

Summary of Changes

Wetlands- 19.200

- Wetland delineations to be done according to the approved federal wetland delineation manual. The Washington State Wetlands Identification and Delineation Manual is no longer valid. This change has already occurred in practice, so code updates are to reflect this. [19.200.210(A)]
- The Washington State Wetland Rating System for Western Washington was revised in 2014. Changes reflect the date, as well as a change to some definitions and the scoring system used to categorize wetlands for management purposes (scores are out of 27, rather than 100). [19.200.210(A)and(B)]
 - Category I: Score of 23 or more out of 27 (was 70 or more out of 100)
 - Category II: Score of 20-22 out of 27 (was 51-69 out of 100); Due to the change in scoring methods, we may expect to see more Cat. III wetlands that would have been Cat.II under the current method.
 - Category III: Score of 16-19 out of 27 (was 30-50 out of 100); Area allowed to be impacted reduced from 2,500 sq. ft. to 1,000 sq. ft.; Kitsap County has typically seen mostly Category III wetlands
 - Category IV: Score of 16 or less out of 27 (was less than 30 out of 100); Area allowed to be impacted reduced from 7,500 sq. ft. to 4,000 sq. ft.
- Deleted the Non-Regulated Wetlands and Criteria for Determining Wetlands Divided by a Manmade Feature [19.200.210(C) and (D)]. Non-regulated wetlands are included in the definition and the criteria are part of the Wetland Rating System. Including them in code is redundant and increases the chances of them being in conflict with future amendments to this referenced document.
- Wetland Buffer Requirements. The buffer tables have a new, streamlined look, but are otherwise providing the same buffer widths. [19.200.220] A few exceptions are:
 - Cat. II wetlands with high habitat scores that are also adjacent to high-intensity land uses (now 300 ft., was 225 ft.) and moderate-intensity land uses (now 225 ft., was 200 ft.)
 - Cat. II Interdunal was added (not at all common in Kitsap, but do exist)
 - Cat. I wetlands with high habitat scores that are also adjacent to high-intensity land uses (now 300 ft., was 250 ft.)
 - Cat. I wetlands in Coastal Lagoons adjacent to high-intensity land uses (now 200 ft., was 250 ft.) and moderate-intensity land uses (now 150 ft., was 200 ft.).

- Cat. I wetlands with moderate habitat scores adjacent to high-intensity land uses (now 150 ft., was 200 ft.).
- Buffer Averaging and Administrative Buffer Reductions [19.200.220(B)]. Minimum buffer reductions are no longer supported for up to 50% of the buffer width, but revised to **25%**. There is a NEW allowance to reduce the buffer for proposed activities in high-intensity land use areas to those buffers recommended for moderate-intensity through the use of certain measures like connecting to existing habitat corridors.
- Agricultural Restrictions. In addition to the change in 19.100, this section applies to new *or expanded* agricultural activities and instead of avoiding “damage” to wetlands, the proposed language states that a “net loss of functions and values shall be avoided.” [19.200.225(B)]
- Trails and Trail Related Facilities. This section was modified to be consistent with the standards in Title 22, Shoreline Master Program. For example, viewing platforms limited to 100 sq. ft. in size, unless no net loss can be demonstrated, and trails are to be in the outer 25% of the buffer except for direct access. [19.200.225(F)]
- Wetland Mitigation [19.200.250(C)]. This section was removed and incorporated into 19.700.715 Wetland Mitigation Report.
- Wetland Mitigation Ratios, Table 19.200.250. For mitigation utilizing the 1:1 Reestablishment or Creation (R/C) and Enhancement (E) option, the Enhancement portion of the ratio is increasing for the following:
 - Cat. III- 4:1 (was 2:1)
 - Cat. II- 8:1 (was 4:1)
 - Cat. I Forested- 20:1 (was 10:1)
 - Cat. I Other- 12:1 (was 6:1)
- Alternative Mitigation Plans [19.200.250(D)] NEW. This new section was added to provide much more latitude and flexibility in creating a mitigation plan. It also includes clarifications for use of mitigation banking, in-lieu fee/off-site, and advanced mitigation options.