

Date: March 26, 2009

Approved By: 

RULE 6230

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

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| Rule: 6230 | Use of Wetland Delineation Manuals pursuant to SCC 30.62A.140(1). |
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**LEGISLATIVE HISTORY:** Pertains to the use of wetland delineation manuals pursuant to Snohomish County Code (SCC) 30.62A.140(1) adopted in Amended Ordinance No. 06-061 effective on October 1, 2007.

**SCC APPLICABILITY:** SCC 30.62A.140(1)

For any development activity or action requiring a project permit occurring in wetlands, fish and wildlife habitat conservation areas, or within a buffer unless otherwise provided in Part 300, the director may require, where applicable, a survey or map drawn to scale and a report describing the following information:

(1) A wetland delineation map and report, including field worksheets in accordance with the manual adopted by the Department of Ecology pursuant to RCW 36.70A.175. (See Wetlands Identification and Delineation Manual, Department of Ecology Publication #96-94, March 1997, or latest edition). This requirement may be waived if a wetland delineation has been performed within the previous five years that was approved by the department, and the department determines after site review that the wetland boundary is the same as the approved delineation;

**BACKGROUND:** SCC Chapter 30.62A WETLANDS AND FISH & WILDLIFE HABITAT CONSERVATION AREAS includes provisions related to wetland delineations. Pursuant to SCC 30.62A.140(1) and Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 36.70A.175, all wetland delineations are required to occur in accordance with the Washington State Wetland Identification and Delineation Manual (State Manual).

Washington State Department of Ecology (DOE) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (COE) indicate that the State Manual required by section 36.70A.175 RCW and adopted by reference in SCC 30.62A.140(1) is consistent with the 1987 COE Wetlands Delineation Manual (COE Manual) and its regional supplements. Regional supplements are designed for use with the COE Manual and expand the list of indicators for wetland hydrology and vegetation. COE regional supplements effective June 2008 provide new wetland determination data forms for recording wetland data.

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Until the COE releases the final versions of the regional supplements, the DOE will not revise the State Manual.

**PURPOSE:** To provide procedural guidance related to recently updated methods for delineating wetlands in the State Manual and the regional supplement to the COE Manual.

**RULE SUMMARY:** SCC 30.62A.140 currently directs wetland delineators to use the State Manual and field worksheets found in the State Manual. When delineating wetlands pursuant to the requirements in SCC 30.62A.140, the County will allow use of the regional supplement to the COE Manual.

**RULE:** The County will allow wetland delineators to use the *Interim Regional Supplement to the Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual: Western Mountains, Valleys and Coast* of the COE Manual instead of the State Manual. In the event that the use of the regional supplement to the COE Manual results in a wetland boundary line that is different than would result from using the currently adopted State Manual, the County will require the use of the manual currently adopted in SCC 30.62A.140(1).

**EFFECT:** This rule is a prescriptive path pursuant to SCC 30.82.060(2). Rules in accordance with the provisions of chapter 30.83 SCC have the same effect and shall be enforceable as a provision of Title 30 SCC.