

SR 23: Special Rules Covering Tree Cutting

July 2025

23. As recognized by Washington State law, trees belong to the land. Thus, Club members may not profit individually from trees on their assigned lots or elsewhere on corporation property nor can firewood be removed from Club grounds. Trees enhance the beauty of the Club and provide a special and unique ecosystem. Thus, members must contact the Grounds Committee before cutting any trees on any corporation property, except in emergencies (e.g., trees that have been damaged by weather and that threaten member's improvement). Yarding report must be submitted as required by the State of Washington.

a. No tree may be cut for personal financial gain. Profit from cutting of trees (sale of trees less cutting costs) must be given to the Corporation. If trees are cut and sold, the member must provide the Board of Trustees with an itemized invoice showing sale price and cutting costs.

b. No tree anywhere in the Club may be topped.

c. In any 3-year period, members may not cut more than 50 percent of trees on their assigned lot. Tree cutting rules apply to trees greater than 6" in diameter at four feet off the ground and more than 150' from a waterway.

d. Members must mark all trees to be cut on their assigned lot or fallen trees on Community Property, fill out a Tree Cutting Authorization Form (permit) obtained from a member of the Grounds Committee or the website, and have a Grounds Committee member sign before any tree cutting is begun.

e. Before signing the Tree Cutting Authorization Form the Grounds Committee member must personally inspect the tree(s) to be cut.

f. If a member will cut 1 to 3 trees in a one calendar year period, he or she must have a signed authorization form from the Grounds Committee before cutting begins. If a member wishes to cut more than 3 trees in a one-year period, he or she must have an authorization form approved by the Board and signed by the Grounds Committee before cutting begins. Possible reasons for denial include property line issues, need for County permission, need to limit cut to three trees, or the need for a hazard tree assessment from a certified arborist.

g. Upon completion of cutting and cleanup the Grounds Committee chair shall give all notifications of tree cutting and authorizations for such cutting to the Administrative Secretary. These will be filed by lot number in the Club files.

h. A Grounds Committee member may act immediately on dangerous trees or those obstructing right-of-ways and does not need the signatures of other committee members.

i. Any member of the Grounds Committee must obtain the signature of another member of the committee for the cutting and/or removal of any trees on their assigned lot or windfalls on community property.

j. Club members shall exercise reasonable care in cutting trees. The intent of permission is to prevent damage to persons or property and to preserve and manage the natural environment consistent with the intent of the Bylaws of the Corporation.

k. Each Club member in good standing is allowed up to three cords of firewood per year from fallen trees on Club community property as allocated by the Grounds Committee after consult with the Forest Stewardship Committee.

l. Members shall have no more than 90 days to remove debris from tree cutting. If a member fails to do so, the Grounds Committee or Board of Trustees may have the area cleaned and costs will be borne by the responsible member.