

Sewall Wetland Consulting, Inc.

PO Box 880
Fall City, WA 98024

Phone: 253-859-0515

RECEIVED

MAR 16 2015

March 5, 2015

CITY OF MERCER ISLAND
DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

Bill Summers
PO Box 261
Medina, WA 98039

RE: 5637 Mercer Way – Revised Critical Areas Report
SWC Job#14-207

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This report describes our observations of any jurisdictional wetlands, streams and buffers on or within 200' of the proposed single family home located at 5637 East Mercer Way in the City of Mercer Island, Washington (the “site”).

The site is an irregular shaped 0.88 acre parcel (Parcel #192405-0312) consisting of an east sloping site located within the SE ¼ of Section 19 Township 24 North, Range 5 East of the W.M.

METHODOLOGY

Ed Sewall of Sewall Wetland Consulting, Inc. inspected the site November 6, 2014. The site was reviewed using delineation methodology described in the *Corps of Engineers Wetlands Delineation Manual* (Environmental Laboratory, 1987), and the *Western Mountains, Valleys and Coast region Supplement* (Version 2.0) dated June 24, 2010, as required by the US Army Corps of Engineers.

Wetland Ratings were determined using the *Washington State Wetlands Rating System for Western Washington* Publication #04-06-025 dated August 2004 as well as the associated rating forms revised in 2006 & 2008.



Above and below: Vicinity map of the site.



Soil colors were identified using the 1990 Edited and Revised Edition of the **Munsell Soil Color Charts** (Kollmorgen Instruments Corp. 1990).

The *Washington State Wetlands Identification and Delineation Manual* and the *Corps of Engineers Wetlands Delineation Manual/Regional Supplement* all require the use of the three-parameter approach in identifying and delineating wetlands. A wetland should support a predominance of hydrophytic vegetation, have hydric soils and display wetland hydrology. To be considered hydrophytic vegetation, over 50% of the dominant species in an area must have an indicator status of facultative (FAC), facultative wetland (FACW), or obligate wetland (OBL), according to the National List of Plant Species That Occur in Wetlands: Northwest (Region 9) (Reed, 1988). A hydric soil is "a soil that is saturated, flooded, or ponded long enough during the growing season to develop anaerobic conditions in the upper part". Anaerobic conditions are indicated in the field by soils with low chromas (2 or less), as determined by using the Munsell Soil Color Charts; iron oxide mottles; hydrogen sulfide odor and other indicators. Generally, wetland hydrology is defined by inundation or saturation to the surface for a consecutive period of 12.5% or greater of the growing season. Areas that contain indicators of wetland hydrology between 5%-12.5% of the growing season may or may not be wetlands depending upon other indicators. Field indicators include visual observation of soil inundation, saturation, oxidized rhizospheres, water marks on trees or other fixed objects, drift lines, etc. Under normal circumstances, indicators of all three parameters will be present in wetland areas.

OBSERVATIONS

Existing Site Documentation.

Prior to visiting the site, a review of several natural resource inventory maps was conducted. Resources reviewed included the National Wetland Inventory Map and the NRCS Soil Survey online mapping and Data and the King County iMap website with wetland and stream layers activated.

National Wetlands Inventory (NWI)

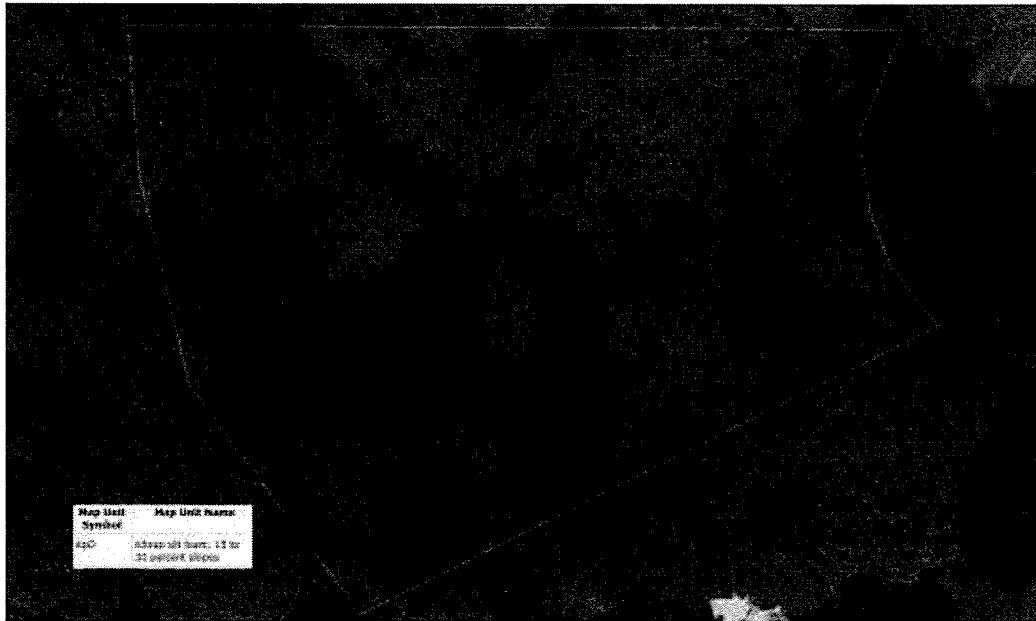
There are no wetlands mapped on or near the site on the NWI mapping for area of the site.



Above: NWI Map of the study area

Soil Survey

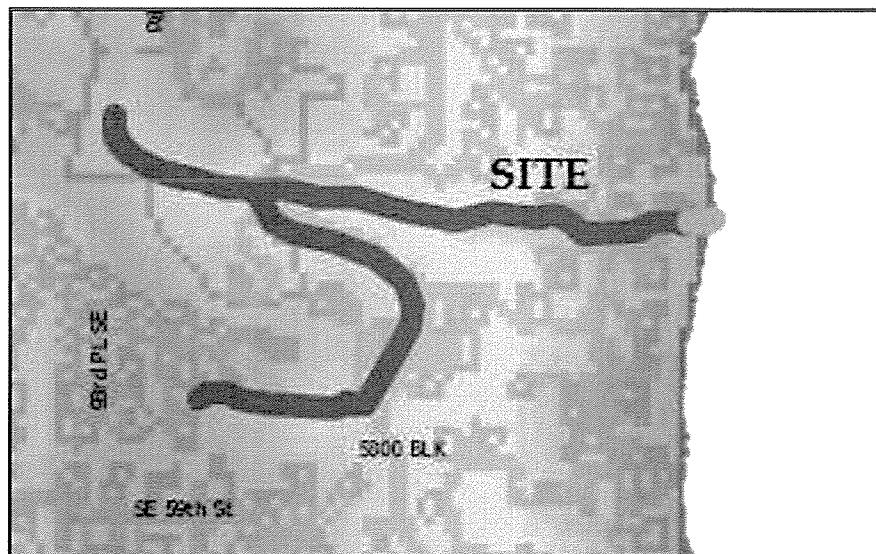
According to data on file with the NRCS Soil Survey, the site as mapped as Kitsap silt loam 15%-30% slopes. Kitsap soils are a moderately well-drained soils formed in lacustrine deposits. Kitsap soils are not considered "hydric" soils according to the publication Hydric Soils of the United States (USDA NTCHS Pub No.1491, 1991).



Above: NRCS Soil map of the study area.

City of Mercer Island Water Inventoried Watercourses

The City of Mercer Island stream inventory shows a perennial flowing non-fish bearing stream also known as a Type 2 watercourse with a 50' buffer.



Above: Mercer Island Stream Inventory of the site

Field observations

The site consists of a bowl shaped parcel sloping to the east with a stream and associated slope type wetlands associated with the stream. The site is generally forested, although a quarry spall driveway accesses the site off an existing paved driveway which passes through the site.

The site has steep slopes to the south as well as an undulating topography in the vicinity of the stream. The site is covered by a mix of red alder, western hemlock and some big leaf maple. Understory species include sword fern, red huckleberry, salmonberry and some stinging nettle.

Soil pits excavated in the upland portion of the site were found to have dry, gravelly loam soils with soil colors of 10YR 3/3-3/4. Soils were found to be dry within the upper 16" during our wet season observations.

Wetlands

As previously mentioned, a slope type wetland covers most of the site outside the steep slopes. Below is a description of these wetlands;

Wetland A

Wetland A consists of a forested slope type wetland that covers most of the site. This wetland was previously flagged by Wetland resources in 2004 and the delineation was found to still be accurate.

This slope-type wetland is vegetated with a mix of red alder, salmonberry, lady fern, skunk cabbage and some creeping buttercup, red-osier dogwood and lady fern.

Soil pits excavated within the wetland revealed a silt loam with a soil color of 2.5Y 2.5/1 with few, fine faint redoximorphic concentrations. Soils within the wetland were saturated at the surface during our wet season observation period.

Using the US Fish and Wildlife Wetland Classification Method (Cowardin et al. 1979), this wetland contains areas that would be classified as PFO1C.

Using the WADOE Wetland Rating system and rating the wetland as a depressional wetland, this wetland scored a total of 34 points with 18 for habitat. This indicates a Category III wetland. According to City of Mercer Island Municipal Code (MIMC) Chapter 19.07.080.C.1, Category III wetlands have a 50' standard buffer.

Stream A

As previously mentioned, a small perennial stream flows easterly along the north side of the site. This stream originates in seeps from the bordering slope wetlands and flows somewhat steeply to the east where it cascades over a bank into a catch basin and then a culvert under Mercer Way. The stream flows in a 100' long culvert which is a barrier to any fish migration up through the culvert. As a result, this small channel has been mapped as the City as a Type 2 watercourse. Based upon MIMC Chapter 19.07.070.B.1, Type 2 watercourses have a 50' standard buffer.

Wildlife Habitat Conservation Areas

A review of the site revealed no state or federally listed species on or near the site. A review of the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife Priority Mapping system was conducted for the site. This mapping identifies state listed species as well as areas considered by WDFW to be "priority habitats". The mapping of the area of the site revealed no listed state or federal species utilizing the site. It does show an area to the north of the site as part of a "biodiversity corridor" (*purple shading*), which is a densely forested area with some steep slopes.

Functions and Values

Wetland A is a forested wetland and as such provides habitat to numerous species that tolerate being within close proximity to humans. The wetland main function is as a groundwater discharge point, which allows groundwater to reach the surface and provide hydrological support to the Type 2 watercourse passing through the site.



Above: WDFW Priority Habitat mapping of the area of the site.

PROPOSED PROJECT

The proposed project is the construction of a single family residence as current zoning allows. As previously described, the site is highly encumbered by critical areas including a stream, associated wetland, buffers and steep slopes. There is no part of the site located outside of these critical areas. As a result, in order to build a home on this site the application of MIMC Chapter 19.07.030.B "*Allowed alterations and reasonable use exception*" must be utilized. As described in this section of Code;

B. Reasonable Use Exception.

- 1. Application Process. If the application of these regulations deny reasonable use of a subject property, a property owner may apply to the hearing examiner for a reasonable use exception pursuant to permit review, public notice and appeal procedures set forth in Chapter 19.15 MICC.*
- 2. Studies Required. An application for a reasonable use exception shall include a critical area study and any other related project documents, such*

as permit applications to other agencies, and environmental documents prepared pursuant to the State Environmental Policy Act.

3. Criteria. The hearing examiner will approve the application if it satisfies all of the following criteria:

a. The application of these regulations deny any reasonable use of the property. The hearing examiner will consider the amount and percentage of lost economic value to the property owner;

The application of the standard regulations regarding wetlands, streams, steep slopes and buffers would not allow construction of a home on the site. The only feasible location to build a home will impact some wetland and buffer.

b. No other reasonable use of the property has less impact on critical areas. The hearing examiner may consider alternative reasonable uses in considering the application;

The site is zoned for a single family home use and there is no other alternative reasonable use of the site.

c. Any alteration to critical areas is the minimum necessary to allow for reasonable use of the property;

The following mitigation sequencing was conducted to determine the most appropriate impacts and mitigation;

This sequencing requires addressing the following criteria;

a. Avoid any disturbances to the wetland or buffer;

The entire site is wetland and buffer. There is no way to develop the site under any reasonable scenario without impacting both wetlands and buffers.

b. Minimize any wetland or buffer impacts;

In order to minimize impacts, the site plan has been designed to utilize the existing driveway access point and has pushed the reasonable size

home foot print as far away from the stream as is possible. The site plan also utilizes pin piles, which are not considered wetland fill, to minimize actual wetland impact. Buffer impacts have been minimized by having no lawn or landscaped areas, and having just the bare essentials, being the driveway and the home structure itself.

c. Restore any wetlands or buffer impacted or lost temporarily; and

This is not possible as the construction of a home is a permanent impact.

d. Compensate for any permanent wetland or buffer impacts by one of the following methods:

i. Restoring a former wetland and provide buffers at a site once exhibiting wetland characteristics to compensate for wetlands lost;

This is not possible as there are no “former” wetlands on the site.

ii. Creating new wetlands and buffers for those lost; and

This is not possible as there is no room to create new wetlands, or buffers on the site.

iii. Enhancing wetlands that have reduced function;

The wetlands on-site are proposed to be enhanced with an under planting of native conifers as well as the removal of weedy species and old trash and abandoned pipes in the wetland and stream. This will restore a conifer dominated component to this wetland and buffer area as well as remove exotic blackberry and English ivy from these critical areas. The addition of a conifer component will restore this wetland to a probable historic condition of being dominated by conifers. Currently the wetland is vegetated primarily with broadleaf species such as red alder which are early successional species. Conifers will provide denser cover and improved habitat for wildlife, as well as more shade to the site keeping surface waters cooler, which ultimately benefit fish species in the receiving water of the Type 2 watercourse.

Other factors to consider in this Reasonable Use review are;

1. Although zoned to permit two single family residences, only one is

proposed.

2. The square footage of the proposed residence is only 2,200 square feet (approx.), which is 51% of the 4,300 square foot average size of a new single family residence built on Mercer Island in 2013-2014 (See the attached single family permit summary attached hereto as Exhibit "A").
3. The house is sited on the most level portion of the property, outside of the applicable 50 foot watercourse buffer.
4. To further minimize the impact of the house's construction, it will be supported by a series of pin piles which both minimizes site disruption and interference with the property's natural drainage.
5. Excavation will be limited to the extent necessary to build the house and related driveway.
6. The property's impervious surfaces have been restricted to a total of Approximately 5,600 square feet, 10% of which are existing.
7. Only 15% of the lot will be covered, which represents less than 42% permitted by code.

In order to reduce impacts to the wetland, the home will be constructed on "pin piles" which are generally not considered a "fill" of wetlands. The home will be elevated above the wetland so no filling other than the driving of the piles through the soil will be needed for the home. A minor amount of fill will occur from the proposed driveway. The driveway will be located over the current location of the quarry spall driveway that exists on the site, further reducing impacts.

d. Impacts to critical areas are mitigated to the greatest extent reasonably feasible consistent with best available science;

In order to mitigate for the minimal impacts to the sites wetlands from the project, we are proposing under planting with conifers (sitka spruce and cedar) throughout the wetland in an area equal to the area of coverage by the project within the critical areas, to enhance the plant community within this wetland as well as removal of any blackberry and English ivy in the vicinity of the home. The proposed use of pin piles is the least impactful way to construct on a site like this and leaves all but

the vegetation intact within the area of the home construction, greatly reducing any loss of wetland function.

e. The proposal does not pose an unreasonable threat to the public health, safety, or welfare; and

The proposed construction of a home on the site will not impact public health or safety and will utilize the latest construction techniques to minimize impacts to critical areas.

f. The inability of the applicant to derive reasonable use of the property is not the result of actions by the applicant after the effective date of this chapter.

The ability of the owner to derive reasonable use of the property is not the result of any action at any time by the owner, and solely the fact that the site is covered by critical areas.

Stormwater

Stormwater from the new impervious surfaces on-site will be collected in a stormwater vault under the driveway and discharged to an existing culvert along the east end of the driveway. This water will then drain through the existing roadside ditch to the stream. This should mimic existing drainage patterns on the site.

Once approval of the proposed conceptual mitigation is received, a final detailed mitigation plan will be provided to the city for review and approval.

If you have any questions in regards to this report or need additional information, please feel free to contact me at (253) 859-0515 or at esewall@sewallwc.com .

Sincerely,
Sewall Wetland Consulting, Inc.



Ed Sewall
Senior Wetlands Ecologist PWS #212

REFERENCES

City of Mercer Island Municipal Code

Cowardin, L., V. Carter, F. Golet, and E. LaRoe. 1979. Classification of Wetlands and Deepwater Habitats of the United States. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, FWS/OBS-79-31, Washington, D. C.

Environmental Laboratory. 1987. Corps of Engineers Wetlands Delineation Manual, Technical Report Y-87-1. U. S. Army Corps of Engineers Waterways Experiment Station, Vicksburg, Mississippi.

Muller-Dombois, D. and H. Ellenberg. 1974. Aims and Methods of Vegetation Ecology. John Wiley & Sons, Inc. New York, New York.

Munsell Color. 1988. Munsell Soil Color Charts. Kollmorgen Instruments Corp., Baltimore, Maryland.

National Technical Committee for Hydric Soils. 1991. Hydric Soils of the United States. USDA Misc. Publ. No. 1491.

Reed, P., Jr. 1988. National List of Plant Species that Occur in Wetlands: Northwest (Region 9). 1988. U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Inland Freshwater Ecology Section, St. Petersburg, Florida.

Reed, P.B. Jr. 1993. 1993 Supplement to the list of plant species that occur in wetlands: Northwest (Region 9). USFWS supplement to Biol. Rpt. 88(26.9) May 1988.

USDA NRCS & National Technical Committee for Hydric Soils, September 1995. Field Indicators of Hydric Soils in the United States - Version 2.1

Western Mountains, Valleys and Coast Regional Supplement (Version 2.0) dated June 24, 2010. USACOE

Washington State Wetlands Rating System for Western Washington Publication #04-06-025 dated August 2004, Revised 2008.



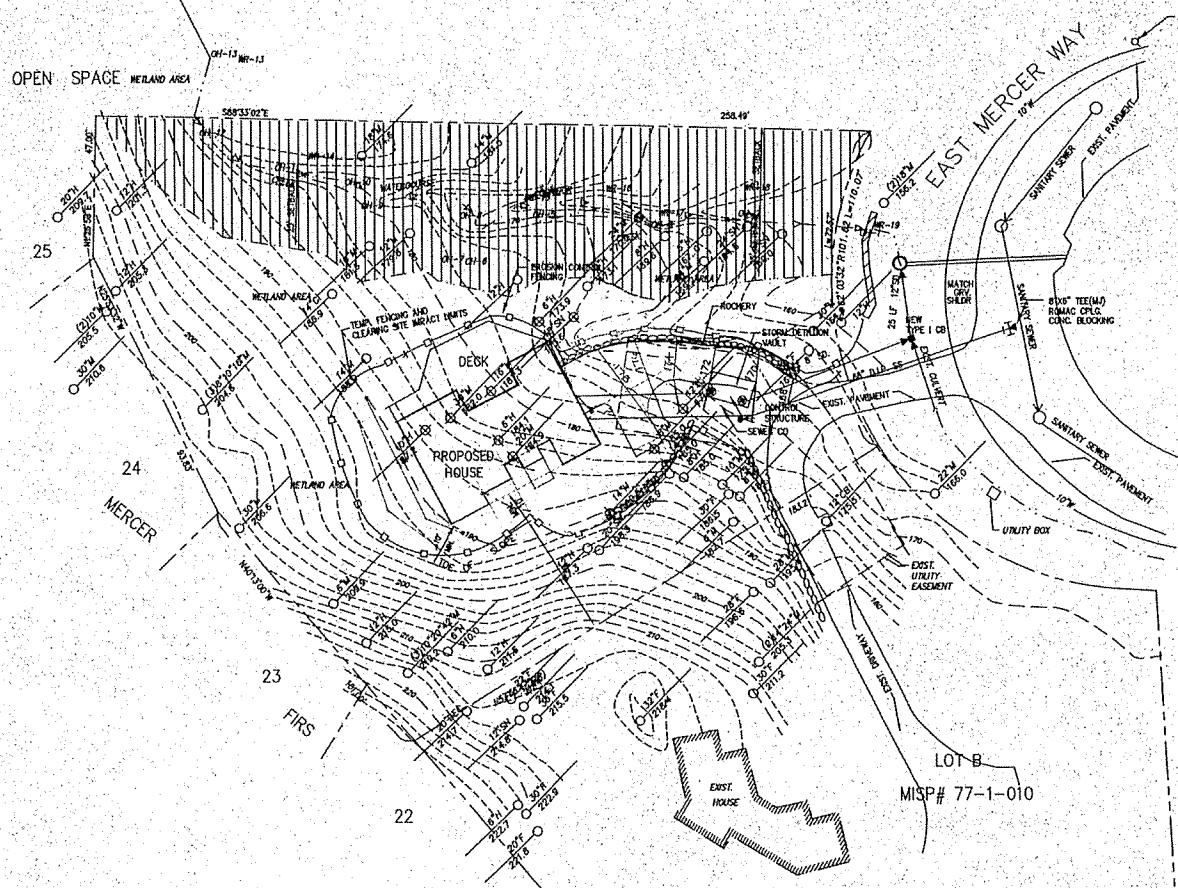
Above: Site as viewed from Mercer Way
Below: looking north across site near existing driveway entrance





Above: Existing quarry spall access driveway which leads to proposed building site

A PORTION OF GOVERNMENT LOT 3, OF SECTION 19, TOWNSHIP 24 NORTH, RANGE 5 EAST, W.M., KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON



LEGAL DESCRIPTION

PARCEL A OF GREG NEWITT SHORT PLAT MISP NO. 77-1-D10, AS RECORDED UNDER RECORDING NUMBER 197703310851, RECORDS OF KING COUNTY, STATE OF WASHINGTON.

REFERENCES

1. PARCEL A OF GREG NEWITT SHORT PLAT HISP. NO. 77-1-010, AS RECORDED UNDER RECORDING NUMBER 197703310851, RECORDS OF KING COUNTY, STATE OF WASHINGTON.
 2. MERCE FIRS IN VOLUME 70 OF PLATS, PAGE 70, UNDER FILE NUMBER 19850421B01893.
 3. PARKWOOD HICKORY IN VOLUME 76 OF PLATS, PAGE 81, UNDER FILE NUMBER 19840227B004212.

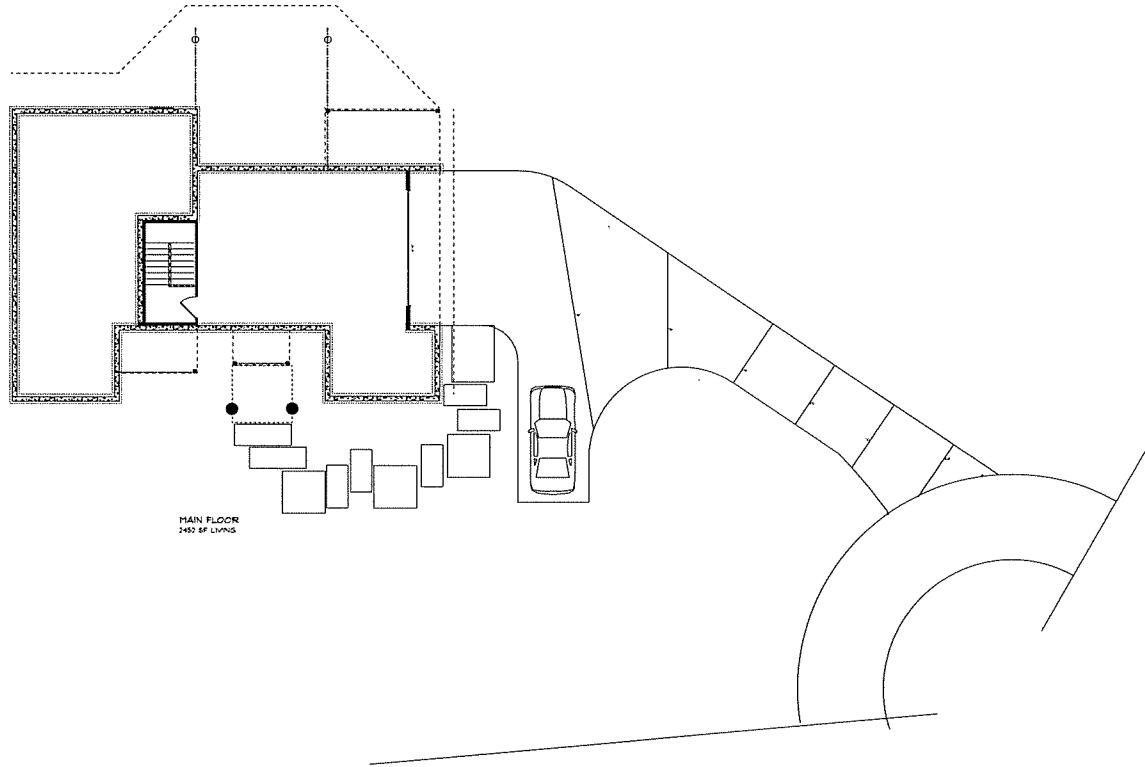
NOTES

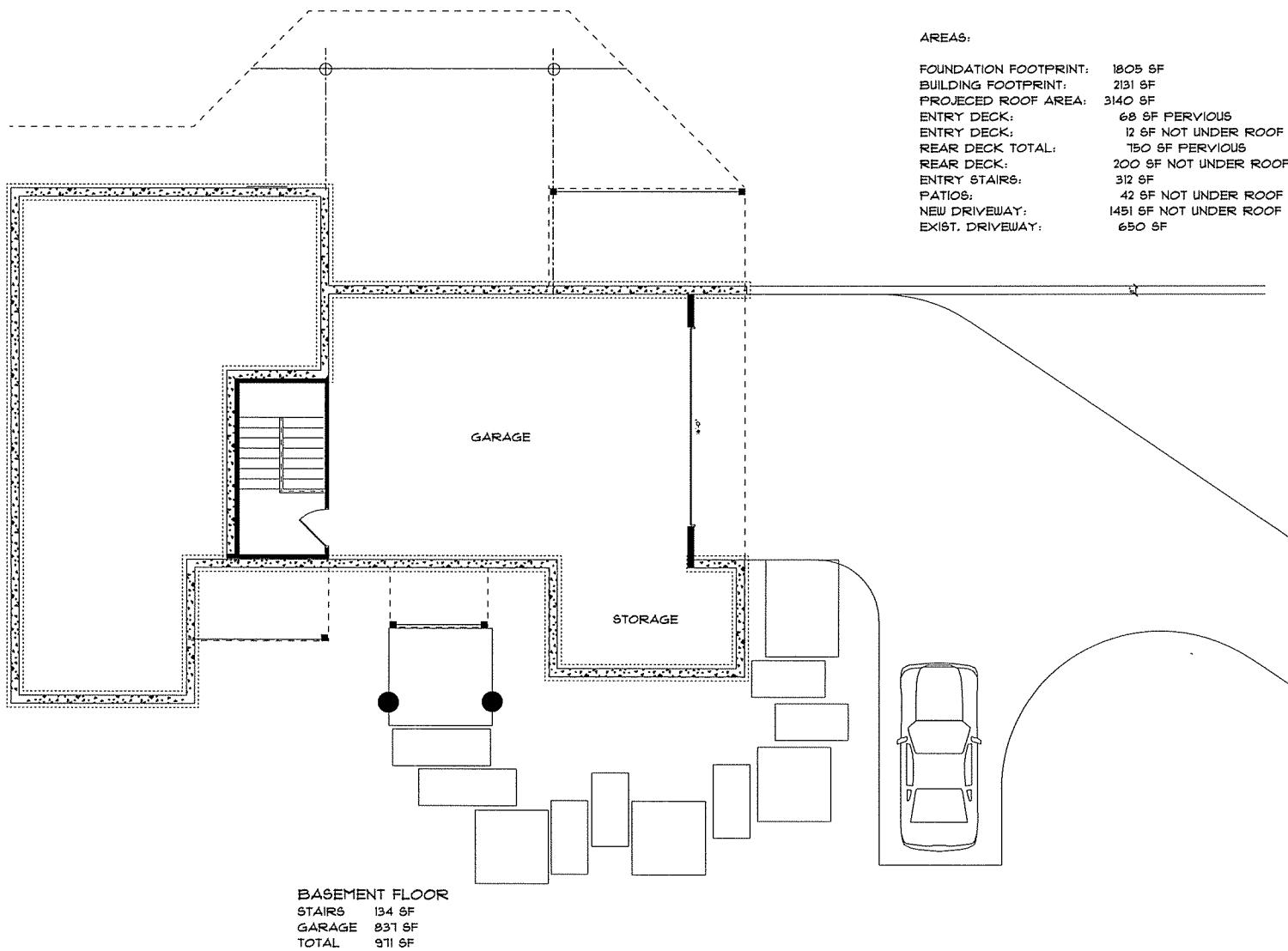
1. LEGAL DESCRIPTION, EASEMENTS, CONDITIONS AND RESTRICTIONS WERE PROVIDED BY CLIENT. IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT IN PREPARING THIS SURVEY MAP, CHS ENGINEERS, LLC HAS NOT CONDUCTED AN INDEPENDENT TITLE SEARCH NOR IS CHS AWARE OF ANY TITLE ISSUES AFFECTING THE PROPERTY OTHER THAN THOSE SHOWN ON THIS MAP. CHS HAS ONLY RELIED ON THE ABOVE REFERENCED TITLE REPORT TO PREPARE THIS SURVEY AND THEREFORE QUALIFIES THE MAP'S ACCURACY AND COMPLETENESS TO THAT EXTENT.
 2. BASES OF BEARING: WASHINGTON STATE PLANE COORDINATE SYSTEM (NORTH ZONE, HAD 83/91)
 3. VERTICAL DATUM: HAD 89 DATUM
 4. UTILITIES OTHER THAN THOSE SHOWN MAY EXIST ON THE SITE. UNDERGROUND UTILITY LOCATIONS SHOWN HEREON ARE TAKEN FROM A COMPILATION OF PUBLIC RECORDS AND VISIBLE FIELD EVIDENCE. WE ASSUME NO LIABILITY FOR THE ACCURACY OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS. UNDERGROUND UTILITY LOCATIONS ARE ONLY APPROXIMATE. UNDERGROUND CONNECTIONS ARE SHOWN AS STRAIGHT LINES BETWEEN VISIBLE SURFACE LOCATIONS BUT MAY CONTAIN BENDS OR CURVES NOT SHOWN. FIELD VERIFICATION IS NECESSARY PRIOR TO OR DURING ANY CONSTRUCTION.

SITE PLAN

SHEET #

CHS		5507 BELRED ROAD SUITE C BELLEVUE, WA 98004-2520 CHS ENGINEERS, LLC TEL: (425) 457-0730 • FAX: (425) 457-0830 www.chsengineering.com		BOUNDARY / TOPOGRAPHIC SURVEY	
SUMMERS DEVELOPMENT		Job No. 001411	Date 11-1-11	Completed / Date 11-1-11	Revised By Initials
Width Feet	1'-0"	Sheet No.	1	Sheet No.	1
Length Feet	2'	Job No.		Job No.	





3

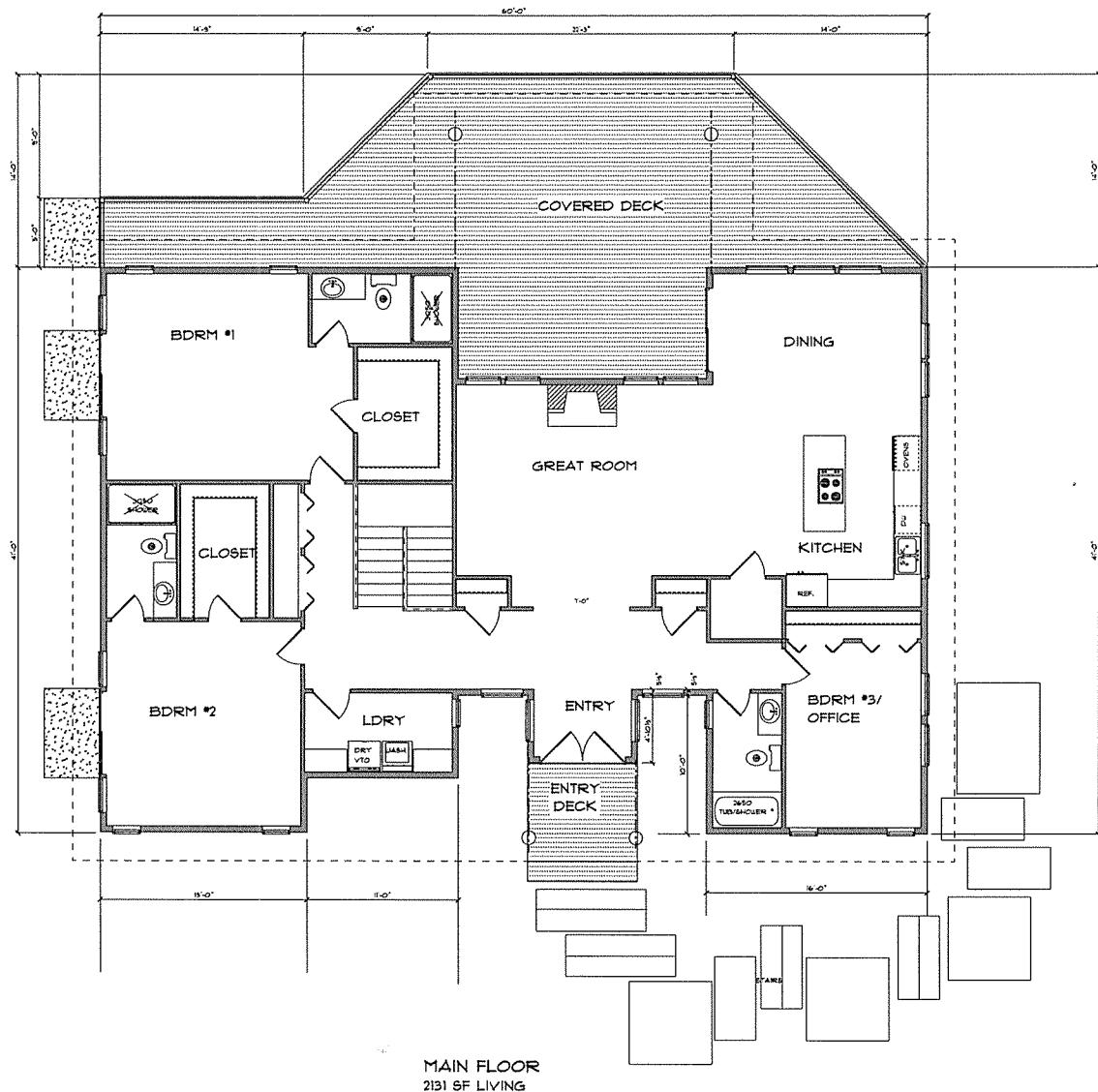
BASEMENT PLAN

SCALE 1/4" = 1'-0"

DATE
10-01-14PROJECT NO.
14-O14SHEET NO.
3

202-554-2006
HEALEY-JORGENSEN
ARCHITECTS
209 22ND PL. S.E., ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314
RECEIVED BY MAIL
RECEIVED BY FAX
RECEIVED BY E-MAIL

MILL Treehouse, LLC,
5631 EAST MERCER WAY
MERCER ISLAND, WA.



4

MAIN FLOOR

SCALE: 1/4" = 1'-0"

DATE: 10-14-14

PROJECT NO:

14-014

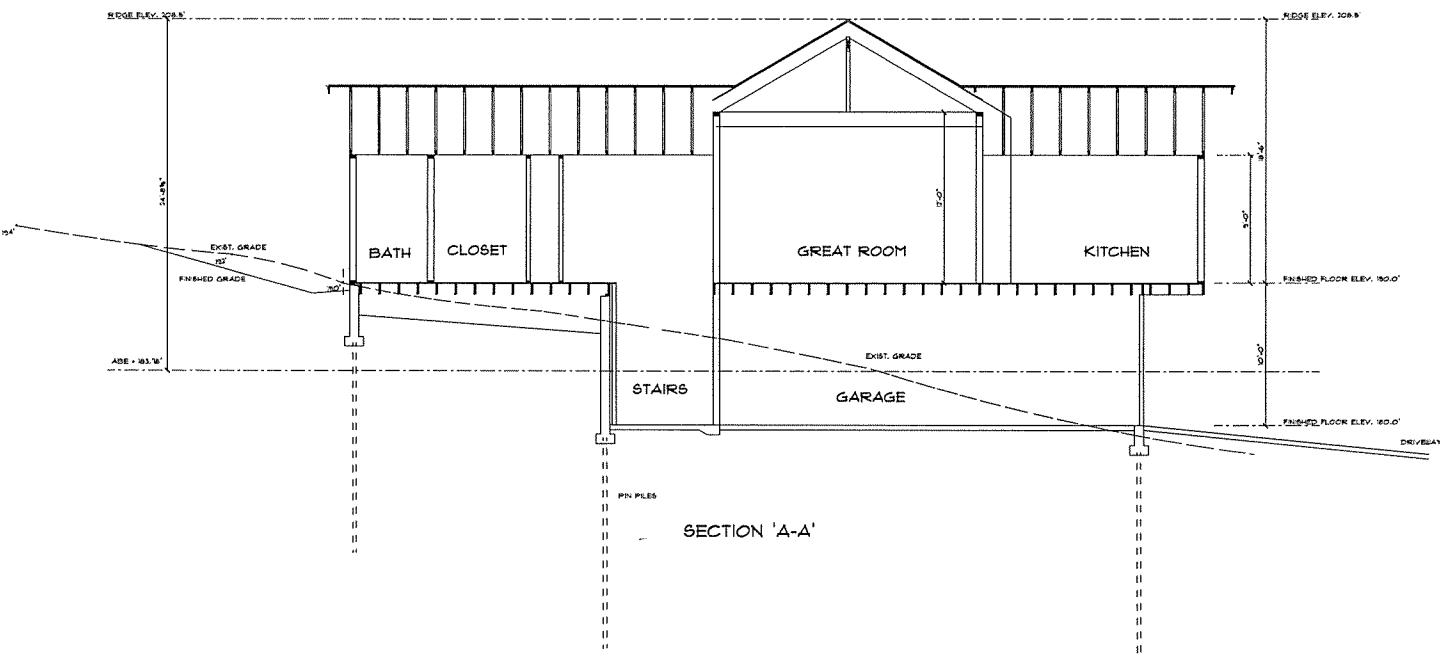
SHEET NO:

4

425.624.3996
HEALEY-JORGENSEN
ARCHITECTS
209-22010 P.L.E., SAMMAMISH, WA 98075

MII Treehouse, PLLC,
5631 EAST MERCER WAY,
MERCER ISLAND, WA,

PRINTED
ACTUAL
BY HEALEY-JORGENSEN
ARCHITECTS
209-22010 P.L.E., SAMMAMISH, WA 98075



COPYRIGHT © HEALEY-JORGENSEN ARCHITECTS, PLLC

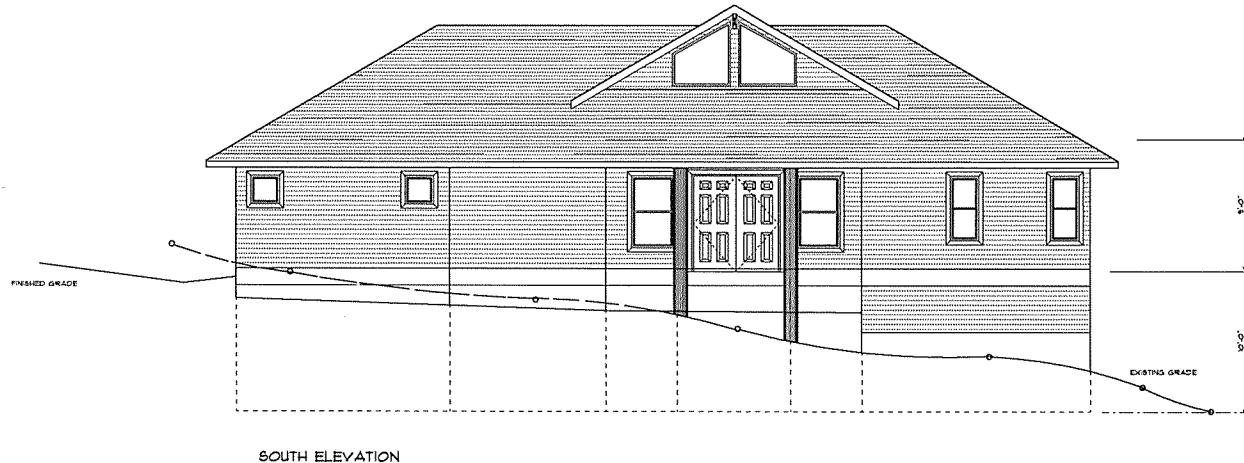
MII Treehouse, LLC,
55637 EAST MERCER WAY
MERCER ISLAND, WA.

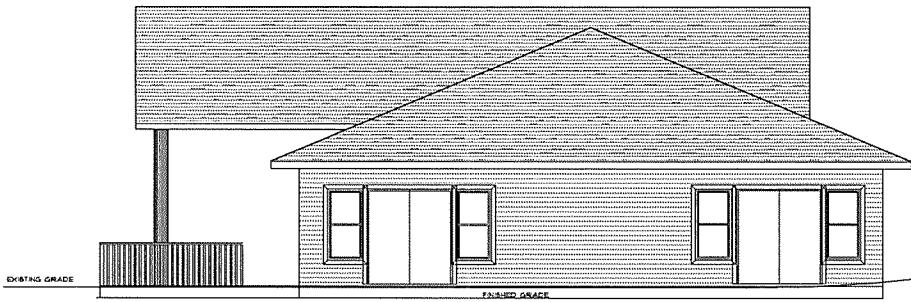
SECTION 'A-A'

DATE
10-01-14

PROJECT NO.
14-074

SHEET NO.
6





WEST ELEVATION



EAST ELEVATION

8

EAST - WEST ELEVATIONS

SCALE 1/4" = 1'-0"

DATE
04-14

PROJECT NO.
14-O14

SHEET NO.

23-04-2006
HEALEY-JORGENSEN
ARCHITECTS
209 22nd St. N.E., SAWMILL, VA 20075
INCLUDES:
Site & Grade
Architectural
Structural
Mechanical
Electrical
Plumbing

MII Treehouse, LLC,
5631 EAST MERCER WAY,
MERCER ISLAND, WA.

Wetland name or number A

WETLAND RATING FORM - WESTERN WASHINGTON
 Version 2, Used May 2005, is a more accurate and potentially better user
 Updated Oct 2005 with the new WDWR definitions for priority habitats

Name of wetland (if known): butcher's Bay Date of site visit: 11-6-14Rated by 2d Second Trained by Ecology Yes No Date of training _____STC: _____ TWSRP: _____ RANGE: _____ is SITR in Appendix D? Yes No _____Map of wetland unit: Figure: _____ Estimated size: 2.5 ac**SUMMARY OF RATING**

Category based on FUNCTIONS provided by wetland

I II III IV

				Score for Water Quality Functions	Score for Hydrologic Functions	Score for Faunal Functions	TOTAL score for Functions
Category I = Score >70				10			
Category II = Score 51-69				6			
Category III = Score 30-50				1/8			
Category IV = Score <30				3	4		

Category based on SPECIAL CHARACTERISTICS of wetland

I II III Does not ApplyIII

Final Category (choose the "highest" category from above)

Summary of basic information about the wetland unit

Wetland Type	Wetland Subtype	Wetland Function	Wetland Condition
Estuarine	Dimensional	Riverine	
Natural Heritage Wetland		Lake-Margin	
Shrub		Slope	
Mature Forest		Rills	
Old Growth Forest		Freshwater Tidal	
Coastal Lagoon			
Intertidal			
None of the above		Check if wetland has multiple HGM classes present	

Wetland name or number A

Does the wetland unit being rated meet any of the criteria below?

Guideline for determining if the wetland unit meets any of the criteria below:		WHS	RCO
SP1.	Has the wetland unit been documented as a habitat for any Federally listed Threatened or Endangered animal, or plant species (federal species)?		
For the purposes of this rating system, "documented" means the wetland is on the appropriate state or federal database.			
SP2.	Has the wetland unit been documented as habitat for any State listed Threatened or Endangered animal, species?		
For the purposes of this rating system, "documented" means the wetland is on the appropriate state database. Non-Washington State plant species are appropriate state databases. Non-Washington State plant species are appropriate state databases. Non-Washington State plant species are authorized as Category I Natural Heritage Wetlands (see N. 19 of the state's HWDWP for the state).			
SP3.	Does the wetland unit contain individuals of Priority species listed by the HWDWP for the state?		
SP4.	Does the wetland unit have a local significance in addition to its functions? For example, the wetland has a been identified in the Statewide Major Programs, Critical Areas Ordinances, or in a local management plan as having special significance.		

To complete the next part of the data sheet you will need to determine the **Hydrogeomorphic Class of the wetland being rated**.

The hydrogeomorphic classification groups wetlands into those that function in similar ways. This simplifies the tasks needed to answer how well the wetland functions. The Hydrogeomorphic Class of wetland can be determined using the key below. See p. 24 for more detailed instructions on classifying wetlands.

Wetland name or number A**Classification of Wetland Units in Western Washington**

Note: Hydrologic criteria listed below do not apply to the entire unit being rated. They only apply to areas that contain multiple HGM classes. In this case, identify which hydrologic criteria is qualified? "YES" or "NO" and go to Question 8.

1. Are freshwater levels in the entire unit usually controlled by tides (i.e., except during floods)?
YES – go to 2

If yes, is the salinity of the water during periods of annual low flow below 5 ppt (parts per thousand)? YES – Freshwater Tidal Fringe NO – Saltwater Tidal Fringe (Assume)

If your wetland can be classified as a Freshwater Tidal Fringe use the form for Riverine wetlands. If it's a Saltwater Tidal Fringe, it's rated as an Estuarine wetland. Wetlands that were called "estuarine" in the first and second editions of the rating system are called Salt Water Tidal Fringe in the Hydrogeomorphic Classification. Estuarine wetlands were categorized separately in the earlier editions and their separation is being kept in this revision. To maintain consistency between editions, the term "Estuarine" wetland is kept.

Please note, however, that the characteristics that define Category I and II estuarine wetlands have changed (see p.).

2. The entire wetland unit is flat and precipitation is the only source (>90%) of water to it.
 Groundwater, surface water runoff or NOT sources of water to the unit.
NO – go to 3

YES – The wetland class is Flats

If your wetland can be classified as a "Flat" wetland, use the form for Depressional wetlands.

3. Does the entire wetland unit meet both of the following criteria?

— Without any vegetation on the surface at least 20 acres (8 ha) in size;
 — At least 30% of the open water area is deeper than 6.6 ft (2 m)?

YES – The wetland class is Lake-Fringe (Lacustrine Fringe)

4. Does the entire wetland unit meet all of the following criteria?
YES

The wetland is on a slope (slope can be very gradual).
 The water flows through the wetland in one direction (unidirectional) and usually comes from seeps. It may flow subsurface, as sheetflow, or in a swale without distinct banks.

Note: Before water does not pond in this type of wetland, except occasionally in very small and shallow depressions or bottom凹 (depressions that are usually <5 diameters wide, <1m deep).

YES – The wetland class is Slope

Wetland name or number A

5. Does the entire wetland unit meet all of the following criteria?

The unit is in a valley or stream channel. Where it gets inundated by overbank flooding from that stream or river.

Note: The overbank flooding occurs at least once every two years.
NOTE: The riverine unit can contain depressions that are filled with water when the river is not flooding.

YES – The wetland class is Riverine
NO – go to 6

6. Is the entire wetland unit in a topographic depression in which water ponds, or is saturated to the surface, at some time during the year. This means that any outlet, if present, is higher than the interior of the wetland.

YES – The wetland class is Depressional

7. Is the entire wetland unit located in a very flat area with no obvious depression and no overbank flooding. The unit does not pond surface water more than a few inches. The unit seems to be inundated by high groundwater in the area. The wetland may be ditched, but has no obvious natural outlets.

YES – The wetland class is Depressional

8. Your wetland unit seems to be difficult to classify and probably contains several different HGM classes. For example, a slope of a stream may grade into a ravine (flood plain), or a small stream within a depressional wetland has a zone of flooding along its sides. (O BACK AND APPLY TO DIFFERENT AREAS IN THE UNIT (units a rough sketch to help you decide). USE IDENTITY WHICH OF THE HYDROLOGIC REGIMES DESCRIBED IN QUESTIONS 1-7 RECOMMENDED IN THE SECOND COLUMN REPRESENTS 10% OR MORE OF THE TOTAL AREA OF THE WETLAND UNIT BEING RATED. If the area of the classes listed in column 2 is less than 10% of the unit, classify the wetland using the class that represents more than 90% of the total area.

<u>HYDROLOGIC REGIMES</u>		<u>WETLAND UNITS</u>	
Slope + Riverine	Riverine	Depressional	
Slope + Depressional		Lake-Fringe	
Slope + Lake-Fringe		Depressional	
Depressional + Riverine along stream within boundary		Depressional	
Depressional + Riverine		Tidal Fringe	
Salt Water Tidal Fringe and any other class of freshwater wetland		Tidal Fringe under wetland	
		Wetland with special characteristics	

If you are unable still to determine which of the above criteria apply to your wetland, or if you have more than 2 EGM classes within a wetland boundary, classify this wetland as Depressional for the rating.

Wetland name or number
A

Wetland name or number
A

S. Slope Wetland Water quality or pollutants - includes infiltration, assimilation, & removal (see p. 69).	
S. Does the wetland unit have the potential to improve water quality?	
S. 1.1 Characteristics of average slope of unit: Slope is 1% or less (0.15 slope has a 1-foot vertical drop in elevation for every 100' horizontal distance) Points = 3 Slope is 1% - 2% Points = 2 Slope is 2% - 5% Points = 1 Slope is greater than 5% Points = 0	
S. 1.2 The soil 2 inches below the surface (or duff layer) is clay or organic (see p. 69). Figure _____ S. 1.3 Characteristics of vegetation in the wetland that trap sediments and pollutants: Choose the points appropriate for the description that best fits the vegetation in the wetland. Dense vegetation means you have trouble seeing the soil surface (>75% cover), and under emergent or ground or ground and plants are higher than 6 inches. Points = 6 Points = 5 Points = 4 Points = 3 Points = 2 Points = 1 Points = 0	
Total for S.1 3	
S. 2. Does the wetland unit have the opportunity to improve water quality? Answer YES if you know or believe there are pollutants in groundwater or surface water causing harm to the wetland that would otherwise reduce water quality in streams, lakes or groundwater downstream from the wetland. Note which of the following conditions provide the sources of pollutants. A unit may have pollutant coming from several sources, but only single source would qualify as opportunity. — Grazing in the wetland or within 150 ft. — Unreated stormwater discharges to wetland — Filled fields, logging, or orchards within 150 feet of wetland — Residential, urban areas, or golf courses are within 150 feet/piece of wetland — Other: YES NO multiplier: 1	
TOTAL - Water Quality Functions Multiply the score from S1 by S2 Add scores to table on p. J	
Comments	

S. Shrub Wetland Water quality or pollutants - includes infiltration, assimilation, & removal (see p. 69).	
S. Does the wetland unit have the potential to reduce flooding and stream erosion?	
S. 1. Characteristics of vegetation that reduce the velocity of surface flows during storms. Choose the points appropriate for the description that best fit conditions in the wetland. (Leaves of plant should be thick enough (fusely) > 1/2in), or dense enough, to remain erect during surface flow(s).) (already > 1/2in), or dense enough, to remain erect during surface flow(s).) Dense, until, tall vegetation over > 90% of other area of the wetland. Dense, until, tall vegetation over 1/2 area of wetland Dense, until, tall vegetation over > 1/4 area of wetland Dense, until, tall vegetation over > 1/4 area of wetland Dense, until, tall vegetation over > 1/4 area of wetland, mixed, filled or vegetation is Points = 3 Points = 2 Points = 1 Points = 0	
S. 2. Characteristics of slope wetland that holds back/retains amounts of flood flows: The slope wetland has small surface depression that can retain water over at least 10% of its area. YES NO Points = 2	
S. 3. Does the wetland have the opportunity to reduce flooding and erosion? Is the wetland in a landscape position where the reduction in water velocity it provides helps protect downstream property and aquatic resources from flooding or excessive surface runoff? Note water of the following conditions apply: — Wetland has surface runoff that drains to a river or stream that has flooding problems — Other: Answer YES if the major source of water is controlled by a reservoir (e.g. wetland is a steep hillside or ravine). YES NO multiplier: 1	
TOTAL - Hydrologic Functions Multiply the score from S3 by S4 Add score to table on p. J	
Comments	

Wetland name or number A

H1.4. Infiltration of plant life (see p. 70)

Check the types of vegetation classes present (as defined in Coverage - Site Inventory) for each area of 1/4 acre or more than 1/0% of the area if not > 2.5 acres.

Aquatic bed

Emergent plants

Scrubland (areas where shrubs have >30% cover)

Forested areas (where trees have >30% cover)

If the park has a forested class check if:

The forested class has 3 out of 5 strata (canopy, sub-canopy, shrubs, herbaceous, root/ground-cover) that each cover >30% within the forested polygon

Add the number of vegetation structures that qualify. If you have:

Map of Covariation vegetation classes.

H1.5. Shallow water (see p. 71)

Count the types of aquatic regimes (predominantly) present within the wetland. The water regime for cover areas from 1/05 of the wetland to 1/0 acre to cover for descriptions of hydroperiods.

Permanently flooded or inundated

Seasonally flooded or inundated

Occasionally flooded or inundated

Occasionally flowing stream or river in, or adjacent to, the wetland

Seasonally flowing stream in, or adjacent to, the wetland

Lake/large pond = 2 points

Forest/other land/wetland = 2 points

H1.6. Richness of Plant Species (see p. 72)

Count the number of plant species in the wetland that cover at least 10^{-3} (10^{-3} different patches of the same species can be combined to meet the size threshold).

You do not have to name the species.

Do not include alien/non-native, rare, conservation, purple leaved, Canadian Thistle

> 10 species = 2 points

5-10 species = 1 point

< 5 species = 0 points

Total for page 1

Comments _____

H1.1. Does the wetland unit have the potential to provide habitat for many species?

H1.2. Vegetation structure (see p. 72)

Check the types of vegetation classes present (as defined in Coverage - Site Inventory) for each area of 1/4 acre or more than 1/0% of the area if not > 2.5 acres.

Aquatic bed

Emergent plants

Scrubland (areas where shrubs have >30% cover)

Forested areas (where trees have >30% cover)

If the park has a forested class check if:

The forested class has 3 out of 5 strata (canopy, sub-canopy, shrubs, herbaceous, root/ground-cover) that each cover >30% within the forested polygon

Add the number of vegetation structures that qualify. If you have:

Map of Covariation vegetation classes.

H1.3. Water fields (see p. 73)

Count the types of aquatic regimes (predominantly) present within the wetland. The water regime for cover areas from 1/05 of the wetland to 1/0 acre to cover for descriptions of hydroperiods.

Permanently flooded or inundated

Seasonally flooded or inundated

Occasionally flooded or inundated

Occasionally flowing stream or river in, or adjacent to, the wetland

Seasonally flowing stream in, or adjacent to, the wetland

Lake/large pond = 2 points

Forest/other land/wetland = 2 points

H1.4. Infiltration of plant life (see p. 70)

Decide from the diagrams below whether infiltration between Covariation vegetation classes (described in H.1.1), or the classes and unvegetated areas (can include open water or mudflats) is high, medium, low, or none.

None = 0 points

Low = 1 point

Moderate = 2 points

High = 3 points

[Giant balled shrubs]

H1.5. Shallow water (see p. 71)

Check the habitat features that are present in the wetland. The number of checks is the number of points you get for the next column.

Lyrics downed, woody debris within the wetland (>4 in. diameter and 6 ft long).

Standing snag (diameter at the bottom > 4 inches) in the wetland.

Undercut banks are present for at least 6.6 ft (2m) and/or overhanging vegetation extends at least 3.3 ft (1m) over a stream or ditch in, or contiguous with the unit, for at least 33 ft (10m).

Stable above banks of fine material that might be used by beaver or muskrat for damming (C-dams slope).

OK signs of recent beaver activity are present (entwined or tree trunks that have not yet turned gray/brown).

All trees & woody branches are present in areas that are permanently or seasonally inundated (otherwise, for e.g., saying by angel's beard).

Invasive plants cover less than 25% of the wetland in a continuous area of at least 100 ft (30m).

H1.6. TOTAL Score - potential for providing habitat

Add the scores from H1.1, H1.2, H1.3, H1.4, H1.5

Comments _____

Total for page 1

Comments _____

Wetland name or number A**CATEGORIZATION BASED ON SPECIAL CHARACTERISTICS**

Please determine if the wetland meets the attributes described below and circle the appropriate answers and Category.

Wetland Type	Category
Check off only criteria that apply to the wetland. Circle the Category when the uncheckable criteria are met.	
SC 1.0 Estuarine wetlands (see p. 30)	
Does the wetland unit meet the following criteria for Estuarine wetlands?	
— The dominant water regime is tidal,	
— Vegetated, and	
— With a salinity greater than 0.5 ppt.	NO
SC 1.1 Is the wetland unit within a National Wildlife Refuge, National Park, National Estuary Reserve, Natural Area Preserve, State Park or Botanical, Environmental or Scientific Reserve designated under WAC 332-30-1517? NO go to SC 1.2	Cat I
YIS = Category I.	
SC 1.2 Is the wetland unit at least 1 acre in size and needs at least two of the following three conditions? YIS = Category I, NO = Category II	Cat I
— The wetland is relatively undisturbed, that is no dredging, ditching, filling, sulfification, grading, and has less than 10% cover of non-native plant species. If the non-native species are the only species that cover more than 10% of the wetland, then the wetland should be given dual rating (DU). The area of Spartina would be rated a Category II while the relatively undisturbed upland with native species (as would be a Category I). Do not, however, deduct the area of Spartina in determining the size instead of 1 acre.	Cat II
— At least 5% of the landward edge of the wetland has a 100 ft buffer of shrub, forest, or ungrazed or unmowed grassland.	Dual rating
— The wetland has at least 2 of the following features: tidal channels, depressions with open water, or contiguous freshwater wetlands.	III

H 2. Wetland Landuse (choose the one description of the landuse around the wetland that there are at least 3 other wetlands within ½ mile, and the connections between them are relatively undisturbed) If grazing between wetlands, OC, is a lake shore with some boating, but connection should NOT be affected by paved roads, fill, fields, or other development.	
The wetland is lake-fringe on a lake with little disturbance and there are 3 other lake-fringe wetlands within ½ mile	
There are at least 3 other wetlands within ½ mile, BUT the connections between them are disturbed.	
The wetland is lake-fringe on a lake with disturbance and there are 3 other lake-fringe wetlands within ½ mile	
There are at least 1 wetland within ½ mile.	
There are no wetlands within ½ mile.	
H 2. TOTAL Score – opportunity for providing habitat Add the scores from H2, H2.1, H2.2, H2.3, H2.4	
TOTAL for H 1 from page 14	
Total Score for Habitat Functions – add the points for H 1, H 2 and record the result on p. 1	1 / 8

Wetland Rating Form - western Washington
version 2 Updated with new WDFW Additions Oct. 2008
August 2004

17
18
Version 2 Updated with new WDWF Additions Oct. 2008

Wetland name or number A

Wetland name or number A

SC 4.0 Natural Heritage Wetlands (see p. 87) Natural Heritage wetlands have been identified by the Washington Natural Heritage Program/DNR as either high quality undisturbed wetlands or wetlands that support state threatened, Endangered, or Sensitive Plant species.		Cat. I
SC 2.1 Is the wetland unit being rated in a Section 10(a)(1) Range that contains a Natural Heritage wetland? <i>(This question is used to screen out most sites before you need to contact WDFW/DNR, or someone from WDFW/DNR, via site STR information from Appendix D.)</i> _____		— NO _____
YES _____ — contact WDFW/DNR (see p. 79) and go to SC 2.2		
SC 2.2 Has DNR identified the wetland as a high quality undisturbed wetland or as or as a site with rare threatened or endangered plant species? <i>(See Appendix B for definitions)</i> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> not a Heritage Wetland		
SC 4.0 Bogs (see p. 87) Does the wetland unit (or my part of the unit) meet both the criteria for wetland vegetation in bogs? <i>Use the key below to identify if the wetland is a bog. If your answer yes, you will still need to rate the wetland based on its functions.</i>		
1. Does the unit have organic soil horizons (i.e., layers of organic soil), either peats or mucks, that compose 16 inches or more of the first 32 inches of the soil profile? <i>(See Appendix B for definitions)</i> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes - <input type="checkbox"/> No - <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> go to Q. 3		
2. Does the unit have organic soils, either peats or mucks, that are less than 16 inches deep over bedrock, or an impermeable hardpan such as clay or volcanic ash, or are floating on a lake surface? <i>(See Appendix B for definitions)</i>		
Yes - go to Q. 3 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No - <input type="checkbox"/> is not a bog for purpose of rating		
3. Does the unit have more than 70% cover in water at ground level? <i>AND other plants, if present, consist of the "bog" species listed in Table 2 as a significant component of the vegetation (more than 30% of the total shrub and herbaceous cover consists of species in Table 3)?</i>		
Yes - <input type="checkbox"/> is a bog for purpose of rating <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No - <input type="checkbox"/> go to Q. 4		
NOTE: If you are uncertain about the extent of mosses in the underlying soil, you may substitute that criterion by measuring the pH of the water that seeps into a hole dug at least 10" deep. If the pH is less than 5.0 and the "bog" plant species in Table 3 are present, the wetland is a bog.		
1. Is the unit forested (> 30% cover) with alder species, subshrub firs, western red cedar, western hemlock, larchpole pine, quaking aspen, Engelmann's spruce, or western white pine, WITH any one of the species (or combination of species) on the bog species plant list in Table 3 as a significant component of the ground cover? (> 30% coverage of the total shrub/herbaceous cover?)		
2. YES = Category 1 <input type="checkbox"/> NO = Category II <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No - <input type="checkbox"/> is not a bog for purpose of rating		Cat. I

SC 4.0 Forested Wetlands (see p. 90) Does the wetland unit have at least 1 acre of forest that meet one of these criteria for the Department of Fish and Wildlife's forests as priority habitats? <i>If you answer yes, you will still need to rate the wetland based on its functions.</i>		
— Old-growth forests: (west of Cascade crest) Stands of at least two tree species, forming a multi-layered canopy with occasional small openings; with at least 8 tree/acre (DBH tree/hectare) that are at least 200+ years of age OR have a diameter at breast height (DBH) of 32 inches (81 cm) or more.		
NOTE: The criterion for DBH is based on measurements for upland forests. Two-hundred year old trees in wetlands will often have smaller DBH because their growth rates are often lower. The DNR criterion is "old-growth" because old-growth forests do not necessarily have to have trees of this diameter.		
— Mature forests: (west of the Cascade Crest) Stands where the largest trees are 80–200+ years old OR have a average diameters (DBH) exceeding 21 inches (53cm); crown cover may be less than 100%; decay, decadence, numbers of stems, and quantity of large downed material is generally less than that found in old-growth.		
YES = Category I <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> a forested wetland with special characteristics		Cat. I
SC 5.0 Wetlands in Coastal Lagoons (see p. 91) Does the wetland meet all of the following criteria of a wetland in a coastal lagoon?		
— The wetland lies in a depression adjacent to marine waters that is wholly or partially separated from marine waters by sandbars, gravel bars, shingles, etc., that frequently, rocks, — The lagoon in which the wetland is located contains surface water that is saline or brackish (> 0.5 psu) during most of the year, or it has a position of the lagoon (<i>needs to be measured perpendicular to the bottom</i>)		
YES = Go to SC 5.1 <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> not a wetland in a coastal lagoon		
SC 5.1 Does the wetland meets all of the following three conditions?		
— The wetland is relatively undisturbed (has no ditching, dredging, filling, cultivation, grazing), and has less than 20% cover of invasive plant species (see list of invasive species on p. 76).		
— At least ½ of the landward edge of the wetland has a 100 ft buffer of shrub, forest, or un-irrigated or un-mowed grassland.		
— The wetland is larger than 1/10 acre (330 square feet)		
YES = Category I <input type="checkbox"/> NO = Category II <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Cat. I

Wetland name or number A

SC 6.0 Intertidal Wetlands (see p. 23)	
Is the wetland unit west of the 1889 line also called the Western Boundary of Upland Ownership or WBUDO? YES – go to SC 6.1 NO – not an intertidal wetland for rating <i>If you answer yes you will still need to rate the wetland based on its functions.</i>	
In practical terms that means the following geographic areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Long Beach Peninsula - lands west of SR 103• Grayland/Westport - lands west of SR 105• Ocean Shores/Copalis - lands west of SR 115 and SR 109• SC 6.1. Is the wetland one acre or larger, or is it a mosaic of wetlands that is once acre or larger? YES = Category II NO – go to SC 6.2	
SC 6.2. Is the unit between 0.1 and 1 acre, or is it a mosaic of wetlands that is between 0.1 and 1 acre? YES = Category III NO = Category IV	
Cat. I	NO – go to SC 6.2
Cat. II	NO – go to SC 6.2
Cat. III	N/A
<i>Comments: An "intertidal wetland" is land that is inundated by tidal waters. This definition includes both marine and freshwater wetlands. Intertidal wetlands are characterized by periodic flooding by tides, waves, or surface runoff. If a wetland receives periodic tidal influence, even if it is located inland, this defines it as an intertidal wetland.</i>	

