



# Clark County Environmental Services

## Clark County Environmental Services Title 40 Code Changes

**Don Benton, Director**

**Kevin Tyler, Division Manager**

# Background

## **Environmental Services proposed code changes for the Habitat Conservation and Wetland Protection Ordinances**

- **Updates to state wetland rating system**
- **Update on habitat mapping**
- **Habitat permitting exemption**
- **Expedited habitat permit**
- **Reduced determination fees for single family**

## **2015-16 Review of Critical Areas Ordinances Against Best Available Science**

- **Cumulative Effects Fund/In-lieu Fee Program**
- **County Stormwater Manual & Updates to Wetland Ordinance**
- **Comprehensive review of Ecology guidance and apply to Wetland Ordinance as appropriate**



# Wetland Rating System Changes

Table for converting category scores

2004	Western WA	2014
$\geq 70$	Category I	23-27
51-69	Category II	20-22
30-50	Category III	16-19
$<30$	Category IV	9-15

Tables for converting function scores

2004	Final Habitat Score	2014
29-36	High	8-9
20-28	Medium	5-7
$\leq 19$	Low	3-4

2004	Final Water Quality Score	2014
24-32	High	8-9



# How does this affect wetland rating categories?

## Western Washington

- 60 sites remain unchanged
- 30 sites had a lower category
- 21 sites had a higher category

## Eastern Washington

- 36 sites remain unchanged
- 31 sites had a lower category
- 19 sites had a higher category

Category	WWA 2014	WWA 2004	EWA 2014	EWA 2004
I	11	13	11	13
II	44	52	36	36
III	49	39	33	35
IV	7	7	6	6



# Wetland Buffer Width Changes

Table 40.450.030-3. Buffers Required to Protect Habitat Functions in Category I and II Wetlands

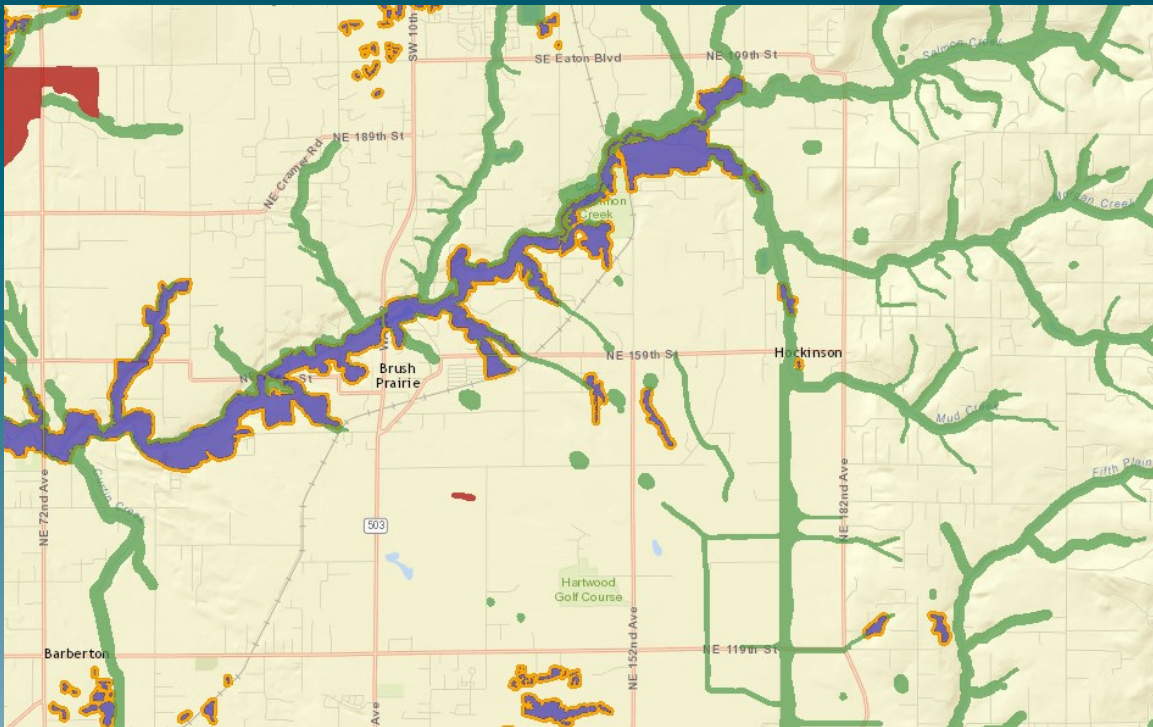
Habitat Score	Low Intensity Use	Moderate Intensity Use	High Intensity Use
4 points or less (was 19)	See Table 40.450.030-2	See Table 40.450.030-2	See Table 40.450.030-2
5 points (was 20-23)	70 ft. (was 60)	105 ft. (was 90)	140 ft. (was 120)
6 points (was 24-27)	90 ft. (same)	135 ft. (was 130)	180 ft. (same)
7 points (was 28-30)	110 ft. (was 130)	165 ft. (was 195)	220 ft. (was 260)
8 points (was 31 or more)	130 ft. (was 150)	195 ft. (was 225)	260 ft. (was 300)
9 Points (new)	150 ft. (new)	225 ft. (new)	300 ft. (new)





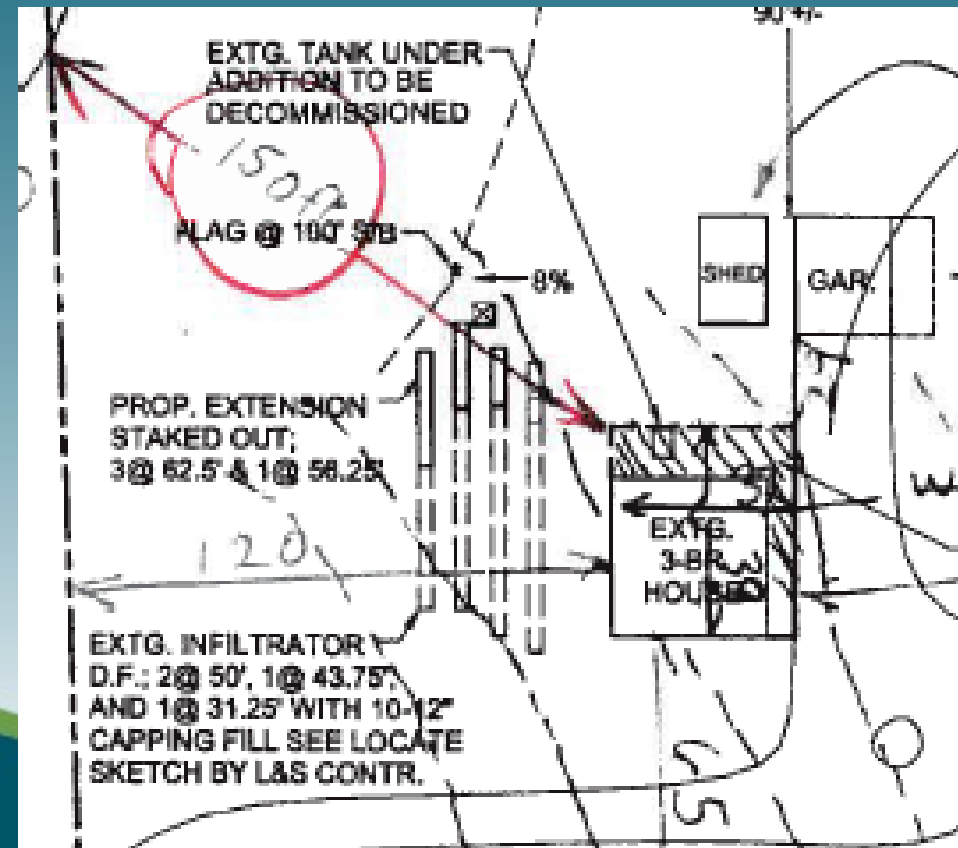
# Priority Habitats & Species Mapping

Remove reference to paper map from County Code to make for easier update of PHS mapping as annually provided by WDFW.



# Revised Habitat Permitting Exemption

- Remodeling or replacement of existing homes
- Normally wouldn't require mitigation
- No more than 900 sq. ft.
- Only within the outer 50% of the riparian zone
- No removal of native trees or shrubs



# Expedited Habitat Permitting

- **Minor fee table change**
- **Simple habitat permits can be issued quickly, within 24 hours of receipt**
- **With Tidemark replacement will be able to issue over the counter or in the field**





# Reduced Fees for Determinations

- **Minor fee table change**
- **Only applies to single family, not development**
- **Reduces standard determination fees nearly in half**
- **Small reduction in revenue for DES (\$25K per year possibly)**



# 2015-2016 Habitat & Wetland Ordinance Updates

- More substantive changes
- Cumulative Effects Fund
- Meshing with Stormwater Code/Manual Updates
- Cross-reference state/federal guidance and make updates to mutually benefit the public and resource



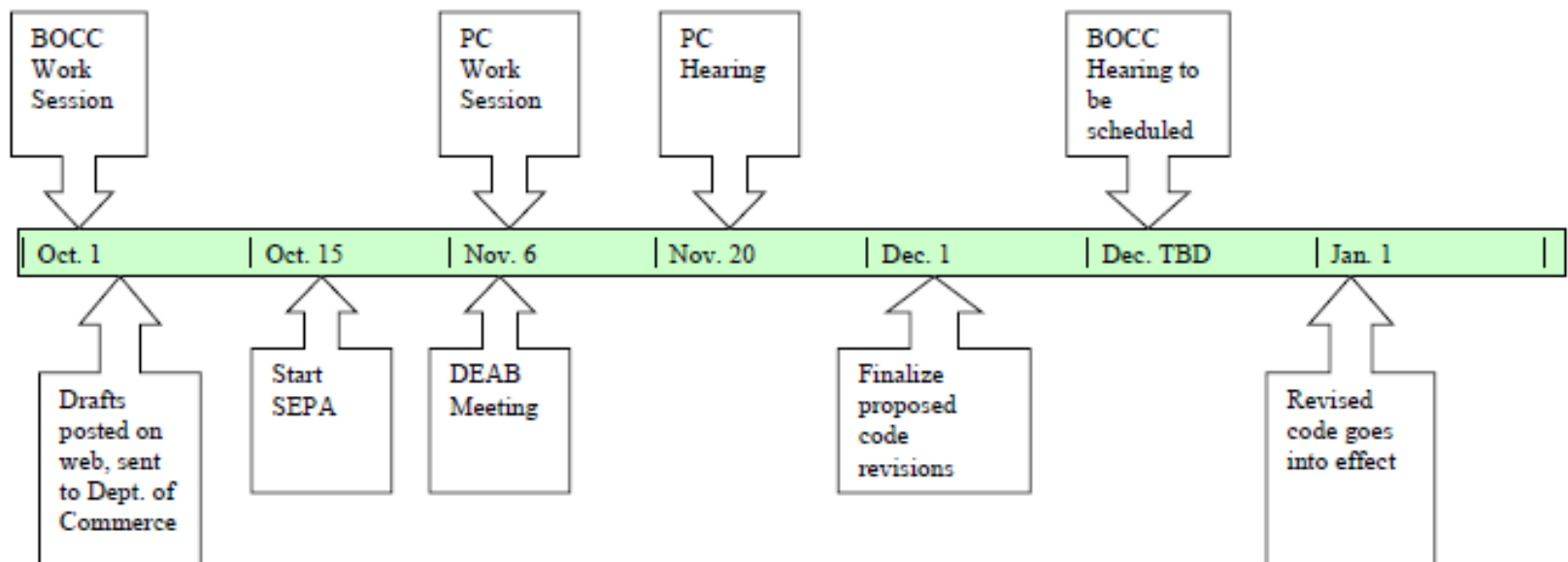
# Next Steps

- **Planning Commission Work Session November 6th**
  - **Development Engineering Advisory Board Meeting November 6<sup>th</sup>**
  - **Planning Commission Hearing November 20<sup>th</sup>**
  - **BOCC Public Hearing in December**
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- **Kick-off 2015-2016 review of best available science and potential updates of Wetland and Habitat ordinances.**



## Next Steps - Timeline

### DES Habitat & Wetland Code Changes – Fall 2014



# Thank You

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**Don Benton, Director**

**Environmental Services**  
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