

Attachment B:

Ecology Required Changes

The following changes are required to comply with the SMA (RCW 90.58) and the SMP Guidelines (WAC 173-26, Part III):

ITEM	SMP Submittal PROVISION (Cite)	TOPIC	BILL FORMAT CHANGES (underline = additions; strikethrough = deletions)	RATIONALE
1.	Appendix 2.E.2	Wetlands- Identification and delineation	2. Wetlands shall be rated according to the Washington State Department of Ecology's 2014 wetland rating system found in the 2004 Washington State Wetland Rating System for Eastern Washington, as updated in 2014 (Ecology Publication No. 14-06-018030) <u>or most current version as updated by Washington State Department of Ecology.</u> The document contains the definitions and methods for determining if the criteria below are met. In the case of a wetland violation, the rating shall be based on the likely condition of the wetland before the unauthorized disturbance occurred.	To ensure compliance with current standards the most current wetland delineation manual and applicable regional supplements should be used. See WAC 173-22-035.
2.	Appendix 2.E.3	Wetland Rating System	3. Wetland Rating Categories: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. <u>Category I Wetlands: Category I Wetlands are those that represent a unique or rare wetland type, are more sensitive to disturbance than most wetlands, are relatively undisturbed and contain ecological attributes that are impossible or too difficult to replace within a human lifetime, and provide a high level of functions. The following types of wetlands are Category I:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. <u>Alkali wetlands;</u> ii. <u>Wetlands of high conservation value that are identified by scientists of the Washington Natural Heritage Program/DNR;</u> iii. <u>Bogs and calcareous ferns;</u> 	Changes to Ecology's wetland rating system and wetland descriptions are based on updated guidance that became effective January 1, 2015, Ecology Publication #14-06-030. See WAC 173-26-221(2)(c)(i)(B).

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> iv. <u>Mature and old-growth forested wetlands over ¼ acre with slow growing trees;</u> v. <u>Forest wetlands with stands of aspen;</u> vi. <u>Wetland scoring between twenty-two and twenty-seven (22-27) points (out of twenty-seven [27]) in the Eastern Washington Wetland Rating System.</u> <p>b. <u>Category II wetlands: Category II wetlands are difficult, though not impossible, to replace, and provide high levels of some functions. These wetlands occur more commonly than Category I wetlands, but still need a relatively high level of protection. Category II wetlands include:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. <u>Forested wetlands in the floodplain of rivers;</u> ii. <u>Mature and old-growth forested wetlands over ¼ acre with native fast growing trees;</u> iii. <u>Vernal pools;</u> iv. <u>Wetlands scoring nineteen and twenty-one (19-21) points (out of twenty-seven [27]) in the Eastern Washington Wetland Rating System.</u> <p>c. <u>Category III wetlands have a moderate level of functions (scores between sixteen and eighteen (16-18) points. These wetlands can often be adequately replaced with a well planned mitigation project. Wetlands scoring between 16-18 points generally have been disturbed in some way, and are often less diverse and more isolated from other natural resources in the landscape than Category II wetlands.</u></p> <p>d. <u>Category IV wetlands have the lowest levels of functions, scoring less than sixteen (16) points in the Eastern Washington Wetland Rating System, and are often heavily disturbed. These are wetlands that should be able to be replaced, and in some cases improved. These wetlands may provide some important functions, and also need to be protected.</u></p> <p>a. Category I. Category I wetlands are those wetlands of exceptional resource value based on their functional value and diversity. Category I wetlands that may be found in or near the city include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Wetlands designated by Washington Natural Heritage Program as high quality; 2) Wetlands that perform high functions (wetlands scoring 70 points or more on the Ecology wetland rating form). <p>b. Category II. Category II wetlands are those wetlands of significant resource value based on their functional value and diversity. Category II wetlands that may be found in or near the city include:</p>	
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			<p>1) Wetlands scoring between 51 and 69 points on the Ecology wetland rating form.</p> <p>e. Category III. Category III wetlands are those wetlands of important resource value based on their functional value and diversity. Category III wetlands are wetlands with a moderate to low level of functions (wetlands scoring 30 to 50 points on the wetland rating form).</p> <p>d. Category IV. Category IV wetlands are those wetlands with the lowest level of functions scoring less than 30 points on the Ecology wetland rating form.</p>							
3.	Appendix 2.J.3	Wetland-Buffer areas	<p>3. The buffer widths typically needed to protect Category IV wetlands in West Richland (for wetlands scoring less than 30<u>16</u> points for all functions) are as follows:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Wetland Characteristics</th> <th>Buffer Widths by Impact of Land Use</th> <th>Other Recommended Protection Measures</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Score for all 3 basic functions is less than 30<u>16</u> points</td> <td>Low – 25 feet Moderate – 40 feet High – 50 feet</td> <td>Maintain any existing connections with other wetlands, open space or habitat conservation areas</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Wetland Characteristics	Buffer Widths by Impact of Land Use	Other Recommended Protection Measures	Score for all 3 basic functions is less than 30 <u>16</u> points	Low – 25 feet Moderate – 40 feet High – 50 feet	Maintain any existing connections with other wetlands, open space or habitat conservation areas	Changes to Ecology’s wetland rating system and wetland descriptions are based on updated guidance that became effective January 1, 2015, Ecology Publication #14-06-030. See WAC 173-26-221(2)(c)(i)(B).
Wetland Characteristics	Buffer Widths by Impact of Land Use	Other Recommended Protection Measures								
Score for all 3 basic functions is less than 30 <u>16</u> points	Low – 25 feet Moderate – 40 feet High – 50 feet	Maintain any existing connections with other wetlands, open space or habitat conservation areas								
4.	Appendix 2.J.4	Wetland-Buffer areas	<p>4. The buffer widths typically needed to protect Category III wetlands in West Richland (for wetlands scoring 30 to 50<u>16 to 18</u> points for all functions, or isolated vernal pools) are as follows:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Wetland Characteristics</th> <th>Buffer Widths by Impact of Land Use</th> <th>Other Recommended Protection Measures</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Moderate level of function for habitat (score for habitat 20 – 28 <u>5 - 7</u> points)</td> <td>Low – 75 feet Moderate – 110 feet High – 150 feet</td> <td>Maintain any existing connections with other</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Wetland Characteristics	Buffer Widths by Impact of Land Use	Other Recommended Protection Measures	Moderate level of function for habitat (score for habitat 20 – 28 <u>5 - 7</u> points)	Low – 75 feet Moderate – 110 feet High – 150 feet	Maintain any existing connections with other	<p>Changes to Ecology’s wetland rating system and wetland descriptions are based on updated guidance that became effective January 1, 2015, Ecology Publication #14-06-030. See WAC 173-26-221(2)(c)(i)(B).</p> <p>Vernal pools are Category II wetlands (Ecology Publication #14-06-030).</p>
Wetland Characteristics	Buffer Widths by Impact of Land Use	Other Recommended Protection Measures								
Moderate level of function for habitat (score for habitat 20 – 28 <u>5 - 7</u> points)	Low – 75 feet Moderate – 110 feet High – 150 feet	Maintain any existing connections with other								

				Not meeting the above characteristics	Low – 40 feet Moderate – 60 feet High – 80 feet	wetlands, open space or habitat conservation areas		
5.	Appendix 2.J.5	Wetland-Buffer areas	5. The buffer widths typically needed to protect Category I and II wetlands in West Richland are as follows:					Changes to Ecology’s wetland rating system and wetland descriptions are based on updated guidance that became effective January 1, 2015, Ecology Publication #14-06-030. See WAC 173-26-221(2)(c)(i)(B).
				Wetland Characteristics	Buffer Widths by Impact of Land Use	Other Recommended Protection Measures		
				High level of function for habitat (score for habitat 29—48 <u>8 - 9</u> points)	Low – 100 feet Moderate – 150 feet High – 200 feet	Maintain any existing connections with other wetlands, open space or habitat conservation areas		
				Not meeting the above characteristics	Low – 75 feet Moderate – 110 feet High – 150 feet	<u>Restore degraded parts of buffer</u>		