

Wetland Mitigation Banks, chapter 173-700 WAC

Rule language is now available for public comment

Ecology is proposing to adopt a new rule for wetland mitigation banks. The purpose of the proposed rule is to provide an efficient, predictable framework to certify, operate and monitor wetland mitigation banks across the state.

The proposal notice will be published in the Washington State Register on March 18, 2009. **Ecology is taking public comments on the proposed rule until 5:00 pm on April 23, 2009.**

Ecology has issued a Draft Environmental Impact Statement under the State Environmental Policy Act, a Small Business Economic Impact Statement, and a preliminary cost-benefit analysis. Ecology is also taking public comments on these documents.

A copy of all rule documents including rule text can be viewed at: <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/laws-rules/activity/wac173700.html>.

Public workshop and hearing schedule

April 8, 2009 - Spokane, WA

Workshops: 2:00 pm and 6:00 pm. Hearings: 3:00 pm and 7:00 pm
Department of Ecology, Eastern Regional Office
N. 4601 Monroe, 1st floor large conference room

April 9, 2009 - Lacey, WA

Workshop: 6:00 pm. Hearing: 7:00 pm
Department of Ecology, Headquarters
300 Desmond Dr SE, R0A-32 and R0A-34

April 15, 2009 - Mt. Vernon, WA

Workshops: 2:00 pm and 6:00 pm. Hearings: 3:00 pm and 7:00 pm
Skagit Station
105 E. Kincaid, Community Room

April 16, 2009 - Seattle, WA (Must bring photo ID for check-in)

Workshops: 2:00 pm and 6:00 pm. Hearings: 3:00 pm and 7:00 pm
US Army Corps of Engineers, Seattle District
4735 E Marginal Way S, Galaxy Room

WHY IT MATTERS

The goals of the proposed rule:

- Provide timely review of wetland mitigation bank proposals,
- Establish coordination among state, local, tribal, and federal agencies involved in certifying wetland mitigation banks,
- Ensure consistency with existing federal mitigation rules, and
- Encourage bank sponsors to locate and design wetland mitigation banks to provide the greatest ecological benefits.

MORE INFORMATION

www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/sea/wetlands/mitigation/banking

Contact information:

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Special accommodations:

If you need this publication in an alternate format, call Tim Schlender at 360-407-6096. Persons with hearing loss, call 711 for Washington Relay Service. Persons with a speech disability, call 877-833-6341.

How to submit your comments

Comment period ends April 23, 2009. Comments on all documents must be received by 5:00pm on April 23, 2009.

You can give us your official comments in any of the following ways:

- Testify at a public hearing.
- Visit our website and submit comments electronically at:
<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/sea/wetlands/mitigation/rule>
- Email your comments to: yhol461@ecy.wa.gov
- Mail comments to:
Department of Ecology
Attn: Yolanda Holder
Shorelands and Environmental Assistance Program
PO Box 47600
Olympia, WA 98504-7600

Ecology's response to your comments

All of the comments we receive will become part of the official record (Concise Explanatory Statement). The Concise Explanatory Statement is required by the Administrative Procedure Act (RCW 34.05) and is published after the rule is adopted. You will be able to find your name listed in the document with a reference to where, in the document, Ecology responded to your comments.

Expected adoption date

Ecology expects to adopt this rule by July 31, 2009.

Public Workshops

The Department of Ecology will conduct a public workshop one hour prior to each hearing. The workshop will begin with a short presentation on the banking rule and finish with an opportunity for the public to ask questions. Informational materials will be available to read or take home.

Sign-up for E-mail Updates on Wetland Mitigation Banking

To stay informed about the banking program, join the wetland banking listserv:
<http://listserv.wa.gov/cgi-bin/wa?A0=WETLAND-MITIGATION-BANKING>.