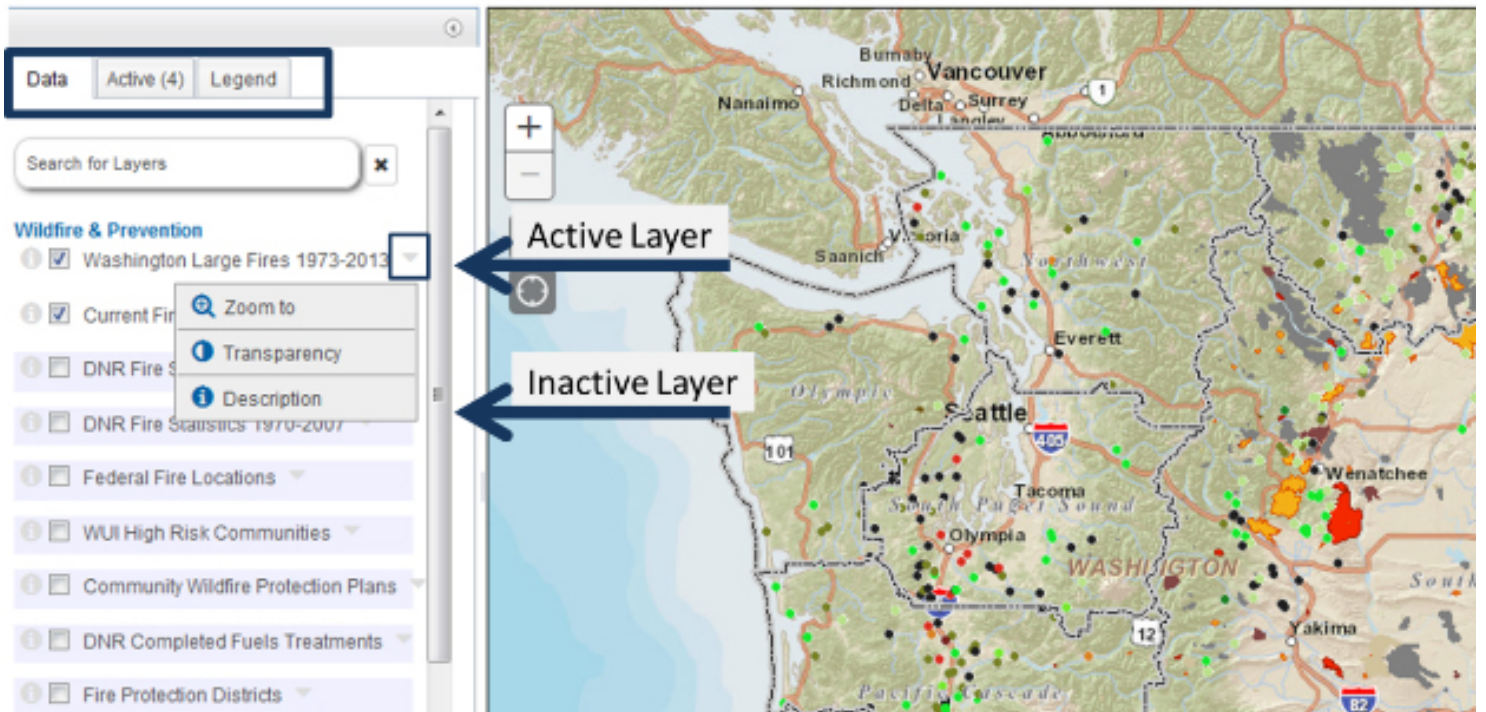


Figure 35. The tab and information buttons will assist you in viewing the available data. Active layers have a checked box while inactive layers do not.

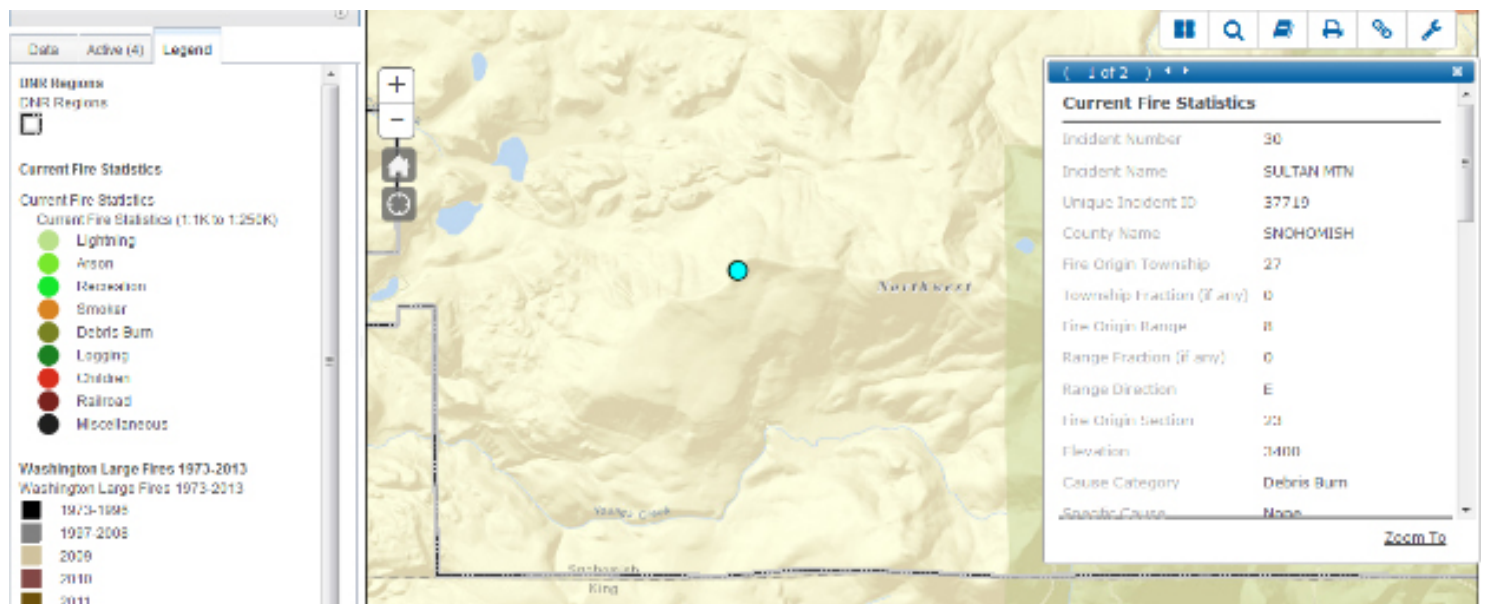


Figure 36. The information that will be presented when you click on a data point in the map viewer. This is also what the legend tab will look like when selected.

Using the University of Washington Maps Library

The University of Washington Libraries have an extensive maps department. This department holds thematic, street, land-use, topography, parcel, road, and zoning maps by county, city, or section-township-range. You can search for available maps and photos online with the [University of Washington Aerials Viewer](#).

1. Start by selecting the Zoom button in the toolbar at the top of the map (Figure 37).
2. Draw a box around the general vicinity of your property by clicking the mouse and holding it down while you scroll diagonally over your property's location. The box will draw in red.
3. When you are happy with the area, let go of the mouse and the map will zoom in to that location. You can keep zooming in like this until you have found your property. (HINT: If the map becomes off center, click on the Pan button to move the map around. This will allow you to grab the map and move it side to side as well as up and

down. You can pan the map at any time. If you would like to continue zooming, you will need to click on Zoom once more to restart that feature.)

4. To help guide you, click on the Townships and Township Labels buttons so that you can be sure you are in the correct location. You can also search by county or year in the search box in the purple banner at the top of the page.
5. Once you find your property, scroll down to the bottom of the page. There will be a list of all the maps that the library has of that location (Figure 38).

The results box will scroll down and horizontally to give more information. This feature has a few tools that will help you to get a better idea of what information that map will provide. The Zoom tool will outline and zoom the online viewer to the full extent of the map available in the library. The Open PDF tool will open a downloadable PDF of the map in a separate window. The On/Off tool will turn the map on and off in the viewer.

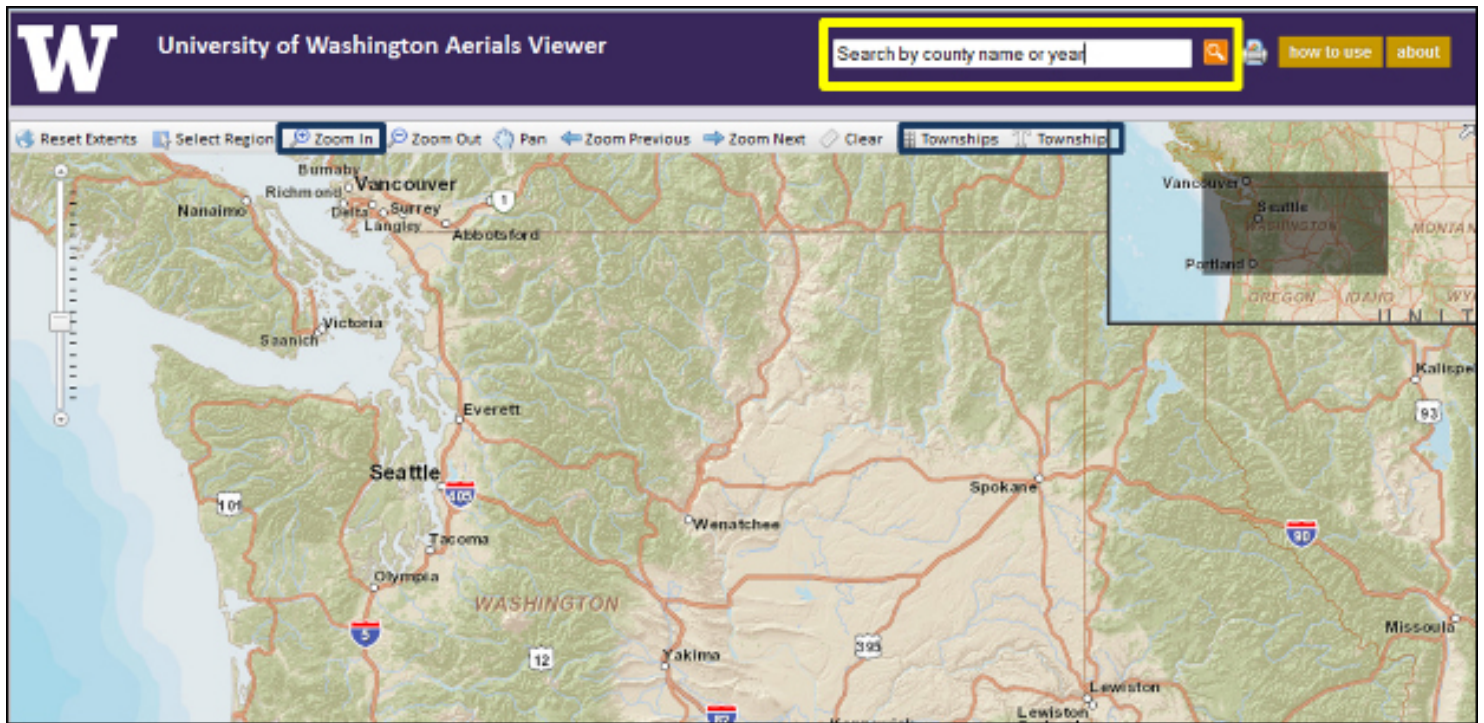


Figure 37. University of Washington Aerial Viewer. Search for your property by using the search box or zoom in tool.

Zoom	Open PDF	On/Off	Title	Author	Index Map	Date	Scale	Color	Subject
		<input type="checkbox"/>	BBI	United States. Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service	BBI	1964	Scale 1:20,000	b&w	Snohomish County (Wash.) – Aerial photographs
		<input type="checkbox"/>	BBI enlargements	United States. Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service	BBI-ENLARGE_5	1964	Scale (ca. 1:7,700)	b&w	Snohomish County (Wash.) – Aerial photographs", "King County (W
		<input type="checkbox"/>	BBI enlargements	United States. Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service	BBI-ENLARGE_3	1964	Scale (ca. 1:7,700)	b&w	Snohomish County (Wash.) – Aerial photographs", "King County (W
		<input type="checkbox"/>	BBI enlargements	United States. Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service	BBI-ENLARGE_4	1964	Scale (ca. 1:7,700)	b&w	Snohomish County (Wash.) – Aerial photographs", "King County (W

Figure 38. Index of maps in the library that cover the area searched for. Click Zoom to see the extent of the map, Open PDF to open a printable version of the map, and use the On/Off tool to open the map in the viewer.

You can view these online maps at the library on the computers in the maps department. You can also do this online part of the research at home and bring the map descriptions with you to the library to facilitate finding the hard copies. The staff at the library are very helpful and knowledgeable and will teach you how to use the descriptors to find the maps in their files.

At the Puget Sound Regional Branch and King County Archives

In addition to ownership history information, the Puget Sound Regional Branch and King County Archives in Bellevue and Seattle, respectively, also have information on land use.

When you arrive at the archives, the archivist will bring out any timber records that you requested. Take lots of pictures of these records and note any information about tree species, logging, mining locations, and the original roads that access your property. If there are dates available, you can try to match them up with the owner of your property at that time.

Property Record or Reference Cards (Puget Sound Regional Archives)

These forms were used by county assessors to record data on each parcel. These forms are organized by legal description and parcel number. Land-use code, zoning, acreage, and other features of the land may also be indicated on these forms. For properties with buildings, the cards will include the name of the plat, type of occupancy, date built, and other structural details used to assess the property value.

The back of the card will include a land-use and topography sketch of the lot (Figure 39). The larger, permanent box printed on the card represents the township. The smaller boxes are the sections within the township. The sketch will be drawn in relation to your property's location within the appropriate section of the township. On the right side of the sketch will be a legend defining the symbols used in the sketch.

This sketch can give you some insight on your property today. For example, if the sketch indicates stumps in an area where you now have trees, then you can infer the property has second growth timber on it. Remember, these are only insights for making connections to the past use. Current conditions are best evaluated by performing inventory sampling on your property. Information on doing your own forest inventory is available in Pacific Northwest Extension Publication PNW630: [Basic Forest Inventory Techniques for Family Forest Owners](#).

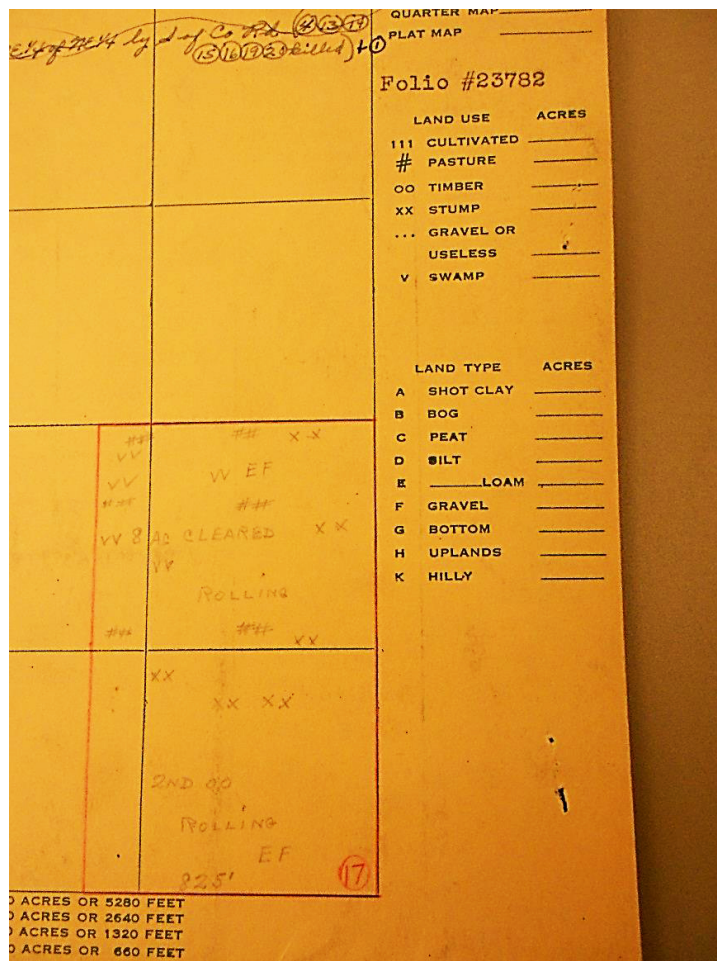


Figure 39. The back side of a property record or reference card can include a land-use and topography sketch of the lot. The legend is on the right.

County road map volumes (King County Archives)

County road map volumes are organized by year and legal description. The county road maps are organized to include one township for each volume. Each page within the township volume is represented by a section (Figure 40). The sections are marked somewhere on the top of the page.

In the particular volume shown in Figure 40, you can find the section on the top-right corner page protector. Additionally, there is a legend on the back page of the volume (Figure 41). These maps are interesting and important to look at because they provide detailed information about the local transportation route locations and frequency of use. Popular road routes will be identified as being constructed with sturdier road material, such as concrete rather than earth.



Figure 40. The county road map volume for township 25N, range 6E. Each page within the volume is represented by a section. The section number is circled in white.

Land and Mining Claims (King County Archives)

Land claims are difficult to find for a given property because they are organized by name and date. This means that you need previous knowledge of a claim. If you are able to determine that your property may have had a land or mining claim on it, then you have to request the volume by name, date, or both. The claims are entered chronologically, and you will have to flip through each of them to find the exact claim you are looking for.

Mining claims include notices of the location or relocation of the presence of a mineral, permits for mill site locations, and notices of quartz locations. The claims will describe what the claim is for and the location of that claim (Figure 42).

Timber cruise records (King County Archives)

Between 1907 and 1967, the King County Assessor’s Office performed forest surveys, or timber cruises, on lands with harvestable timber. These surveys were completed in an effort to estimate the quantity and taxable value of the timber in each of the sections throughout the county. Timber cruise records are organized by section-township-range. Each volume is a township, and each entry within that volume is a section (Figure 43). At the beginning of the volume is a topographic map and total timber estimate for the entire township (Figure 44).

As you turn the pages, you will see entries for each section. There are three pages to each entry, identified by the legal description at the top. The first page gives a general description of the land, including topography, some property, evidence of timber clearing, and timber estimates. The second page contains a map, list of cruisers, date of the cruise, and remarks about the land and potential logging conditions. The third page is an estimate of the merchantable timber by species and a description of the character or quality of that timber (Figure 45).

LEGEND		
Type of Road	Symbol	Township Maps India Ink & Water Color
Dual Type	M	Black India Ink
Concrete	J	Black India Ink
Brick	K	Black India Ink
Bituminous Concrete	G-1	Black & Green
Gravel - Oiled	E-3	Green Water Color
Gravel - Untreated	E-2	Vermilion Water Color
Earth - Graded & Drained	C	Vermilion Water Color
Earth - Unimproved	A B	Vermilion Water Color

Figure 41. The legend associated with the county road map records pictured in Figure 40.

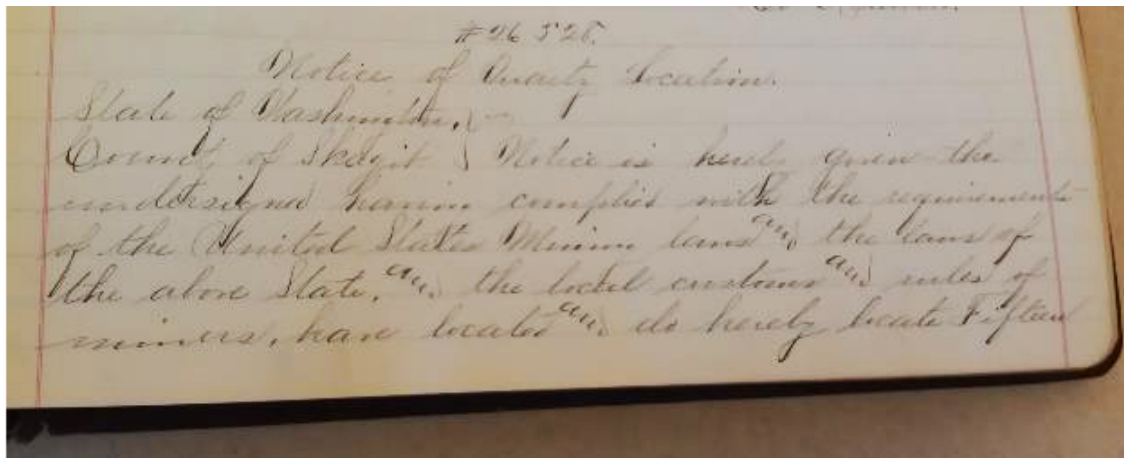


Figure 42. Example of a mining entry. This claim is for identification of quartz.



Figure 43. Timber cruise record volumes. Each volume covers an entire township.

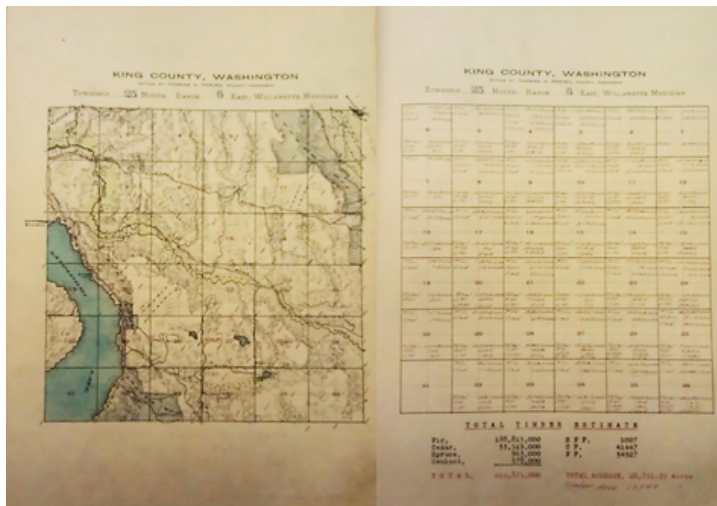


Figure 44. The page on the left is a topographic map of the township covered by the volume. The second page is the total timber estimate for the entire township.

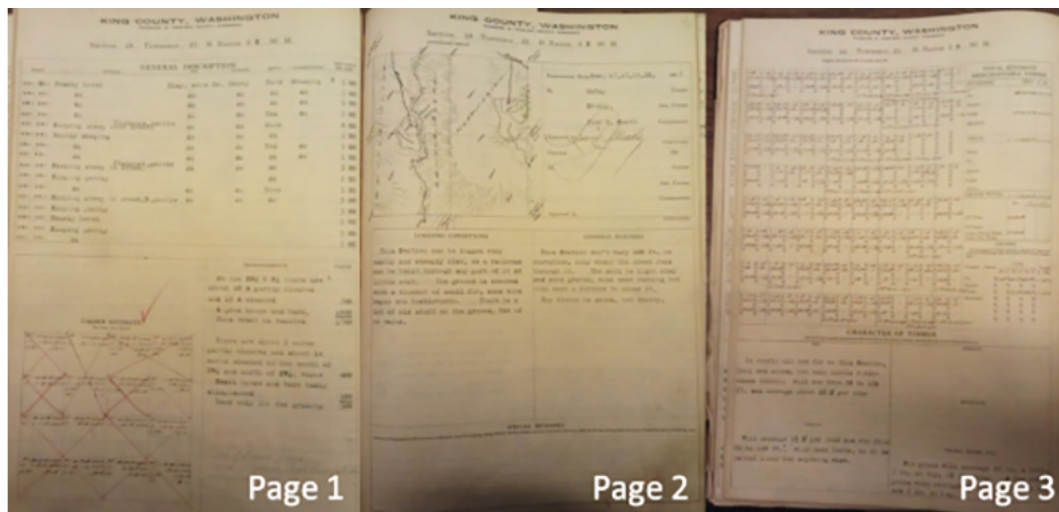


Figure 45. A three-page entry for a section within a timber cruise record volume. Page one gives a general description of the land; page two is a map and cruise details; and page three is an estimate of the merchantable timber.

Other resources

Building permits

These permits are required for the clearing of forest for development. These permits can include information on the building owner, architect, builder, date issued, and, in some cases, building inspector notes and building completion date. They can be found at the [King County Department of Development and Environmental Services](#) (35050 SE Douglas St., Ste. 210, Snoqualmie, WA 98065)

County Assessor

Contact your county assessor to find out if your property was ever enrolled in a tax benefit program that may have involved tree harvest or land conservation.

Local Histories

Inquire at your local library, historical society, or nearby institutions for histories of nearby schools, parks, churches, businesses, libraries, trolley lines, etc.

Biographies and other historical information

Northwest newspaper and magazine card file indexes with information on local history topics, such as biography, business, events, and others. Find these indexes at the Seattle Public Library's Seattle Room and UW Libraries Special Collections in the Suzallo Library.

Census

US Census for Washington from 1860 to 1940. Microfilm copies of the census are located at the National Archives, Pacific Northwest Branch, in Seattle, and the Seattle Public Library. Information is also available through [Ancestry.com](#) (1860–1940).

Soil Survey

USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service offers free nationwide soil information. This soil information can be accessed at the [Web Soil Survey](#). For a step-by-step guide on how to navigate the Web Soil Survey for information about your property, refer to WSU Extension Publication EM064 [Forest Soil Data for your Forest Stewardship Plan](#).

USGS Earth Explorer

Visit the [USGS Earth Explorer](#) for a comprehensive collection of aerial photography, satellite imagery, elevation data, land cover products, and digitized maps, as well as remotely-sensed data for a given zip code or address.

More Resources

Genealogical research, local historical societies and museums, cemeteries, local and neighborhood newspapers, death records, probate records, civil and criminal cases, state penitentiary prisoner records, etc., are additional resources available to add to your property history research.

Glossary

aerial photo. Photographic prints, typically of a landscape, showing geographic features and property changes.

agreement. A legal arrangement between two or more parties as to a course of action or plan on a property.

aliquots. A part or piece of a section.

archive. A collection of historical records available for the public to view.

assessor. An elected official who evaluates property value, usually for tax purposes.

cash entry patent. A land patent purchased with cash.

claim. A legal record protecting the terms of a patent or patent application.

covenant. A binding agreement.

deed. A legal document that transfers title of real estate.

easement. An agreement in which a property owner grants the use of a private land feature for a specified purpose; some examples may include access roads, open space, minerals, and utility lines.

field notes. Detailed descriptions of the instrumentation and procedures utilized during a land survey.

general index to recordings. The index to documents filed with the county auditor organized by landowner name.

grantee. Receiver or buyer of property.

grantor. Conveyor or seller of property.

homestead patent. A land patent which was offered for free to those who have lived on and cultivated that land for a minimum of three years.

land patent. A deed transferring public property (by the government) to private individuals.

land use. How humans use, manage, and modify the natural environment.

land-use history. Compilation of records identifying how land was utilized by the previous property owners as well as natural disturbances that were identified to have occurred on the property.

legal description. The location of a property described by the section-township-range, and lot and block in a plat, or subdivision for platted properties.

lien. Legal documents giving the right of one person to retain land as collateral for a debt or claim.

logging permit (forest practices permit). A permit issued by the DNR that allows the harvesting of timber, constructing of forest roads and trails, or other regulated forestry activities.

map layer. A set of data specific to a geographic area that is read when overlaid onto a map.

merchantable timber. Standing trees that have commercial value.

military warrant patent. A patent in which fees were waved for veterans in partial compensation for military service.

mine lease. Legal document explaining the right to work a mine and extract minerals.

mortgage. A lien or claim against real property which offers security to the lender to take possession of the land if the buyer is unable to pay.

ownership history. Outline of property ownership transfers through time.

parcel number. Assessor's identification number for a specific property.

plat. Map or representation of a lot, subdivision, or community drawn by a surveyor. Plats typically include boundary lines, improvements, and sometimes easements and buildings.

property detail. The assessor information, including parcel data, legal descriptions, land data, views, waterfront, designations, nuisances, problems, environmental details, building information, tax and sales information, and history.

property record card. A history of a parcel of real property used to assess property taxes. The cards include information such as legal description, building use, number of rooms, some construction details, and, for improved property, at least one photograph.

property report. Assessor's report for a particular parcel, including legal description, owner, building information, tax information, and tax roll history.

Public Land Survey System. A series of survey lines developed to locate property within the US. This system was widely used through the early 1970s before street and home numbering became popular.

quarter section. An area of one-fourth of a square mile, or 160 acres. This is the typical size of a homesteading aliquot.

quitclaim deed. A transfer of the remaining interest on a real property to a new party.

range. A column of townships designated by the Public Land Survey System.

real property. A stationary property that has been legally defined, including identification of land area, buildings, etc.

second growth timber. An area of mature trees that have regrown after logging or natural disturbance.

section. A piece of property designated by the Public Land Survey System that is one square mile in size.

section-township-range coordinates. A three-part number (also referred to as the STR number) derived from the Public Land Survey System, commonly used in the legal description of a property. The number locates a piece of property in relation to a section within a township within a range. It is still used to locate historical map information, records, and aerial photographs in archives collections.

sheriff deed. A transfer of property in which the real property is sold to a buyer in order to pay off a debt (typically from inability to pay the property tax).

subdivision. Breaking up or dividing of a property into smaller pieces.

survey. A graphical representation of an accurate measurement used to locate real property boundaries. Surveys are used in construction, plat, and subdivision layouts.

tax assessment rolls (real property assessment). Property taxes assessed to real property. These records indicate the owner, the legal description, tax assessment, and record of payment.

timber cruise. The practice and reporting of examining an area of forest to determine its potential commercial value.

topography. Description of the variation in physical features of an area of land (e.g., hills and valleys).

township. A square of thirty-six adjacent, one-square-mile sections designated by the Public Land Survey System. Townships lie adjacent to each other in relation to latitude.

warranty deed. Contains a guarantee explaining that the grantor is the true owner of the title being transferred.

Website reference list

This is a list of websites and online publications found in the text. They are organized alphabetically.

- Basic Forest Inventory Techniques for Family Forest Owners
<https://pubs.wsu.edu/ItemDetail.aspx?ProductID=15488>
- Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) General Land Office Records website
<http://www.glorerecords.blm.gov/search/default.aspx>
- Forest Soil Data for Your Forest Stewardship Plan
<https://pubs.wsu.edu/ListItems.aspx?Keyword=em064>
- Fire Prevention and Fuel Management Mapping System
<https://fortress.wa.gov/dnr/protectiongis/fmanfire/index.html>
- Forest Practices Application Review System
<https://fortress.wa.gov/dnr/protection/fparssearch/>
- Inventory Sampling publication
<https://pubs.wsu.edu/ItemDetail.aspx?ProductID=15488&SeriesCode=&CategoryID=&Keyword=inventory>
- King County Department of Development and Environmental Services <http://www.kingcounty.gov/property/permits.aspx>
- King County Parcel Viewer 2.0
<http://www.kingcounty.gov/operations/GIS/PropResearch/ParcelViewer.aspx>
- King County Building Permits
<http://www.kingcounty.gov/property/permits.aspx>
- King County Recorded Documents
<http://www.kingcounty.gov/operations/archives/recordings/holdings.aspx#documents>
- King County Records website
<http://www.kingcounty.gov/business/Recorders/RecordsSearch.aspx>
- Online Encyclopedia of Washington State History
<http://historylink.org/>
- Puget Sound Region Guide to Holdings
http://www.sos.wa.gov/archives/archives_holdings.aspx?r=4
- University of Washington Aerials Viewer
<http://wagda.lib.washington.edu/Aerials/AerialsViewer.html>
- USGS Earth Explorer
<http://earthexplorer.usgs.gov/>
- Washington State Archives
<http://www.sos.wa.gov/archives/>
- Washington State Archives Services and Fees
<http://www.sos.wa.gov/archives/fees.aspx>
- Washington State Integrated Forest Management Plan Guidelines
http://forestry.wsu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/Stewardship_Plan_Guidelines.pdf
- Web Soil Survey
<http://websoilsurvey.sc.egov.usda.gov/>
- WSU Digital Collection website
<http://content.libraries.wsu.edu/cdm/search/collection/maps>



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