

Exhibit B – Removal of “Lake Whatcom watershed” reference in Whatcom County Code Sections 20.71, 20.80.635, and 20.80.735

Chapter 20.71 WATER RESOURCE PROTECTION OVERLAY DISTRICT*

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*Prior legislation: Ord. 2008-035, which expired March 20, 2009, was formerly codified in this chapter.

20.71.010 Purpose.

The Water Resource Protection Overlay District is an overlay zone that is intended to impose additional controls to preserve and protect unique and important water resources within Whatcom County. This district is designed to protect the long-term viability of the ~~Lake Whatcom~~, Lake Samish and Lake Padden watersheds while creating a regulatory framework to address the needs of these watersheds that are not otherwise provided for in the underlying zone districts. (Ord. 2009-009 Exh. A, 2009; Ord. 2005-085 § 1, 2005; Ord. 2004-007 § 1, 2004; Ord. 2003-049 § 1, 2003; Ord. 2003-032 Exh. A, 2003; Ord. 2002-075, 2002; Ord. 2002-034, 2002; Ord. 2001-021 § 1, 2001; Ord. 99-086, 1999).

20.71.020 Application.

(Ord. 2009-009 Exh. A, 2009; Ord. 2005-085 § 1, 2005; Ord. 2004-007 § 1, 2004; Ord. 2003-049 § 1, 2003; Ord. 2003-032 Exh. A, 2003; Ord. 2002-075, 2002; Ord. 2002-034, 2002; Ord. 2001-021 § 1, 2001).

20.71.021 Area and applicability.

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(1) The Water Resource Protection Overlay District is an overlay zone that covers the entire geographic area of the Lake Whatcom, Lake Samish and Lake Padden watersheds within Whatcom County’s jurisdiction. For purposes of this title, the Lake Samish watershed shall consist of that portion of the Friday Creek subbasin of the Samish River watershed that lies within Whatcom County.

(2) This district may be expanded to include other areas through the annual zoning text amendment process.

(3) The ~~Lake Whatcom~~, Lake Samish and Lake Padden watersheds are also designated as stormwater special districts pursuant to WCC [20.80.635](#) and water resource special management areas pursuant to WCC [20.80.735](#).

(4) In the event that the provisions of this chapter conflict with the provisions of the Shoreline Management Program (WCC Title [23](#)), Chapter [16.16](#) WCC, Critical Areas, the Whatcom County Development Standards, the provisions of the underlying zoning district or other applicable county policies or regulations, then the most restrictive shall apply; provided, that the minimum setback provisions established in WCC [20.71.401](#) shall prevail. (Ord. 2009-009 Exh. A, 2009; Ord. 2005-085 § 1, 2005; Ord. 2004-007 § 1, 2004; Ord. 2003-049 § 1, 2003; Ord. 2003-032 Exh. A, 2003; Ord. 2002-075, 2002; Ord. 2002-034, 2002; Ord. 2001-021 § 1, 2001; Ord. 99-086, 1999).

20.71.050 Permitted uses.

All permitted uses in the underlying zone districts are permitted except as expressly prohibited, made conditional, or further conditioned by this chapter.

.051 Private noncommercial greenhouses less than 250 square feet. (Ord. 2009-009 Exh. A, 2009; Ord. 2005-085 § 1, 2005; Ord. 2004-007 § 1, 2004; Ord. 2003-049 § 1, 2003; Ord. 2003-032 Exh. A, 2003; Ord. 2002-075, 2002; Ord. 2002-034, 2002; Ord. 2001-021 § 1, 2001; Ord. 99-086, 1999).

20.71.100 Accessory uses.

All accessory uses in the underlying zone districts are permitted except as expressly prohibited or made conditional, or further conditioned by this chapter. (Ord. 2009-009 Exh. A, 2009; Ord. 2005-085 § 1, 2005; Ord. 2004-007 § 1, 2004; Ord. 2003-049 § 1, 2003; Ord. 2003-032 Exh. A, 2003; Ord. 2002-075, 2002; Ord. 2002-034, 2002; Ord. 2001-021 § 1, 2001; Ord. 99-086, 1999).

20.71.150 Conditional uses.

All conditional uses in the underlying zone districts shall remain conditional uses unless expressly prohibited, made conditional, or further conditioned by this chapter. In addition, the following uses shall only be conditionally permitted:

.151 On-site storage facilities for hazardous wastes associated with outright permitted uses or approved conditional uses, other than cottage industries as defined in WCC [20.71.215](#), subject to the most current

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siting criteria under Chapter [173-303](#) WAC within the Rural, Rural Forestry, Commercial Forestry, Neighborhood Commercial and Resort Commercial Zone Districts only.

.152 Retail or wholesale plant nurseries or greenhouses for storage, propagation and culture of plants, provided:

(1) Greenhouses shall not be larger than 1,000 square feet.

(2) Greenhouses and cultivated ground shall not be located within 250 feet of ~~Lake Whatcom~~, Lake Samish, Lake Padden or streams subject to the Shoreline Management Program; 200 feet from fish-bearing streams; or 150 feet from other streams and their tributaries that flow into ~~Lake Whatcom~~, Lake Samish or Lake Padden.

(3) A monitoring program has been established to ensure that chemical and pesticide quantities in stormwater runoff do not exceed state water quality standards. Complete control of drainage from the operation shall be in effect. Such runoff will be tested for pollutants bimonthly by a licensed water quality testing agency. All requirements will be met at the owner's expense.

(4) No person shall apply a commercial fertilizer, either liquid or granular, that is labeled as containing more than zero percent phosphorous or other compound containing phosphorous, such as phosphate; provided, that such fertilizers may be used for establishment of new vegetation in the first growing season.

.185 Type I solid waste handling facilities, except:

(1) Moderate risk waste facilities; and

(2) Facilities in the Recreation and Open Space District. (Ord. 2009-009 Exh. A, 2009; Ord. 2005-085 § 1, 2005; Ord. 2004-014 § 2, 2004; Ord. 2004-007 § 1, 2004; Ord. 2003-049 § 1, 2003; Ord. 2003-032 Exh. A, 2003; Ord. 2002-075, 2002; Ord. 2002-034, 2002; Ord. 2001-021 § 1, 2001; Ord. 99-086, 1999).

20.71.200 Prohibited uses.

In addition to the uses prohibited in the underlying zone districts, the following uses are prohibited, except as per Chapter [20.83](#) WCC:

.201 Dry cleaning establishments.

.202 Gas stations, service stations, combustion engine repair garages and automotive wrecking yards.

.203 Sod farming.

.204 Aquaculture and mariculture projects.

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- .205 Operation of fur farms.
- .206 Confinement feeding operations.
- .207 Asphalt and concrete batch plants.
- .208 Gravel bar scalping projects within the jurisdiction of the Shoreline Management Program.
- .209 Utilization of sewage sludge on land.
- .210 On-site treatment facilities for hazardous wastes.
- .211 Type I solid waste handling facilities, except those specified in WCC [20.71.185](#).
- .212 Type II and Type III solid waste handling facilities.
- .213 Golf courses.
- .214 Cemeteries.
- .215 Cottage industries that would require on-site hazardous waste storage facilities.
- .216 Surface mining outside of designated Mineral Resource Lands (MRL) Special Districts; provided, that surface mining, rock crushing, washing and sorting subject to the Forest Practices Act (Chapter [76.09](#) RCW) are permitted.
- .217 Major passenger intermodal terminals.
- .218 Freight railroad switching yards and terminals.
- .219 Agriculture, including animal husbandry, horticulture, viticulture, floriculture, and the cultivation of crops.
- .220 Animal hospitals and accessory kennels and stables.
- .221 Commercial kennels and stables. (Ord. 2009-009 Exh. A, 2009; Ord. 2005-085 § 1, 2005; Ord. 2004-014 § 2, 2004; Ord. 2004-007 § 1, 2004; Ord. 2003-049 § 1, 2003; Ord. 2003-032 Exh. A, 2003; Ord. 2002-075, 2002; Ord. 2002-034, 2002; Ord. 2001-021 § 1, 2001; Ord. 99-086, 1999).

20.71.300 Open space and impervious surfaces.

.301 Open space requirements shall be as follows:

- (1) For uses in the TC and NC Zones, at least 25 percent of the parcel shall be reserved as open space.

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(2) For uses in the RC Zone, at least 40 percent of the parcel shall be reserved as open space.

(3) Open space areas shall be maintained in natural vegetation or landscaped per WCC [20.80.325](#).

(4) For properties within the jurisdiction of the Shoreline Management Program (WCC Title [23](#)), submerged lands and/or tidelands within the boundaries of any waterfront parcel that are located waterward of the ordinary high water mark shall not be used in open space calculations.

.302 Impervious surface requirements shall be as follows:

(1) For uses in the UR, URM and RR Zone Districts, at least 80 percent of the lot or parcel shall be kept free of structures and impervious surfaces.

(2) For uses in the R Zone District, at least 90 percent of the lot or parcel shall be kept free of structures and impervious surfaces.

(3) Where subsection (1) or (2) of this section does not allow 2,500 square feet of total impervious surface area, 2,500 square feet shall be allowed.

(4) Two or more lots of record consolidated pursuant to the provisions of WCC [20.83.070](#) shall be treated as one undivided parcel for the purpose of calculating total allowable impervious surface. Where two or more lots or parcels are consolidated; are not subject to the provisions of WCC [20.83.070](#); and are not subject to a permanent restrictive covenant that precludes development of buildings, structures or other improvements not otherwise identified by said covenant, 4,000 square feet of impervious surface shall be allowed.

(5) Preexisting nonconforming impervious surfaces may be routinely maintained/repared or redeveloped; provided, that if 50 percent or greater of the preexisting nonconforming impervious area is to be redeveloped, then the applicable impervious surface limitations of subsections (1), (2) and (3) of this section shall apply. However, if a legal nonconforming structure is destroyed, the nonconforming use may be reconstructed using the pre-existing footprint. Expansion of nonconforming impervious surfaces shall be prohibited.

(6) A mobile home within an existing mobile home park may be replaced with a larger mobile home (not to exceed a maximum of 1,500 square feet), provided there is not an increase in the overall number of mobile homes in the park or any increase in other impervious surfaces beyond the new mobile home footprint.

(7) For properties within the jurisdiction of the Shoreline Management Program (WCC Title [23](#)), submerged lands and/or tidelands within the boundaries of any waterfront parcel that are located waterward of the ordinary high water mark shall not be used in impervious/pervious surface calculations.

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(8) Any portion of a roof overhang or other overhanging architectural feature which projects further than three feet from the footprint of a structure shall be calculated as impervious surface.

(9) Alternative surface methods described in WCC [20.71.603](#) may be used. (Ord. 2009-009 Exh. A, 2009; Ord. 2005-085 § 1, 2005; Ord. 2005-079 § 1, 2005; Ord. 2004-007 § 1, 2004; Ord. 2003-049 § 1, 2003; Ord. 2003-032 Exh. A, 2003; Ord. 2002-075, 2002; Ord. 2002-034, 2002; Ord. 2001-063 § 1, 2001; Ord. 2001-021 § 1, 2001; Ord. 99-086, 1999).

20.71.350 Cluster subdivisions.

The purpose of cluster subdivision is to provide a method of creating building lots with spatially efficient sizes. Clustering is intended to consolidate development and associated infrastructure, reduce development costs, and increase infrastructure efficiency. Clustering is also intended to help preserve open space and the character of areas, reduce total impervious surface area, and minimize development effects on critical areas and associated buffers, as defined in Chapter [16.16](#) WCC, and resource lands. Preservation of open space is thereby intended to reduce potential stormwater runoff and associated impacts while assuring protection of viable, undeveloped, and naturally vegetated corridors for wildlife habitat, protection of watersheds, preservation of critical areas, preservation of aesthetic values including view corridors, and preservation of trail and/or recreation areas. (Ord. 2009-009 Exh. A, 2009; Ord. 2005-085 § 1, 2005; Ord. 2005-048 Exh. A, 2005; Ord. 2004-007 § 1, 2004; Ord. 2003-049 § 1, 2003; Ord. 2003-032 Exh. A, 2003; Ord. 2002-075, 2002; Ord. 2002-034, 2002; Ord. 2001-021 § 1, 2001; Ord. 99-086, 1999).

20.71.351 Cluster design standards.

The creation of new building lots within Water Resource Protection Overlay Districts shall be subject to the following design standards:

(1) Cluster subdivisions shall be required for all land divisions resulting in lots less than five acres in size, with the exception of boundary line adjustments.

(2) A cluster subdivision shall include a permanent open space reserve area meeting the criteria established in WCC [20.71.352](#).

(3) The minimum cluster lot size requirements of the underlying zone district shall apply.

(4) The maximum number of building lots in a lot cluster shall be 10.

(5) Clusters containing two or more lots of less than one acre within a proposed development shall be separated by at least 80 feet.

(6) Clustered building lots may only be created through the subdivision, short subdivision or binding site plan process pursuant to WCC Title [21](#).

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(7) Building lots shall be designed and located to be compatible with, and avoid disturbance of, critical areas or other valuable or unique natural resources or known archaeological sites, as well as physical constraints of the site.

(8) Building lots shall be arranged in a cluster/concentrated pattern.

(9) A cluster subdivision shall have no more than two common encroachments on existing county roads unless site constraints require additional road access. The arrangement of clustered building lots shall be designed to avoid development forms commonly known as linear, straight line or highway strip patterns.

(10) As applicable, interior streets shall be designed to allow future vehicular access to any portion of the reserve tract which may be divided into future building lots; provided, that the required permanent open space reserve area, pursuant to WCC [20.71.352](#), shall not be further subdivided. (Ord. 2009-009 Exh. A, 2009; Ord. 2005-085 § 1, 2005; Ord. 2005-048 Exh. A, 2005; Ord. 2004-007 § 1, 2004; Ord. 2003-049 § 1, 2003; Ord. 2003-032 Exh. A, 2003; Ord. 2002-075, 2002; Ord. 2002-034, 2002).

20.71.352 Open space reserve area.

(1) For purposes of this title, an “open space reserve area” shall be defined as that portion of a subdivision or short subdivision set aside in accordance with this chapter, and permanently dedicated for active or passive recreation, critical area protection, natural resource or archaeological site preservation, wildlife habitat and/or visual enjoyment, and shall be consistent with the definition of “open space” pursuant to WCC [20.97.275](#).

(2) The open space reserve area shall be subject to the following provisions:

(a) The minimum open space reserve area shall be determined by the minimum cluster subdivision reserve area requirements of the underlying zone district.

(b) A permanent open space reserve area shall be protected using one of the following mechanisms:

(i) Placement in a separate nonbuilding tract owned in common by all lots within the subdivision; or

(ii) Covered by a protective easement or public or private land trust dedication which protects at least the minimum required cluster reserve area specified in the underlying zone district; or

(iii) Preserved through an appropriate permanent protective mechanism that provides the same level of permanent protection as subsection (2)(b)(i) of this section as determined by

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the county zoning administrator or hearing examiner which applies to at least the minimum required cluster reserve area specified in the underlying zone district.

(c) The boundaries of the open space portion of the reserve area may be altered only if the county finds that in dedicating adjacent reserve areas it would further the objectives listed in WCC [20.71.350](#) by altering the reserve area and increasing the area of reserve proportionately on the adjacent land being subdivided so that there is no net reduction in open space reserve area.

(d) The purpose of the open space reserve area as defined in subsection (1) of this section shall be recorded on the face of the final plat or short plat.

(e) The remaining unused development density and/or impervious surface allowances remaining on the parcel containing the open space reserve area, based on the gross density of the parent parcel, may be assigned to that portion of the reserve tract not subject to the minimum area requirements of subsection (2)(b) of this section. The density shall be recorded on the face of the final plat or short plat. The development rights assigned to the reserve tract in accordance with this subsection may not be transferred if the pervious surface area associated with the reserve tract has been transferred to the other building lots within the subdivision.

(f) The requirements stated in subsections (2)(c) and (d) of this section shall be recorded as a restriction on the face of the final plat or short plat, and shall constitute an agreement between Whatcom County and the current/future owner(s) of record that shall run with the land. Said restriction(s) may be amended by mutual agreement between said parties after review for consistency and compliance with the official Whatcom County Zoning Ordinance, the Whatcom County Subdivision Ordinance, and the Whatcom County Comprehensive Plan.

(g) For cluster subdivisions approved after December 7, 1999, that portion of the reserve tract which is kept in pervious open space may be counted toward pervious surface area requirements for the building lots in the subdivision on a prorated basis. (Ord. 2009-009 Exh. A, 2009; Ord. 2005-085 § 1, 2005; Ord. 2005-048 Exh. A, 2005; Ord. 2004-007 § 1, 2004; Ord. 2003-049 § 1, 2003; Ord. 2003-032 Exh. A, 2003; Ord. 2002-075, 2002; Ord. 2002-034, 2002).

20.71.400 Building setback/buffer areas.

.401 Setbacks for all properties within the overlay district shall be as follows: Class I and Class II roads shall have a minimum setback of 30 feet; and Class III, IV and V roads shall have a minimum setback of 20 feet; provided, that the road right-of-way meets the minimum standard for road rights-of-way pursuant to the Whatcom County Development Standards.

.402 Roof overhangs or other overhanging architectural features shall not project further than 18 inches into the side or rear yard setbacks. Such overhangs may extend three feet into the front yard setback;

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however, in no case shall they extend more than one-half the depth of the front yard setback. (Ord. 2009-009 Exh. A, 2009; Ord. 2005-085 § 1, 2005; Ord. 2004-007 § 1, 2004; Ord. 2003-049 § 1, 2003; Ord. 2003-032 Exh. A, 2003; Ord. 2002-075, 2002; Ord. 2002-034, 2002; Ord. 2001-062 § 1, 2001; Ord. 2001-021 § 1, 2001; Ord. 99-086, 1999).

20.71.600 Development criteria.

(Ord. 2009-009 Exh. A, 2009; Ord. 2005-085 § 1, 2005; Ord. 2004-007 § 1, 2004; Ord. 2003-049 § 1, 2003; Ord. 2003-032 Exh. A, 2003; Ord. 2002-075, 2002; Ord. 2002-034, 2002; Ord. 2001-021 § 1, 2001).

20.71.601 Parking space dimensions.

A standard parking space shall have the rectangular dimensions of 10 feet in width and 20 feet in length; provided, that for any parking area of six or more spaces, 50 percent of all spaces may have the rectangular dimensions of eight feet in width and 15 feet in length; and further provided, that these spaces are marked for use by compact automobiles. Except in single-family residential areas, all dimensions shall be exclusive of driveways, aisles and other circulation areas required under WCC [20.80.560](#) and [20.80.570](#). (Ord. 2009-009 Exh. A, 2009; Ord. 2005-085 § 1, 2005; Ord. 2004-007 § 1, 2004; Ord. 2003-049 § 1, 2003; Ord. 2003-032 Exh. A, 2003; Ord. 2002-075, 2002; Ord. 2002-034, 2002; Ord. 2001-021 § 1, 2001; Ord. 99-086, 1999).

20.71.602 Parking requirements.

Parking shall conform to the requirements of WCC [20.80.500](#) through [20.80.590](#) unless otherwise specified in this section. Minimum parking requirements may be reduced through any of the following methods:

(1) A shared parking agreement has been filed with the county auditor establishing a shared parking lot for land uses with noncompeting hours of operation, or for multitenant retail and commercial facilities; provided, the parking lot is not located further than 700 feet from any of the uses it is intended to serve.

(a) The minimum required parking in shared facilities shall be based on the land use with the highest parking demand.

(b) Mixed use developments with similar operating hours may be required to submit a parking demand study to determine if parking can be combined.

(2) A 20 percent reduction may be approved if an establishment is located within 1,000 feet of any regularly scheduled bus stop.

(3) The zoning administrator determines that a reduced requirement will reduce overall impervious surfaces while maintaining consistency with this title. (Ord. 2009-009 Exh. A, 2009; Ord. 2005-085 § 1,

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2005; Ord. 2004-007 § 1, 2004; Ord. 2003-049 § 1, 2003; Ord. 2003-032 Exh. A, 2003; Ord. 2002-075, 2002; Ord. 2002-034, 2002; Ord. 2001-021 § 1, 2001; Ord. 99-086, 1999).

20.71.603 Alternative surfacing methods.

Alternative surfaces including, but not limited to, bark or wood mulch, washed gravel, grid/lattice systems, permeable interlocking pavers, pervious concrete, porous asphalt, and other similar approved materials are encouraged. Alternative surfacing methods may be approved for fringe or overflow parking areas; emergency parking areas, private roads, fire lanes, road shoulders, bike paths, walkways, patios, driveways, and easement service roads in residential or commercial zones unless site constraints make use of such materials detrimental to water quality. Utilization of alternative surfacing methods shall be subject to review and approval by the Whatcom County public works department, the fire marshal and/or the county ADA coordinator for compliance with other applicable regulations and development standards. Surfaces shall be considered impervious surfaces under WCC [20.71.300](#) unless the following conditions are met:

(1) Bark, wood mulch, and washed gravel shall be designed and installed so that all rain water falling upon the alternative surface will be infiltrated directly beneath the alternative surface without generating surface runoff based on the one-year, 24-hour storm event.

(2) Other alternative surface methods shall be designed and installed in accordance with the guidelines in the 2005 Low Impact Development Technical Guidance Manual for Puget Sound or subsequent version, prepared by the Puget Sound Action Team (Publication No. PSAT 0503), as applicable. No pervious surface credit shall be given for projects utilizing an underdrain system. (Ord. 2009-009 Exh. A, 2009; Ord. 2005-085 § 1, 2005; Ord. 2004-007 § 1, 2004; Ord. 2003-049 § 1, 2003; Ord. 2003-032 Exh. A, 2003; Ord. 2002-075, 2002; Ord. 2002-034, 2002; Ord. 2001-049 § 1, 2001; Ord. 2001-021 § 1, 2001; Ord. 99-086, 1999).

20.71.604 Vehicular access.

Driveways and curb cuts shall be minimized along all arterial and collector roads. Each existing lot shall be allowed only one driveway or curb cut; adjacent lots are encouraged to share access points. In new developments, lots or leased sites shall be oriented toward internal driveways, parking areas, or roads with limited access to arterial or collector roads. (Ord. 2009-009 Exh. A, 2009; Ord. 2005-085 § 1, 2005; Ord. 2004-007 § 1, 2004; Ord. 2003-049 § 1, 2003; Ord. 2003-032 Exh. A, 2003; Ord. 2002-075, 2002; Ord. 2002-034, 2002; Ord. 2001-021 § 1, 2001; Ord. 99-086, 1999).

20.71.700 Roads, curbs, gutters and sidewalks.

The intent of this section is to reduce impervious surfaces and stormwater runoff. Innovative street sections, which do not compromise public safety, shall be encouraged in the watershed. Narrow streets and reduced sidewalk standards that satisfy pedestrian and vehicular circulation requirements may be implemented with the approval of the Whatcom County public works department. Unless specifically

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required, roads shall not be wider than the minimum applicable standard. A rural road standard may be approved by the Whatcom County public works department for urban density residential areas where the developer provides adequate off-street parking and pedestrian walkways. (Ord. 2009-009 Exh. A, 2009; Ord. 2005-085 § 1, 2005; Ord. 2004-007 § 1, 2004; Ord. 2003-049 § 1, 2003; Ord. 2003-032 Exh. A, 2003; Ord. 2002-075, 2002; Ord. 2002-034, 2002; Ord. 2001-021 § 1, 2001; Ord. 99-086, 1999).

20.80.635 Stormwater special districts.

(1) Whatcom County shall establish the following geographical areas as stormwater special districts:

(a) Drayton Harbor watershed.

~~(b) Lake Whatcom watershed.~~

~~(c)~~ (b) Lake Samish watershed.

~~(d)~~ (c) Birch Bay watershed.

~~(e)~~ (d) Lake Padden watershed.

(2) Requirements for these areas are contained in WCC [20.80.636](#) and in the Whatcom County Development Standards, Chapter 2. (Ord. 2009-009 Exh. B, 2009; Ord. 2008-035 Exh. A, 2008; Ord. 2005-030 § 1 Exh. A, 2005; Ord. 2004-051 Exh. A, 2004; Ord. 2003-049 § 1, 2003; Ord. 2003-032 Exh. A, 2003; Ord. 2002-075, 2002; Ord. 2002-034, 2002).

20.80.636 Stormwater special district requirements.

In areas designated as stormwater special districts (per WCC [20.80.635](#)), permanent on-site stormwater quality and quantity facilities shall be required on all lots less than five acres in size for projects that meet either of the following criteria:

(1) New construction or remodels that increase impervious surfaces by more than 500 square feet; or

(2) Renovation projects where the estimated cost of the work exceeds 50 percent of the assessed value of the existing structure. Interior remodels, nonpolluting roof replacements, house maintenance and energy upgrades shall be exempt from this requirement.

If stormwater quality and quantity facilities are required based on either of these criteria, the provisions of the Whatcom County Development Standards, Chapter 2, Section 221, shall apply to the entire property, unless it can be demonstrated that off-site facilities would provide better treatment, or unless common detention and water quality facilities meeting the standards of the 1996 Whatcom County Development Standards or the 1992 Department of Ecology Stormwater Management Manual for the Puget Sound

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Basin (or more current versions) have been approved as part of a comprehensive stormwater management plan for that subdivision, binding site plan, short subdivision, or major development approval. (Ord. 2009-009 Exh. B, 2009; Ord. 2005-030 § 1 Exh. A, 2005; Ord. 2003-049 § 1, 2003; Ord. 2003-032 Exh. A, 2003; Ord. 2002-075, 2002; Ord. 2002-034, 2002; Ord. 2001-021 § 1, 2001; Ord. 2000-066 § 1, 2000).

20.80.735 Water resource special management areas.

The purpose of a water resource special management area is to establish a more stringent standard for clearing activity in highly valued water resource areas, environmentally sensitive areas, or areas where natural conditions are so unstable that clearing activity in the areas can result in hazardous conditions. Implementation of best management practices, including phased clearing, tree retention and seasonal clearing limitations, is intended to limit the amount of exposed soils on site that are susceptible to erosion at any one time, thereby improving site stability during development and reducing potential for transport of dissolved pollutants and sediments off site. Preservation of existing trees on site also reduces the quantity and maintains the quality of stormwater leaving a site during and after development activities by encouraging interception, infiltration and evapotranspiration of rainfall and surface runoff.

Whatcom County shall establish the following geographic areas as water resource special management areas:

- ~~Lake Whatcom watershed;~~
- Drayton Harbor watershed;
- Lake Padden watershed;
- Lake Samish watershed; and
- Birch Bay watershed.

(1) Water Resource Special Management Area Review Thresholds. County review and approval shall be required for clearing activities which exceed the following thresholds. If the clearing activity does not meet the threshold criteria, county review is not required. However, the owner is still subject to, and must comply with, the minimum requirements established in this chapter and in the Whatcom County Development Standards.

- (a) ~~Lake Whatcom~~, Lake Samish and Lake Padden Watersheds. County review and approval shall be required for all clearing activities associated with a fill and grade permit, building permit or other

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development proposal. Clearing activities which are not associated with a development permit shall require county review if they are:

(i) Five thousand square feet or greater during the dry season, June 1st through September 30th; or

(ii) Five hundred square feet or greater during the wet season, October 1st through May 31st.

(2) Within water resource special management areas, clearing activity must conform to the following conditions:

(a) Temporary erosion and sediment control shall be installed and inspected prior to any clearing activity. The technical administrator shall conduct periodic inspections to ensure the integrity of temporary erosion and sediment controls. Temporary erosion and sediment control measures include, but are not limited to, installation of silt fencing, installation of check dams, covering of excavation piles, and mulching of exposed soils, as specified in the Whatcom County Development Standards.

(b) Phased Clearing. Construction activities and clearing activities shall be phased to limit the amount of exposed soil that occurs at any one time, if determined to be appropriate by the technical administrator, based on site characteristics or constraints including, but not limited to, slopes, proximity to shorelines and wetlands. A phased clearing plan may be required. A phased clearing plan, if required, shall be submitted for review and approval by the technical administrator prior to any clearing activity and shall contain a detailed construction schedule or timeline.

(c) Soil Stabilization. All disturbed areas shall be provided with soil stabilization within two days of the time of disturbance. The technical administrator may approve an exemption to this requirement when a tree canopy area retention plan includes a soil stabilization plan. This plan component must specifically detail erosion and sediment control and stormwater runoff measures that provide runoff control equal to or greater than the protection provided by the standard two-day soil stabilization requirements of this section.

(d) Tree Canopy Area Retention. In the ~~Lake Whatcom~~, Lake Samish and Lake Padden watersheds, in addition to compliance with all other requirements of this title and other titles of the Whatcom County Code, clearing activities on any lot or parcel, with the exception of nonconversion forest practices occurring on lands platted after January 1, 1960, shall comply with the following provisions:

(i) Existing tree canopy areas, as defined by the dripline of the tree(s), may be removed for purposes of a building site, driveways, parking areas, and areas to be landscaped, but such

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areas shall not exceed a cumulative total of 5,000 square feet or 35 percent of the existing tree canopy area, whichever is greater.

(ii) The following criteria shall be used to determine which tree canopy areas are to be prioritized for retention:

- (A) Stands of mature native trees;
- (B) Trees on sensitive slopes, on lands classified as having landslide hazards, or high erosion hazards, as defined under the critical areas ordinance;
- (C) Trees within critical areas or their associated setback and/or buffer areas as defined under WCC Title [16](#) or [23](#); or
- (D) Trees with significant habitat value as identified by a qualified wildlife biologist or by the technical administrator, per WCC Title [16](#).

(iii) Existing trees and vegetation may be used to meet all or part of the landscaping requirements of this title.

(iv) The county shall require that tree canopy areas to be retained are identified on a site plan and clearly flagged, or delineated, on the site. A tree canopy area retention plan must accompany a project or clearing permit application and be approved by the technical administrator before clearing activity takes place. The plan shall contain the following components:

- (A) A scaled drawing identifying the following:
 1. North arrow;
 2. Property boundaries;
 3. Existing structures;
 4. Site access;
 5. Tree canopy areas to be removed;
 6. The outer dripline of tree canopy areas to be retained;
 7. Critical areas including, but not limited to, slopes, wetlands, and habitat conservation areas;

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8. Protection measures to be utilized for areas that will be undisturbed; and

9. Areas to be replanted pursuant to subsection (2)(d)(vii) of this section;

(B) A planting schedule that indicates the time frame for replanting of trees as applicable; and

(C) Provisions for maintenance and monitoring.

(v) Prior to any clearing activity or development activity, any tree canopy area designated for retention shall be delineated by temporary fencing, tape, or other indicators around the outer dripline of the trees. Temporary fencing, tape, or other indicators shall be clearly visible and shall be maintained for the duration of the proposed clearing or development activity. Any tree canopy areas designated for retention shall be field verified by the technical administrator before clearing activities begin. Trees within canopy areas designated for retention shall not be damaged by clearing, excavation, ground surface level changes, soil compaction, or any other activities that may cause damage to roots or trunks. Machinery, impervious surfaces, fill and storage of construction materials shall be kept outside of the dripline of the tree canopy areas designated for retention.

(vi) Tree canopy areas may be removed when limited to those canopy areas affected under the following circumstances:

(A) Fire prevention methods when supported by the county fire marshal;

(B) Hazard trees, as defined in Chapter [20.97](#) WCC, are identified (an evaluation and determination by a licensed arborist or forester may be required);

(C) Encroachments where the trunk, branches or roots would be, or are, in contact with main or accessory structures; or

(D) Where installation and/or maintenance of roads or utilities would unavoidably require removal or cutting through the root system.

(vii) In the event that tree canopy areas in excess of the applicable threshold must be removed to facilitate reasonable use of the site, or to eliminate hazard trees, not less than two replacement trees shall be planted for every tree removed. Replacement trees shall:

(A) Be of the same, or similar, native species as those trees removed from site;

(B) Be planted to re-establish tree clusters where they previously existed, or to enhance protected tree clusters;

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(C) Be planted in locations appropriate to the species’ growth habitat and horticultural requirements; and

(D) Be located away from areas where damage is likely.

(viii) If any trees within canopy areas designated for retention are damaged or destroyed through the fault of the applicant, agent or successor, the applicant, their agent or successor shall restore the site pursuant to a restoration plan approved by the county.

(ix) The county may require a bond or other security in an amount not to exceed 125 percent of the merchantable timber to guarantee retention of existing trees within designated canopy areas during construction. In the event of a dispute between the landowner and the county over the established value, an assessment will be made by a professional forester or arborist whose selection will be made by mutual agreement between the county and the landowner. The fee for the services of the professional forester or arborist shall be paid by the landowner or responsible party. In the event any trees designated to be retained are removed, the county shall require that sufficient trees be re-planted to replace those previously in existence. In the event that replanting does not occur, the county may enforce upon any bond posted. Each tree removed or destroyed shall constitute a separate violation.

(e) Seasonal Clearing Activity Limitations. In the ~~Lake Whatcom~~, Lake Samish and Lake Padden watersheds, clearing activity, as defined in WCC [20.97.054](#), that will result in exposed soils exceeding 500 square feet shall not be permitted from October 1st through May 31st; provided, that:

(i) In addition to the clearing activities exempted under WCC [20.80.733](#), the zoning administrator may approve an exemption to this requirement for the following activities:

(A) Routine maintenance and repair of erosion and sediment control measures;

(B) Activities located at or waterward of the ordinary high water mark subject to state, federal, and/or local (per Chapter [16.16](#) WCC and/or WCC Title [23](#)) conditions of approval requiring commencement of clearing activity during the wet season, as defined in subsection (1)(a)(ii) of this section, for purposes of minimizing surface water disturbance and site inundation by high water or wave action;

(C) Activities necessary to address an emergency that presents an unanticipated and imminent threat to public health, safety or the environment that requires immediate action within a time too short to allow full compliance with this section. Upon abatement of the emergency situation, the clearing activity shall be reviewed for consistency with this chapter and may be subject to additional permit requirements; provided, that the

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applicant shall make a reasonable attempt to contact the zoning administrator prior to the activity. When prior notice is not feasible, notification of the action shall be submitted to the zoning administrator as soon as the emergency is addressed and no later than two business days following such action. Emergency construction does not include development of new permanent protective structures where none previously existed.

(ii) To ensure compliance with subsection (2)(e) of this section, Whatcom County planning and development services shall not issue development permits requiring more than 500 square feet of land disturbance located within the ~~Lake Whatcom~~, Lake Samish or Lake Padden watersheds within two weeks prior to the watershed seasonal closure on October 1st.

(iii) Soil disturbance associated with an exempt clearing activity shall be minimized to the maximum extent practicable. The zoning administrator shall have the authority to condition an exempt activity to ensure that temporary erosion and sediment control measures will be implemented.

(iv) An exemption from the seasonal land clearing requirements of this section does not grant authorization for any work to be done in a manner that does not comply with other provisions of this chapter or other applicable development regulations.

(f) One Hundred Fifty Percent Violation Fines. When a violation occurs in an area designated as a water resource special management area the total fine assessment shall be increased to 150 percent of the standard penalty as provided for in Chapter [20.94](#) WCC, Enforcement and Penalties. (Ord. 2010-006 Exh. A, 2010; Ord. 2010-001 Exh. A, 2010; 2009-056 Exh. A, 2009; Ord. 2009-009 Exh. B, 2009; Ord. 2005-074 § 1, 2005; Ord. 2005-061 Exh. A, 2005; Ord. 2005-032 Exh. A, 2005; Ord. 2005-030 § 1 Exh. A, 2005; Ord. 2004-051 Exh. A, 2004; Ord. 2003-049 § 1, 2003; Ord. 2003-032 Exh. A, 2003; Ord. 2002-075, 2002; Ord. 2002-053, 2002; Ord. 2002-034, 2002).