

# PLANNING AGENCY DISCUSSION TOPICS OCTOBER 2, 2006 MEETING

## Critical Aquifer Recharge Areas (continued) and Fish and Wildlife Habitat Conservation Areas

### *Critical Aquifer Recharge Areas.*

#### *BAS Recommendation (continued discussion):*

- DMMC 18.04.212 critical aquifer recharge areas (CARAs). Revise definition to clarify that:
  - The mapping of CARAs is the responsibility of the City.
  - The water districts are the entities responsible for identifying wellhead protection areas.
  - Ecology provides guidance on the means and methods to identify CARAs and King County DOH provides guidance on how to define a wellhead protection zone.
- The CARA map inventory should be revised based on the most recent, available geologic mapping and interpretations.

The City is ultimately responsible for the mapping of CARAs while the water districts are responsible for mapping wellhead protection zones. Ecology provides guidance on the means and methods to identify CARAs. Approach for updating the mapping is for the City to coordinate with Ecology, US Geologic Service, King County and other sources to confirm data as currently mapped is accurate, and update as necessary.

It should be noted that the geologic conditions should remain static. Future updates will be made as necessary if geologic mapping changes or if a water district/s designate a new wellhead protection zone within the City of Des Moines.

#### **Planning Agency Recommendation:**

#### **Council Environment Committee Recommendation:**

The Environment Committee feels it is the responsibility of the water districts to determine and map CARAs.

#### **City Council Recommendation:**

***Should fish and wildlife habitat conservation areas, buffers and disturbance limitations and map be established?***

**Status:** During Spring 2006, Staff completed a review of critical areas regulations that included review of the Development standards – Fish and wildlife habitat conservation areas (FWHCAs) – Buffers and disturbance limitations (DMMC 18.86.085) and recommendations from the Best Available Science (BAS) review by Grette Associates (Grette). The following Code amendments related to FWHCAs:

- Added provisions to DMMC 18.86.020 that listed data sources for identifying and mapping critical fish and wildlife habitats.
- Added provisions to DMMC 18.86.085 that lists requirements for critical areas studies.

The City currently does not have a map of fish and wildlife conservations areas, but the definition suggests that at a minimum, FWHCAs will include all polygons and habitat points in the WDFW Priority Habitats and Species (PHS) maps. The critical areas inventory completed for the City (September 2006) indicates that these areas include:

**City of Des Moines non-shoreline FWHCA as mapped by the WDFW PHS program**

<b>Drainage Basin</b>	<b>PHS Type</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>General Description</b>
Des Moines	Priority Wildlife Heritage Point	Great Blue Heron Colony	7 Nests in big-leaf maple on edge of Des Moines Beach Park, about 15 feet from a garage of 5th Ave S, off 222nd. One incubating, one standing in nest.
Des Moines	Urban Natural Open Space	City/County Parks (South Seattle)	Parks in the Burien/Des Moines Area. Most areas of semi-forested and provide habitats for more common species.
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Des Moines	Priority Anadromous Fish Presence	Fall Chum	
Des Moines	Priority Anadromous Fish Presence	Coho Salmon	
Des Moines	Priority Resident Fish Presence	Resident Cutthroat	
Massey	None	Presence of PHS is unknown or the area was not mapped.	
Massey	Priority Resident Fish Presence	Resident Cutthroat	
McSorley	Priority Seabird Colony	Poverty Bay (Saltwater State Park)	7 breeding Pigeon Guillemot

<b>Drainage Basin</b>	<b>PHS Type</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>General Description</b>
McSorley	Urban Natural Open Space	Dash Point/Poverty Bay Open Space Areas	Steep slopes and drainage ravines along Puget Sound
McSorley	Urban Natural Open Space	SW King County/Northwest Pierce County	Parkland areas in King and Pierce Counties. Some of these area are relatively undeveloped and provide excellent refugia and disperian [sic] habitat for a broad array of spp.
McSorley	Urban Natural Open Space	Dash Point/Poverty Bay Open Space Areas	Steep slopes and drainage ravines along Puget Sound
Woodmont	Urban Natural Open Space	Dash Point/Poverty Bay Open Space Areas	Steep slopes and drainage ravines along Puget Sound
Woodmont	None	Presence of PHS is unknown or the area was not mapped.	
Woodmont	Wetlands	Redondo area wetlands, SW King County.	Several isolated wetlands along coastal SW King County.
Redondo	Wetlands	Redondo area wetlands, SW King County.	Several isolated wetlands along coastal SW King County.
Redondo	Urban Natural Open Space	Dash Point/Poverty Bay Open Space Areas	Steep slopes and drainage ravines along Puget Sound
Redondo	None	Presence of PHS is unknown or the area was not mapped.	
Cold Creek	Urban Natural Open Space	Dash Point/Poverty Bay Open Space Areas	Steep slopes and drainage ravines along Puget Sound
Cold Creek	Priority Anadromous Fish Presence	Coho Salmon	
Cold Creek	Priority Resident Fish Presence	Resident Cutthroat	

Source: *City of Des Moines Critical Areas Inventory – Wetland, Stream and Habitat Elements* (Grette Associates, September 2006)

The draft maps associated with current draft Shoreline Master Program also indicate nearly continuous eelgrass areas along the shoreline (DNR ShoreZone data).

Natural resource information in the basin and stormwater plans used by the City also indicate presence of rabbit, chipmunk, squirrel, weasel, raccoon, red fox, river otter, skunk, muskrat, various small mammals, songbirds, wading birds, bald eagles, kingfishers, various small

amphibians, pumpkin seed sunfish, largemouth bass, and various sculpin (Massey Creek, Normandy Park, Des Moines Creek, North Fork McSorley).

*BAS Recommendation:*

- Add development standards that codify protections for particularly important habitat areas. For instance, specific FWHCA designations under subsection (2) might be appropriate to ensure conservation of open space wildlife corridors.
- Consider assigning FWHCA status to those areas identified in the *City of Des Moines Critical Areas Inventory – Wetland, Stream and Habitat Elements* (Grette Associates, September 2006).
- Create a map of all FWHCA documented within the City, and accompanying narrative documentation. A GIS-based map should include properties that can be queried at least including habitat type, associated species, and date and source of information and location of source data if it is in a published report.
- Consider conducting or encouraging WDFW to conduct spawning surveys in City streams, at least Massey Creek.

**Planning Agency Recommendation:**

**Council Environment Committee Recommendation:**

**City Council Recommendation:**