

July 2018 Modifications for Habitat Score Ranges

Section XX.040 Exemptions and Allowed Uses in Wetlands

A.1.d

Do not score 6 or more points for habitat function based on the 2014 update to the *Washington State Wetland Rating System for Western Washington: 2014 Update* (Ecology Publication #14-06-029, or as revised and approved by Ecology)

B.9.a

The wetland is classified as a Category IV or a Category III wetland with a habitat score of 3-5 points, and

XX.050 Wetland Buffers

A. Buffer Requirements. The following buffer widths have been established in accordance with the best available science. They are based on the category of wetland and the habitat score as determined by a qualified wetland professional using the *Washington State Wetland Rating System for Western Washington: 2014 Update* (Ecology Publication #14-06-029, or as revised and approved by Ecology). The adjacent land use intensity is assumed to be high.

1. For wetlands that score 6 points or more for habitat function, the buffers in Table XX.1 can be used if both of the following criteria are met:
 - A relatively undisturbed, vegetated corridor at least 100 feet wide is protected between the wetland and any other Priority Habitats as defined by the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife. The latest definitions of priority habitats and their locations are available on the WDFW web site at: <http://wdfw.wa.gov/hab/phshabs.htm>)

The corridor must be protected for the entire distance between the wetland and the Priority Habitat by some type of legal protection such as a conservation easement.

Presence or absence of a nearby habitat must be confirmed by a qualified biologist. If no option for providing a corridor is available, Table XX.1 may be used with the required measures in Table XX.2 alone.¹

¹ See discussion in the Introduction, page 12 as to whether this applies in small urban jurisdictions.

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- All of the measures in Table XX.2 are implemented, where applicable, to minimize the impacts of the adjacent land uses.
2. For wetlands that score 3-5 habitat points, only the measures in Table XX.2 are required for the use of Table XX.1
 3. If an applicant chooses **not** to apply the mitigation measures in Table XX.2, or is unable to provide a protected corridor where available, then Table XX.3 **must** be used.
 4. The buffer widths in Table XX.1 and XX.3 assume that the buffer is vegetated with a native plant community appropriate for the ecoregion. If the existing buffer is unvegetated, sparsely vegetated, or vegetated with invasive species that do not perform needed functions, the buffer should either be planted to create the appropriate plant community or the buffer should be widened to ensure that adequate functions of the buffer are provided.

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**Table XX.1 Wetland Buffer Requirements for Western Washington
if Table XX.2 is Implemented and Corridor Provided**

Wetland Category	Buffer width (in feet) based on habitat score		
	3-5	6-7	8-9
Category I: Based on total score	75	110	225
Category I: Bogs and Wetlands of High Conservation Value	190		225
Category I: Interdunal	225 (buffer width not based on habitat scores)		
Category I: Forested	75	110	225
Category I: Estuarine and Coastal Lagoons	150 (buffer width not based on habitat scores)		
Category II: Based on score	75	110	225
Category II: Interdunal Wetlands	110 (buffer width not based on habitat scores)		
Category II: Estuarine and Coastal Lagoons	110 (buffer width not based on habitat scores)		
Category III (all)	60	110	225
Category IV (all)	40		

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Table XX.2 Required measures to minimize impacts to wetlands
(All measures are required if applicable to a specific proposal)

Disturbance	Required Measures to Minimize Impacts
Lights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Direct lights away from wetland
Noise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Locate activity that generates noise away from wetland • If warranted, enhance existing buffer with native vegetation plantings adjacent to noise source • For activities that generate relatively continuous, potentially disruptive noise, such as certain heavy industry or mining, establish an additional 10' heavily vegetated buffer strip immediately adjacent to the outer wetland buffer
Toxic runoff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Route all new, untreated runoff away from wetland while ensuring wetland is not dewatered • Establish covenants limiting use of pesticides within 150 ft of wetland • Apply integrated pest management
Stormwater runoff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retrofit stormwater detention and treatment for roads and existing adjacent development • Prevent channelized flow from lawns that directly enters the buffer • Use Low Intensity Development techniques (for more information refer to the drainage ordinance and manual)
Change in water regime	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infiltrate or treat, detain, and disperse into buffer new runoff from impervious surfaces and new lawns
Pets and human disturbance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use privacy fencing OR plant dense vegetation to delineate buffer edge and to discourage disturbance using vegetation appropriate for the ecoregion • Place wetland and its buffer in a separate tract or protect with a conservation easement
Dust	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use best management practices to control dust

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**Table XX.3 Wetland Buffer Requirements for Western Washington
if Table XX.2 is NOT Implemented or Corridor NOT provided**

Wetland Category	Buffer width (in feet) based on habitat score		
	3-5	6-7	8-9
Category I: Based on total score	100	150	300
Category I: Bogs and Wetlands of High Conservation Value	250		300
Category I: Interdunal	300 (buffer width not based on habitat scores)		
Category I: Forested	100	150	300
Category I: Estuarine and Coastal Lagoons	200 (buffer width not based on habitat scores)		
Category II: Based on score	100	150	300
Category II: Interdunal Wetlands	150 (buffer width not based on habitat scores)		
Category II: Estuarine and Coastal Lagoons	150 (buffer width not based on habitat scores)		
Category III (all)	80	150	300
Category IV (all)	50		