

APPROVED JURISDICTIONAL DETERMINATION FORM
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

SECTION I: BACKGROUND INFORMATION

A. REPORT COMPLETION DATE FOR APPROVED JURISDICTIONAL DETERMINATION (JD): January 09, 2023.

B. DISTRICT OFFICE, FILE NAME, AND NUMBER: Seattle District, Pierce County, NWS-2022-803.
Name of water being evaluated on this JD form: Wetland Unit 1 and Wetland Unit 2

C. PROJECT LOCATION AND BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

State: Washington County: Pierce City: Spanaway

Center coordinates of site (lat/long in degree decimal format): Lat: 47.04684 N, Long: 122.38908 W

Universal Transverse Mercator: _____

Name of nearest waterbody: Spanaway Lake.

Name of nearest Traditional Navigable Water (TNW) into which the aquatic resource flows: N/A.

Name of watershed or Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC): _____.

Check if map/diagram of review area and/or potential jurisdictional areas is/are available upon request.

Check if other sites (e.g., offsite mitigation sites, disposal sites, etc.) are associated with this action and are recorded on a different JD form. List other JDs: _____

D. REVIEW PERFORMED FOR SITE EVALUATION (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY):

Office (Desk) Determination. Date: 10/17/2022.

Field Determination. Date(s): 12/28/2022.

SECTION II: SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

A. RHA SECTION 10 DETERMINATION OF JURISDICTION.

There **Are no** "navigable waters of the U.S." within Rivers and Harbors Act (RHA) jurisdiction (as defined by 33 CFR part 329) in the review area. [Required]

Waters subject to the ebb and flow of the tide.

Waters are presently used, or have been used in the past, or may be susceptible for use to transport interstate or foreign commerce.

Explain: _____.

B. CWA SECTION 404 DETERMINATION OF JURISDICTION.

There **Are no** "waters of the U.S." within Clean Water Act (CWA) jurisdiction (as defined by 33 CFR part 328) in the review area. [Required]

1. Waters of the U.S.

a. Indicate presence of waters of U.S. in review area (check all that apply):¹

- TNWs, including territorial seas
- Wetlands adjacent to TNWs
- Relatively permanent waters² (RPWs) that flow directly or indirectly into TNWs
- Non-RPWs that flow directly or indirectly into TNWs
- Wetlands directly abutting RPWs that flow directly or indirectly into TNWs
- Wetlands adjacent to but not directly abutting RPWs that flow directly or indirectly into TNWs
- Wetlands adjacent to non-RPWs that flow directly or indirectly into TNWs
- Impoundments of jurisdictional waters
- Isolated (interstate or intrastate) waters, including isolated wetlands

b. Identify (estimate) size of waters of the U.S. in the review area:

Non-wetland waters: _____ linear feet _____ width (ft) and/or _____ acres.

Wetlands: _____ acres.

c. Limits (boundaries) of jurisdiction based on: 1987 Delineation Manual, and Pick List

Elevation of established OHWM (if known): _____.

2. Non-regulated waters/wetlands (check if applicable):³

- Potentially jurisdictional waters and/or wetlands were assessed within the review area and determined to be not jurisdictional.
Explain: **Wetland Unit 1 and Wetland Unit 2 were determined to be created in dry land incidental to mining activity. See below for additional information.**

¹ Boxes checked below shall be supported by completing the appropriate sections in Section III below.

² For purposes of this form, an RPW is defined as a tributary that is not a TNW and that typically flows year-round or has continuous flow at least "seasonally" (e.g., typically 3 months).

³ Supporting documentation is presented in Section III.F.

SECTION III: CWA ANALYSIS

A. TNWs AND WETLANDS ADJACENT TO TNWs

If the aquatic resource is a TNW, complete Section III.A.1 and Section III.D.1. only; if the aquatic resource is a wetland adjacent to a TNW, complete Sections III.A.1 and 2 and Section III.D.1.; otherwise, see Section III.B below.

1. TNW

Identify TNW: _____.

Summarize rationale supporting determination: _____.

2. Wetland adjacent to TNW

Summarize rationale supporting conclusion that wetland is "adjacent": _____.

B. CHARACTERISTICS OF TRIBUTARY (THAT IS NOT A TNW) AND ITS ADJACENT WETLANDS (IF ANY):

A wetland that directly abuts an RPW is also jurisdictional. If the aquatic resource is not a TNW, but has year-round (perennial) flow, skip to Section III.D.2. If the aquatic resource is a wetland directly abutting a tributary with perennial flow, skip to Section III.D.4.

A wetland that is adjacent to but that does not directly abut an RPW requires a significant nexus evaluation. If the waterbody⁴ is not an RPW, or a wetland directly abutting an RPW, a JD will require additional data to determine if the waterbody has a significant nexus with a TNW. If the tributary has adjacent wetlands, the significant nexus evaluation must consider the tributary in combination with all of its adjacent wetlands. This significant nexus evaluation that combines, for analytical purposes, the tributary and all of its adjacent wetlands is used whether the review area identified in the JD request is the tributary, or its adjacent wetlands, or both.

If the JD covers a tributary with adjacent wetlands, complete Section III.B.1 for the tributary, Section III.B.2 for any onsite wetlands, and Section III.B.3 for all wetlands adjacent to that tributary, both onsite and offsite. The determination whether a significant nexus exists is determined in Section III.C below.

1. Characteristics of non-TNWs that flow directly or indirectly into TNW

(i) General Area Conditions:

Watershed size: _____ **Pick List**

Drainage area: _____ **Pick List**

Average annual rainfall: _____ inches

Average annual snowfall: _____ inches

(ii) Physical Characteristics:

(a) Relationship with TNW:

Tributary flows directly into TNW.

Tributary flows through **Pick List** tributaries before entering TNW.

Project waters are **Pick List** river miles from TNW.

Project waters are **Pick List** river miles from RPW.

Project waters are **Pick List** aerial (straight) miles from TNW.

Project waters are **Pick List** aerial (straight) miles from RPW.

Project waters cross or serve as state boundaries. Explain: _____.

Identify flow route to TNW⁵: _____.

Tributary stream order, if known: _____.

(b) General Tributary Characteristics (check all that apply):

Tributary is: Natural

Artificial (man-made). Explain: _____.

Manipulated (man-altered). Explain: _____.

Tributary properties with respect to top of bank (estimate):

Average width: _____ feet

Average depth: _____ feet

⁴ Note that the Instructional Guidebook contains additional information regarding swales, ditches, washes, and erosional features generally and in the arid West.

⁵ Flow route can be described by identifying, e.g., tributary a, which flows through the review area, to flow into tributary b, which then flows into TNW.

Average side slopes: **Pick List**.

Primary tributary substrate composition (check all that apply):

- | | | |
|---|--|-----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Silts | <input type="checkbox"/> Sands | <input type="checkbox"/> Concrete |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cobbles | <input type="checkbox"/> Gravel | <input type="checkbox"/> Muck |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bedrock | <input type="checkbox"/> Vegetation. Type/% cover: _____ | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other. Explain: _____. | | |

Tributary condition/stability [e.g., highly eroding, sloughing banks]. Explain: _____.

Presence of run/riffle/pool complexes. Explain: _____.

Tributary geometry: **Pick List**

Tributary gradient (approximate average slope): _____ %

(c) **Flow:**

Tributary provides for: **Pick List**

Estimate average number of flow events in review area/year: **Pick List**

Describe flow regime: _____.

Other information on duration and volume: _____.

Surface flow is: **Pick List**. Characteristics: _____.

Subsurface flow: **Pick List**. Explain findings: _____.

Dye (or other) test performed: _____.

Tributary has (check all that apply):

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bed and banks | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> OHWM ⁶ (check all indicators that apply): | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> clear, natural line impressed on the bank | <input type="checkbox"/> the presence of litter and debris |
| <input type="checkbox"/> changes in the character of soil | <input type="checkbox"/> destruction of terrestrial vegetation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> shelving | <input type="checkbox"/> the presence of wrack line |
| <input type="checkbox"/> vegetation matted down, bent, or absent | <input type="checkbox"/> sediment sorting |
| <input type="checkbox"/> leaf litter disturbed or washed away | <input type="checkbox"/> scour |
| <input type="checkbox"/> sediment deposition | <input type="checkbox"/> multiple observed or predicted flow events |
| <input type="checkbox"/> water staining | <input type="checkbox"/> abrupt change in plant community |
| <input type="checkbox"/> other (list): _____ | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Discontinuous OHWM. ⁷ Explain: _____. | |

If factors other than the OHWM were used to determine lateral extent of CWA jurisdiction (check all that apply):

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> High Tide Line indicated by: | <input type="checkbox"/> Mean High Water Mark indicated by: |
| <input type="checkbox"/> oil or scum line along shore objects | <input type="checkbox"/> survey to available datum; |
| <input type="checkbox"/> fine shell or debris deposits (foreshore) | <input type="checkbox"/> physical markings; |
| <input type="checkbox"/> physical markings/characteristics | <input type="checkbox"/> vegetation lines/changes in vegetation types. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> tidal gauges | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> other (list): _____ | |

(iii) **Chemical Characteristics:**

Characterize tributary (e.g., water color is clear, discolored, oily film; water quality; general watershed characteristics, etc.).

Explain: _____.

Identify specific pollutants, if known: _____.

(iv) **Biological Characteristics. Channel supports (check all that apply):**

- | |
|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Riparian corridor. Characteristics (type, average width): _____. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wetland fringe. Characteristics: _____. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Habitat for: |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Federally Listed species. Explain findings: _____. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fish/spawn areas. Explain findings: _____. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other environmentally-sensitive species. Explain findings: _____. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aquatic/wildlife diversity. Explain findings: _____. |

⁶A natural or man-made discontinuity in the OHWM does not necessarily sever jurisdiction (e.g., where the stream temporarily flows underground, or where the OHWM has been removed by development or agricultural practices). Where there is a break in the OHWM that is unrelated to the waterbody's flow regime (e.g., flow over a rock outcrop or through a culvert), the agencies will look for indicators of flow above and below the break.

⁷Ibid.

2. Characteristics of wetlands adjacent to non-TNW that flow directly or indirectly into TNW

(i) Physical Characteristics:

(a) General Wetland Characteristics:

Properties:

Wetland size: _____ acres

Wetland type. Explain: _____.

Wetland quality. Explain: _____.

Project wetlands cross or serve as state boundaries. Explain: _____.

(b) General Flow Relationship with Non-TNW:

Flow is: **Pick List**. Explain: _____.

Surface flow is: **Pick List**

Characteristics: _____.

Subsurface flow: **Pick List**. Explain findings: _____.

Dye (or other) test performed: _____.

(c) Wetland Adjacency Determination with Non-TNW:

Directly abutting

Not directly abutting

Discrete wetland hydrologic connection. Explain: _____.

Ecological connection. Explain: _____.

Separated by berm/barrier. Explain: _____.

(d) Proximity (Relationship) to TNW

Project wetlands are **Pick List** river miles from TNW.

Project waters are **Pick List** aerial (straight) miles from TNW.

Flow is from: **Pick List**.

Estimate approximate location of wetland as within the **Pick List** floodplain.

(ii) Chemical Characteristics:

Characterize wetland system (e.g., water color is clear, brown, oil film on surface; water quality; general watershed characteristics; etc.). Explain: _____.

Identify specific pollutants, if known: _____.

(iii) Biological Characteristics. Wetland supports (check all that apply):

Riparian buffer. Characteristics (type, average width): _____.

Vegetation type/percent cover. Explain: _____.

Habitat for:

Federally Listed species. Explain findings: _____.

Fish/spawn areas. Explain findings: _____.

Other environmentally-sensitive species. Explain findings: _____.

Aquatic/wildlife diversity. Explain findings: _____.

3. Characteristics of all wetlands adjacent to the tributary (if any)

All wetland(s) being considered in the cumulative analysis: **Pick List**

Approximately (_____) acres in total are being considered in the cumulative analysis.

For each wetland, specify the following:

Directly abuts? (Y/N)

Size (in acres)

Directly abuts? (Y/N)

Size (in acres)

Summarize overall biological, chemical and physical functions being performed: _____.

C. SIGNIFICANT NEXUS DETERMINATION

1. Significant nexus findings for non-RPW that has no adjacent wetlands and flows directly or indirectly into TNWs. Explain findings of presence or absence of significant nexus below, based on the tributary itself, then go to Section III.D: _____.

2. **Significant nexus findings for non-RPW and its adjacent wetlands, where the non-RPW flows directly or indirectly into TNWs.** Explain findings of presence or absence of significant nexus below, based on the tributary in combination with all of its adjacent wetlands, then go to Section III.D: _____.
3. **Significant nexus findings for wetlands adjacent to an RPW but that do not directly abut the RPW.** Explain findings of presence or absence of significant nexus below, based on the tributary in combination with all of its adjacent wetlands, then go to Section III.D: _____.

D. DETERMINATIONS OF JURISDICTIONAL FINDINGS. THE SUBJECT WATERS/WETLANDS ARE (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY):

1. **TNWs and Adjacent Wetlands.** Check all that apply and provide size estimates in review area:

- TNWs: _____ linear feet _____ width (ft), or _____ acres.
 Wetlands adjacent to TNWs: _____ acres.

2. **RPWs that flow directly or indirectly into TNWs.**

- Tributaries of TNWs where tributaries typically flow year-round are jurisdictional. Provide rationale indicating that tributary flows perennial: _____.
- Tributaries of TNW where tributaries have continuous flow “seasonally” (e.g., typically three months each year) are jurisdictional. Data supporting this conclusion is provided at Section III.B. Provide rationale indicating that tributary flows seasonally: _____.

Provide estimates for jurisdictional waters in the review area (check all that apply):

- Tributary waters: _____ linear feet _____ width (ft).
 Other non-wetland waters: _____ acres.

Identify type(s) of waters: _____.

3. **Non-RPWs⁸ that flow directly or indirectly into TNWs.**

- Waterbody that is not a TNW or an RPW, but flows directly or indirectly into a TNW, and it has a significant nexus with a TNW is jurisdictional. Data supporting this conclusion is provided at Section III.C.

Provide estimates for jurisdictional waters within the review area (check all that apply):

- Tributary waters: _____ linear feet _____ width (ft).
 Other non-wetland waters: _____ acres.

Identify type(s) of waters: _____.

4. **Wetlands directly abutting an RPW that flow directly or indirectly into TNWs.**

- Wetlands directly abut RPW and thus are jurisdictional as adjacent wetlands.
 Wetlands directly abutting an RPW where tributaries typically flow year-round. Provide data and rationale indicating that tributary is perennial in Section III.D.2, above. Provide rationale indicating that wetland is directly abutting an RPW: _____
- Wetlands directly abutting an RPW where tributaries typically flow “seasonally.” Provide data indicating that tributary is seasonal in Section III.B and rationale in Section III.D.2, above. Provide rationale indicating that wetland is directly abutting an RPW: _____

Provide acreage estimates for jurisdictional wetlands in the review area: _____ acres.

5. **Wetlands adjacent to but not directly abutting an RPW that flow directly or indirectly into TNWs.**

- Wetlands that do not directly abut an RPW, but when considered in combination with the tributary to which they are adjacent and with similarly situated adjacent wetlands, have a significant nexus with a TNW are jurisdictional. Data supporting this conclusion is provided at Section III.C.

Provide acreage estimates for jurisdictional wetlands in the review area: _____ acres.

6. **Wetlands adjacent to non-RPWs that flow directly or indirectly into TNWs.**

- Wetlands adjacent to such waters, and have when considered in combination with the tributary to which they are adjacent and with similarly situated adjacent wetlands, have a significant nexus with a TNW are jurisdictional. Data supporting this conclusion is provided at Section III.C.

Provide estimates for jurisdictional wetlands in the review area: _____ acres.

7. **Impoundments of jurisdictional waters.⁹**

⁸See Footnote # 3.

⁹To complete the analysis refer to the key in Section III.D.6 of the Instructional Guidebook.

As a general rule, the impoundment of a jurisdictional tributary remains jurisdictional.

- Demonstrate that impoundment was created from "waters of the U.S.," or
- Demonstrate that water meets the criteria for one of the categories presented above (1-6), or
- Demonstrate that water is isolated with a nexus to commerce (see E below).

E. ISOLATED [INTERSTATE OR INTRA-STATE] WATERS, INCLUDING ISOLATED WETLANDS, THE USE, DEGRADATION OR DESTRUCTION OF WHICH COULD AFFECT INTERSTATE COMMERCE, INCLUDING ANY SUCH WATERS (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY):¹⁰

- which are or could be used by interstate or foreign travelers for recreational or other purposes.
- from which fish or shellfish are or could be taken and sold in interstate or foreign commerce.
- which are or could be used for industrial purposes by industries in interstate commerce.
- Interstate isolated waters. Explain: _____.
- Other factors. Explain: _____.

Identify water body and summarize rationale supporting determination: _____

Provide estimates for jurisdictional waters in the review area (check all that apply):

- Tributary waters: _____ linear feet _____ width (ft).
- Other non-wetland waters: _____ acres.
Identify type(s) of waters: _____.
- Wetlands: _____ acres.

F. NON-JURISDICTIONAL WATERS, INCLUDING WETLANDS (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY):

- If potential wetlands were assessed within the review area, these areas did not meet the criteria in the 1987 Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual and/or appropriate Regional Supplements.
- Review area included isolated waters with no substantial nexus to interstate (or foreign) commerce.
 - Prior to the Jan 2001 Supreme Court decision in "SWANCC," the review area would have been regulated based solely on the "Migratory Bird Rule" (MBR).
- Waters do not meet the "Significant Nexus" standard, where such a finding is required for jurisdiction. Explain: _____.
- Other: (explain, if not covered above): **Per the preamble of 1986 Corps implementing regulations for 33CFR328.3, the identified waters in the review area have been determined to be the result of ongoing construction activity. Waterfilled depressions created in dry land incidental to construction activity and pits excavated in dry land for the purpose of obtaining fill, sand, or gravel are not generally considered waters of the U.S., unless and until the construction or excavation operation is abandoned and the resulting water meets the definition of waters of the U.S. Wetland Unit 1 and Wetland Unit 2 are water filled depressions created in dry land for the purpose of obtaining fill, sand or gravel and associated mining operation as not been abandoned.**

Provide acreage estimates for non-jurisdictional waters in the review area, where the sole potential basis of jurisdiction is the MBR factors (i.e., presence of migratory birds, presence of endangered species, use of water for irrigated agriculture), using best professional judgment (check all that apply):

- Non-wetland waters (i.e., rivers, streams): _____ linear feet _____ width (ft).
- Lakes/ponds: _____ acres.
- Other non-wetland waters: _____ acres. List type of aquatic resource: _____.
- Wetlands: _____ acres.

Provide acreage estimates for non-jurisdictional waters in the review area that do not meet the "Significant Nexus" standard, where such a finding is required for jurisdiction (check all that apply):

- Non-wetland waters (i.e., rivers, streams): _____ linear feet _____ width (ft).
- Lakes/ponds: _____ acres.
- Other non-wetland waters: _____ acres. List type of aquatic resource: _____.
- Wetlands: _____ acres.

SECTION IV: DATA SOURCES.

A. SUPPORTING DATA. Data reviewed for JD (check all that apply - checked items shall be included in case file and, where checked and requested, appropriately reference sources below):

- Maps, plans, plots or plat submitted by or on behalf of the applicant/consultant: Pierce County.
- Data sheets prepared/submitted by or on behalf of the applicant/consultant.
 - Office concurs with data sheets/delineation report.

¹⁰ Prior to asserting or declining CWA jurisdiction based solely on this category, Corps Districts will elevate the action to Corps and EPA HQ for review consistent with the process described in the Corps/EPA Memorandum Regarding CWA Act Jurisdiction Following Rapanos.

- Office does not concur with data sheets/delineation report.
- Data sheets prepared by the Corps: _____.
- Corps navigable waters' study: The waterbody is on the Section 10 Navigable Waterway List for Seattle District.
- U.S. Geological Survey Hydrologic Atlas: _____.
- USGS NHD data.
- USGS 8 and 12 digit HUC maps.
- U.S. Geological Survey map(s). Cite scale & quad name: _____
- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service Soil Survey. Citation: _____.
- National wetlands inventory map(s). Cite name: _____.
- State/Local wetland inventory map(s): WDFW Fish & Wildlife Priority Habitat Map
- FEMA/FIRM maps: National Flood Hazard Map.
- 100-year Floodplain Elevation is: _____ (National Geodetic Vertical Datum of 1929)
- Photographs: Aerial (Name & Date): 1941, 1957, 1968, 1972, 1975, 1980, 2006, 2009, 2013, 2017, 2022
or Other (Name & Date): _____.
- Previous determination(s). File no. and date of response letter: _____.
- Applicable/supporting case law: _____.
- Applicable/supporting scientific literature: _____.
- Other information (please specify): NRCS Hydric Soils Map.

B. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS TO SUPPORT JD: The review area for this jurisdictional determination is limited to two parcels (parcel number 0318141058 and 0318141007.). The applicant identified two wetlands (measuring a total of 1.8 acres in size) within the review area, referred to as Wetland Unit 1 and Wetland Unit 2. No other potential waters within the review area were identified by the applicant or observed during a field site visit.

The applicant provided background on the site and historical aerial imagery dating back to 1941 to demonstrate the review area did show sign of wetland hydrology or wetland vegetation. In aerial images from 1941 and 1957 (prior to mining activity), there were no obvious wetland indicators. Vegetation begins to change in the 1980 and 1990 aerial imagery. The applicant also provided hydric soil, topographic, National Wetland Inventory, Pierce County Critical Area, Forest Practice Stream Types, Statewide Washington Integrated Fish Distribution, WDFW Priority Habitat and Species, DNR Wetlands of High Conservation Value, and National Flood Hazard maps.

The applicant stated the identified wetlands were isolated with no surface water connections to other waters of the U.S and none were observed during a site visit on 28 December 2022. The preamble of the 1986 Corps implementing regulations for 33 CFR Part 328.3 states that waterfilled depressions “created in dry land incidental to construction activity and pits excavated in dry land for the purpose of obtaining fill, sand, or gravel” are not generally considered waters of the U.S. unless the excavation operation is abandoned, and the resulting body of water meets the definition of waters of the U.S. Wetlands appeared to be excavated for the purpose of obtaining fill from the datd. As the site remains subject to a reclamation requirement, the operation has not been abandoned.

Because the review area contains only waters created incidental to mining activity (pits excavated for the purpose of obtaining fill, sand or gravel) and the site is not abandoned, there are no waters of the U.S. present within the review area and therefore, no permit is required.