

## CATEGORIZATION BASED ON SPECIAL CHARACTERISTICS

**Determine if the wetland meets the attributes described below and circle the appropriate answers and Category.**

<b>WETLAND TYPE</b>	<b>CATEGORY</b>
<p style="text-align: center;">Check off any criteria that apply to the wetland. Circle the appropriate Category when the appropriate criteria are met.</p>	
<p><b>SC 1.0 Estuarine Wetlands</b></p> <p>Does the wetland meet the following criteria for Estuarine wetlands?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> The dominant water regime is tidal</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Vegetated, and</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> With a salinity of greater than 0.5 ppt.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">YES = go to question SC 1.1 NO = not an Estuarine for the purpose of rating.</p>	No
<p><b>SC 1.1</b> 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?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">YES = Category I    NO = go to question SC 1.2</p>	Category I
<p><b>SC 1.2</b> Is the wetland at least 1 acre in size and meets at least two of the following three conditions?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> The wetland is relatively undisturbed (has no diking, ditching, filling, cultivation, grazing, and less than 10% cover of non-native plant species). If the non-native <i>Spartina</i> spp. are the only species that cover more than 10% of the wetland, then the wetland should be given a dual rating of I/II. The area of <i>Spartina</i> would be rated as a Category II, while the relatively undisturbed upper marsh with native species should be rated a Category I. Do not, however, exclude the area of <i>Spartina</i> in determining the size threshold of 1 acre.</p> <p><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 un-mowed grassland.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> The wetland has at least 2 of the following features: tidal channels, depressions with open water, or contiguous freshwater wetlands.</p>	

<p><b>SC. 2.0 Natural Heritage Wetlands.</b>  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.</p>	No
<p><b>SC 2.1</b> Is the wetland being rated in a Section/Township/Range that contains a Natural Heritage Wetland?  Verified through: <input type="checkbox"/> S/T/R information in Appendix D, or  <input type="checkbox"/> Accessed from WNHP/DNR website  YES = Contact WNHP/DNR and go to question SC3.2  NO = go to question SC 2.2</p>	No
<p><b>SC 2.2</b> Has DNR identified the wetland as a higher quality undisturbed wetland or as a site with state threatened or endangered plant species?  YES = Category I    <b><u>NO = not a Natural Heritage Wetland for rating purposes</u></b></p>	Category I
<p><b>SC 3.0 Bogs</b>  Does the wetland (or part of the wetland) meet both the criteria for soils and vegetation in bogs? Use the key below to identify if the wetland is a bog. NOTE: If the answer is YES, the wetland still needs to be rated based on its functions.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Does the wetland have organic soil horizons, either peats, or mucks, that compose 16 inches or more of the first 32 inches of the soil profile?  YES = go to question 3    <b><u>NO = go to question 2</u></b></li> <li>Does the wetland 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 that are floating on a lake or pond?  <b><u>YES = go to question 3</u></b>    NO = is not a bog for rating purposes</li> <li>Does the wetland have more than 70% cover of mosses at ground level, AND other plants, is present, consist of the “bog” species listed in Table 3 as significant component of the vegetation (more than 30% of total shrub and herbaceous cover consists of “bog” species).  YES = is a bog for purposes of rating    <b><u>NO = go to question 4</u></b></li> <li>Is the wetland forested (&gt;30% cover) with sitka spruce, sub alpine fir, western red cedar, western hemlock, lodgepole pine, quaking aspen, Englemenn’s spruce, or western white pine, WITH any of the species (or combinations of species) on the bog species plant list as a significant component of the ground cover (&gt;30% coverage of total shrub/herbaceous cover)?  YES = Category I    NO = is not a bog for the purposes of rating</li> </ol>	<p>No</p> <p>Category I</p>

<p><b>SC 4.0 Forested Wetland</b></p> <p>Does the wetland have at least 1 acre of forest that meets one of the following criteria for the Department of Fish and Wildlife’s forest as priority habitats?</p> <p>If the answer is YES the wetland still needs to be rated based on its functions.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Old-growth forests:</b> (west of the Cascade crest) Stands of at least two tree species, forming a multi-layered canopy with occasional small openings; with at least 8 trees/acres (20 trees/ha) that are at least 200 years of age OR have a dbh of 32 inches (81cm) or more.</p> <p>NOTE: The criterion for dbh is based on measurement for upland forests. Two-hundred year old trees in wetland will often have a smaller dbh because their growth rates are often slower. The DFW criterion is and “OR” so old-growth forests do not necessarily have to have trees of this diameter.</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Mature forests:</b> (west of the Cascade crest). Stands where the largest trees are 80 to 200 years old OR have average dbh exceeding 21 inches (53cm); crown cover may be less than 100%; decay, decadence, numbers of snags, and quality of large downed material is generally less than that found in old-growth forests.</p> <p>YES = Category I NO = not a forested wetland for purposes of rating</p>	<p><b><u>Category I</u></b></p>
<p><b>SC 5.0 Wetlands in Coastal Lagoons</b></p> <p>Does the wetland meet <b>all</b> of the following criteria of a wetland in a coastal lagoon?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> The wetland lies in a depression adjacent to marine waters that is wholly or partially separated from marine waters by a sandbank, gravel bank, shingle, or less frequently by rocks.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> The lagoon in which the wetland is located contains surface water that is saline or brackish (&gt;0.5ppt) during most of the year in at least a portion of the lagoon (needs to be measured near the bottom).</p> <p>YES = go to question SC 5.1 <b><u>NO = not a wetland in a coastal lagoon</u></b></p>	
<p><b>SC 5.1</b> Does the wetland meet all of the following three conditions?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> The wetland is relatively undisturbed (has no diking, ditching, filling, cultivation, grazing), and has less than 20% cover of invasive plant species.</p> <p><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 un-mowed grassland.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> The wetland is larger than 1/10 acre (4350 square feet).</p> <p>YES = Category I NO = Category II</p>	<p>Category I</p> <p>Category II</p>

<p><b>SC 6.0 Interdunal Wetlands</b></p> <p>Is the wetland west of the 1889 line (also called the Western Boundary of Upland Ownership of WBUO)?</p> <p>In practical terms that mean the following geographic areas:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> The Long Beach Peninsula- lands west of SR 103</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Grayland, Westport- lands west of SR 105</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Ocean Shores, Copalis- lands west of SR 115 and SR 109</p> <p>If the answer is YES the wetland still need to be rated based on its functions.  <b>YES = go to question SC6.1 <u>NO = not an interdunal wetland for rating purposes</u></b></p>	
<p><b>SC 6.1</b> Is the wetland one are or larger, or is it a mosaic of wetlands that is one acre or larger?</p> <p>YES = Category II      NO = go to question SC 6.2</p>	<p>Category II</p>
<p><b>SC 6.2</b> Is the wetland between 0.1 and 1 acre, or is it in a mosaic of wetlands that are between 0.1 and 1 acre?</p> <p>YES = Category III</p>	<p>Category III</p>
<p><b>Category of wetland based on Special Characteristics</b></p> <p>Choose the "highest" rating if wetland falls into several categories, and record on p. 1. If NO was answered for all types enter "Not Applicable" on p. 1.</p>	<p>I</p>