



U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
REGULATORY PROGRAM  
APPROVED JURISDICTIONAL DETERMINATION FORM (INTERIM)  
NAVIGABLE WATERS PROTECTION RULE

**I. ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION**

Completion Date of Approved Jurisdictional Determination (AJD): 26 April 2021

ORM Number: NWS-2021-301

Associated JDs: N/A

Review Area Location<sup>1</sup>:

State: Washington State City: Bellingham County: Whatcom County

Center Coordinates of Review Area: Latitude 48.792451°; Longitude -122.419921°

**II. FINDINGS**

**A. Summary:** Check all that apply. At least one box from the following list **MUST** be selected. Complete the corresponding sections/tables and summarize data sources.

- The review area is comprised entirely of dry land (i.e., there are no waters or water features, including wetlands, of any kind in the entire review area). Rationale: N/A or describe rationale.
- There are “navigable waters of the United States” within Rivers and Harbors Act jurisdiction within the review area (complete table in section II.B).
- There are “waters of the United States” within Clean Water Act jurisdiction within the review area (complete appropriate tables in section II.C).
- There are waters or water features excluded from Clean Water Act jurisdiction within the review area (complete table in section II.D).

**B. Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 Section 10 (§ 10)<sup>2</sup>**

§ 10 Name	§ 10 Size	§ 10 Criteria	Rationale for § 10 Determination
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

**C. Clean Water Act Section 404**

Territorial Seas and Traditional Navigable Waters ((a)(1) waters)<sup>3</sup>

(a)(1) Name	(a)(1) Size	(a)(1) Criteria	Rationale for (a)(1) Determination
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Tributaries ((a)(2) waters):

(a)(2) Name	(a)(2) Size	(a)(2) Criteria	Rationale for (a)(2) Determination
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Lakes and ponds, and impoundments of jurisdictional waters ((a)(3) waters):

(a)(3) Name	(a)(3) Size	(a)(3) Criteria	Rationale for (a)(3) Determination
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Adjacent wetlands ((a)(4) waters):

(a)(4) Name	(a)(4) Size	(a)(4) Criteria	Rationale for (a)(4) Determination
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

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<sup>3</sup> A stand-alone TNW determination is completed independently of a request for an AJD. A stand-alone TNW determination is conducted for a specific segment of river or stream or other type of waterbody, such as a lake, where independent upstream or downstream limits or lake borders are established. A stand-alone TNW determination should be completed following applicable guidance and should NOT be documented on the AJD form.

<sup>4</sup> Some excluded waters, such as (b)(2) and (b)(4), may not be specifically identified on the AJD form unless a requestor specifically asks a Corps district to do so. Corps Districts may, in case-by-case instances, choose to identify some or all of these waters within the review area.

<sup>5</sup> Because of the broad nature of the (b)(1) exclusion and in an effort to collect data on specific types of waters that would be covered by the (b)(1) exclusion, four sub-categories of (b)(1) exclusions were administratively created for the purposes of the AJD Form. These four sub-categories are not new exclusions, but are simply administrative distinctions and remain (b)(1) exclusions as defined by the NWPR.



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**D. Excluded Waters or Features**

Excluded waters ((b)(1) – (b)(12))<sup>4</sup>:

Exclusion Name	Exclusion Size	Exclusion <sup>5</sup>	Rationale for Exclusion Determination
Wetland A	1.07 acre	(b)(1) Non-adjacent wetland	The wetland does not abut an (a)(1) through (3) water; is not inundated by flooding from a paragraph (a)(1) through (3) water in a typical year; is not physically separated from a paragraph (a)(1) through (3) water by a natural berm, bank, dune, or similar natural feature or by an artificial dike, barrier, or similar artificial structure that allows for a direct hydrologic surface connection between the wetlands and the paragraph (a)(1) through (3) water in a typical year. See Section III.C for additional details.
Wetland B	0.03 acre	(b)(1) Non-adjacent wetland	The wetland does not abut an (a)(1) through (3) water; is not inundated by flooding from a paragraph (a)(1) through (3) water in a typical year; is not physically separated from a paragraph (a)(1) through (3) water by a natural berm, bank, dune, or similar natural feature or by an artificial dike, barrier, or similar artificial structure that allows for a direct hydrologic surface connection between the wetlands and the paragraph (a)(1) through (3) water in a typical year. See Section III.C for additional details.
Wetland C	0.02 acre	(b)(1) Non-adjacent wetland	The wetland does not abut an (a)(1) through (3) water; is not inundated by flooding from a paragraph (a)(1) through (3) water in a typical year; is not physically separated from a paragraph (a)(1) through (3) water by a natural berm, bank, dune, or similar natural feature or by an artificial dike, barrier, or similar artificial structure that allows for a direct hydrologic surface connection between the wetlands and the paragraph (a)(1) through (3) water in a typical year. See Section III.C for additional details.
Wetland D	0.16 acre	(b)(1) Non-adjacent wetland	The wetland does not abut an (a)(1) through (3) water; is not inundated by flooding from a paragraph (a)(1) through (3) water in a typical year; is not physically separated from a paragraph (a)(1) through (3) water by a natural berm, bank, dune, or similar natural feature or by an artificial dike, barrier, or similar artificial structure that allows for a direct hydrologic surface connection between the wetlands and the paragraph (a)(1) through (3) water in a typical year. See Section III.C for additional details.

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Wetland E	0.01 acre	(b)(1) Non-adjacent wetland	The wetland does not abut an (a)(1) through (3) water; is not inundated by flooding from a paragraph (a)(1) through (3) water in a typical year; is not physically separated from a paragraph (a)(1) through (3) water by a natural berm, bank, dune, or similar natural feature or by an artificial dike, barrier, or similar artificial structure that allows for a direct hydrologic surface connection between the wetlands and the paragraph (a)(1) through (3) water in a typical year. See Section III.C for additional details.
Wetland F	0.01 acre	(b)(1) Non-adjacent wetland	The wetland does not abut an (a)(1) through (3) water; is not inundated by flooding from a paragraph (a)(1) through (3) water in a typical year; is not physically separated from a paragraph (a)(1) through (3) water by a natural berm, bank, dune, or similar natural feature or by an artificial dike, barrier, or similar artificial structure that allows for a direct hydrologic surface connection between the wetlands and the paragraph (a)(1) through (3) water in a typical year. See Section III.C for additional details.
Wetland G	0.05 acre	(b)(1) Non-adjacent wetland	The wetland does not abut an (a)(1) through (3) water; is not inundated by flooding from a paragraph (a)(1) through (3) water in a typical year; is not physically separated from a paragraph (a)(1) through (3) water by a natural berm, bank, dune, or similar natural feature or by an artificial dike, barrier, or similar artificial structure that allows for a direct hydrologic surface connection between the wetlands and the paragraph (a)(1) through (3) water in a typical year. See Section III.C for additional details.
Wetland H	0.02 acre	(b)(1) Non-adjacent wetland	The wetland does not abut an (a)(1) through (3) water; is not inundated by flooding from a paragraph (a)(1) through (3) water in a typical year; is not physically separated from a paragraph (a)(1) through (3) water by a natural berm, bank, dune, or similar natural feature or by an artificial dike, barrier, or similar artificial structure that allows for a direct hydrologic surface connection between the wetlands and the paragraph (a)(1) through (3) water in a typical year. See Section III.C for additional details.
Stream 1	220 linear feet	(b)(5). Ditches that are not paragraph (a)(1) or (2) waters,	The ditch is not an (a)(1) navigable water, does not convey perennial or intermittent flow, is not an alteration or relocation of a natural feature, and was constructed in uplands. See Section III.C for additional details.

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**III. SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

**A. Select/enter all resources** that were used to aid in this determination and attach data/maps to this document and/or references/citations in the administrative record, as appropriate.

- Information submitted by, or on behalf of, the applicant/consultant: *“Critical Areas Assessment, 4001 East Sunset Drive,”* dated January 2021  
This information is sufficient for purposes of this AJD.  
Rationale: N/A
- Data sheets prepared by the Corps: N/A
- Photographs: Provided in delineation report; Site visit photos
- Corps Site visit(s) conducted on: 22 April 2021
- Previous Jurisdictional Determinations (AJDs or PJDs): N/A
- Antecedent Precipitation Tool: provide detailed discussion in Section III.B.
- USDA NRCS Soil Survey: Web Soil Survey, [www.websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov). Accessed 21 April 2021.
- USFWS NWI maps: <https://www.fws.gov/wetlands/data/Mapper.html> accessed 21 April 2021.
- USGS topographic maps: 7.5 Bellingham North Quad

**Other data sources used to aid in this determination:**

Data Source (select)	Name and/or date and other relevant information
USGS Sources	N/A.
USDA Sources	N/A.
NOAA Sources	N/A.
USACE Sources	N/A.
State/Local/Tribal Sources	WDFW SalmonScape Mapper (NHD layer); <a href="https://apps.wdfw.wa.gov/salmonscape/">https://apps.wdfw.wa.gov/salmonscape/</a> accessed 21 April 2021
Other Sources	N/A.

**B. Typical year assessment(s):** N/A

**C. Additional comments to support AJD:** NOTE: Due to COVID protection measures, Corps PM did not meet with the wetland consultant on-site. Corps PM conducted a “drive-by” inspection of the perimeter of the site to observe local drainage features (ditches) and site topography.

The subject property is a 6.84 acre triangular shaped parcel. The parcel is bounded by Mt. Baker Highway to the southeast, Chance Road to the west, and undeveloped property to the north. The surrounding vicinity has been moderately developed for residential land use. The site was historically used for agricultural purposes. NWI mapping shows one wetland on the subject site. NHD mapping shows no streams on the site or adjacent to the site; the channel of Toad Creek is approximately 1,115 feet west of the site.

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Stream 1 is approximately 220 linear feet long and is located in a ditched channel which bisects the parcel, flowing from the southeast to the northwest, and into Wetland A. Stream 1 receives stormwater from a culvert crossing under Sunset Drive. Once it flows into the wetland, a distinct channel is not present and water fans out into the wetland area. Flow in Stream 1 is ephemeral and the channel is not connected to any (a)(1), (a)(2), or (a)(3) waters.

The delineation report indicates that water flows through Wetland A from east to west and into a culvert under Chance Road into what appears to be a wetlands on an adjacent property to the west, then potentially into ditches or a culvert for a short distance, and eventually into Toad Creek. Visual observations at the time of the site visit confirmed that the area on the adjacent parcel immediately west of Chance Road may meet wetland criteria; the area is dominated by *Juncus effusus* and *Phalaris arundinaceae*. Soils in this area are listed as non-hydric with hydric inclusions. The western end of the potential wetland stops halfway across the parcel as indicated by a change in vegetation. Water may sheetflow across the upland area, then through a culvert under a residential access road and into a defined gully leading to Toad Creek. The culvert and gully do not constitute a jurisdictional ((a)(2)) perennial or intermittent connection to Toad Creek. Wetland A does not extend to the edge of Toad Creek and is not separated by a natural feature (berm, bank, etc.) or by an artificial structure that allows for a direct hydrologic surface connection between the wetlands and the creek.

Water from Wetland B seeps to the west where it appears infiltrate into uplands. Wetland C does not have an outlet and appears to contain water until it infiltrates or evaporates. These wetlands do not extend to the edge of Toad Creek and are not separated by a natural feature (berm, bank, etc.) or by an artificial structure that allows for a direct hydrologic surface connection between the wetlands and the creek.

Water from Wetland D appears to flow intermittently into the ditch along Chance Road, which flows south and into the culvert that drains Wetland A. The roadside ditch along Chance Road is not an (a)(2) water. The roadside ditch conveys ephemeral flow only, is not a relocated tributary nor was it constructed in wetlands. Wetland D does not extend to the edge of Toad Creek and is not separated by a natural feature (berm, bank, etc.) or by an artificial structure that allows for a direct hydrologic surface connection between the wetlands and the creek.

Wetlands E and F are located in small depressions on the hill slope. Outflow from these wetlands is into uplands to the west where it infiltrates or evaporates. These wetlands do not extend to the edge of Toad Creek and are not separated by a natural feature (berm, bank, etc.) or by an artificial structure that allows for a direct hydrologic surface connection between the wetlands and the creek.

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Wetlands G and H drain downslope from east to west/ northwest. Water from the wetlands likely infiltrate in this area, or sheet flow to the ditch along Chance Road, which from this point flows north and into the Wetland A culvert. These wetlands do not extend to the edge of Toad Creek and are not separated by a natural feature (berm, bank, etc.) or by an artificial structure that allows for a direct hydrologic surface connection between the wetlands and the creek.

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