



## **SINGLE-FAMILY FISH AND WILDLIFE APPLICATION OVERVIEW**

Dear Land Owner/Applicant/Agent:

Pierce County is responsible for protecting a wide range of unique and valuable Fish and Wildlife species and Habitat Conservation Areas. These areas include habitat types, such as Oregon white oak, eelgrass beds, streams and other water bodies; specific point locations, such as nests, dens, or rookeries; and Bald Eagle foraging areas. The County maintains a mapping database of both confirmed and potential Habitat Conservation Areas.

If your parcel is located within a confirmed or potential Habitat Conservation Area you may be required to complete a habitat assessment as part of your single-family or agricultural activity. Section 18E.40.030 A.3., reads: *"When the Department's maps, sources, or field investigation indicates that the site for a proposed regulated activity is located within a potential regulated fish or wildlife habitat area, the Department shall require the submittal of a fish and wildlife application and habitat assessment to determine the presence or absence of a regulated fish or wildlife species or habitat. The habitat assessment shall be documented as set forth in subsection 18E.40.030 B."*

The habitat assessment may be completed by an outside consultant or a County biologist. Both assessment options require a formal application with associated review fee(s).

If you retain a County biologist they will review your property and determine whether a Habitat Conservation Area is located within your parcel. If a Conservation Area is not found, you will be informed in writing and fish and wildlife habitat area review will be considered complete. If a Conservation Area is found, you will be informed of any protective requirements, such as buffers, setbacks, and timing restrictions.

If you retain an outside biologist to complete the assessment, one of three outcomes will result:

1. If there is no Conservation Area, then a Habitat Assessment Letter is to be submitted.
2. If there is a Conservation Area and your project meets all protective requirement(s) that may be applied (such as a buffer or timing restriction), then a Habitat Assessment Study is to be submitted.
3. If there is a Conservation Area and your project does not meet all protective requirement(s) that may be applied (such as a buffer or timing restriction), then a Habitat Assessment Report is to be submitted.

A County Biologist will review the outside biologist's conclusions and visit your parcel.

### **Review Timelines**

These new application types will be reviewed under the existing timeline requirements of Chapter 18.60. The County Environmental Biologist is to complete their initial review within 30 days from the application filing date. The majority of the time, initial review is completed in this time period. Quite often, the entire review process is completed in this time. However, there will be occasions when Staff is unable to initiate their review in 30 days. We apologize for occasionally missing these deadlines and will finish the review as quickly as possible.