Appendix F

Critical Area Identification Form Outline

Section X.10.190 of the *Example Code Provisions for Designating and Protecting Critical Areas* suggests requiring applicants to prepare and submit a "critical area identification form" to be reviewed by the director. This outline is intended to help jurisdictions create such an identification form. While the information requested on the form will vary for each community, it should be sufficient to provide the level of information that, when combined with a site inspection, the director can make an informed determination as to whether or not critical areas are present on the site, and whether or not the proposed activity will impact those critical areas. A "yes" response to any single question on the identification form does not necessarily indicate that further critical area review is required. The director should evaluate all the information provided on the form, in conjunction with the information provided with the initial permit application, to determine if further investigation is needed and whether completion of a critical area report is warranted.

The attached outline is not a recommended identification form, but rather a list of indicators and project information that could be included on a form to help identify critical areas and the likelihood of an impact to these areas. Indicators are organized here by critical area type, and some are repeated, such as whether a proposed development is located within the shoreline zone. An actual identification form could consolidate these questions so as to avoid repetition and be tailored to known local conditions. It may be appropriate to ask for more or less information from the applicant depending on the local environment.

Some of the questions listed here require locating the project area on reference maps, such as the *Coastal Zone Atlas* and the Natural Resource Conservation Service soil maps. If these documents are kept at the local planning department, it may appropriate to reference how the applicant may access these maps or for a planner to assist the applicant in completing those identification form questions. Additionally, the identification form may reference locally adopted maps.

Many of the indicators listed here are similar to those found in the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) environmental checklist. Depending on how each jurisdiction incorporates critical area review with SEPA review, the identification form could be designed to work with and be complimentary to the environmental checklist. In addition, it may be appropriate to review the Joint Aquatic Resources Permit Application (JARPA) used by state and federal regulatory agencies to determine if requesting similar information and coordinating with that process would be beneficial to the permit review process.

Project Information

- Name of project.
- Name of applicant.
- Name of individual completing the identification form.
- Any technical expertise/special qualifications of person filling out identification form.
- Date identification form prepared.
- Location of the proposed activity (street address and legal description).

- Give a brief, complete description of the proposed activity, including extent of proposed activities, and impervious surface areas.
- Described the limits of the project area in relation to the site (for example, "the project area will extend to within 50 feet of the north property line"), including the limits of proposed clearing and construction activity.
- Describe any vegetation proposed to be planted as part of the project.
- Give a brief, complete description of existing site conditions, including current and past uses of the property.
- Will the project include installation of an on-site septic system?
- Proposed timing and schedule for all project phases, if multiphased.
- Do you have any plans for future additions, expansion, or related activity?
- Have any critical areas or protection easements been recorded on the title of the property or adjacent properties?
- Is development proposed to be clustered to reduce disturbance of critical areas?
- Will this project require other government approvals for environmental impacts?
  __ Hydraulic Project Approval (HPA) [Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)].
  __ Water quality certification [(Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology)].
  __ National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (Washington State Department of Ecology).
  __ Municipal or health district wastewater/septic approval (Ecology).
  __ Water Use Permit; Certificate of Water Right (Ecology).
  __ U.S. Army Corps Section 404 or Section 10 Permits.
  __ Aquatic Lands Lease and/or Authorization [(Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR)].
  __ Forest Practices Permit (DNR).
  __ Shoreline development, conditional use, or variance permit (local jurisdiction).

Available Information

- List any environmental information known to have been prepared, or expected to be prepared, relating to this proposal or project area.
- Has a critical area review, or other environmental review, been conducted for another project located on or adjacent to the site?

Wetland Indicators

- Describe any surface water and watercourses, including intermittent streams, drainage channels, ditches, and springs, located on site or within 300 feet of the site. If appropriate, provide the names of the water bodies to which the streams flow.
- Is the site within the shoreline zone?
- Is the site within the 100-year flood plain on flood insurance maps published by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), or on other local flood data maps?
- What types of soils are found on the site (for example, clay, sand, gravel, peat, muck)?
- Is there any evidence of ponding on or in the vicinity of the site?
- Indicate the topography of the site (shallow areas often retain water and may be wetlands, although wetlands may also occur on slopes).

- What types of vegetation are found on site? Cattail, buttercup, bulrush, skunk cabbage, water lily, eelgrass, milfoil?
- Does the proposed activity or construction involve any discharge of waste materials or the use of hazardous substances?

Critical Aquifer Recharge Areas Indicators

- Are any watercourses, including intermittent streams, drainage channels, ditches, or springs, located on site?
- Is the site within the shoreline zone?
- Is the site within the 100-year flood plain on flood insurance maps published by FEMA, or on other local flood data maps?
- What is the permeability (rate of infiltration) of the soils on the site?

  (General information for this question and the following question can be found in the Guidance Document for the Establishment of Critical Aquifer Recharge Area Ordinances, 2000, Ecology Publication #97-30).
- What is the annual average precipitation in the area?
- What types of soils are found on the site (for example, clay, sand, gravel, peat, muck)?
- What is the U.S. Department of Agriculture soil classification of the soil found on site?
- Is there any evidence of ground water contamination on or in the vicinity of the site?
- Is there any ground water information available from wells that have been dug in the vicinity? If so, describe, including depth of ground water and ground water quality.
- Provide the general topography of the site and surrounding area.
- What percent of the site will be covered with impervious surfaces when the project is complete?
- Does the proposed activity or construction involve any discharge of waste materials or the use of hazardous substances?

Frequently Flooded Areas Indicators

- Are any watercourses, including intermittent streams, drainage channels, ditches, and springs, located on site?
- Is the site within the shoreline zone?
- Is the site within the 100-year flood plain on flood insurance maps published by FEMA, or on other local flood data maps?
- Is the site, or a portion of the site, at a lower elevation than surrounding properties?

Geological Hazard Indicators

- Generally describe the site: Flat, rolling, hilly, steep slopes, mountainous, other.
- Describe the purpose, type, and approximate quantities of any filling or grading proposed. Indicate source of fill material.
- What is the steepest slope on the property? Is it greater than 40 percent?
- What types of soils are found on the site (for example, clay, sand, gravel, peat, muck)?
- What is the U.S. Department of Agriculture soil classification of the soil found on site?
- Is the area mapped by Ecology (*Coastal Zone Atlas*) or the DNR (slope stability mapping) as unstable ("U" or class 3), unstable old slides ("UOS" or class 4), or unstable recent slides ("URS" or class 5)?

- Is the area designated as quaternary slumps, earthflows, mudflows, lahars, seismic hazard, or landslides on maps published by the U.S. Geological Survey or DNR?
- Is there any indication of past landslides, erosion, or unstable soils in the vicinity?
- Is the area designated as a tsunami hazard area on maps published by National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration?
- Are any watercourses, including drainage channels, ditches, springs, and intermittent streams, located on site?
- Is the site within the shoreline zone?
- Is the site with the 100-year flood plain on flood insurance maps published by FEMA, or on other local flood data maps?
- Is erosion likely to occur as a result of clearing, construction, or use?
- What percent of the site will be covered by impervious surfaces when the project is completed?
- How will stormwater from the project be managed?
- Are soils proposed to be compacted?
- Are roads, walkways, and parking areas designed to be parallel to natural contours?

Habitat Indicators

- Describe any surface water and watercourses, including intermittent streams, drainage channels, ditches, and springs, located on site or within one-half mile of the site. If appropriate, provide the names of the water bodies to which streams flow.
- Indicate the topography of the site (shallow areas often retain water and may be wetlands, although wetlands may also occur on slopes).
- List any birds, mammals, fish, or other animal species found on the or in the vicinity of the site, including those found during seasonal periods.
- Is the site within the shoreline zone?
- Is the site or areas in the vicinity used for commercial or recreational fishing, including shellfish? Is the area designated an Area of Special Concern under on-site sewage regulations to protect shellfish?
- Is the site within the 100-year flood plain on flood insurance maps published by FEMA, or on other local flood data maps?
- What types of vegetation are found on site?
- Are cattail, buttercup, bulrush, skunk cabbage, water lily, kelp, eelgrass, or milfoil found on site?
- Is the site or are areas in the vicinity used for commercial or recreational fishing, including shellfish?
- Are any natural area preserves or natural resource areas located within 200 feet of the site?
- Are any endangered or threatened species known to be on or within one-half mile of the site, including species that may be present during seasonal periods?
- Is the site part of a migration route?
- Are any priority habitat areas, as shown on maps published by the WDFW, within one-half mile of the site? If so, describe type of habitat and distance from project area.
- Are any of the following located on or adjacent to the site?

  __ Aspen stands
  __ Caves

__ Cliffs
__ Freshwater wetlands and fresh deepwater
__ Instream habitat areas
__ Juniper savannah
__ Estuary and estuary like areas
__ Marine/estuarine shorelines
__ Vegetative marine/estuarine areas
__ Old-growth/mature forests
__ Oregon white oak woodlands
__ Prairies and steppe
__ Riparian areas
__ Shrub-steppe
__ Snags or logs
__ Talus
__ Rural natural open spaces
__ Urban natural open spaces

- How will stormwater from the project be managed?
- Does the proposal involve any discharge of waste materials or the use of hazardous substances?
- What levels of noise will be produced from the proposed activity or construction?
- Will light or glare result from the proposed activity or construction?