

Amending Clallam County Code Chapter 27.12, Critical Areas,
to regulate new and existing agricultural uses

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF CLALLAM COUNTY COMMISSIONERS:

Section 1. Section .035, Activities not regulated by this chapter – Exemptions, is amended to read as follows:

The following developments are exempt from the requirements of this chapter and do not require a certificate of compliance; provided that best management practices are incorporated where practicable and necessary in order to avoid impacts to critical areas:

- (1) Outdoor recreation such as bird watching, boating, bicycling, canoeing, fishing, hiking, horseback riding, hunting, jogging, photography, swimming, and similar activities not requiring clearing or grading.
- (2) Emergency work when done to protect life or property and authorized by the County Board of Commissioners. An “emergency” is an unanticipated and imminent threat to public health, safety, or the environment which requires immediate action within a time too short to allow full compliance with this chapter.
- (3) Construction of wildlife nesting structures not involving clearing or grading.
- (4) Education and scientific research projects which will have no damaging effect upon the environment.
- (5) Site investigation work (e.g., soil surveys, soil logs) or other related activities necessary for designating critical areas.
- (6) The placement of temporary or permanent field stakes or monuments for survey purposes, delineating critical areas and buffers, or marking of property lines or corners pursuant to CCC Title 29.
- (7) Existing, ~~and~~ ongoing agriculture as defined in Section 27.12.900 CCC that was conducted prior to the effective date of this chapter on lands designated as critical areas or their associated buffers; provided, that such lands are classified as farm and agricultural land pursuant to Chapter 84.34 RCW; provided further, that all activities occurring on such lands employ best management practices (BMPs). For the purposes of this exemption, acceptable BMPs shall include: (a) activities carried out consistent with farm plans issued and authorized by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS); (b) activities that demonstrate consistency with total maximum daily loads (TMDL) established by the Department of Ecology for specific operations; and/or (c) activities that demonstrate consistency with standard BMPs published by the NRCS, as now or hereafter amended. Written confirmation by the administering agency that applicable BMPs are being met will constitute evidence of eligibility for this exemption. (See also CCC 27.12.025(7)) including related development and activities which do not result in expansion into a critical area or its buffer and which also does not result in significant adverse impacts to a critical area or its buffer; provided that such activities comply with the provisions of Section 27.12.037 CCC. New agricultural activities, expansion of existing agricultural activities, or development not meeting the definition of existing, on-going agriculture (CCC 27.12.900) shall comply with both the substantive and procedural provisions of this Chapter.
- (8) Normal repair and routine maintenance and operation of residences, landscaping, utilities, roads, trails, irrigation and drainage ditches, and fish ponds which were lawfully constructed, approved, or established prior to the effective date of this chapter; provided, that no expansion results.

(9) Operation and maintenance of all electric facilities, lines, equipment or appurtenances, water and sewer lines; natural gas, cable communications and telephone facilities, lines, pipes, mains, equipment or appurtenances, except for power, water, and sewer substations and pump sites or new utilities within designated frequently flooded areas; provided, that the standards specified in Part Five of this chapter are met. For the purposes of this chapter, operation and maintenance shall include those usual acts necessary for the continued use of existing services in their establish locations. Replacement, expansion, relocation or placement of new utility service lines shall be subject to the standards of this chapter, as applicable.

(10) State forest practices conducted pursuant to Chapter 76.09 RCW. This exemption does not apply to Class IV – general (conversions), or forest practices occurring within designated urban growth areas, or forest practices designated as areas likely to convert through a memorandum of understanding between Clallam County and the Washington Department of Natural Resources, as applicable.

(11) Normal and nondestructive pruning and trimming of vegetation for maintenance purposes, or thinning of limbs of individual trees to provide for a view corridor or removal of non-native vegetation and replacement with native vegetation; provided, that increased erosion or landslide potential or negative impacts to the critical area do not result.

Section 2. Section 27.12.037, Alternate standards for existing, ongoing agriculture in and adjacent to aquatic habitat conservation areas (AHCA) and wetlands, is created to read as follows:

(1) Purpose and intent. The purpose of this section is to address two mandates under the Growth Management Act (GMA), RCW 36.70A

(a) To protect the existing functions and values in and adjacent to aquatic habitat conservation areas (AHCA) and wetlands, and

(b) To conserve and protect agricultural lands, specifically those lands with existing, ongoing agricultural activities that are located on or within 200 feet of AHCA and wetlands regulated under this Chapter.

(2) Applicability. Agriculture activities that do not meet the definition of existing, ongoing agriculture (as defined in CCC 27.12.900) are required to comply with the applicable Wetland Protection Standards found in CCC 27.12.215 and AHCA protection standards found in CCC 27.12.315. Existing, ongoing agriculture activities occurring on or within 200 feet of AHCA and wetlands may deviate from the protection and buffer standards made applicable to them elsewhere in this Chapter by instead complying with the alternate standards presented in this Section and enrolling in this program. The alternate standards from the AHCA and wetland standards of this Chapter may only be applied to existing, ongoing agriculture activities related to the cultivating of crops, grazing of livestock, and the land preparation associated with those agricultural activities.

(3) Enrollment in the alternate standards program for existing, ongoing agriculture

(a) Existing, ongoing agriculture operations, as defined by CCC 27.12.900, are required to submit an alternate agriculture worksheet to the Administrator for review and approval to be enrolled into CCC 27.12.037. This worksheet will include a risk assessment to address the criteria shown in Table 27.12.037(A) below.

(b) A new alternate agriculture worksheet is required every time an agricultural operation under the provisions of this section changes ownership or changes the agricultural operation in a manner that results in a higher risk assessment found in Table 27.12.037(A) below. The Administrator will conduct an audit of everyone in this program every five years.

(4) No harm or degradation standard.

(a) All existing, ongoing agriculture activities must be conducted so as not to cause harm or degrade the existing functions and values of AHCA, wetlands, or their associated buffers (the

“no harm or degradation” standard). For the purposes of this Section, the phrase “no harm or degradation” means the following:

- (i) Compliance with all documented water quality standards consistent with the Washington State Department of Ecology water pollution control laws (RCW 90.48).
- (ii) Compliance with all applicable Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife requirements of Hydraulics Code (RCW 77.55) and the Hydraulic Code Rules (WAC 220-110).
- (iii) Conducting agricultural activities to avoid high-risk activities outlined in Section 4 of this Section.

(iv) No evidence of significant degradation to AHCAs or wetlands regulated under this Chapter that can be directly attributed to adjacent existing, ongoing agriculture activities.

(b) An owner or operator is responsible only for those conditions caused by agricultural activities conducted by them and is not responsible for the off-site actions of others, natural conditions not related to the agricultural activities, or emergency actions described in CCC 27.12.035(2).

(5) Existing, ongoing agriculture risk assessment criteria.

(a) The success of farms and ranches in Clallam County depends in part on good quality soil, water, air and other natural resources. Agricultural activities that incorporate protection of the environment, including critical areas as defined by this Chapter, are essential to achieving this goal. Agricultural activities are expected to be conducted in a manner that protects against harm or degradation to the existing functions and values of AHCA, wetlands, and their associated buffers.

(b) The Administrator shall utilize the low, moderate and high-risk assessment criteria in Table 27.12.037(A) to evaluate existing, ongoing agriculture within and adjacent to AHCAs and wetlands. Existing, ongoing agricultural activities may have different risk assessment ratings based on the six performance standards and four risk assessment categories – river and streams, water features (wetlands, ponds, and irrigation/drainage ditches); livestock heavy use areas; and manure storage – in Table 27.12.037(A).

(c) The risk assessment criteria in Table 27.12.037(A) address agricultural activities located within AHCAs, wetlands, and their associated minimum standard buffers regulated under this Chapter, and more intensive agricultural activities, i.e. manure storage, livestock heavy use, confinement areas, located within the 200-foot jurisdictional boundary of these critical areas. The risk assessment criteria in Table 27.12.037(A) also address non-regulated ponds and open irrigation/drainage ditches that are hydro-logically connected to AHCA and wetlands, which may provide a means for pollution to cause harm and degradation to AHCA and wetlands.

(i) Low and moderate risk agricultural activities. Agricultural activities shall be deemed compliant with this Section if they meet the low or moderate risk assessment criteria, unless it is determined by the Administrator that they are causing harm or degradation to the existing functions and values of AHCAs or wetlands located on real property owned, leased, or occupied by the person or entity completing the worksheet. If this occurs for one of the six performance standards, then the agricultural operation is required to develop a farm conservation plan to address activities causing harm or degradation. The intent of the farm conservation plan is, at a minimum, to lower the risk assessment for the specific performance standards of concern. The farm conservation plan shall be submitted to the Administrator for review and approval.

(ii) High risk agricultural activities. Agricultural activities that receive a high-risk assessment rating on any of the six performance standards are required to submit a farm conservation plan to address the high-risk activities. The intent of a farm conservation plan is, at a minimum, to lower the risk assessment from high to moderate. The farm conservation plan shall be submitted to the Administrator for review and approval.

(iii) Farm conservation plans. Farm conservation plans under this Section shall consider the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) “Field Office Technical

Guide” (FOTG) that contains a non-exclusive list of conservation practices (best management practices) to lower the risk from existing, ongoing agriculture to existing functions and values of AHCA and wetlands. The Clallam Conservation District may be available to provide assistance in the development of a farm conservation plan.

(iv) Existing plans. Those portions of land upon which farm owners or operators have implemented a dairy nutrient management plan, a resource management system plan, or a conservation reserve enhancement program plan consistent with conservation practices and management standards that meet the FOTG quality criteria for each natural resource (soil, water, animals, plants, and air) and approved by the Clallam Conservation District or USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service are entitled to a presumption of compliance with the “no harm or degradation” standards described in subsection (4) of this Section. This would be contingent on these plans not resulting in any high-risk agricultural activities on any of the six risk assessment performance standards.

**Table 27.12.037(A) Risk Assessment Criteria
(Ratings are based on lowest conditions)**

LOW RISK	MODERATE RISK	HIGH RISK ¹
RIVERS, STREAMS, LAKES, & MARINE WATERS (AHCA)		
Buffers are measured from Ordinary High Water Mark (OHWM)		
1(a). A year-round 50-foot or greater fully-vegetated buffer ² is maintained with no livestock access. 2(a). Manure application at rates not exceeding the crop nutrient needs occurs only outside the minimum 50-foot buffer and only during the growing season ⁴ .	1(b). A year-round 35-foot minimum well-vegetated buffer ³ is maintained with no livestock access. 2(b). Manure application at rates not exceeding the crop nutrient needs occurs only outside the minimum 35-foot buffer and only during the growing season ⁴ .	1(c). Less than 35-foot wide well-vegetated buffer ³ is maintained or livestock have access to the buffer. 2(c). Manure is not applied at rates based on crop nutrient needs, occurs within 35-feet of the OHWM, or is applied outside growing season ⁴ .
WETLANDS & OTHER WATER FEATURES⁵		
Buffers are measured from edge of wetland or water feature		
3(a). A year-round 50-foot or greater fully-vegetated buffer ² is maintained between wetlands/water features and livestock or cultivation. 4(a). Manure application at rates not exceeding the crop nutrient needs occurs only outside the minimum 50-foot buffer and only during growing season ⁴ .	3(b). A 35-foot minimum well-vegetated buffer ³ is maintained between wetlands/water features and livestock or cultivation except as outlined in footnote 8. 4(b). Manure application at rates not exceeding the crop nutrient needs occurs only outside the minimum 35-foot buffer and only during the growing season ⁴ .	3(c). Conditions specified in criterion 3 are not met. 4(c). Manure application occurs within 35-foot buffer, manure is not applied at rates based on crop nutrient needs, or is applied outside the growing season ⁴ .
LIVESTOCK HEAVY USE AREAS⁶		
5(a). Livestock heavy use area is located at least 200 feet from AHCAs, wetlands or water features. AND There is a year-round, 50-foot or greater fully-vegetated buffer ² .	5(b). Livestock heavy use area is located at least 100 to 200 feet from AHCAs, wetlands or water features. AND There is a year-round, well-vegetated 50-foot buffer ³ upon any portion of the AHCA, wetland or water feature that is within 200 feet of the heavy use area.	5(c). Livestock heavy use area is located less than 100 feet from AHCAs, wetlands, or water Features. OR There is less than a 50-foot year-round well-vegetated buffer ³ at all locations where (5)(b) requires the presence of such a buffer.
MANURE STORAGE⁷		
6(a). Manure storage structure is covered with a roof or tarp and located at least 200 feet from AHCAs, wetlands, or water features. AND There is a year-round, 50-foot or greater fully-vegetated buffer ² .	6(b). Manure storage structure is covered with a roof or tarp and located at least 100 feet from AHCAs, wetlands, or water features. AND There is a year-round, 50-foot well-vegetated buffer ³ upon any portion of the AHCA, wetland or water feature within 200 feet of the manure storage structure.	6(c). Manure storage is covered but located less than 100 feet from AHCAs, wetlands, or water features. OR Manure storage is uncovered but located less than 200 feet from AHCA, wetland or water feature. OR There is less than a 50-foot year-round well-vegetated buffer ³ at all locations where 6(b) requires the presence of such a buffer

Footnotes:

1. A Farm Plan will be required to address any of the six Risk Assessment Criteria that receive a rating of HIGH RISK.
2. A fully-vegetated buffer is generally comprised of 1/3 herbaceous (non-woody) outer area, and 2/3 inner area comprised of native trees, shrubs, and/or herbaceous vegetation. The inner area is closest to the AHCA, Wetland or Water Feature. The outer area shall achieve a total cover of 100 percent herbaceous vegetation (non-woody) within 3 years and the inner area shall achieve a total cover of 25 percent native trees or shrubs and a total cover of 100 percent for all vegetation types within 5 years.
3. A well-vegetated buffer should be comprised of herbaceous (non-woody) in the outer area along with native trees, shrubs, and/or herbaceous vegetation in the inner area. The entire area shall achieve a total cover of approximately 75% herbaceous vegetation (non-woody) within 3 years and should also include native trees or shrubs.
4. Growing season is generally April through October.
5. Water Features include ponds, irrigation ditches, and drainage ditches that are hydrologically connected to AHCA or wetlands.
6. Heavy Use Areas includes areas where livestock are confined or congregate, such as feeding locations and wet season pasture areas (sacrifice areas) where polluted runoff may pose a risk to water quality. Does not apply to barns and sheds.
7. Manure Storage includes collected liquid manure, solid manure, and bedding.
8. Buffer may be utilized for harvesting of forage, including grazing, when the water feature is dry if minimum forage height of 3 inches is maintained.

(6) Compliance. If the Administrator determines through the review of the alternate agriculture worksheet, risk assessment, or the farm conservation plan that an agricultural operation regulated under this section is causing harm or degradation to the functions or values of AHCA or wetlands, then the Administrator will pursue compliance.

(a) It is the policy of the County to emphasize compliance by education and voluntary compliance as a first step. This would entail requiring a farm conservation plan as outlined in Sections 5(a), 5(b), and 5(c) above. While voluntary compliance is desirable, failure to implement the required Farm Conservation Plan in compliance with this Section is subject to CCC 27.12.055, Enforcement, and Title 20 CCC, Code Compliance.

(b) Clallam County has regulatory authority for critical areas code enforcement and the Department of Ecology has regulatory authority for enforcement of state water quality protection laws. The mechanisms for responding to alleged water quality violations of agricultural origin and the role of the Clallam Conservation District in providing assistance to agricultural owners and operators to correct water quality violations is described in a 1987 memorandum of agreement with the Washington State Department of Ecology and a 1998 memorandum of understanding with the County.

(7) Baseline conditions, indicators, monitoring, and adaptive management. The purpose of this Section is to establish for enrollees in the alternate standards program, baseline conditions, monitoring indicators, and to utilize adaptive management.

(a) Existing baseline functions and values. The County will use the following to establish the baseline of existing functions and values for AHCA and wetlands:

(i) Streamkeepers biological integrity scale (B-IBI) stream rating system dated December 2011.

(ii) Washington State Department of Ecology *Water Quality Assessment 305 Report* dated December 2012.

(iii) Washington State Department of Ecology 303(d) dated December 21, 2012.

(iv) Clallam County *Shoreline Inventory and Characterization Report* for portions of Clallam County draining to the Strait of Juan de Fuca, March 2012.

(v) Revised draft *WRIA 20 Inventory and Characterization Report*, May 2012.

(b) The County will use the following indicators to analyze the trends of the existing baseline functions and values for AHCA and wetlands:

(i) Stream reach classification changes based on the Streamkeepers biological integrity scale (B-IBI) stream rating system of healthy; compromised; impaired, highly impaired, and critically impaired.

(ii) Change in stream reach or AHCA water quality documented by Streamkeepers of Clallam County.

(iii) Removal or addition of a stream reach or AHCA from the Washington State Department of Ecology 303 (d) list.

(iv) Change in stream reach or AHCA water quality documented in the Washington State Department of Ecology, *Washington State Water Quality Assessment 305 Report*.

(v) Water quality monitoring performed under the *Pollution Identification and Correction (PIC) Plan for the Sequim Bay – Dungeness Watershed Clean Water District* to strategically and systematically identify and address agricultural sources of pollution.

(vi) A downgrade to the classification of wetlands adjacent to or hydro-logically connected to existing, ongoing agriculture activities.

(vii) *Other Data Sources - Reserved*

(c) Monitoring: The Administrator will issue an annual report addressing the implementation of existing, ongoing agriculture at sites participating in the alternate standards program. The report will include the number and location of participants, the alternate agriculture

worksheets, the change in AHCA and wetland native vegetation cover adjacent to agricultural operations authorized per CCC 27.12.037, and Streamkeepers testing data or other functions and values measurable in the vicinity of significant concentration of agricultural operations. If the reporting indicates that AHCA and wetland functions and values are not being impacted in the vicinity of agricultural operation operating under CCC 27.12.037, then the reports will be prepared every five years thereafter.

(d) Adaptive management. The Administrator will review the above indicators and monitoring to determine trends in the baseline functions and values in Section 7(a) above. If there is a downward trend, the Administrator will assess whether existing, ongoing agriculture activities subject to this Section are likely contributing to this downward trend and, if so, implement the following steps:

(i) Contact participating landowners of existing, ongoing agriculture and provide information to make them aware of the issue of concern (e.g., monitoring results).

(ii) If the baseline functions and values do not improve in subsequent monitoring results, the Administrator will seek to determine whether there is an identifiable cause to the problem through site visits, consultations with other agencies, or other means of investigating the cause.

(iii) If there is an identifiable issue related to existing, ongoing agriculture, the Administrator will seek compliance under Section 6 above.

(iv) If the agricultural operations regulated under CCC 27.12.037 have implemented agricultural best management practices to achieve a low or moderate risk assessment, but the functions and values of the AHCA and wetlands still degrade, this may necessitate a revision to the required modification to the risk assessment performance standards or the enactment of protective measures in this Section to address the problem.

Section 3. Section .900, Definitions is amended to read as follows:

Whenever the following words and phrases appear in this chapter, they shall be given the meaning attributed to them by this section. "Shall" is always mandatory, and the word "may" or "should" indicates a use of discretion in making a decision. All other words in this chapter shall carry the meanings as specified in the latest edition of Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary.

(1) "Administrator" means the Director of the Clallam County Department of Community Development or his/her designee.

(2) "Agriculture" or "agricultural activities" means ~~activities primarily devoted to the use of land for commercial~~ production of horticultural, viticultural, floricultural, dairy, apiary, vegetable or animal products, or of berries, grain, hay, straw, turf, seed, cottonwood trees, Christmas trees not subject to the excise tax imposed by RCW 84.33.100 through 84.33.140, or livestock, or aquaculture, each having a long-term commercial significance for agriculture; provided, that forest practices regulated under Chapter 76.09 RCW and WAC Title 222 are not included (CCC 31.02.050(3), County-wide Comprehensive Plan). including those activities directly pertaining to the production of crops or livestock including, but not limited to, cultivation, harvest, grazing, on-site animal waste storage and disposal, fertilization, the operation and maintenance of farm and stock ponds, drainage ditches, irrigation systems, and canals, and normal maintenance, operation and repair of existing serviceable structures, facilities, or improved areas. Activities (like installing drainage tiles) that allow an area to be utilized for agricultural use, or the processing or packing of primarily (i.e. over 50 percent) off-site agricultural materials are not considered agricultural activities.

(3) "Alteration" means a human action that may change the existing condition of a critical area. Alterations include but are not limited to: grading; dredging; channelizing; cutting, clearing, relocating or removing vegetation (except noxious weeds identified by the Washington Department

of Agriculture or Clallam County Cooperative Extension); applying herbicides or pesticides or any hazardous or toxic substance; discharging storm water runoff or pollutants; grazing domestic animals; modifying for surface water management purposes; or any other human activity that changes existing vegetation, hydrology, wildlife or wildlife habitat.

(4) “Applicant” means any person, public agency or business entity such as a corporation or a partnership which applies for a development proposal, permit or approval subject to review under this chapter. Applicant shall also mean any predecessor or any successor in interest involving the proposal.

(5) “Aquaculture” means the farming or culturing of game or food fish, shellfish, and/or other aquatic animals or plants in fresh or salt water areas, and may include such developments as fish hatcheries, rearing pens, shore-based structures and shellfish rafts. Aquaculture practices pertain to any activity related to growing, handling, or harvesting of aquaculture produce, including, but not limited to, propagation, enhancement and rehabilitation of said fisheries resources. Excluded from this definition is the private husbanding or harvesting of anadromous fish, as prohibited by Washington State Law, and related commercial uses such as wholesale and retail sales, processing, packaging or freezing facilities.

(6) “Aquifer” means a saturated body of rock, sand, gravel or other geologic material that is capable of storing, transmitting, and yielding water to a well in sufficient quantities to be economically useful.

(7) “Aquifer recharge” means the process by which water is added to an aquifer. It may occur naturally by the percolation (infiltration) of surface water, precipitation, or snowmelt from the ground surface to a depth where the earth materials are saturated with water. Aquifer recharge can be augmented by “artificial” means through the addition of surface water (e.g., land application of reuse water, wastewater or storm water) or by the injection of water into the underground environment (e.g., drainfields and drywells).

(8) “Base flood” means the flood level having a one percent chance of being equaled or exceeded in any given year. Also referred to as the “100-year flood.”

(9) “Best management practices” means conservation practices or systems of practices and management measures that:

(a) Control soil loss and reduce water quality degradation caused by nutrients, pathogens, bacteria, toxic substances, pesticides, oil and grease, and sediment; and

(b) Minimize adverse impacts to surface water and ground water flow, circulation patterns, and to the chemical, physical, and biological characteristics of critical areas.

(10) “Buffer” means an area of protection contiguous with a critical area where use is limited to protect the integrity, maintenance, function and structural stability of the critical area.

(11) “Clearing” means the destruction, disturbance or removal of vegetation by physical, mechanical, chemical or any other means.

(12) “Conservation easement” means a limited protective easement granted to Clallam County or other organizations devoted to protection and management of lands or portions thereof.

(13) “Critical facilities” means a facility for which even a slight chance of flooding or destruction caused by a geologic hazard would be too great. They include, but are not limited to: schools, hospitals, police, fire, emergency response installation, nursing homes, installations which produce, use or store hazardous materials or hazardous waste, pipelines which transmit oil and gas, municipal water and sewer facilities, and regional transportation facilities, such as airports, ports, railroads and major highways.

(14) “Development” or “development proposal” means any of the activities relating to the use and/or development of land, including but not limited to: any land use permit or approval issued by Clallam County pursuant to the Clallam County Code (e.g., building permit, industrial, commercial or residential; binding site plan; franchise right-of-way construction permit; master plan

development; planned unit development; right-of-way access permit; shoreline permits including exemptions; conditional use permit; subdivision; short subdivision; utility or on-site sewage permit; the removal, excavation, grading, clearing, or dredging of soil, sand, gravel, minerals, organic matter, or material of any kind; the dumping, discharging, or filling with any material; the draining, flooding, or disturbing of the water table; the driving of pilings or the placing of obstructions; planting of vegetation (e.g., introduction of non-native species) that would alter the character of the critical area; activities that result in adverse changes in water temperature or physical or chemical characteristics of critical area water sources; or any subsequently adopted permit or required approval not expressly exempted by this chapter.

(15) “Development proposal site” means, for purposes of this chapter, the legal boundaries of the parcel or parcels of land on which an applicant has applied for authority from Clallam County to carry out a development proposal.

(16) “Enhancement” means actions performed to improve the condition of existing degraded critical areas (e.g., wetlands or streams) so that the functions they provide are of a higher quality (provided that this activity does not significantly degrade another existing function or value), and are designed to improve or restore native fish and wildlife habitat, or watershed functions.

(17) “Erosion” means the process whereby the land surface is worn away by the action of water, wind, ice or other geologic agents and by processes such as gravitational creep or events such as landslides. Geologic erosion occurs as an ongoing process that acts on all land surfaces to some degree. Human activities such as removing vegetation, increasing storm water runoff or decreasing slope stability often accelerate or aggravate natural erosion processes.

(18) “Existing, on-going agriculture” means agriculture that is both: 1) on land located within the agricultural retention zoning district and/or on land that meets the criteria and are enrolled in the Washington state open space and agricultural current use program per RCW 84.34.020(2)(b) and (c); and 2) is on land that has been used for agriculture since June 16, 1992 and not ceased use for agriculture for more than five consecutive years at any one time. Changing the type of agricultural activities being conducted is not considered new or expansion of existing agricultural activity. Agriculture that meets the definition of existing, on-going agriculture on farmed wetlands, farmed wetland pastures, and prior-converted wetlands are allowed to continue subject to the provisions of CCC 27.12.037.

(189) “Flood Insurance Study” means the official report provided by the Federal Insurance Administration that includes flood profiles, the Flood Boundary-Floodway Map, and the water surface elevation of the base flood.

(1920) “Flood” or “flooding” means a general and temporary condition of partial or complete inundation of normally dry land areas from the overflow of inland or tidal waters and/or the unusual and rapid accumulation of runoff of surface waters from any source.

(201) “Floodplain” means an area of land that would be covered with water during a flood. Also known as the “frequently flooded area.”

(212) “Floodway” means the channel of a stream or other watercourse and any adjacent land areas, that must be kept free of encroachment in order to discharge the base flood without cumulatively increasing the water surface elevation more than one foot, which is the federal standard.

(223) “Footprint” means all area covered up to the exterior dimensions of structural improvements, including: buildings, outbuildings, decks, patios, overhangs, driveways, and other manmade structures that preclude or have the effect of precluding establishment and/or continued growth of natural vegetation.

(234) “Forest practices” means as defined in WAC [222-16-010\(21\)](#), as amended, any activity conducted on or directly pertaining to forest land and relating to growing, harvesting, or processing timber, including but not limited to: road and trail construction, harvesting, final and intermediate,

pre-commercial thinning, reforestation, fertilization, prevention and suppression of diseases and insects, salvage of trees, and brush control. Forest practices shall not include preparatory work such as tree marking, surveying and road flagging; or removal or harvest of incidental vegetation from forest lands such as berries, ferns, greenery, mistletoe, herbs, mushrooms, and other products which cannot normally be expected to result in damage to forest soils, timber or public resources.

(245) “Frequently flooded areas” means the floodway and special flood hazard area, combined. Also known as “floodplain.”

(256) “Functions, beneficial functions, or functions and values” the beneficial roles served by critical areas including, but not limited to: water quality/quantity protection and enhancement, fish and wildlife habitat, food chain support, flood storage, conveyance and attenuation, ground water recharge and discharge, erosion control, wave attenuation, historical and archaeological value protection, aesthetic value, and recreation. These beneficial functions are not listed in order of priority.

(267) “Grading” means any excavating, filling or removing of the surface layer or any combination thereof.

(278) “Grazed wet meadows” are wetlands whose vegetative cover has been greatly modified as a result of grazing, seeding or cutting for hay. They are typically dominated by pasture species (such as blue grass, orchard grass, fescue, clovers, reed canary grass, etc.) as well as non-native wetland species such as soft rush and buttercup. They are saturated or have standing water during the wet season and part of the growing season but are dry during the summer months. Grazed wet meadows have been used (within the last ~~five~~(5) years) or are being used for livestock grazing, seeding, or cutting for hay.

(289) “Hazardous substances” means those substances defined as hazardous or dangerous wastes in Chapter [173-303](#) WAC and/or the Model Toxic Control Act (Chapter [173-40](#) WAC).

(2930) “Hydrogeology” means the science dealing with the properties, distribution, and circulation of ground water and related aspects of water.

(301) “Impervious surface” means a hard surface area which either prevents or retards the entry of water into the soil mantle as under natural conditions prior to development; and/or a hard surface area that causes water to run off the surface in greater quantities or at an increased rate of flow from the flow present under natural conditions prior to development. Common impervious surfaces include, but are not limited to: roof tops, walkways, patios, driveways, parking lots or storage areas, concrete or asphalt paving, gravel roads, packed earthen materials, and oiled, macadam or other surfaces which similarly impede the natural infiltration of storm water. Open, uncovered retention/detention facilities are not considered impervious surfaces.

(312) “Lake” means a naturally existing or artificially created body of standing water greater than or equal to ~~twenty~~(20) acres in size. Lakes include reservoirs which exist on a year-round basis and occur in a depression of land or expanded part of a stream. A lake is bounded by the ordinary high water mark or the extension of the elevation of the lake’s ordinary high water mark within the stream, where the stream enters the lake. All lakes meet the criteria of Chapter [90.58](#) RCW (Shoreline Management Act) and have been inventoried as “shorelines of the State” under the Shoreline Master Program for Clallam County.

(323) “Land disturbing activity” means any activity that results in a change in the existing soil cover (both vegetative and non-vegetative) and/or the existing soil topography. Land disturbing activities include, but are not limited to: demolition, construction, paving, clearing, grading, grubbing, surface mining or mineral extraction and other site development activities. This definition does not include those normal activities associated with construction and/or occupancy of a single-family dwelling and appurtenances.

(334) “Land divisions” means any division of land regulated under the Clallam County Land Division Ordinance, CCC Title [29](#), as now or hereafter amended.

(345) “Landslide” means the general term used to describe the downslope movement of a mass of slope materials including rock, soils, artificial fills, and vegetation. The speed and distance of movement, as well as the amount and type of slope material, vary greatly.

(356) “Major new development” means any new development that is not considered minor new development, including but not limited to:

(a) Clearing, grading or filling one acre or greater in area;

(b) Zoning conditional use permits required under CCC Title 33, Clallam County Zoning Code;

(c) Any new commercial or industrial development authorized under Chapter 33.34 CCC or Chapter 33.35 CCC, Clallam County Zoning Code, except when authorized as a home enterprise activity consistent with CCC Title 33, Clallam County Zoning Code;

(d) Any structure, regardless of use with a footprint in excess of 4,000 square feet;

(e) Any land division pursuant to CCC Title 29, Clallam County Land Division Code.

(367) “Marine bluff” means the cliff-like landform which has been created by wave and tidal erosion along marine shorelines. For the purposes of this chapter, marine bluffs include those areas along marine shorelines where:

(a) The slope is identified as “unstable,” “unstable old slide” and “unstable recent slide” on the maps of the Coastal Zone Atlas of Washington, Clallam County (1978); or

(b) Other slopes where the slope is equal to or in excess of ~~forty (40)~~ percent slope, or where the ground surface rises ~~ten (10)~~ feet or more vertically within a horizontal distance of ~~twenty-five (25)~~ feet.

(378) “Mineral extraction” includes activities involved in the extraction of minerals (excluding water) from the earth for industrial, commercial or construction uses.

(389) “Minor improvement” means any repair, reconstruction, or improvement of a structure, the cost of which is less than ~~fifty (50)~~ percent of the market value of the structure either before the improvement or repair is started, or if the structure has been damaged and is being restored, before the damage occurred. For the purposes of this definition, “minor improvement” is considered to occur when the first alteration of any wall, ceiling, floor, or other structural part of the building commences, whether or not that alteration affects the external dimensions of the structure. However, this term does not include: any project for improvement of a structure to comply with existing State or local health, sanitary, or safety code specifications which are solely necessary to assure safe living conditions, or any alteration of a structure listed on the National Register of Historic Places or a State Inventory of Historic Places.

(3940) “Minor new development” means the following activities are considered minor new development:

(a) Construction or placement of a single-family dwelling and associated appurtenances, including a garage, deck, driveway, utilities, fence, and an associated home enterprise as defined and approved under CCC Title 33, Clallam County Zoning Code; provided, that all of the following criteria are met:

(i) Grading shall not exceed 500 cubic yards; and

(ii) Land disturbing activities shall not exceed 20,000 square feet, except that on parcels less than ~~five (5)~~ acres, land disturbing activities must not exceed ~~fifteen (15)~~ percent of the gross parcel size; and

(iii) The total cumulative footprint of all structures on a parcel must be less than 4,000 square feet; and

(iv) The total cumulative impervious surface area on the parcel must be less than ~~ten (10)~~ percent of the gross parcel size; and

(v) All land disturbing activities must be located on slopes less than ~~fifteen (15)~~ percent; and

(vi) All land disturbing activities must comply with any critical area buffer and other protection standards established for parcels created by land division.

(b) Construction and practices normal or necessary for agriculture, including agriculture service roads and utilities, construction of an agriculture building less than 4,000 square feet in size used exclusively for agriculture; provided, that a feedlot of any size, all processing plants, other activities of a commercial nature, alteration of the contour of wetlands or streams by leveling or filling other than that which results from normal cultivation, shall not be considered normal or necessary agriculture;

(c) Clearing, grading or filling less than one acre not associated with residential development or agriculture; provided, that mineral extraction is not involved; provided further, that no such activity shall occur within critical areas or their associated buffers inconsistent with this chapter.

(401) "Monitoring" means the collection and analysis of data for the purposes of documenting changes in natural ecosystems and features. This includes gathering baseline data and follow-up data for evaluating the impacts of development on biological, hydrologic and geologic elements of such systems and assessing the performance of required mitigation measures.

(412) "Native vegetation" means vegetation indigenous to the North Olympic Peninsula as found in *Flora of the Pacific Northwest* by Hitchcock and Cronquist, Univ. of Washington Press, 1972, as amended, or *Flora of the Olympic Peninsula* by N. Buckingham and E. Shreiner, 1995.

(423) "Normal maintenance" means those acts that are usually necessary in order to prevent a decline, lapse or cessation of a lawfully established condition. It does not include additional placement of fill on, or excavation of, previously undisturbed soils or slopes; clearing, removal, or cutting of trees greater than ~~twelve~~(12) inches in diameter at ~~four and one-half~~(4.5) feet, or total replacement of a structure.

(434) "Normal repair" means to restore a development to a state comparable to its original condition within a reasonable period after decay or partial destruction except where repair involves total replacement which is not common practice or causes substantial adverse effects to the regulated critical area. "Normal repair" does not include placement of fill; further excavation of native soils; or clearing and grading of previously undisturbed soils or slopes.

(445) "Open space" means lands which are in a natural or undeveloped character because they have not been developed with structures, paving or other appurtenances. Open space lands can include: parks, recreation areas, conservation easements, critical area buffers, or tracts or commons designated as open space through a land division.

(456) "Ordinary high water mark" means the mark on all lakes, streams and tidal waters which will be found by examining the beds and banks and ascertaining where the presence and action of waters are so common and usual, and so long continued in all ordinary years, as to mark upon the soil a character distinct from that of the abutting upland, in respect to vegetation as that conditions existed on the effective date of this chapter, as it may naturally change thereafter, or as it may have changed thereafter in accordance with permits issued by a local government or the department; provided, that in any area where the ordinary high-water mark cannot be found, the ordinary high-water mark adjoining salt water shall be the line of mean higher high tide and the ordinary high water mark adjoining fresh water shall be the line of mean high water.

(467) "Performance standard" or "protection standard" means a measure, control, procedure, or process to ensure that critical areas are protected. For the purposes of this chapter, these terms have the same meaning as regulation.

(478) "Person" means any individual or public or private entity (i.e., corporations).

(489) "Pond" means a naturally existing or artificially created body of standing water less than ~~twenty~~(20) acres in size and not defined as "shorelines of the State" by Chapter 90.58 RCW (Shoreline Management Act). Ponds can include reservoirs which exist on a year-round basis and

occur in a depression of land or expanded part of a stream. A pond is bounded by the ordinary high water mark or the extension of the elevation of the pond's ordinary high water mark within the stream, where the stream enters the pond.

(4950) "Practicable alternative" means an alternative that is available and capable of being carried out after taking into consideration cost, existing technology, and logistics in light of overall project purposes, and having less impact to critical areas. It may include an area not owned by the applicant which could reasonably have been or be obtained, utilized, expanded, or managed in order to fulfill the basic purpose of the proposed activity.

(501) "Priority habitat" means a seasonal range or habitat element with which a given species has a primary association, and if altered, may reduce the likelihood that the species will maintain and reproduce over the long term. These might include areas of high relative density or species richness, breeding, nesting, feeding, foraging, and migratory habitat, winter range, movement corridors, and/or habitats that are of limited availability or high vulnerability to alteration. Priority habitats are established by the Washington Department of Wildlife within their Priority Habitats and Species Data Base.

(512) "Priority species" include those which are State-listed endangered, threatened, sensitive, candidate and monitor species as well as priority game and nongame species under Chapter [232-12 WAC](#).

(523) "Public facilities" means buildings or uses of land whether owned or leased, operated by a public agency for such purposes as providing places for public assembly and recreation, operating services of benefit to the public, or for the administration of public affairs.

(534) "Public utility" means a business or service, either governmental or having appropriate approval from the State, which is engaged in regularly supplying the public with some commodity or service which is of public consequence and need such as electricity, gas, sewer and/or wastewater, water, transportation or communications.

(545) "Ravine" means a landform usually having little or no floodplain that develops adjacent to a stream, and has relatively steep side walls composed of unconsolidated materials or surficial deposits.

(556) "Reasonable alternative" means an activity that could feasibly attain or approximate a proposal's objectives, but at a lower environmental cost or decreased level of environmental degradation. Reasonable alternatives may be those over which the regulatory authority has authority to control impacts.

(567) "Recreational vehicle" means a vehicle which is: built on a single chassis; 400 square feet or less when measured at the largest horizontal projection; designed to be self-propelled or permanently towable by a light duty truck; and designed primarily not for use as a permanent dwelling but as temporary living quarters for recreational, camping, travel, or seasonal use; provided, that the RV is not attached to any structure, including but not limited to decks, structures, additions, and storage buildings, regardless of size.

(578) "Regional trail" means a public trail system that crosses between regional planning areas or jurisdictions, such as other counties, cities, or tribal reservations.

(589) "Regulated use or activity" means any development proposal located within the jurisdiction of a regulated critical area which includes or directly affects a critical area or its buffer or is adjacent to a critical area. (See definition of adjacent and development.)

(5960) "Restoration" means the return of a critical area (e.g., stream or wetland) to a state in which its functions and values approach its unaltered state as closely as possible.

(601) Review Authority. The "review authority" for this chapter is the applicable decision-maker for the specific task or permit decision, which may be the Board of Commissioners, the Clallam County Hearing Examiner, or the Administrator of the Department of Community

Development, as prescribed by this chapter and/or Chapter [26.10](#) CCC, Consolidated Development Permit Process Code.

(612) “Road” or “street” means any vehicular right-of-way which: (a) is an existing State, County or municipal roadway, (b) is a publicly owned easement, (c) is shown upon a land division pursuant to Clallam County Land Division Code (CCC Title [29](#)), or (d) is a private access greater than fifty (50) feet in length serving more than one property through right of use or easement. The road or street shall include all land within the boundaries of the road right-of-way.

(623) “Salmonid” means a member of the fish family salmonidae. In Clallam County these include chinook, coho, chum, sockeye and pink salmon; rainbow, steelhead, cutthroat trout; brown trout; Brook and Dolly Varden char, kokanee, and whitefish.

(634) “Site investigation” means work necessary for land use application submittals such as surveys, soil logs, percolation tests or other related activities.

(645) “Special flood hazard areas” means the floodway and adjoining land area. In a riverine system, this area is subject to a one percent or greater chance of flooding in any year, as determined by engineering studies acceptable to Clallam County. The coastal high hazard areas are included within special flood hazard areas. Special flood hazard areas are designated on the Flood Insurance Rate Maps as A and V zones.

(656) “Species of concern” means species classified as endangered, threatened, sensitive, candidate, or monitored by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife under Chapter [232-12](#) WAC. Monitored species shall include those species that are of special interest because they were at one time classified as endangered, threatened, or sensitive species that require habitat of limited availability during some portion of their life cycle.

(667) “Substantial improvements” means any repair, reconstruction, or improvement of a structure, the cost of which equals or exceeds ~~fifty (50)~~ percent of the market value of the structure either before the improvement or repair is started, or if the structure has been damaged and is being restored, or before the damage occurred. For the purposes of this definition, “substantial improvement” is considered to occur when the first alteration of any wall, ceiling, floor, or other structural part of the building commences, whether or not that alteration affects the external dimensions of the structure. However, this term does not include: any project for improvement of a structure to comply with existing state or local health, sanitary, or safety code specifications which are solely necessary to assure safe living conditions, or any alteration of a structure listed on the National Register of Historic Places or a State Inventory of Historic Places.

(678) Stream Types. For the purposes of this chapter, artificially created water conveyances, such as irrigation ditches, constructed in areas not already containing naturally flowing waters, are not classified as streams.

(a) “Type 1 water” means all waters, within their ordinary high water mark, as inventoried as “shoreslines of the State” under Chapter [90.58](#) RCW and the rules promulgated pursuant to Chapter [90.58](#) RCW, but not including those waters’ associated wetlands as defined in Chapter [90.58](#) RCW;

(b) “Type 2 water” shall mean segments of natural waters which are not classified as Type 1 water and have a high fish, wildlife, or human use. These are segments of natural waters and periodically inundated areas of their associated wetlands, which:

(i) Are diverted for domestic use by more than 100 residential or camping units or by a public accommodation facility licensed to serve more than 100 persons, where such diversion is determined by the department to be a valid appropriation of water and the only practical water source for such users. Such waters shall be considered to be Type 2 water upstream from the point of such diversion for 1,500 feet or until the drainage area is reduced by ~~fifty (50)~~ percent, whichever is less;

(ii) Are within a federal, State, local, or private campground having more than ~~thirty (30)~~ camping units; provided, that the water shall not be considered to enter a campground until it reaches the boundary of the park lands available for public use and comes within 100 feet of a camping unit, trail or other park improvement;

(iii) Are used by substantial numbers of anadromous or resident game fish for spawning, rearing or migration. Waters having the following characteristics are presumed to have highly significant fish populations: (A) stream segments having a defined channel ~~twenty (20)~~ feet or greater in width between the ordinary high water marks and having a gradient of less than ~~four (4)~~ percent; (B) lakes, ponds, or impoundments having a surface area of one acre or greater at seasonal low water; or

(iv) Are used by salmonids for off-channel habitat. These areas are critical to the maintenance of optimum survival of juvenile salmonids. This habitat shall be identified based on the following criteria: (A) the site must be connected to a stream bearing salmonids and accessible during some period of the year; and (B) the off-channel water must be accessible to juvenile salmonids through a drainage with less than a ~~five (5)~~ percent gradient.

(c) "Type 3 water" shall mean segments of natural waters which are not classified as Type 1 or 2 water and have a moderate to slight fish, wildlife, and human use. These are segments of natural waters and periodically inundated areas of their associated wetlands which:

(i) Are diverted for domestic use by more than ~~ten (10)~~ residential or camping units or by a public accommodation facility licensed to serve more than ~~ten (10)~~ persons, where such diversion is determined by the department to be a valid appropriation of water and the only practical water source for such users. Such waters shall be considered to be Type 3 water upstream from the point of such diversion for 1,500 feet or until the drainage area is reduced by fifty (50) percent, whichever is less;

(ii) Are used by significant numbers of anadromous fish for spawning, rearing or migration. Waters having the following characteristics are presumed to have significant anadromous fish use: (A) stream segments having a defined channel of ~~five (5)~~ feet or greater in width between the ordinary high water marks; and having a gradient of less than ~~twelve (12)~~ percent and not upstream of a falls of more than ~~ten (10)~~ vertical feet; (B) ponds or impoundments having a surface area of less than one acre at seasonal low water and having an outlet to an anadromous fish stream;

(iii) Are used by significant numbers of resident game fish. Waters with the following characteristics are presumed to have significant resident game fish use: (A) stream segments having a defined channel of ~~ten (10)~~ feet or greater in width between the ordinary high water marks; and a summer low flow greater than 0.3 cubic feet per second; and a gradient of less than ~~twelve (12)~~ percent; (B) ponds or impoundments having a surface area greater than 0.5 acre at seasonal low water; or

(iv) Are highly significant for protection of downstream water quality. Tributaries which contribute greater than ~~twenty (20)~~ percent of the flow to a Type 1 or 2 water are presumed to be significant for 1,500 feet from their confluence with the Type 1 or 2 water or until their drainage area is less than ~~fifty (50)~~ percent of their drainage area at the point of confluence, whichever is less.

(d) "Type 4 water" classification shall be applied to segments of natural waters which are not classified as Type 1, 2 or 3, and for the purpose of protecting water quality downstream are classified as Type 4 water upstream until the channel width becomes less than ~~two (2)~~ feet in width between the ordinary high water marks. Their significance lies in their influence on water quality downstream in Type 1, 2, and 3 waters. These may be perennial or intermittent.

(e) "Type 5 water" classification, for the purposes of this regulation, shall be applied to all segments of natural waters within the bankfull widths of defined channels that are not classified as Type 1, 2, 3 or 4 waters and which are physically connected by an aboveground channel system, including but not limited to irrigation ditches, to downstream waters such that water or sediment

initially delivered to such waters will eventually be delivered to a Type 1, 2, 3 or 4 water. While irrigation ditches or other manmade water conveyances may be physically connected to a Type 5 water, all manmade irrigation ditches or other artificial water conveyances are not regulated by this chapter. Designation of Type 5 streams shall require review and confirmation by the Clallam County Habitat Specialist on a case-by-case basis, and shall be based on a consideration of stream segment length, sediment delivery potential to Type 1, 2, 3, or 4 waters, and desynchronization of flood water flows.

(689) "Structure" means a permanent or temporary edifice or building, or any piece of work artificially built or composed of parts joined together in some definite manner, whether installed, on, above, or below the surface of the ground or water.

(697) "Toe of slope" means the lowermost topographic break in slope. Where no distinct break exists, this point shall be the lowermost limit of the landslide hazard area as defined and classified by this chapter.

(701) "Top of slope" means the highest topographic break in slope. Where no distinct break in slope exists this point shall be the uppermost limit of the landslide hazard area as defined and classified by this chapter.

(712) "Unavoidable and necessary impacts" means those impacts to critical areas that remain after a person proposing to alter such an area has demonstrated that no practicable alternative exists for the proposed project.

(723) "Utility" means a fixed improvement which contains or conveys power, gas, oil, water, sewage, surface drainage, or communication signals.

(734) "Water-dependent uses" means a use or portion of a use that cannot logically exist in any other location and is dependent on the water by reason of the intrinsic nature of its operation. Water-dependent uses include, but are not limited to: aquaculture, boat launch facilities, ferry terminals, hydroelectric power plants, marinas, marine construction, dismantling and repair, marine and limnological research and education, private and public docks, terminal and transfer facilities for marine commerce and industry, water intakes and outfalls, log booming, tug and barge facilities, residential appurtenances such as beach access ramps and walkways, observation decks and platforms, picnic sites, and gazebos/shelters less than 250 square feet in size.

(745) "Water-related uses" means a use or portion of a use that is not intrinsically dependent on a waterfront location, but which includes operations that cannot occur economically without a shoreline location or without close proximity to water-dependent uses. Water-related uses include, but are not limited to: warehousing or storage facilities; support services for fish hatcheries; seafood processing plants; wood products manufacturing; log storage; watercraft sales; boating supplies.

(756) "Watershed" means the interconnected system of surface and near-surface water bodies that drain to a common outlet.

ADOPTED this twenty-second day of November 2016

BOARD OF CLALLAM COUNTY COMMISSIONERS


Mike Chapman, Chair


Mark Ozias

ATTEST:


Loni Gores, Deputy Clerk of the Board


Bill Peach