Lewis County, WA

Since 1845

Wetland Determinations

Frequently Asked Questions

Lewis County Community Development Department • 2025 NE Kresky • Chehalis, WA 98532 • (360) 740-1146

WHEN ARE WETLAND DETERMINATIONS REQUIRED?

Wetland determinations are required when a development proposal:

A. Is located on or within 125' of a site that has hydric soils as mapped in the Lewis County Soil Survey.
B. Has been identified as having wetlands on or within 125' of the site per the National Wetlands Inventory.
C. Has been determined likely to have wetlands after a site inspection.

Lewis County reviews development permit applications and requires wetland determinations if a site meets the previously stated criteria. After the applicant provides a wetland determination report, Lewis County will determine if a project meets the required buffers or if mitigation will be required. For information regarding requirements for mitigation conditions, you may contact the Lewis County Planning Division.

WHO IS QUALIFIED TO BE A WETLAND CONSULTANT?

Wetland determinations will only be accepted from *qualified* professional consultants, having the necessary experience and/or education for identification of wetlands meeting the criteria in the Washington State Wetlands Identification and Delineation Manual (Ecology Publication 96-94), as revised. The County may field-review wetland determinations to verify their accuracy. If the county determines that submitted wetland determinations are consistently inaccurate, the County may review a consultant's status as a "qualified professional" and may remove them from the County's consultant list. Any determination found to be inaccurate will not be accepted.

WHAT INFORMATION AND CONTENT IS REQUIRED IN A WETLAND DETERMINATION?

If, after a field review, a consultant determines that wetlands are not present, the consultant must submit a report to that effect, describing the methodology pursuant the Washington State Wetlands Identification and Delineation Manual, used to reach that determination (*including data points and a copy of the field data sheet*). If wetlands are found, the following minimum information must be submitted according to the type of project:

17.35A.621 Wetland review and reporting requirements:

A wetland assessment study describes the characteristics of the subject property and adjacent areas. The assessment shall be completed pursuant to the information provided in Section 17.35A.581 and include the following:

(a) Existing physical features of the site including buildings, fences, and other structures, roads, parking lots, utilities, water bodies, etc;

(b) Determination of the wetland category and standard wetland buffers;

(c) Field identification and delineation of wetland boundaries. For on-site wetlands, the assessment shall include the dominant and subdominant plant species; soil type, color and texture; sources of hydrology (patterns of surface and subsurface water movement, precipitation, etc), topography, and other pertinent information;

(d) Identification of sensitive areas and buffers within three hundred (300) feet of the site and an estimate of the existing approximate acreage for each. The assessment of off-site wetlands shall be based on available information and shall not require accessing off-site properties;

(e) A detailed description of the effects of the proposed development on wetland and buffer function and value, including the area of direct wetland disturbance; area of buffer reduction or averaging including documentation that functions and values will not be adversely affected by the reduction or averaging; effects of storm water management; proposed hydrologic alteration including changes to natural drainage or infiltration patterns; effects on fish and wildlife species and their habitats; clearing and grading impacts; temporary construction impacts; and effects of increased noise, light, or human intrusion; and

(f) A mitigation plan, if applicable, meeting the requirements noted in 17.35A.622 *Wetland mitigation plan*.

Note: When working with land zoned Agricultural Resource Land, 17.35A does not apply. The Lewis County Code chapter for ARL lands is 17.35 per Ordinance 1204.

The entire text for both LCC 17.35A and LCC 17.35 may be found online at http://www.codepublishing.com/wa/lewiscounty/

SOME WETLAND CONSULTANTS

Updated: March 2011

Attached, please find a list of wetland consultants able to perform wetland determinations and delineations. This list is provided for your convenience.

THIS LIST DOES NOT CONSTITUTE A RECOMMENDATION OR CERTIFICATION BY LEWIS COUNTY.

The list is generally based on a statement of qualifications. Other firms may be found by consulting the yellow pages of your telephone directory under "Environmental Consulting".

When hiring a wetland consultant, you should ask their qualifications and experience in the field of wetland determination and delineation. You should ask them about how much experience they have working with the Lewis County Critical Areas Ordinance.

LEWIS COUNTY MAY FIELD REVIEW DELINEATIONS TO ENSURE THEIR ACCURACY. PLACEMENT OF A CONSULTANT'S NAME ON THIS LIST DOES NOT CONSTITUTE AUTOMATIC APPROVAL OF WORK PERFORMED.

NOTE: Lewis County will accept determinations of "prior converted wetlands" by the Natural Resources Conservation Service if recent documentation from that agency is given to the US Army Corps of Engineers for review. Once the review is approved, written documentation must be submitted to the Planning Division. For information on "prior converted wetlands", you may contact NRCS at (360) 748.0083. Lewis County will also accept wetland determinations performed by the Department of Natural Resources, Department of Ecology, or the Army Corps of Engineers, as long as those reviews are provided in the proper format.

ADOLFSON ASSOCIATES, INC.
5309 Shilshole Ave. NW, Ste. 200
Seattle, WA 98107
206.789.9658
mclancy@esassoc.com

CHUCK HAMPTON, Biologist
509-823-0668
rajunkajun@live.com

CRAIG SWANSON
P. O. Box 622
Chehalis, WA 98532
360-978-4498
360-269-3986-cell

ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN, LLC
901 'L' Street
Centralia, WA 98531
360-219-3343
Environmental_design@comcast.net

FOREST PRO, INC.
204 Senn Rd.
Chehalis, WA 98532
360-262-9226
forestpro@q.com

OAKERMAN & ASSOCIATES
Grover Oakerman
120 Lakeside Dr.
Mossyrock, WA 98564
360-985-2864
gandvoakerman@tds.net

PACIFIC WILLOW CONSULTING, INC.
Heidi Haslinger
P O Box 596
Rainier, WA 98576
360-894-4884
Heidi@pacificwillowconsulting.com

SWCA Environmental Consultants
1220 SW Morrison, Suite 700
Portland, OR 97205
503.224.0333
www.swca.com

WETLANDS DEFINED HERE
Mike Humphrey
P.O. Box 1210
Morton, WA 98356
360-496-5099

WHORTON ENGINEERING
426 Sears Road
Winlock, WA 98596
360-785-4329