



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

APPLICABILITY  
**DEPARTMENT WIDE**

REVISION DATE  
10/1/14

PAGE NUMBER  
1 of 3

NUMBER  
**DOC 270.000**

# POLICY

TITLE  
**CRITICAL AREAS PROTECTION**

## REVIEW/REVISION HISTORY:

Effective: 8/4/90  
Revised: 2/16/00  
Revised: 7/6/07  
Reviewed: 7/11/08  
Reviewed: 5/28/10  
Revised: 10/1/14

## SUMMARY OF REVISION/REVIEW:


I.A. - Adjusted language for clarification

## APPROVED:

Signature on file

\_\_\_\_\_  
**BERNARD WARNER**, Secretary  
Department of Corrections

8/26/14  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date Signed

 <p>STATE OF WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS</p> <p><b>POLICY</b></p>	<p>APPLICABILITY <b>DEPARTMENT WIDE</b></p>		
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	<p>TITLE <b>CRITICAL AREAS PROTECTION</b></p>		

**REFERENCES:**


DOC 100.100 is hereby incorporated into this policy; [RCW 36.70A](#); [DOC 270.010 Coordination of the State Environmental Policy Act \(SEPA\)](#)

**POLICY:**

- I. The Department recognizes its obligation under state law to protect critical areas as described in the Growth Management Act. Critical areas include wetlands, critical recharging areas for drinking water aquifers, fish and wildlife habitat conservation areas listed and defined under the Endangered Species Act, frequently flooded areas, and geologically hazardous areas.
- II. The Department will carry out its mission within existing environmental laws and regulations and in a manner that protects and enhances natural systems.

**DIRECTIVE:**

- I. Assessment
  - A. Before beginning any project action, Department employees proposing the action will submit a written description of the project to the Capital Programs Director per DOC 270.010 Coordination of the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) and determine if a critical area may be impacted.
  - B. If a critical area(s) may be impacted, Environmental Services will ensure that an assessment of the critical area(s) is conducted. The scope of this assessment may include:
    1. A review of existing critical area inventories maintained by local jurisdictions and the Washington State Departments of Ecology, Fish and Wildlife, and Natural Resources.
    2. A field assessment of the site to determine whether critical areas not previously identified are present.
- II. Regulatory Process
  - A. If a determination has been made that a critical area(s) will be impacted by a proposed project action, Environmental Services will:
    1. Coordinate the regulatory process for avoiding, minimizing, and/or mitigating critical area impacts. This includes identifying all federal, state, and local laws, regulations, permits, and approvals per DOC 270.010 Coordination of the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA).

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2. Notify the Capital Programs Director of unavoidable critical area impacts and potential regulatory requirements.
3. Coordinate necessary provisions and procedures that adequately protect the critical area(s) per applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations.

**DEFINITIONS:**

Words/terms appearing in this policy may be defined in the glossary section of the Policy Manual.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

None

**DOC FORMS:**

None