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July 31, 2019

Mr. Charles Vogel
2500 ELM ST #14
Bellingham, WA 98225

RE: 4185 Northwest Drive
DOE Rating and Buffer Determination: Off-site Wetlands

Mr. Vogel,

This letter follows a July 15, 2019 letter from City of Bellingham Planning Department responding to your questions about applicable wetland buffers on the approximately 2.06 acre parcel at 4185 Northwest Drive. We had examined the property during December 2017 and concluded there were no wetland conditions on-site. The COB letter discussed a wetland to the north that had been delineated by Widener & Associates in March 2016 as part of permitting for the Mahogany and Arctic Avenue Arterials Project. Because no wetland rating had been provided in the report by Widener & Associates, COB requested that we make a site visit to observe the current conditions of the wetland and to fill out an up-to-date DOE rating form to determine the buffer under COB 16.55.340.B. The COB letter also discussed providing an updated DOE rating form for a wetland to the west that had been delineated by our firm in March 2017. The letter discussed buffer reduction by 25% through a critical area permit if the reduction criteria can be met. This letter provides the DOE wetland ratings and buffer determination for the off-site Wetland North and off-site Wetland West as requested.

We used a scaled map image with linework of the delineated wetland to the west and north as generated by Bellingham's City IQ map Viewer. We found both wetlands to rate as Category III with a low score for wildlife and carry an 80' buffer under 16.55.340.B.3 Table 16.55.340(C) assuming a high intensity land use.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'William G. Cantrell'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

William G. Cantrell, MS
Senior Consulting Ecologist
Cantrell & Associates, Inc.

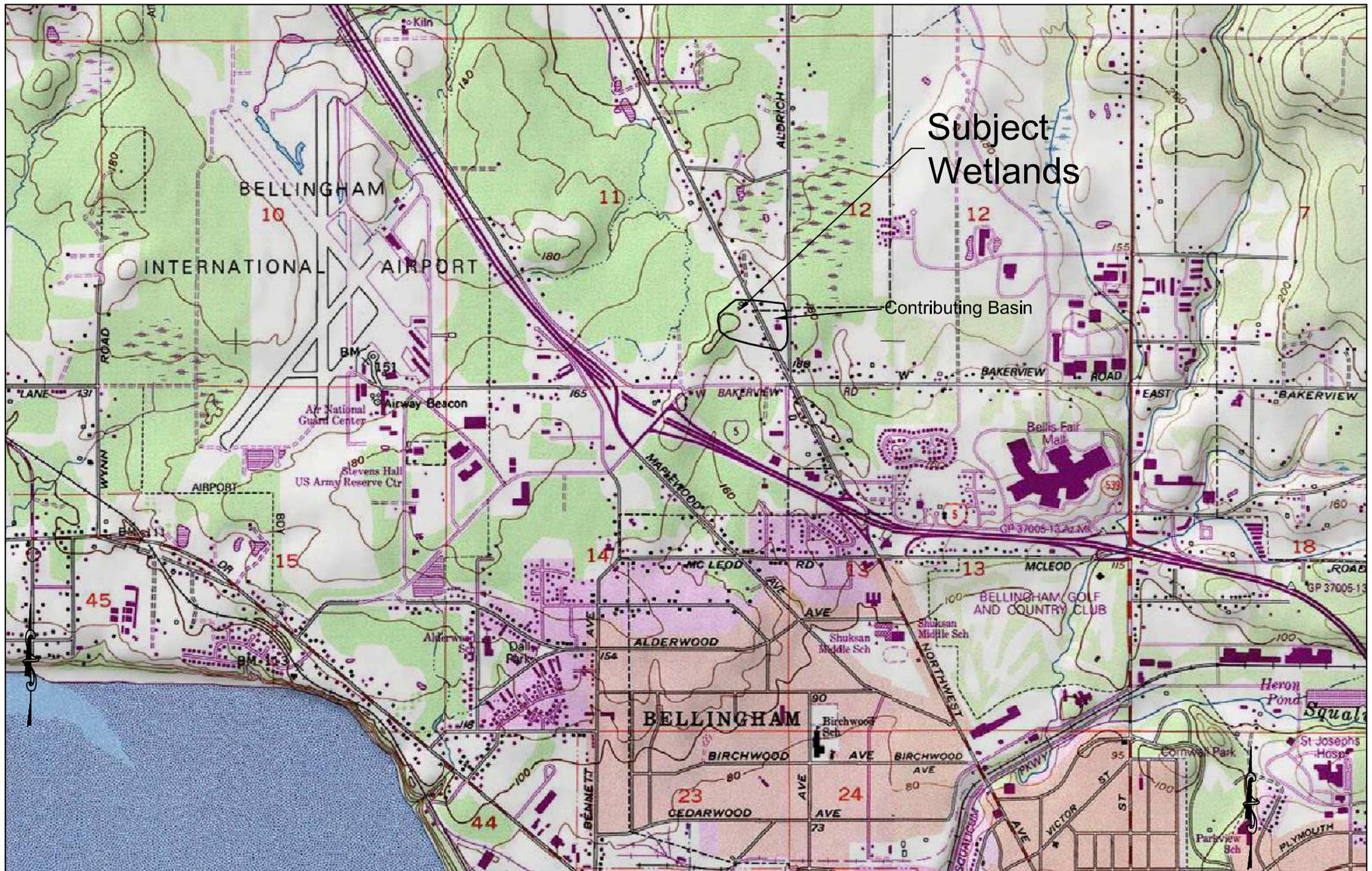
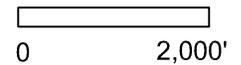


Figure 1. USGS Vicinity Map
 4185 Northwest Drive
 Parcel # 380211 449 108



July 31, 2019

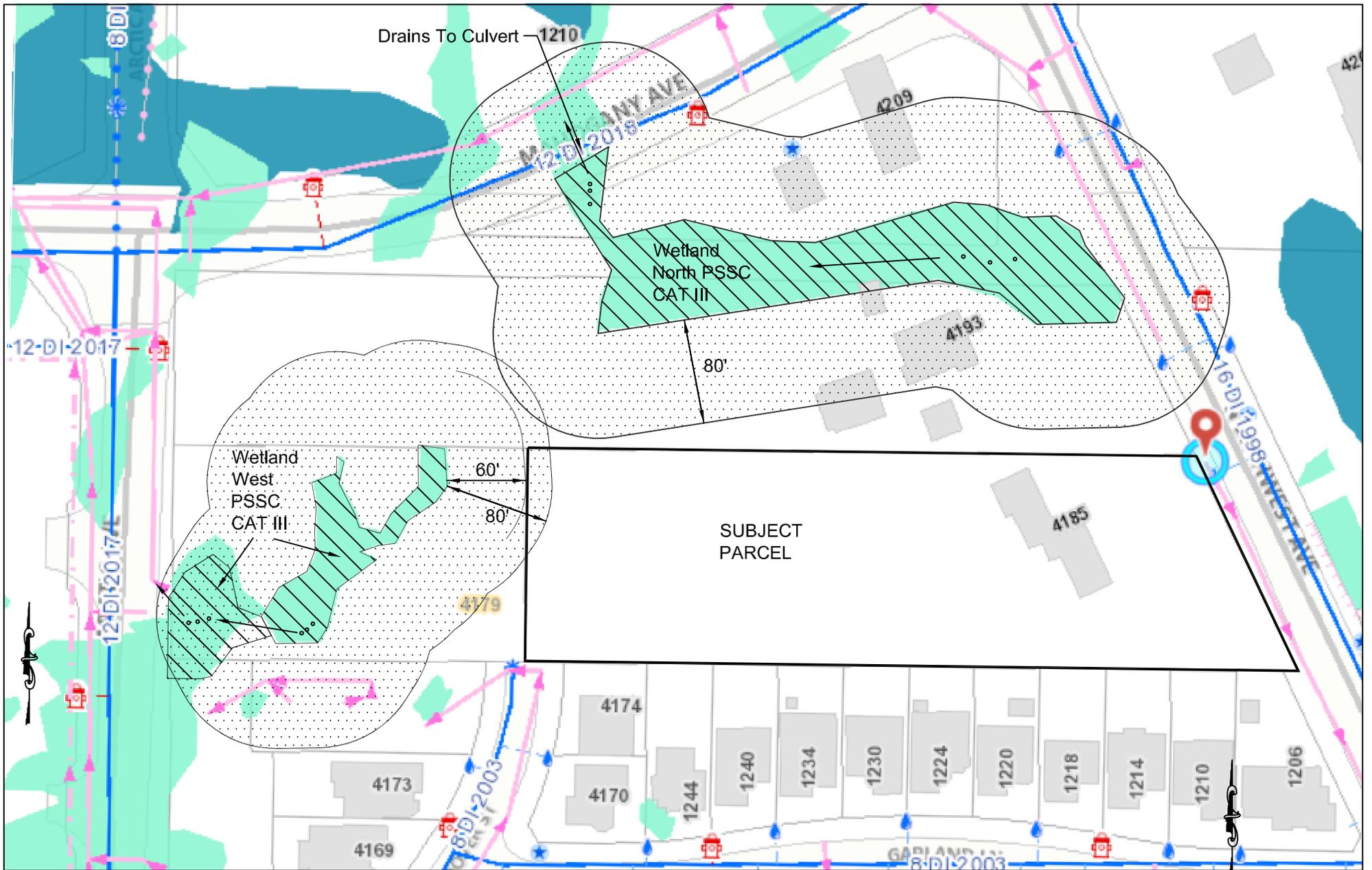
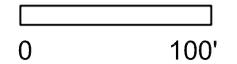


Figure 2. Wetland Buffer Determination Map
 4185 Northwest Drive
 Parcel # 380211 449 108

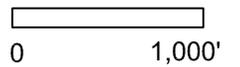
July 31, 2019



-  COB
-  Delineated Wetlands
-  Buffer



Figure 3. Wetland West DOE Rating Aerial Photograph
 4185 Northwest Drive
 Parcel # 380211 449 108

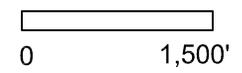


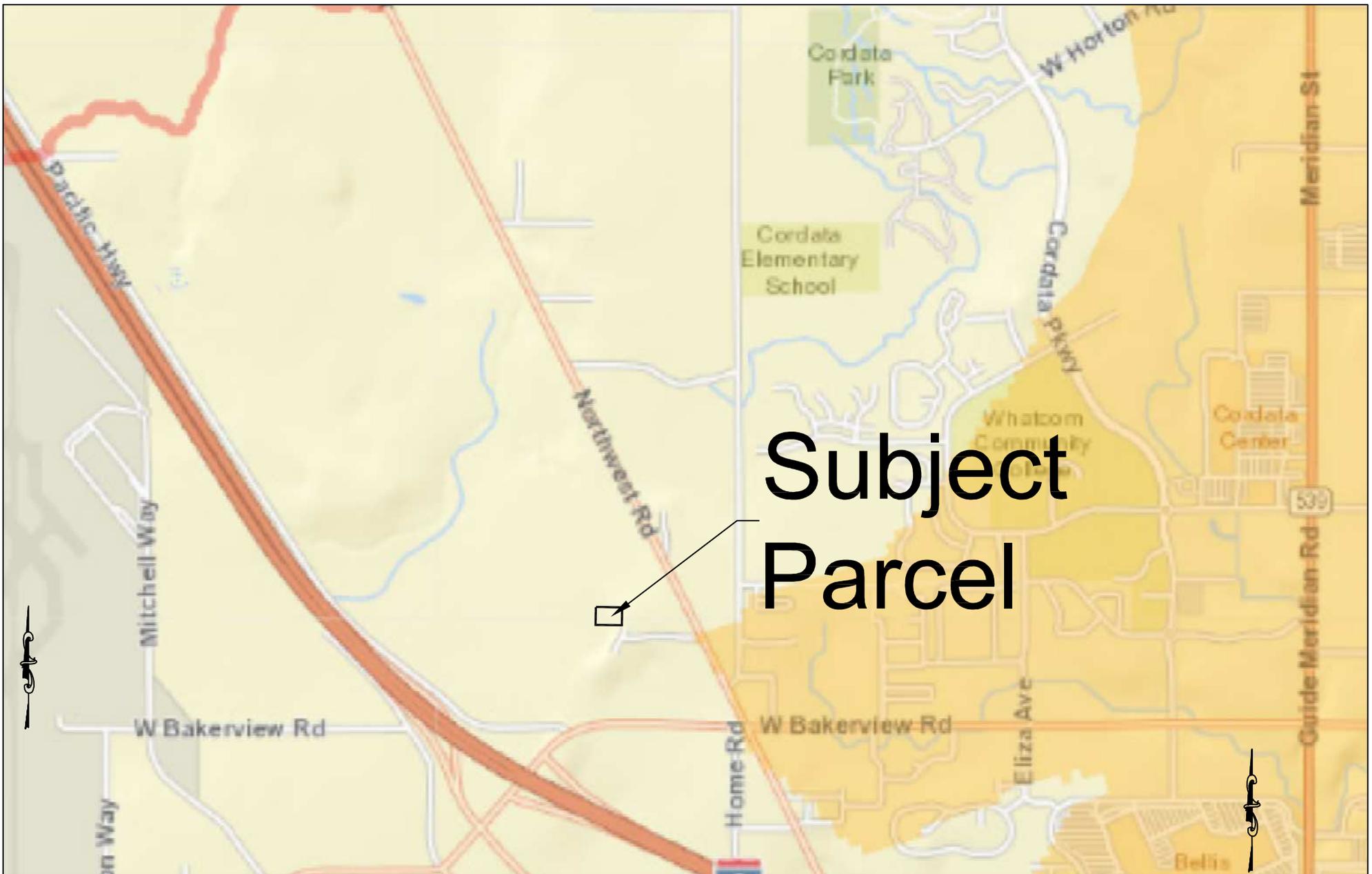
July 31, 2019



Figure 5. 303d Map
 4185 Northwest Drive
 Parcel # 380211 449 108

July 31, 2019



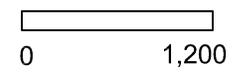


Subject Parcel

WQ Improvement Projects

- Approved
- In Development

Figure 6. TDML Water Quality Projects Map
 4185 Northwest Drive
 Parcel # 380211 449 108



March 30, 2017



RATING SUMMARY – Western Washington

Name of wetland:	Wetland West	Date of site visit:	July 31, 2019
HGM Class used	Depressional	HGM Classes	Depressional
Category	III (Low Habitat Score)	Buffer Width	80' (High Intensity)
Rated by:	Bill Cantrell	Date of Training	November 2015

- 9 = H,H,H
- 8 = H,H,M
- 7 = H,H,L
- 7 = H,M,M
- 6 = H,M,L
- 6 = M,M,M
- 5 = H,L,L
- 5 = M,M,L
- 4 = M,L,L
- 3 = L,L,L

1. Category of wetland based on FUNCTIONS

- _____ **Category I** – Total score = 23 - 27
- _____ **Category II** – Total score = 20 - 22
- Category III** – Total score = 16 - 19
- _____ **Category IV** – Total score = 9 - 15

FUNCTION	Improving Water Quality	Hydrologic	Habitat	TOTAL
<i>Circle the appropriate ratings</i>				
Site Potential	H M L	H M L	H M L	
Landscape Potential	H M L	H M L	H M L	
Value	H M L	H M L	H M L	
Score Based on Ratings	6	6	4	16

2. Category based on SPECIAL CHARACTERISTICS of wetland: **None of the above**

Maps and figures required to answer questions correctly for Western Washington

Depressional Wetlands

Map of:	To answer questions:	Figure #
Cowardin plant classes	D 1.3, H 1.1, H 1.4	2
Hydroperiods	D 1.4, H 1.2	2
Location of outlet (<i>can be added to map of hydroperiods</i>)	D 1.1, D 4.1	2
Boundary of area within 150 ft of the wetland (<i>can be added to another figure</i>)	D 2.2, D 5.2	4
Map of the contributing basin	D 4.3, D 5.3	1
1 km Polygon: Area that extends 1 km from entire wetland edge - including polygons for accessible habitat and undisturbed habitat	H 2.1, H 2.2, H 2.3	4
Screen capture of map of 303(d) listed waters in basin (from Ecology website)	D 3.1, D 3.2	5
Screen capture of list of TMDLs for WRIA in which unit is found (from web)	D 3.3	6

HGM Classification of Wetlands in Western Washington

For questions 1-7, the criteria described must apply to the entire unit being rated.

If the hydrologic criteria listed in each question do not apply to the entire unit being rated, you probably have a unit with multiple HGM classes. In this case, identify which hydrologic criteria in questions 1-7 apply, and go to Question 8.

1. Are the water levels in the entire unit usually controlled by tides except during floods?

NO – go to 2

2. The entire wetland unit is flat and precipitation is the only source (>90%) of water to it. Groundwater and surface water runoff are NOT sources of water to the unit.

NO – go to 3

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

___ The vegetated part of the wetland is on the shores of a body of permanent open water (without any plants on the surface at any time of the year) at least 20 ac (8 ha) in size;

___ At least 30% of the open water area is deeper than 6.6 ft (2 m).

NO – go to 4

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

___ 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,

___ The water leaves the wetland **without being impounded**.

NO – go to 5

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,

___ The overbank flooding occurs at least once every 2 years.

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.*

NO – go to 7 **YES** – The wetland class is **Depressional**

DEPRESSIONAL AND FLATS WETLANDS	
Water Quality Functions - Indicators that the site functions to improve water quality	
D 1.0. Does the site have the potential to improve water quality?	
D 1.1. Characteristics of surface water outflows from the wetland: Wetland is a depression or flat depression (QUESTION 7 on key) with no surface water leaving it (no outlet). points = 3 Wetland has an intermittently flowing stream or ditch, OR highly constricted permanently flowing outlet. points = 2 Wetland has an unconstricted, or slightly constricted, surface outlet that is permanently flowing points = 1 Wetland is a flat depression (QUESTION 7 on key), whose outlet is a permanently flowing ditch. points = 1	2
D 1.2. The soil 2 in below the surface (or duff layer) is true clay or true organic (use NRCS definitions). Yes = 4 No = 0	0
D 1.3. Characteristics and distribution of persistent plants (Emergent, Scrub-shrub, and/or Forested Cowardin classes): Wetland has persistent, ungrazed, plants > 95% of area points = 5 Wetland has persistent, ungrazed, plants > ½ of area points = 3 Wetland has persistent, ungrazed plants > 1/10 of area points = 1 Wetland has persistent, ungrazed plants < 1/10 of area points = 0	1
D 1.4. Characteristics of seasonal ponding or inundation: <i>This is the area that is ponded for at least 2 months. See description in manual.</i> Area seasonally ponded is > ½ total area of wetland points = 4 Area seasonally ponded is > ¼ total area of wetland points = 2 Area seasonally ponded is < ¼ total area of wetland points = 0	4
Total for D 1 Add the points in the boxes above	7
Rating of Site Potential If score is: 12-16 = H 6-11 = M 0-5 = L Record the rating on the first page	
D 2.0. Does the landscape have the potential to support the water quality function of the site?	
D 2.1. Does the wetland unit receive stormwater discharges? Yes = 1 No = 0	0
D 2.2. Is > 10% of the area within 150 ft of the wetland in land uses that generate pollutants? Yes = 1 No = 0	1
D 2.3. Are there septic systems within 250 ft of the wetland? Yes = 1 No = 0	0
D 2.4. Are there other sources of pollutants coming into the wetland that are not listed in questions D 2.1-D 2.3? Source _____ Yes = 1 No = 0	0
Total for D 2 Add the points in the boxes above	1
Rating of Landscape Potential If score is: 3 or 4 = H 1 or 2 = M 0 = L Record the rating on the first page	
D 3.0. Is the water quality improvement provided by the site valuable to society?	
D 3.1. Does the wetland discharge directly (i.e., within 1 mi) to a stream, river, lake, or marine water that is on the 303(d) list? Yes = 1 No = 0	0
D 3.2. Is the wetland in a basin or sub-basin where an aquatic resource is on the 303(d) list? Yes = 1 No = 0	1
D 3.3. Has the site been identified in a watershed or local plan as important for maintaining water quality (answer YES if there is a TMDL for the basin in which the unit is found)? Yes = 2 No = 0	0
Total for D 3 Add the points in the boxes above	1
Rating of Value If score is: 2-4 = H 1 = M 0 = L Record the rating on the first page	

DEPRESSIONAL AND FLATS WETLANDS	
Hydrologic Functions - Indicators that the site functions to reduce flooding and stream degradation	
D 4.0. Does the site have the potential to reduce flooding and erosion?	
D 4.1. Characteristics of surface water outflows from the wetland: Wetland is a depression or flat depression with no surface water leaving it (no outlet) points = 4 Wetland has an intermittently flowing stream or ditch, OR highly constricted permanently flowing outletpoints = 2 Wetland is a flat depression (QUESTION 7 on key), whose outlet is a permanently flowing ditch points = 1 Wetland has an unconstricted, or slightly constricted, surface outlet that is permanently flowing points = 0	2
D 4.2. Depth of storage during wet periods: <i>Estimate the height of ponding above the bottom of the outlet. For wetlands with no outlet, measure from the surface of permanent water or if dry, the deepest part.</i> Marks of ponding are 3 ft or more above the surface or bottom of outlet points = 7 Marks of ponding between 2 ft to < 3 ft from surface or bottom of outlet points = 5 Marks are at least 0.5 ft to < 2 ft from surface or bottom of outlet points = 3 The wetland is a "headwater" wetland points = 3 Wetland is flat but has small depressions on the surface that trap water points = 1 Marks of ponding less than 0.5 ft (6 in) points = 0	3
D 4.3. Contribution of the wetland to storage in the watershed: <i>Estimate the ratio of the area of upstream basin contributing surface water to the wetland to the area of the wetland unit itself.</i> The area of the basin is less than 10 times the area of the unit points = 5 The area of the basin is 10 to 100 times the area of the unit points = 3 The area of the basin is more than 100 times the area of the unit points = 0 Entire wetland is in the Flats class points = 5	3
Total for D 4 Add the points in the boxes above	8
Rating of Site Potential If score is: 12-16 = H 6-11 = M 0-5 = L Record the rating on the first page	
D 5.0. Does the landscape have the potential to support hydrologic functions of the site?	
D 5.1. Does the wetland receive stormwater discharges? Yes = 1 No = 0	0
D 5.2. Is >10% of the area within 150 ft of the wetland in land uses that generate excess runoff? Yes = 1 No = 0	1
D 5.3. Is more than 25% of the contributing basin of the wetland covered with intensive human land uses (residential at >1 residence/ac, urban, commercial, agriculture, etc.)? Yes = 1 No = 0	1
Total for D 5 Add the points in the boxes above	2
Rating of Landscape Potential If score is: 3 = H 1 or 2 = M 0 = L Record the rating on the first page	
D 6.0. Are the hydrologic functions provided by the site valuable to society?	
D 6.1. The unit is in a landscape that has flooding problems. <i>Choose the description that best matches conditions around the wetland unit being rated. Do not add points. Choose the highest score if more than one condition is met.</i> The wetland captures surface water that would otherwise flow down-gradient into areas where flooding has damaged human or natural resources (e.g., houses or salmon redds): <input type="checkbox"/> Flooding occurs in a sub-basin that is immediately down-gradient of unit. points = 2 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Surface flooding problems are in a sub-basin farther down-gradient. points = 1 Flooding from groundwater is an issue in the sub-basin. points = 1 The existing or potential outflow from the wetland is so constrained by human or natural conditions that the water stored by the wetland cannot reach areas that flood. <i>Explain why</i> _____ points = 0 There are no problems with flooding downstream of the wetland. points = 0	1
D 6.2. Has the site been identified as important for flood storage or flood conveyance in a regional flood control plan? Yes = 2 No = 0	0
Total for D 6 Add the points in the boxes above	1
Rating of Value If score is: 2-4 = H 1 = M 0 = L Record the rating on the first page	

These questions apply to wetlands of all HGM classes.

HABITAT FUNCTIONS - Indicators that site functions to provide important habitat

H 1.0. Does the site have the potential to provide habitat?

H 1.1. Structure of plant community: *Indicators are Cowardin classes and strata within the Forested class. Check the Cowardin plant classes in the wetland. Up to 10 patches may be combined for each class to meet the threshold of ¼ ac or more than 10% of the unit if it is smaller than 2.5 ac. Add the number of structures checked.*

Aquatic bed 4 structures or more: points = 4

Emergent 3 structures: points = 2

Scrub-shrub (areas where shrubs have > 30% cover) 2 structures: points = 1

Forested (areas where trees have > 30% cover) 1 structure: points = 0

If the unit has a Forested class, check if:

The Forested class has 3 out of 5 strata (canopy, sub-canopy, shrubs, herbaceous, moss/ground-cover) that each cover 20% within the Forested polygon

0

H 1.2. Hydroperiods

Check the types of water regimes (hydroperiods) present within the wetland. The water regime has to cover more than 10% of the wetland or ¼ ac to count (*see text for descriptions of hydroperiods*).

Permanently flooded or inundated 4 or more types present: points = 3

Seasonally flooded or inundated 3 types present: points = 2

Occasionally flooded or inundated 2 types present: points = 1

Saturated only 1 type present: points = 0

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

Seasonally flowing stream in, or adjacent to, the wetland

Lake Fringe wetland 2 points

Freshwater tidal wetland 2 points

1

H 1.3. Richness of plant species

Count the number of plant species in the wetland that cover at least 10 ft².

Different patches of the same species can be combined to meet the size threshold and you do not have to name the species. Do not include Eurasian milfoil, reed canarygrass, purple loosestrife, Canadian thistle

If you counted: > 19 species points = 2

5 - 19 species points = 1

< 5 species points = 0

1

H 1.4. Interspersion of habitats

Decide from the diagrams below whether interspersion among Cowardin plants classes (described in H 1.1), or the classes and unvegetated areas (can include open water or mudflats) is high, moderate, low, or none. *If you have four or more plant classes or three classes and open water, the rating is always high.*

None = 0 points

Low = 1 point

Moderate = 2 points

All three diagrams
in this row
are **HIGH** = 3points

0

<p>H 1.5. Special habitat features: Check the habitat features that are present in the wetland. <i>The number of checks is the number of points.</i> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Large, downed, woody debris within the wetland (> 4 in diameter and 6 ft long). <input type="checkbox"/> Standing snags (dbh > 4 in) within the wetland <input type="checkbox"/> Undercut banks are present for at least 6.6 ft (2 m) and/or overhanging plants extends at least 3.3 ft (1 m) over a stream (or ditch) in, or contiguous with the wetland, for at least 33 ft (10 m) <input type="checkbox"/> Stable steep banks of fine material that might be used by beaver or muskrat for denning (> 30 degree slope) OR signs of recent beaver activity are present (<i>cut shrubs or trees that have not yet weathered where wood is exposed</i>) <input type="checkbox"/> At least ¼ ac of thin-stemmed persistent plants or woody branches are present in areas that are permanently or seasonally inundated (<i>structures for egg-laying by amphibians</i>) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Invasive plants cover less than 25% of the wetland area in every stratum of plants (<i>see H 1.1 for list of strata</i>)</p>	2
<p>Total for H 1 Add the points in the boxes above</p>	4
<p>Rating of Site Potential If score is: 15-18 = H 7-14 = M 0-6 = L <i>Record the rating on the first page</i></p>	
<p>H 2.0. Does the landscape have the potential to support the habitat functions of the site?</p>	
<p>H 2.1. Accessible habitat (include <i>only habitat that directly abuts wetland unit</i>). <i>Calculate:</i> 0% undisturbed habitat + [(3.8% moderate and low intensity land uses)/2] = <u>1.9</u>% If total accessible habitat is: > 1/3 (33.3%) of 1 km Polygon points = 3 20-33% of 1 km Polygon points = 2 10-19% of 1 km Polygon points = 1 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> < 10% of 1 km Polygon points = 0</p>	0
<p>H 2.2. Undisturbed habitat in 1 km Polygon around the wetland. <i>Calculate:</i> 0% undisturbed habitat + [(27.3% moderate and low intensity land uses)/2] = <u>13.6</u>% Undisturbed habitat > 50% of Polygon points = 3 Undisturbed habitat 10-50% and in 1-3 patches points = 2 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Undisturbed habitat 10-50% and > 3 patches points = 1 Undisturbed habitat < 10% of 1 km Polygon points = 0</p>	1
<p>H 2.3. Land use intensity in 1 km Polygon: If <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> > 50% of 1 km Polygon is high intensity land use points = (- 2) <input type="checkbox"/> ≤ 50% of 1 km Polygon is high intensity points = 0</p>	-2
<p>Total for H 2 Add the points in the boxes above</p>	-1
<p>Rating of Landscape Potential If score is: 4-6 = H 1-3 = M < 1 = L <i>Record the rating on the first page</i></p>	
<p>H 3.0. Is the habitat provided by the site valuable to society?</p>	
<p>H 3.1. Does the site provide habitat for species valued in laws, regulations, or policies? <i>Choose only the highest score that applies to the wetland being rated.</i> Site meets ANY of the following criteria: points = 2 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> It has 3 or more priority habitats within 100 m (see next page) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> It provides habitat for Threatened or Endangered species (any plant or animal on the state or federal lists) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> It is mapped as a location for an individual WDFW priority species <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> It is a Wetland of High Conservation Value as determined by the Department of Natural Resources <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> It has been categorized as an important habitat site in a local or regional comprehensive plan, in a Shoreline Master Plan, or in a watershed plan <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Site has 1 or 2 priority habitats (listed on next page) within 100 m points = 1 Site does not meet any of the criteria above points = 0</p>	1
<p>Rating of Value If score is: 2 = H 1 = M 0 = L <i>Record the rating on the first page</i></p>	

WDFW Priority Habitats

Priority habitats listed by WDFW (see complete descriptions of WDFW priority habitats, and the counties in which they can be found, in: Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. 2008. Priority Habitat and Species List. Olympia, Washington. 177 pp. <http://wdfw.wa.gov/publications/00165/wdfw00165.pdf> or access the list from here:

<http://wdfw.wa.gov/conservation/phs/list/>)

Count how many of the following priority habitats are within 330 ft (100 m) of the wetland unit: **NOTE:** *This question is independent of the land use between the wetland unit and the priority habitat.*

☐ **Aspen Stands:** Pure or mixed stands of aspen greater than 1 ac (0.4 ha).

☐ **Biodiversity Areas and Corridors:** Areas of habitat that are relatively important to various species of native fish and wildlife (*full descriptions in WDFW PHS report*).

☐ **Herbaceous Balds:** Variable size patches of grass and forbs on shallow soils over bedrock.

☐ **Old-growth/Mature forests:** Old-growth west of Cascade crest – Stands of at least 2 tree species, forming a multi-layered canopy with occasional small openings; with at least 8 trees/ac (20 trees/ha) > 32 in (81 cm) dbh or > 200 years of age. Mature forests – Stands with average diameters exceeding 21 in (53 cm) dbh; crown cover may be less than 100%; decay, decadence, numbers of snags, and quantity of large downed material is generally less than that found in old-growth; 80-200 years old west of the Cascade crest.

☐ **Oregon White Oak:** Woodland stands of pure oak or oak/conifer associations where canopy coverage of the oak component is important (*full descriptions in WDFW PHS report p. 158 – see web link above*).

☐ **Riparian:** The area adjacent to aquatic systems with flowing water that contains elements of both aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems which mutually influence each other.

☐ **Westside Prairies:** Herbaceous, non-forested plant communities that can either take the form of a dry prairie or a wet prairie (*full descriptions in WDFW PHS report p. 161 – see web link above*).

☐ **Instream:** The combination of physical, biological, and chemical processes and conditions that interact to provide functional life history requirements for instream fish and wildlife resources.

☐ **Nearshore:** Relatively undisturbed nearshore habitats. These include Coastal Nearshore, Open Coast Nearshore, and Puget Sound Nearshore. (*full descriptions of habitats and the definition of relatively undisturbed are in WDFW report – see web link on previous page*).

☐ **Caves:** A naturally occurring cavity, recess, void, or system of interconnected passages under the earth in soils, rock, ice, or other geological formations and is large enough to contain a human.

☐ **Cliffs:** Greater than 25 ft (7.6 m) high and occurring below 5000 ft elevation.

☐ **Talus:** Homogenous areas of rock rubble ranging in average size 0.5 - 6.5 ft (0.15 - 2.0 m), composed of basalt, andesite, and/or sedimentary rock, including riprap slides and mine tailings. May be associated with cliffs.

☐ **Snags and Logs:** Trees are considered snags if they are dead or dying and exhibit sufficient decay characteristics to enable cavity excavation/use by wildlife. Priority snags have a diameter at breast height of > 20 in (51 cm) in western

RATING SUMMARY – WETLAND WEST

Name of wetland:	Wetland West	Date of site visit:	July 31, 2019
HGM Class used	Depressional	HGM Classes	Depressional
Category	III (Low Habitat Score)	Buffer Width	80' (High Intensity)
Rated by:	Bill Cantrell	Date of Training	November 2015

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FUNCTION	Improving Water Quality			Hydrologic			Habitat			TOTAL
<i>Circle the appropriate ratings</i>										
Site Potential	H	M	L	H	M	L	H	M	L	
Landscape Potential	H	M	L	H	M	L	H	M	L	
Value	H	M	L	H	M	L	H	M	L	
Score Based on Ratings	6			6			4			16

2. Category based on SPECIAL CHARACTERISTICS of wetland: **None of the above**

Maps and figures required to answer questions correctly for Western Washington

Depressional Wetlands

Map of:	To answer questions:	Figure #
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1 km Polygon: Area that extends 1 km from entire wetland edge - including polygons for accessible habitat and undisturbed habitat	H 2.1, H 2.2, H 2.3	3
Screen capture of map of 303(d) listed waters in basin (from Ecology website)	D 3.1, D 3.2	5
Screen capture of list of TMDLs for WRIA in which unit is found (from web)	D 3.3	6

HGM Classification of Wetlands in Western Washington

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1. Are the water levels in the entire unit usually controlled by tides except during floods?

NO – go to 2

2. The entire wetland unit is flat and precipitation is the only source (>90%) of water to it. Groundwater and surface water runoff are NOT sources of water to the unit.

NO – go to 3

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___ At least 30% of the open water area is deeper than 6.6 ft (2 m).

NO – go to 4

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

___ 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,

___ The water leaves the wetland **without being impounded**.

NO – go to 5

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,

___ The overbank flooding occurs at least once every 2 years.

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.*

NO – go to 7 **YES** – The wetland class is **Depressional**

DEPRESSIONAL AND FLATS WETLANDS

Water Quality Functions - Indicators that the site functions to improve water quality

D 1.0. Does the site have the potential to improve water quality?	
D 1.1. Characteristics of surface water outflows from the wetland: Wetland is a depression or flat depression (QUESTION 7 on key) with no surface water leaving it (no outlet). points = 3 Wetland has an intermittently flowing stream or ditch, OR highly constricted permanently flowing outlet. points = 2 Wetland has an unconstricted, or slightly constricted, surface outlet that is permanently flowing points = 1 Wetland is a flat depression (QUESTION 7 on key), whose outlet is a permanently flowing ditch. points = 1	2
D 1.2. The soil 2 in below the surface (or duff layer) is true clay or true organic (use NRCS definitions). Yes = 4 No = 0	0
D 1.3. Characteristics and distribution of persistent plants (Emergent, Scrub-shrub, and/or Forested Cowardin classes): Wetland has persistent, ungrazed, plants > 95% of area points = 5 Wetland has persistent, ungrazed, plants > ½ of area points = 3 Wetland has persistent, ungrazed plants > 1/10 of area points = 1 Wetland has persistent, ungrazed plants < 1/10 of area points = 0	3
D 1.4. Characteristics of seasonal ponding or inundation: <i>This is the area that is ponded for at least 2 months. See description in manual.</i> Area seasonally ponded is > ½ total area of wetland points = 4 Area seasonally ponded is > ¼ total area of wetland points = 2 Area seasonally ponded is < ¼ total area of wetland points = 0	4
Total for D 1 Add the points in the boxes above	9
Rating of Site Potential If score is: 12-16 = H 6-11 = M 0-5 = L Record the rating on the first page	
D 2.0. Does the landscape have the potential to support the water quality function of the site?	
D 2.1. Does the wetland unit receive stormwater discharges? Yes = 1 No = 0	1
D 2.2. Is > 10% of the area within 150 ft of the wetland in land uses that generate pollutants? Yes = 1 No = 0	1
D 2.3. Are there septic systems within 250 ft of the wetland? Yes = 1 No = 0	0
D 2.4. Are there other sources of pollutants coming into the wetland that are not listed in questions D 2.1-D 2.3? Source _____ Yes = 1 No = 0	0
Total for D 2 Add the points in the boxes above	2
Rating of Landscape Potential If score is: 3 or 4 = H 1 or 2 = M 0 = L Record the rating on the first page	
D 3.0. Is the water quality improvement provided by the site valuable to society?	
D 3.1. Does the wetland discharge directly (i.e., within 1 mi) to a stream, river, lake, or marine water that is on the 303(d) list? Yes = 1 No = 0	0
D 3.2. Is the wetland in a basin or sub-basin where an aquatic resource is on the 303(d) list? Yes = 1 No = 0	1
D 3.3. Has the site been identified in a watershed or local plan as important for maintaining water quality (answer YES if there is a TMDL for the basin in which the unit is found)? Yes = 2 No = 0	0
Total for D 3 Add the points in the boxes above	1
Rating of Value If score is: 2-4 = H 1 = M 0 = L Record the rating on the first page	

DEPRESSIONAL AND FLATS WETLANDS	
Hydrologic Functions - Indicators that the site functions to reduce flooding and stream degradation	
D 4.0. Does the site have the potential to reduce flooding and erosion?	
D 4.1. Characteristics of surface water outflows from the wetland: Wetland is a depression or flat depression with no surface water leaving it (no outlet) points = 4 Wetland has an intermittently flowing stream or ditch, OR highly constricted permanently flowing outletpoints = 2 Wetland is a flat depression (QUESTION 7 on key), whose outlet is a permanently flowing ditch points = 1 Wetland has an unconstricted, or slightly constricted, surface outlet that is permanently flowing points = 0	2
D 4.2. Depth of storage during wet periods: <i>Estimate the height of ponding above the bottom of the outlet. For wetlands with no outlet, measure from the surface of permanent water or if dry, the deepest part.</i> Marks of ponding are 3 ft or more above the surface or bottom of outlet points = 7 Marks of ponding between 2 ft to < 3 ft from surface or bottom of outlet points = 5 Marks are at least 0.5 ft to < 2 ft from surface or bottom of outlet points = 3 The wetland is a "headwater" wetland points = 3 Wetland is flat but has small depressions on the surface that trap water points = 1 Marks of ponding less than 0.5 ft (6 in) points = 0	0
D 4.3. Contribution of the wetland to storage in the watershed: <i>Estimate the ratio of the area of upstream basin contributing surface water to the wetland to the area of the wetland unit itself.</i> The area of the basin is less than 10 times the area of the unit points = 5 The area of the basin is 10 to 100 times the area of the unit points = 3 The area of the basin is more than 100 times the area of the unit points = 0 Entire wetland is in the Flats class points = 5	3
Total for D 4 Add the points in the boxes above	5
Rating of Site Potential If score is: 12-16 = H 6-11 = M 0-5 = L Record the rating on the first page	
D 5.0. Does the landscape have the potential to support hydrologic functions of the site?	
D 5.1. Does the wetland receive stormwater discharges? Yes = 1 No = 0	1
D 5.2. Is >10% of the area within 150 ft of the wetland in land uses that generate excess runoff? Yes = 1 No = 0	1
D 5.3. Is more than 25% of the contributing basin of the wetland covered with intensive human land uses (residential at >1 residence/ac, urban, commercial, agriculture, etc.)? Yes = 1 No = 0	1
Total for D 5 Add the points in the boxes above	3
Rating of Landscape Potential If score is: 3 = H 1 or 2 = M 0 = L Record the rating on the first page	
D 6.0. Are the hydrologic functions provided by the site valuable to society?	
D 6.1. The unit is in a landscape that has flooding problems. <i>Choose the description that best matches conditions around the wetland unit being rated. Do not add points. Choose the highest score if more than one condition is met.</i> The wetland captures surface water that would otherwise flow down-gradient into areas where flooding has damaged human or natural resources (e.g., houses or salmon redds): <input type="checkbox"/> Flooding occurs in a sub-basin that is immediately down-gradient of unit. points = 2 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Surface flooding problems are in a sub-basin farther down-gradient. points = 1 Flooding from groundwater is an issue in the sub-basin. points = 1 The existing or potential outflow from the wetland is so constrained by human or natural conditions that the water stored by the wetland cannot reach areas that flood. <i>Explain why</i> _____ points = 0 There are no problems with flooding downstream of the wetland. points = 0	1
D 6.2. Has the site been identified as important for flood storage or flood conveyance in a regional flood control plan? Yes = 2 No = 0	0
Total for D 6 Add the points in the boxes above	1
Rating of Value If score is: 2-4 = H 1 = M 0 = L Record the rating on the first page	

These questions apply to wetlands of all HGM classes.

HABITAT FUNCTIONS - Indicators that site functions to provide important habitat

H 1.0. Does the site have the potential to provide habitat?

H 1.1. Structure of plant community: *Indicators are Cowardin classes and strata within the Forested class. Check the Cowardin plant classes in the wetland. Up to 10 patches may be combined for each class to meet the threshold of ¼ ac or more than 10% of the unit if it is smaller than 2.5 ac. Add the number of structures checked.*

- Aquatic bed 4 structures or more: points = 4
- Emergent 3 structures: points = 2
- Scrub-shrub (areas where shrubs have > 30% cover) 2 structures: points = 1
- Forested (areas where trees have > 30% cover) 1 structure: points = 0

If the unit has a Forested class, check if:

The Forested class has 3 out of 5 strata (canopy, sub-canopy, shrubs, herbaceous, moss/ground-cover) that each cover 20% within the Forested polygon

0

H 1.2. Hydroperiods

Check the types of water regimes (hydroperiods) present within the wetland. The water regime has to cover more than 10% of the wetland or ¼ ac to count (*see text for descriptions of hydroperiods*).

- Permanently flooded or inundated 4 or more types present: points = 3
- Seasonally flooded or inundated 3 types present: points = 2
- Occasionally flooded or inundated 2 types present: points = 1
- Saturated only 1 type present: points = 0
- Permanently flowing stream or river in, or adjacent to, the wetland
- Seasonally flowing stream in, or adjacent to, the wetland
- Lake Fringe wetland 2 points**
- Freshwater tidal wetland 2 points**

1

H 1.3. Richness of plant species

Count the number of plant species in the wetland that cover at least 10 ft².

Different patches of the same species can be combined to meet the size threshold and you do not have to name the species. Do not include Eurasian milfoil, reed canarygrass, purple loosestrife, Canadian thistle

If you counted: > 19 species points = 2

5 - 19 species points = 1

< 5 species points = 0

1

H 1.4. Interspersion of habitats

Decide from the diagrams below whether interspersion among Cowardin plants classes (described in H 1.1), or the classes and unvegetated areas (can include open water or mudflats) is high, moderate, low, or none. *If you have four or more plant classes or three classes and open water, the rating is always high.*

None = 0 points

Low = 1 point

Moderate = 2 points

All three diagrams in this row are **HIGH** = 3points

0

<p>H 1.5. Special habitat features: Check the habitat features that are present in the wetland. <i>The number of checks is the number of points.</i> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Large, downed, woody debris within the wetland (> 4 in diameter and 6 ft long). <input type="checkbox"/> Standing snags (dbh > 4 in) within the wetland <input type="checkbox"/> Undercut banks are present for at least 6.6 ft (2 m) and/or overhanging plants extends at least 3.3 ft (1 m) over a stream (or ditch) in, or contiguous with the wetland, for at least 33 ft (10 m) <input type="checkbox"/> Stable steep banks of fine material that might be used by beaver or muskrat for denning (> 30 degree slope) OR signs of recent beaver activity are present (<i>cut shrubs or trees that have not yet weathered where wood is exposed</i>) <input type="checkbox"/> At least ¼ ac of thin-stemmed persistent plants or woody branches are present in areas that are permanently or seasonally inundated (<i>structures for egg-laying by amphibians</i>) <input type="checkbox"/> Invasive plants cover less than 25% of the wetland area in every stratum of plants (<i>see H 1.1 for list of strata</i>)</p>	1
<p>Total for H 1 Add the points in the boxes above</p>	3
<p>Rating of Site Potential If score is: 15-18 = H 7-14 = M 0-6 = L <i>Record the rating on the first page</i></p>	
<p>H 2.0. Does the landscape have the potential to support the habitat functions of the site?</p>	
<p>H 2.1. Accessible habitat (include <i>only habitat that directly abuts wetland unit</i>). <i>Calculate:</i> 0% undisturbed habitat + [(4.1% moderate and low intensity land uses)/2] = <u>2.05</u> % If total accessible habitat is: > 1/3 (33.3%) of 1 km Polygon points = 3 20-33% of 1 km Polygon points = 2 10-19% of 1 km Polygon points = 1 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> < 10% of 1 km Polygon points = 0</p>	0
<p>H 2.2. Undisturbed habitat in 1 km Polygon around the wetland. <i>Calculate:</i> 0% undisturbed habitat + [(29% moderate and low intensity land uses)/2] = <u>14.5</u> % Undisturbed habitat > 50% of Polygon points = 3 Undisturbed habitat 10-50% and in 1-3 patches points = 2 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Undisturbed habitat 10-50% and > 3 patches points = 1 Undisturbed habitat < 10% of 1 km Polygon points = 0</p>	1
<p>H 2.3. Land use intensity in 1 km Polygon: If <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> > 50% of 1 km Polygon is high intensity land use points = (- 2) <input type="checkbox"/> ≤ 50% of 1 km Polygon is high intensity points = 0</p>	-2
<p>Total for H 2 Add the points in the boxes above</p>	-1
<p>Rating of Landscape Potential If score is: 4-6 = H 1-3 = M < 1 = L <i>Record the rating on the first page</i></p>	
<p>H 3.0. Is the habitat provided by the site valuable to society?</p>	
<p>H 3.1. Does the site provide habitat for species valued in laws, regulations, or policies? <i>Choose only the highest score that applies to the wetland being rated.</i> Site meets ANY of the following criteria: points = 2 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> It has 3 or more priority habitats within 100 m (see next page) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> It provides habitat for Threatened or Endangered species (any plant or animal on the state or federal lists) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> It is mapped as a location for an individual WDFW priority species <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> It is a Wetland of High Conservation Value as determined by the Department of Natural Resources <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> It has been categorized as an important habitat site in a local or regional comprehensive plan, in a Shoreline Master Plan, or in a watershed plan <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Site has 1 or 2 priority habitats (listed on next page) within 100 m points = 1 Site does not meet any of the criteria above points = 0</p>	1
<p>Rating of Value If score is: 2 = H 1 = M 0 = L <i>Record the rating on the first page</i></p>	

WDFW Priority Habitats

Priority habitats listed by WDFW (see complete descriptions of WDFW priority habitats, and the counties in which they can be found, in: Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. 2008. Priority Habitat and Species List. Olympia, Washington. 177 pp. <http://wdfw.wa.gov/publications/00165/wdfw00165.pdf> or access the list from here: <http://wdfw.wa.gov/conservation/phs/list/>)

Count how many of the following priority habitats are within 330 ft (100 m) of the wetland unit: **NOTE: This question is independent of the land use between the wetland unit and the priority habitat.**

Aspen Stands: Pure or mixed stands of aspen greater than 1 ac (0.4 ha).

Biodiversity Areas and Corridors: Areas of habitat that are relatively important to various species of native fish and wildlife (*full descriptions in WDFW PHS report*).

Herbaceous Balds: Variable size patches of grass and forbs on shallow soils over bedrock.

Old-growth/Mature forests: Old-growth west of Cascade crest – Stands of at least 2 tree species, forming a multi-layered canopy with occasional small openings; with at least 8 trees/ac (20 trees/ha) > 32 in (81 cm) dbh or > 200 years of age. Mature forests – Stands with average diameters exceeding 21 in (53 cm) dbh; crown cover may be less than 100%; decay, decadence, numbers of snags, and quantity of large downed material is generally less than that found in old-growth; 80-200 years old west of the Cascade crest.

Oregon White Oak: Woodland stands of pure oak or oak/conifer associations where canopy coverage of the oak component is important (*full descriptions in WDFW PHS report p. 158 – see web link above*).

Riparian: The area adjacent to aquatic systems with flowing water that contains elements of both aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems which mutually influence each other.

Westside Prairies: Herbaceous, non-forested plant communities that can either take the form of a dry prairie or a wet prairie (*full descriptions in WDFW PHS report p. 161 – see web link above*).

Instream: The combination of physical, biological, and chemical processes and conditions that interact to provide functional life history requirements for instream fish and wildlife resources.

Nearshore: Relatively undisturbed nearshore habitats. These include Coastal Nearshore, Open Coast Nearshore, and Puget Sound Nearshore. (*full descriptions of habitats and the definition of relatively undisturbed are in WDFW report – see web link on previous page*).

Caves: A naturally occurring cavity, recess, void, or system of interconnected passages under the earth in soils, rock, ice, or other geological formations and is large enough to contain a human.

Cliffs: Greater than 25 ft (7.6 m) high and occurring below 5000 ft elevation.

Talus: Homogenous areas of rock rubble ranging in average size 0.5 - 6.5 ft (0.15 - 2.0 m), composed of basalt, andesite, and/or sedimentary rock, including riprap slides and mine tailings. May be associated with cliffs.

Snags and Logs: Trees are considered snags if they are dead or dying and exhibit sufficient decay characteristics to enable cavity excavation/use by wildlife. Priority snags have a diameter at breast height of > 20 in (51 cm) in western Washington and are > 6.5 ft (2 m) in height. Priority logs are > 12 in (30 cm) in diameter at the largest end, and > 20 ft (6 m)

long.

Note: All vegetated wetlands are by definition a priority habitat but are not included in this list because they are addressed elsewhere.

CATEGORIZATION BASED ON SPECIAL CHARACTERISTICS

Wetland Type <i>Check off any criteria that apply to the wetland. Circle the category when the appropriate criteria are met.</i>	Category
SC 1.0. Estuarine wetlands Does the wetland meet the following criteria for Estuarine wetlands? <input type="checkbox"/> The dominant water regime is tidal, <input type="checkbox"/> Vegetated, and <input type="checkbox"/> With a salinity greater than 0.5 ppt Yes –Go to SC 1.1 No= Not an estuarine wetland	
SC 1.1. Is the wetland within a National Wildlife Refuge, National Park, National Estuary Reserve, Natural Area Preserve, State Park or Educational, Environmental, or Scientific Reserve designated under WAC 332-30-151? Yes = Category I No - Go to SC 1.2	Cat. I
SC 1.2. Is the wetland unit at least 1 ac in size and meets at least two of the following three conditions? <input type="checkbox"/> The wetland is relatively undisturbed (has no diking, ditching, filling, cultivation, grazing, and has less than 10% cover of non-native plant species. (If non-native species are <i>Spartina</i> , see page 25) <input type="checkbox"/> At least ¾ of the landward edge of the wetland has a 100 ft buffer of shrub, forest, or un-grazed or unmowed grassland. <input type="checkbox"/> The wetland has at least two of the following features: tidal channels, depressions with open water, or contiguous freshwater wetlands. Yes = Category I No = Category II	Cat. I Cat. II
SC 2.0. Wetlands of High Conservation Value (WHCV) SC 2.1. Has the WA Department of Natural Resources updated their website to include the list of Wetlands of High Conservation Value? Yes – Go to SC 2.2 No – Go to SC 2.3 SC 2.2. Is the wetland listed on the WDNR database as a Wetland of High Conservation Value? Yes = Category I No = Not a WHCV SC 2.3. Is the wetland in a Section/Township/Range that contains a Natural Heritage wetland? http://www1.dnr.wa.gov/nhp/refdesk/datasearch/wnhpwetlands.pdf Yes – Contact WNHP/WDNR and go to SC 2.4 No = Not a WHCV SC 2.4. Has WDNR identified the wetland within the S/T/R as a Wetland of High Conservation Value and listed it on their website? Yes = Category I No = Not a WHCV	Cat. I
SC 3.0. Bogs Does the wetland (or any part of the unit) meet both the criteria for soils and vegetation in bogs? <i>Use the key below. If you answer YES you will still need to rate the wetland based on its functions.</i> SC 3.1. Does an area within the wetland unit have organic soil horizons, either peats or mucks, that compose 16 in or more of the first 32 in of the soil profile? Yes – Go to SC 3.3 No – Go to SC 3.2 SC 3.2. Does an area within the wetland unit have organic soils, either peats or mucks, that are less than 16 in deep over bedrock, or an impermeable hardpan such as clay or volcanic ash, or that are floating on top of a lake or pond? Yes – Go to SC 3.3 No = Is not a bog SC 3.3. Does an area with peats or mucks have more than 70% cover of mosses at ground level, AND at least a 30% cover of plant species listed in Table 4? Yes = Is a Category I bog No – Go to SC 3.4 NOTE: If you are uncertain about the extent of mosses in the understory, you may substitute that criterion by measuring the pH of the water that seeps into a hole dug at least 16 in deep. If the pH is less than 5.0 and the plant species in Table 4 are present, the wetland is a bog. SC 3.4. Is an area with peats or mucks forested (> 30% cover) with Sitka spruce, subalpine fir, western red cedar, western hemlock, lodgepole pine, quaking aspen, Engelmann spruce, or western white pine, AND any of the species (or combination of species) listed in Table 4 provide more than 30% of the cover under the canopy? Yes = Is a Category I bog No = Is not a bog	Cat. I

