

Appendix B-3: Columbia Count CAO Designations, Definitions and PHS List

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"Columbia County Critical Areas and Resource Lands Ordinance".

General Provisions

Critical areas in Columbia County are categorized as follows:

1. Wetlands
2. Fish and Wildlife Habitat Conservation Areas
3. Critical Aquifer Recharge Areas
4. Geologically Hazardous Areas
5. Frequently Flooded Areas

1. WETLANDS

Section 01: Designation, rating, and mapping

- A. Designation: "Wetlands" are areas that are inundated or saturated by surface water or ground water at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and that under normal circumstances do support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions. Wetlands generally include swamps, marshes, bogs, and similar areas. Wetlands do not include those artificial wetlands intentionally created from non-wetland sites, including, but not limited to, irrigation and drainage ditches, grass-lined swales, canals, detention facilities, wastewater treatment facilities, farm ponds, and landscape amenities, or those wetlands created after July 1, 1990, that were unintentionally created as a result of the construction of a road, street, or highway. Wetlands may include those artificial wetlands intentionally created from non-wetland areas created to mitigate conversion of wetlands.
- B. Ratings: Wetlands shall be rated according to the Department of Ecology wetland rating system found in the Washington State Wetland Rating System documents or as revised by Ecology. These documents contain the methods for determining the following rating criteria:
1. Wetland rating categories

- a. Category I: Category I wetlands shall meet the following criteria:
 - i. Documented habitat for federal or state listed endangered or threatened fish, animal, or plant species;
 - ii. High quality native wetland communities, including documented category I or II quality Natural Heritage wetland sites and sites which qualify as a category I or II quality Natural Heritage wetland as defined in the rating system documents;
 - iii. High quality, regionally rare wetland communities with irreplaceable ecological functions, including sphagnum bogs and fens, estuarine, wetlands, or mature forested swamps as defined in the rating system documents; or,
 - iv. Wetlands of exceptional local significance.

- b. Category II: Category II wetlands shall meet the following criteria:
 - i. Documented habitats for state listed sensitive plant, fish, or animal species;
 - ii. Wetlands that contain plant, fish, or animal species listed as priority species by the state Department of Fish and Wildlife;
 - iii. Wetland types with significant functions that may not be adequately replicated through creation or restoration;
 - iv. Wetlands possessing significant habitat value based on a score of 22 or more points in the habitat rating system; or,
 - v. Documented wetlands of local significance.

- c. Category III: Category III wetlands are those that do not satisfy category I, II or IV criteria, and with a habitat value rating of 21 points or less.

- d. Category IV: Category IV wetlands shall meet the following criteria:

1. Hydrologically isolated wetlands that are less than or equal to 1 acre in size, have only one wetland class, and are dominated (greater than 80% aerial cover) by a single non-native plant species (monotypic vegetation) or,
2. Hydrologically isolated wetlands that are less than or equal to 2 acres in size, and have only one wetland class and greater than 90% aerial cover of non-native plant species.
3. Date of wetland rating: Wetland rating categories shall be applied as the wetland exists on the date of adoption of the rating system by the County, as the wetland naturally changes thereafter, or as the wetland changes in accordance with permitted activities. Wetland rating categories shall not change due to illegal modifications.

Mapping: The National Wetlands Inventory and United States Department of Agriculture National Resources Conservation Service soil maps are hereby adopted to be used for determining the approximate location and extent of County wetlands. These maps shall be used as a guide and do not provide a final critical area designation. The exact location of a wetland's boundary shall be determined through the performance of a field investigation by a qualified professional applying the Washington State Wetland's Identification and Delineation Manual as required pursuant to R.C.W. 36.70A.175.

2. FISH AND WILDLIFE HABITAT CONSERVATION AREAS

Section 01: Designation

- A. All areas within Columbia County meeting one or more of the following criteria, regardless of any formal identification, are hereby designated critical areas and are subject to the provisions of this ordinance. Fish and wildlife habitat conservation areas shall include:
 1. Areas with which state or federally designated endangered, threatened, and sensitive species have a primary association.

2. State priority habitats and areas associated with state priority species.
3. Habitats and species of local importance.
4. Naturally occurring ponds under 20 acres.
5. Waters of the state. Includes lakes, rivers, ponds, streams, inland waters, and all other surface waters and watercourses within the state of Washington as classified in WAC 222-16-031.
6. Lakes, ponds, rivers, and streams planted with game fish by a government or tribal entity.
7. State natural area preserves and natural resource conservation areas.
8. Land essential for preserving connections between habitat blocks and open spaces.

B. The following critical area maps are hereby adopted by the County and shall be used to give an approximate location and extent of habitat conservation areas. These maps are subject to continuous updating as new critical areas are identified; therefore, they are a reference source and are not intended to provide a final critical area designation. They are as follows:

1. Department of Fish and Wildlife Priority Habitat and Species Maps.
2. Department of Natural Resources Official Water Type Reference Maps, as amended.
3. Department of Natural Resources Shorezone Inventory.
4. Department of Health Annual Inventory of Shellfish Harvest Areas.
5. Anadromous and resident salmonid distribution maps contained in the Habitat Limiting Factors Reports published by the Washington Conservation Commission.

6. Department of Natural Resources State Natural Area Preserves and Natural Resource Conservation Area Maps.

7. Columbia county habitat maps.

Detailed information regarding the location, type, and extent of fish and wildlife habitat conservation areas may be obtained by consulting with the County or with a relevant agency such as the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the state Fish and Wildlife Department, the Department of Natural Resources, the Snake River Salmon Recovery Board, and the National Marine Fisheries Service.

3. CRITICAL AQUIFER RECHARGE AREAS

Section 01: Designation

- A. Critical aquifer recharge areas are those areas with a critical recharging effect on aquifers used for potable water as defined by WAC 365-190-030(2). Critical aquifer recharge areas have prevailing geologic conditions associated with infiltration rates that create a high potential for contamination of ground water resources or contribute significantly to the replenishment of ground water. These areas include the following:
 1. Wellhead protection areas: Wellhead protection areas may be defined by the boundaries of the ten year time of ground water travel or boundaries established using alternate criteria approved by the Department of Health in those settings where ground water time of travel is not a reasonable delineation criterion, in accordance with WAC 246-290-135.
 2. Sole source aquifers: Sole source aquifers are areas designated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency pursuant to the Federal Safe Water Drinking Act.
 3. Susceptible ground water management areas: Susceptible ground water management areas are areas that have been designated as moderately, or highly vulnerable or susceptible in an adopted ground water management program developed pursuant to Chapters 173-100 WAC.
 4. Special protection areas: Defined pursuant to WAC 173-200-090.

5. Moderately, highly vulnerable or highly susceptible aquifer recharge areas: Aquifer recharge areas that are moderately, highly vulnerable or highly susceptible to degradation or depletion due to hydro-geologic characteristics are those areas delineated by a hydro-geologic study prepared in accordance with the state Department of Ecology guidelines or meeting the criteria established by the Department of Ecology.

- B. Aquifer recharge area susceptibility ratings: Aquifer recharge areas shall be rated as having high, moderate, or low susceptibility based on soil permeability, geologic matrix, infiltration, and depth to water as determined by the criteria established by the state Department of Ecology.

- C. Maps: Maps showing the approximate location and extent of critical aquifer recharge areas may be obtained or viewed at County offices. These maps are subject to continuous updating as new critical areas are identified; therefore, they are a reference source and are not intended to provide a formal critical area designation.

4. GEOLOGICALLY HAZARDOUS AREAS

Section 01: Designation

Areas susceptible to one or more of the following types of hazards shall be designated as a geologically hazardous area:

- A. Erosion hazard area: Erosion hazard areas are at least those areas identified by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service as having a "moderate to severe", "severe" or "very severe" rill and inter-rill erosion hazard.

- B. Landslide hazard area: Landslide hazard areas include areas susceptible because of any combination of bedrock, soil, slope, slope aspect, structure, hydrology, or other factors and may include, but not be limited to the following:
 1. Areas delineated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service as having a "severe" limitation for building and development.

2. Areas mapped by the Department of Natural Resources "u" or class 3, "UOS" or class 4, and "URS" or class 5.
3. Areas designated as quaternary slumps, earthflows, mudflows, or landslides on maps published by the U.S. Geological Surveyor Department of Natural Resources.
4. Areas with all three of the following characteristics:
 - a. Slopes steeper than 15%.
 - b. Hillsides intersecting geologic contacts with a relatively permeable sediment overlying a relatively impermeable sediment or bedrock.
 - c. Springs or ground water seepage.
5. Areas that have shown movement during the Holocene epoch 10,000 years ago to the present or are underlain or covered by mass wastage debris from that epoch.
6. Slopes that are parallel or sub-parallel to planes of weakness in sub-surface material such as bedding planes, joint systems, and fault planes.
7. Slopes having gradients steeper than 80% subject to rock fall during seismic shaking.
8. Areas potentially unstable because of rapid stream incision, stream bank erosion, and undercutting by wave action.
9. Areas that show evidence of risk from snow avalanches.
10. Areas located in a canyon or on an active alluvial fan presently or potentially subject to inundation by debris flows or catastrophic flooding.
11. Areas with a 40% or steeper slope with a vertical relief of 10 or more feet except areas composed of consolidated rock. A slope shall be delineated by establishing its toe and its top and measured by averaging the inclination over 10 feet or more of vertical relief.

- C. Seismic hazard areas: Areas subject to severe risk of damage as a result of earthquake induced ground shaking, slope failure, settlement, soil liquefaction, lateral spreading, or surface faulting.
- D. Other hazard areas: Areas determined by the administrative official to be susceptible to other geological events including mass wasting, debris flows, rock falls, and differential settlement.

Section 02: Maps

The approximate location and extent of geologically hazardous areas are shown on the following critical area maps hereby adopted for reference. These maps are subject to continuous updating as new critical areas are identified; therefore, they are a reference source and are not intended to provide a final critical area designation. They are as follows:

- A. U.S. Geological Survey landslide and seismic hazard maps.
- B. Department of Natural Resources slope stability maps.
- C. Federal Emergency Management Administration flood insurance maps.
- D. Applicable maps adopted by Columbia county and local jurisdictions.

5. FREQUENTLY FLOODED AREAS

Section 01: Designation

Frequently flooded areas shall include the following:

- A. Areas of special flood hazard: Areas identified by the Federal Insurance Administration Flood Insurance Study for Columbia County and Incorporated Areas dated July 19, 2000 (revised) and accompanying maps, including Federal Emergency Management Agency Flood Insurance Rate Maps.
- B. Areas identified by the administrative official: Areas of special flood hazard identified by the administrative official based on review of base flood elevation and floodway data available from federal, state, local agency, or other valid sources when base

flood elevation data has not been provided by the Federal Insurance Administration.

Section 02: Critical area report - additional requirements

In addition to the basic critical area report requirements, the following information shall be included in critical area reports for frequently flooded areas:

- A. All areas of a special flood hazard area as indicated on the flood insurance maps within 200 feet of the project area.

- B. All other flood areas indicated on the flood insurance maps within 200 feet of the project area.

- C. Site plan details illustrating the following:
 - 1. Floodplain, 10, 50, and 100 year flood elevations, floodway, other critical areas, buffers, and shoreline areas.

 - 2. Proposed development including the location of existing and proposed structures, fill, storage of materials, and drainage facilities, with dimensions indicating distances from the floodplain.

 - 3. Clearing limits.

 - 4. Elevation of the lowest floor of all structures and the level to which any non-residential structure has been flood-proofed.

 - 5. Extent of watercourse alteration for any proposed alterations. The alteration description shall include a maintenance program that provides maintenance practices for the altered or relocated portion of the watercourse to ensure that the flood carrying capacity is not diminished.

 - 6. Information describing and documenting how the proposed watercourse alteration complies with requirements of Fish and Wildlife Habitat Conservation Areas, the County shoreline management program, and any other applicable state, federal, and local permit requirements.

Attachment 1.

Columbia County List of Priority Habitats
and Species – does this exist?