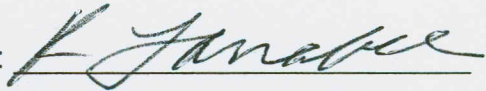




POLICY

Cancels: not applicable
See Also:

Approved by: 

RM POL 4001 - 10 Regulation of Properties that are adjacent to or are within Water Bodies or Wetlands identified to provide Habitat for Waterfowl Concentrations

Waterfowl Concentrations are Regulated

Waterfowl concentrations are defined by the State Department of Fish and Wildlife as a "Vulnerable Aggregation." This is a regulated Habitat Conservation Area per Section 18E.40.020 C.3.

Existing Protective Measure Guidance

There is no clear guidance from the State on specific measures to use to protect waterfowl concentrations, other than retention of vegetation and of habitat features such as snag trees.

Waterfowl Concentration Areas will be protected through existing Buffer Requirements

Waterfowl concentrations will be adequately protected through adherence to the Wetland Buffer Requirements of Pierce County Code, Title 18, Chapter 18E.30, Section 18E.30.060 and the Water Type Buffer Requirements found in Table 18E.40.060, of Pierce County Code, Title 18E, Chapter 18E.40. Consistent with Table 18E.40.060, Spanaway Lake and Lake Tapps are exempt from Waterfowl Concentration review.

The majority of the areas identified as Waterfowl Concentration areas appear to be located within Type F1 Waters for which a 150-foot protective buffer is required.

A lesser number of Waterfowl concentrations are found within Type N3 Waters, for which a 35-foot buffer is required.

A small percentage of Waterfowl concentrations are located adjacent to wetlands. The majority of these wetlands will have a buffer requirement that will vary between 25 and 315 feet.

Exception: In those cases where there is no existing native vegetation within a parcel subject to the wetland or water type buffering requirements described above, or where substitute or additional habitat features are deemed necessary by the reviewing County Biologist, the County will require the installation of nest boxes at the greater of 5 boxes per acre or one per parcel. Additional mitigation, such as buffer area enhancement, may also be considered.

Additional Requirements for Buffer Modification Proposals

In those instances in which an applicant proposes to average or reduce a buffer, as allowed by code, the County will require that the averaging or reduction does not result in the loss of existing snags and cavity trees with a minimum diameter of 30 cm (12 in), or that substitute habitat features be provided.