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## WAC 365-190-050

### **Agricultural lands.**

(1) In classifying agricultural lands of long-term significance for the production of food or other agricultural products, counties and cities shall use the land-capability classification system of the United States Department of Agriculture Soil Conservation Service as defined in Agriculture Handbook No. 210. These eight classes are incorporated by the United States Department of Agriculture into map units described in published soil surveys. These categories incorporate consideration of the growing capacity, productivity and soil composition of the land. Counties and cities shall also consider the combined effects of proximity to population areas and the possibility of more intense uses of the land as indicated by:

- (a) The availability of public facilities;
- (b) Tax status;
- (c) The availability of public services;
- (d) Relationship or proximity to urban growth areas;
- (e) Predominant parcel size;
- (f) Land use settlement patterns and their compatibility with agricultural practices;
- (g) Intensity of nearby land uses;
- (h) History of land development permits issued nearby;
- (i) Land values under alternative uses; and
- (j) Proximity of markets.

(2) In defining categories of agricultural lands of long-term commercial significance for agricultural production, counties and cities should consider using the classification of prime and unique farmland soils as mapped by the Soil Conservation Service. If a county or city chooses to not use these categories, the rationale for that decision must be included in its next annual report to department of community development.

(3) Counties and cities may further classify additional agricultural lands of local importance. Classifying additional agricultural lands of local importance should include consultation with the board of the local conservation district and the local agriculture stabilization and conservation service committee.

These additional lands may also include bogs used to grow cranberries. Where these lands are also designated critical areas, counties and cities planning under the act must weigh the compatibility of adjacent land uses and development with the continuing need to protect the functions and values of critical areas and ecosystems.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 36.70A.050. 91-07-041, § 365-190-050, filed 3/15/91, effective 4/15/91.]

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## **WAC 365-190-060**

### **Forest land resources.**

In classifying forest land, counties and cities should use the private forest land grades of the department of revenue (WAC 458-40-530). This system incorporates consideration of growing capacity, productivity and soil composition of the land. Forest land of long-term commercial significance will generally have a predominance of the higher private forest land grades. However, the presence of lower private forest land grades within the areas of predominantly higher grades need not preclude designation as forest land.

Each county and city shall determine which land grade constitutes forest land of long-term commercial significance, based on local and regional physical, biological, economic, and land use considerations.

Counties and cities shall also consider the effects of proximity to population areas and the possibility of more intense uses of the land as indicated by:

- (1) The availability of public services and facilities conducive to the conversion of forest land.
- (2) The proximity of forest land to urban and suburban areas and rural settlements: Forest lands of long-term commercial significance are located outside the urban and suburban areas and rural settlements.
- (3) The size of the parcels: Forest lands consist of predominantly large parcels.
- (4) The compatibility and intensity of adjacent and nearby land use and settlement patterns with forest lands of long-term commercial significance.
- (5) Property tax classification: Property is assessed as open space or forest land pursuant to chapter 84.33 or 84.34 RCW.
- (6) Local economic conditions which affect the ability to manage timberlands for long-term commercial production.
- (7) History of land development permits issued nearby.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 36.70A.050. 91-07-041, § 365-190-060, filed 3/15/91, effective 4/15/91.]

WAC 365-190-080

## **Critical areas.**

(3) Frequently flooded areas. Floodplains and other areas subject to flooding perform important hydrologic functions and may present a risk to persons and property. Classifications of frequently flooded areas should include, at a minimum, the 100-year floodplain designations of the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the National Flood Insurance Program.

Counties and cities should consider the following when designating and classifying frequently flooded areas:

- (a) Effects of flooding on human health and safety, and to public facilities and services;
- (b) Available documentation including federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and programs, local studies and maps, and federal flood insurance programs;
- (c) The future flow floodplain, defined as the channel of the stream and that portion of the adjoining floodplain that is necessary to contain and discharge the base flood flow at build out without any measurable increase in flood heights;
- (d) The potential effects of tsunami, high tides with strong winds, sea level rise resulting from global climate change, and greater surface runoff caused by increasing impervious surfaces.