

Glossary of Terms Used

4(d) Rule	In the federal Endangered Species Act, the protective rule promulgated by the lead federal agency at the time it makes a final decision to list a species as threatened. The 4(d) Rule can be a restatement of Section 9(a) prohibitions on take of a species, but also can specify activities which have been determined to be adequately regulated and given legal coverage for the (incidental take) of the listed species. (<i>Draft Tri-County 4(d) Rule Proposal 5-2002</i>)
100-Year Flood, a.k.a. Base Flood	The flood having a one-percent chance of being equaled or exceeded in any given year (<i>PCC 18E.10.050.K</i>)
Acre-Foot	The volume of water that covers one acre of land in one foot of water, equivalent to 325,850 gallons (<i>Nisqually River Basin, Draft 2514 Technical Assessment, 6-2002</i>)
Adaptive Management	A process to evaluate plans, strategies or implementation actions to determine their effectiveness and then adapting (making positive changes) as new information or science becomes available.
Adverse Stormwater Impacts	The negative effect of stormwater on the integrity of the natural aquatic ecosystem, generally due to increasing stormwater volume, concentrating runoff and otherwise altering hydrology, or the spatial and/or temporal distribution of salmon habitats, flow rate or pollutant discharge. (<i>Draft TriCounty 4(d) Stormwater Proposal Glossary</i>)
Aggradation	A geologic process in which the rate of sediment deposition exceeds that of erosion and creates a persistent, long-term rise in the elevation of a streambed, floodplain, or other area
Agricultural Land	Land primarily devoted to the commercial production of horticultural, viticultural, floricultural, dairy, apiary, vegetable, or animal products or of berries, grain, hay, straw, turf seed, Christmas trees not subject to the excise tax imposed by RCW 84.33.100 through 84.33.140, or livestock and that has long-term commercial significance for agricultural production, including poultry raising, horse farms and ranches. (<i>RCW 36.70A.030 and Draft Definitions from Proposed PCC Title 18 ESA Amendments</i>)

Alluvial	Deposited by running water. (Meehan, ed.)
Ammonia-N	Ammonia-N is a reduced form of Nitrogen that is toxic to aquatic life at higher concentrations. It is typically found in waters that are contaminated with human or animal waste. It can also contribute to depletion of dissolved oxygen in surface waters. (<i>Glossary of Parameters, Washington State Section 303(b) Report, 9-2001</i>)
Anadromous Fish	Species that are hatched in freshwater, mature in saltwater, and return to freshwater to spawn
Aquatic	Pertaining to water
Aquifer	A saturated permeable material (often sand, gravel, sandstone, or limestone) that contains and carries groundwater and acts as a water reservoir.
Assessment	The collection, integration, examination, and evaluation of information and values
Background Load	Naturally occurring amount of pollutants in a stream prior to watershed development, which is the arithmetic product of background level concentration and flow. (<i>1991 Storm Drainage & Surface Water Management Plan</i>)
Base Flow	The portion of the stream flow that is not due to storm runoff and is supported by groundwater, large lakes, and swamp seepage into a channel (<i>1991 Storm Drainage & Surface Water Management</i>)
Basin	A geographic and hydrologic sub unit of a watershed, shortened reference to drainage basin <i>PCC Stormwater Management & Site Development Manual, 1999</i>)
Bed Load	The sediment in a stream channel that mainly moves by jumping, sliding or rolling on or very near the bottom (<i>1991 Storm Drainage & Surface Water Management Plan</i>)
Bed Material	The material of which a streambed is composed
Benthic Organisms	Organisms living in or on bottom substrates in aquatic habitats (<i>1991 Storm Drainage & Surface Water Management Plan</i>)
Best Management Plan	A plan developed for a property that specifies best management practices to ensure the minimization of impacts to the environment, including the control of animal wastes, stormwater runoff, and erosion (<i>18E10.050, L with Amendments in Proposed Definitions for PCC Title 18, 1-2002</i>)

Best Management Practices (BMPs)	Physical, structural, or managerial practices which have gained general acceptance for their ability to prevent or reduce environmental impacts. <i>(PCC Title 19, Appendix A & in Draft Definitions for PCC Title 18, 1-2002)</i>
BIBI	Benthic Index of Biotic Integrity. A system for measuring the degree to which the quality of stream habitat deviates from that expected at a relatively undisturbed site. It is based upon the numbers and diversity of species of benthic invertebrates obtained from samples taken from the stream substrate.
Biological Oxygen Demand (BOD)	The quantity of oxygen consumed during the biological oxidation of matter over a specified period of time. See also Chemical Oxygen Demand. <i>(1991 Storm Drainage & Surface Water Management Plan)</i>
Buffer	"Buffer" means a tract or strip of land that separates one type, category or use of land from another. Buffers typically serve to provide a defined area between a more intensive use of land and a land use that is less intensive. Buffers are typically referenced by the associated critical area such as wetland buffer, riparian buffer, etc. <i>(Draft Definitions for PCC Title 18, 1-2002)</i>
cfs	Cubic feet per second. Units assigned to the volume of water that flows past a fixed point in a stream channel, drainage outlet or other water flow path every second; equivalent to 449 gallons per minute (gpm) <i>(Nisqually River Basin, Draft 2514 Technical Assessment, 6-2002)</i>
Capital Improvement Project (CIP)	A project funded by Pierce County Water Programs intended to improve the physical plant of the drainage system, the performance of that system, and/or reduce site specific or cumulative adverse stormwater impacts <i>(Draft Tri-County 4(d) Stormwater Proposal 5/2002)</i>
Channel	"Natural or artificial waterway of perceptible extent that periodically or continuously contains moving water. It has a definite bed and banks that serve to confine water." (Meehan)
Channel Complexity	Channel complexity describes salmon habitat. A complex channel that contains a mixture of habitat types that provides areas with different velocity and depth for use by different salmon life stages. In contrast, a simple channel contains more uniform flow and fewer habitat types.
Channel Confinement	Lateral constriction of a stream channel <i>(Clover Creek Basin Plan, 12/2002)</i>
Channel Erosion	The widening, deepening and headward cutting of small channels and waterways due to erosion caused by moderate to large floods <i>(1991 Storm Drainage & Surface Water Management Plan)</i>

Channel Migration Zone (CMZ)	The lateral extent of likely movement along a watercourse with evidence of active channel movement. Channel migration commonly occurs due to bank destabilization, rapid incision, and bank erosion. <i>(Draft Definitions for PCC Title 18, 1-2002)</i>
Channelization	The straightening, deepening, or widening of a stream channel for the purpose of increasing the stream's carrying capacity <i>(Draft Definitions for PCC Title 18, 1-2002)</i>
Chemical Oxygen Demand (COD)	A monitoring test that measures all the oxidizable matter found in a runoff sample, a portion of which could deplete oxygen in receiving waters <i>(1991 Storm Drainage & Surface Water Management Plan)S</i>
CIP	See Capital Improvement Project.
Clearing	The removal of timber, brush, grass, ground cover, or other vegetative matter from a site, which exposes the earth's surface on the site <i>(PCC 18E.10.050,R)</i>
Conservation Easement	A recorded deed restriction, or covenant, that runs in perpetuity on a parcel of land restricting the use of the property by preventing future real estate development such as residential, industrial, or commercial use. The conservation easement may allow continued current uses, including for example, residential, recreational, agriculture, forestry, or ranching, however the easement most often restricts both the current use as well as future uses of the land to some important conservation quality such as habitat preservation, open space or scenic views. Conservation easements are typically held by a Land Trust or governmental entity that manages these properties for long-term goals. <i>(Draft Definitions for PCC Title 18 Amendment)</i>
Contaminant	Any chemical, physical, biological, or radiological substance that does not occur naturally or occurs at concentrations and duration as to be injurious to human health or welfare or shown to be ecologically damaging <i>(PCC 18E.10.050,U)</i>
Conveyance Capacity	A term generally referring to the maximum capability of the physical drainage system to safely transport water (from a hydraulic perspective) <i>(Draft Tri-County 4(d) Rule Proposal 5-2002)</i>
Corridor (Landscape)	Landscape elements that connect similar patches of habitat through an area with different characteristics; for example, streamside vegetation may create a corridor of willows and hardwoods between meadows or through a forest.
Critical Areas	Wetlands, flood hazard areas, fish and wildlife habitat areas, aquifer recharge areas, and geologically hazardous areas <i>(PCC 18E.10.050,W)</i>

Design Capacity	Volume of water that a channel, pipe, or other drainage lines is designed to convey
Detention	Temporary storage of surface runoff either on, below or above the ground surface accompanied by controlled release of the stored water (<i>1991 Storm Drainage & Surface Water Management Plan</i>)
Detention Facility	A facility (e.g., pond, vault, pipe) in which surface and stormwater are temporarily stored and released at a controlled rate (<i>PC Stormwater Management & Site Development Manual, 1999</i>)
Developed Site	A site in which the land cover has been converted or substantially altered (through the addition of impervious surface and/or clearing and grading activities) from its original natural condition (<i>Draft Tri-County 4(d) Rule Proposal 5-2002</i>)
Development	Any man-made change to improved or unimproved real estate including, but not limited to: buildings or other structures, placement of manufactured home/mobile home, mining, dredging, clearing, fillings, grading, paving, excavation, drilling operations, or the subdivision of property. (<i>PC Stormwater Management & Site Development Manual, 1999</i>)
Development Regulations	Any controls placed on development or land use activities by a county or city, including, but not limited to, zoning ordinances, subdivision ordinances, and binding site plan <i>ordinances</i> (<i>RCW 36.70.030</i>)
Discharge	Flow rate of a stream or stormwater system, usually measured in cubic feet per second (<i>Nisqually River Basin, Draft 2514 Technical Assessment, 6-2002</i>)
Dissolved Oxygen (DO)	DO is oxygen that is freely available in water. Adequate DO is necessary for the life of fish and other aquatic organisms. (<i>Washington State Section 303(b) Report, 9-2001</i>)
Disturbance, Natural	Events that affect landscapes, including regions, watersheds, and sites. They include floods, wildfires, landslides and volcanoes. They may vary in intensity from small-scale to catastrophic and in frequency from a few years to many decades or hundreds of years.
Disturbance, Human	Direct or indirect changes to land, vegetation, or water by people that alter their functions; negatively affect water quality, fish and wildlife habitat, soil, or air quality.
Easement	The legal right to use a specified piece of land for a particular purpose. (<i>PCC Stormwater Management & site Development Manual</i>)

Ecosystem	A biological community together with the chemical and physical environment with which it interacts.
Ecosystem Diagnosis & Treatment (EDT)	A proprietary method of diagnosing the condition of resources like salmon that uses a “rule-based” system which focuses on habitat as the unit of analysis. It estimates salmon performance by using an analytical model that predicts the numbers of fish supported by the habitat over the salmon’s life history. It is an “expert system” that captures the state of existing knowledge including areas of incomplete or missing data. <i>(from the EDT Primer, 1995)</i>
Ecosystem Management	The management of human actions with a view toward preserving ecosystem integrity while maintaining sustainable benefit for human populations
Effective Impervious Surface	Any impervious surface that is connected or has the effect of being connected directly to the downstream drainage system. See also non-effective impervious area and total impervious area. <i>(Draft Tri-County 4(d) Rule Proposal 6-02)</i>
Effectiveness Monitoring	The evaluation of whether an action achieved the desired effect. For example, in a sediment reduction project, effectiveness monitoring would determine whether sediment supply was actually reduced.
Elevation	In retrofitting, the process of raising a house or other building so that it is above the height of a given flood
Embeddedness	The degree that gravel and larger sizes of particles (boulders, cobble or rubble) are surrounded or covered by fine sediment (e.g., less than 2 millimeters)
Ephemeral Stream Channel	A dry stream course, except during or immediately after extreme rainfall or surfacing groundwater due to heavy annual rainfall; often no ordinary high water mark is evident. See also intermittent stream channel.
Erosion	Detachment of soil or rock fragments by water, wind, ice and gravity <i>(PCC Stormwater Management & Site Development Manual, 1999)</i> .
Evapotranspiration	The scientific term that collectively describes the natural processes of evaporation and transpiration. Evaporation is the process of releasing vapor into the atmosphere through the soil or from an open water body. Transpiration is the process of releasing vapor into the atmosphere through the pores of the skin of the stomata of plant tissue. By this process vegetation removes moisture and returns it to the atmosphere. <i>(Nisqually River Basin, Draft 2514 Technical Assessment, 6-2002)</i>

Fecal Coliform	Minute living organisms associate with human or animal feces that are used as an indirect indicator of the presence of other disease causing bacteria (<i>1991 Storm Drainage & Surface Water Management Plan</i>)
Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)	Independent agency created in 1978 to provide a single point of accountability for all federal activities related to disaster mitigation and emergency preparedness, response and recovery
Fill	Earth, sand, gravel, rock, asphalt, or other solid material placed to raise the ground elevation or to replace excavated material (<i>Draft Tri-County 4(d) Rule Proposal 5-2002</i>)
Fish & Wildlife Habitat Areas	The areas identified as being of critical importance to maintenance of fish, wildlife, and plant species, including: areas with which endangered, threatened, and sensitive species have a primary association; habitats and species of local importance; commercial and recreational shellfish areas; kelp and eelgrass beds, herring and smelt spawning areas; naturally occurring ponds under twenty acres and their submerged aquatic beds that provide fish or wildlife habitat; waters of the state; lakes, ponds, streams, and rivers planted with game fish by a governmental or tribal entity, or private organization; state natural area preserves and natural resource conservation areas. (<i>PCC 18E.10.050,AU</i>)
Fish Passage Barrier	An obstacle that prevents fish from moving either upstream or downstream, such as certain dams, weirs, floodgates, roads, bridges, causeways and culverts. (<i>Adapted from New South Wales Fisheries Web Site, 6-7-2002</i>)
Fishway	A passageway, often an ascending series of pools, designed to permit passage of salmon over dams, diversions or other obstructions.
Flood	An overflow or inundation that comes from a river or any other source, including but not limited to streams, tides, wave action, storm drains, or excess rainfall. (<i>PCC 17A.10.060,Y & PC Stormwater Manual</i>)
Flood Control	Physically controlling a river or stream by structural means such as dikes and levees, which separate people and property from damaging floodwater
Flood Depth	Height of flood waters above the surface of the ground at a given point
Flood Duration	Amount of time between the initial rise of floodwaters and their recession (<i>Draft Clover Creek Basin Plan, 5/2002</i>)


Flood Elevation	Height of flood waters above an elevation datum plane
Flood Frequency	The frequency with which the flood of interest may be expected to occur at a site in any average interval of years. Frequency analysis defines the "n-year flood" as being the flood that will, over a long period of time, be equaled or exceeded on the average once every "n" years. <i>(PCC 17A.10.060,Z; PC Stormwater Management & Site Development Manual, 1999; Draft Amendments to Pierce County Code Title 18)</i>
Flood Hazard Management	A comprehensive approach to flood control issues that encompasses both flood control management and floodplain management and uses both structural and nonstructural methods of reducing flood hazards. Flood hazard management is not limited to areas within the floodplain but can extend to the entire watershed. Stormwater management is also included because the control of the quantity and quality (sediment load) of stormwater runoff into streams and rivers can have significant impacts on stream and river flooding.
Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM)	"Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM)" means the official map on which the Federal Insurance Administration has delineated areas of special flood hazard and the risk premium zones applicable to Pierce County. <i>(Draft Definitions for PCC Title 18, 1-2002)</i>
Flooding or Erosion Impacts	Impacts such as flooding of septic systems, crawl spaces, living areas, outbuildings, etc.; increased ice or algal growth on sidewalks/roadways; earth movement/settlement; increased landslide potential; erosion and other potential damage <i>(Draft Tri-County 4(d) Rule Proposal 5-2002)</i>
Floodplain	Total area subject to inundation by the base flood including the flood fringe and floodway. Low area adjoining a stream or river channel that overflows at times of high river flow. <i>(PCC 17A.10.060, AE)</i>
Floodplain Management	Management of areas within the floodplain, which includes resource protection, environmental enhancement, flood damage protection and land use regulations
Gaging Station	A selected section of a stream channel equipped with a gage, recorder, or other facilities for measuring stream flow <i>(Nisqually River Basin, Draft 2514 Technical Assessment, 6-2002)</i>
Gaining Stream	A stream or reach of a stream where surface flow is increasing due to inflow of ground water, also known as an effluent stream <i>(Nisqually River Basin, Draft 2514 Technical Assessment, 6-2002)</i>
gpm (gallons per minute)	The volume of water that will flow in a minute; equivalent to .0022 cubic feet per second <i>(Nisqually River Basin, Draft 2514 Technical Assessment, 6-2002)</i>

Geographic Information System (GIS)	A computer based information system that stores parcel data for specified land masses. Information can be retrieved in several formats that include computer generated maps, reports, etc. (<i>PCC Title 19, Appendix A</i>)
Geologic & Geomorphic Processes	The actions or events that shape and control the distribution of materials, their states and their morphology within the interior and on the surface of the earth.
Geomorphology	The geologic study of the shape and evolution of the earth's landforms.
Glacial Outwash	Sand and gravel which has been transported and deposited by streams of water coming from glaciers, highly permeable (<i>Nisqually River Basin, Draft 2514 Technical Assessment, 6-2002</i>).
Glacial Till	Surface or near-surface soil that has been compressed by a past glacier into a dense, relatively impermeable material. It typically has a low infiltration rate and is often responsible for the formation of ponds, wetlands or a seasonally high water table.
Glide	A shallow stream reach with a maximum depth that is five percent (5%) or less of the average stream width, a water velocity less than 20 centimeters (8 inches) per second, and without surface turbulence.
Global Positioning System (GPS)	A system for accurately determining the position of a point on the globe using signals from a set of orbiting satellites. Typically accurate to within 100 feet.
Gradient (of stream)	Degree of inclination of a stream channel parallel to stream flow; it may be represented as a ratio, fraction, percentage or angle.
Groundwater	The water contained in interconnected pores located below the water table in an unconfined aquifer or located in a confined aquifer. (<i>Nisqually River Basin, Draft 2514 Technical Assessment, 6-2002</i>)
Groundwater Flooding	The occurrence of surface and subsurface water resulting in flood inundation, due to the fluctuation of the water table. It encompasses depth, frequency, and duration and is usually seasonal by characteristic. (<i>Draft Definitions for PCC Title 18, 1-2002</i>)

Habitat	The sum total of all the environmental factors of a specific place that is occupied by an organism, a population or a community. <i>(PCC Title 19, Appendix A)</i>
Habitat Protection	Preservation of ecosystems with relatively natural habitat conditions by preventing future impacts from manmade disturbances.
Habitat Preservation	Conservation of existing habitat, generally through acquisition of existing habitat.
Hydrologic Regime	The timing, magnitude, duration and spatial distribution of peak, high, and low flows. Hydrologic regimes common in Washington include rain, rain-on-snow, and snowmelt-dominated runoff patterns. <i>(Nisqually River Basin, Draft 2514 Technical Assessment, 6-2002)</i>
Hydrologic Soil Group	A classification of soils by the Soil Conservation Service into four runoff potential groups. The groups range from A soils, which are very permeable and produce little runoff, to D soils, which are not very permeable and produce much more runoff. <i>(1991 Storm Drainage & Surface Water Management Plan)</i>
Impervious Surface	A hard surface, which either prevents or retards the entry of water into the soil mantle as under natural conditions prior to development, and/or a hard surface area, which causes water to run off the surface in greater quantities or at an increased rate of flow than the flow present under natural conditions prior to development. Common impervious surfaces include, but are not limited to, roof tops, walkways, patios, driveways, parking lots or storage areas, concrete or asphalt paving, gravel roads, gravel parking lots, packed earthen materials, and oiled, macadam or other surfaces which similarly impede the natural infiltration of stormwater. <i>(PC Stormwater Management & Site Development Manual, 1999; Draft Tri-County 4(d) Rule Proposal 5-2002; Draft Definitions for PCC Title 18, 1-2002)</i>
Incised Channel	A stream channel in which the bed has dropped and as a result, the stream is disconnected from its floodplain.
Infiltration	The downward movement of water from the surface to the subsoil. The infiltration capacity is expressed in terms of inches per hour. <i>(1991 Storm Drainage & Surface Water Management Plan)</i>

Infiltration Facility	A drainage facility designed to use the hydrologic process of surface and stormwater runoff soaking into the ground, commonly referred to as percolation, to dispose of surface and stormwater runoff. (<i>PCC Stormwater Management & Site Development Manual, 1999</i>)
Instream Flow	Instream flow is the amount of water in a stream required to support or protect existing uses of fish and fish habitat. (<i>Glossary of Parameters, Washington State Section 303(b) Report, 9-2001</i>)
Intermittent Stream Channel	Streams or stream reaches that carry water consistently for part of the year and are dry during the remainder of the year. See ephemeral stream channel.
Landscape	All the natural features such as grasslands, hills, forest and water, which distinguish one part of the earth's surface from another part; usually that portion of land that the eye can comprehend in a single view, including all its natural characteristics.
Large woody debris (LWD)	Any piece of woody material generally 12 inches or larger in diameter that intrudes into a stream channel or nearby (e.g., logs, stumps or root wads) and that functions to form pools, regulate sediments, disperse stream energy, create channel complexity, stabilize channels, provide instream organic matter, and provide cover for fish.
Leachate	Percolating water which has picked up dissolved materials (typically pollutants).
LID	See Low Impact Development.
Limiting Factors	Conditions that limit the ability of habitat to fully sustain populations of salmon.
Losing Stream	A stream or reach of a stream that loses water by seepage into the ground; also known as an influent stream. (<i>Nisqually River Basin, Draft 2514 Technical Assessment, 6-2002</i>)
Low Impact Development (LID)	The use of designs which incorporate low impact best management practices (BMPs) into site development with the goal of alleviating both specific and cumulative hydrologic impacts from changes in land use. (<i>Draft Tri-County 4(d) Rule Proposal 5-2002</i>)
LWD	See Large Woody Debris.
Macrobenthic Invertebrates	Small animals which spend a portion of their life cycle within the bottom substrate of a water body.

Main Stem	The principal channel of a stream to which tributaries join.
Meander Pattern	A series of sinuous curves or loops in the course of a stream that are produced as a stream swings from side to side in flowing across its floodplain.
Mitigation	Avoiding, rectifying, minimizing, reducing, compensating for or eliminating probable significant adverse impacts to a natural resource or environment. See also WAC 197-11-768. <i>(Summary form of definition in the Draft Tri-County 4(d) Rule Proposal 5-2002)</i>
NMFS	National Marine Fisheries Service.
Native	Occurring naturally in a habitat or region; not introduced by humans.
Natural Flow	Stream flow values as they would have occurred in a state of nature preceding any human influences that might alter the flow including diversions from a river or changes in land use or land cover. <i>(Nisqually River Basin, Draft 2514 Technical Assessment, 6-2002)</i>
NTU	Nephelometric Turbidity Unit; a measure of water turbidity.
Off-Channel Habitat	Ponds, oxbows, sloughs and other backwater areas with cover that provide high-quality rearing habitat for juvenile salmon and refuge during storm flows.
Open Space	A landscape which is primarily unimproved. Open space areas may include: critical areas, wooded areas, and parks, trails, privately owned natural reserves, abandoned railroad lines, utility corridors, and other vacant rights-of-way. Permanent dedications, designation, or reservation of open space for public or private use may occur in accordance with Comprehensive Plan policies. Open space may include Natural Open Space, Natural Buffer Areas, Buffers, and Screening. <i>(Draft Definitions for PCC Title 18, 1-2002)</i>
pH	A symbol for the degree of acidity or alkalinity of a solution. pH values from 0 – 7 indicate acidity and from 7 -14 indicate alkalinity. <i>(Websters New World Dictionary, 1984).</i>
Palustrine Wetlands	Nontidal wetlands that are dominated by trees, shrubs, persistent or nonpersistent emergents, mosses, or lichens body.
Peak Discharge	The maximum instantaneous rate of flow during a storm, usually in reference to a specific design storm event <i>(1991 Storm Drainage & Surface Water Management Plan).</i>
Perennial Stream	A watercourse that flows throughout the year <i>(A Dictionary of Geography, Oxford University Press, 1997).</i>

Pervious	A solid surface that contains a sufficient amount of void space to allow water to infiltrate through it. (<i>Draft Definitions for PCC Title 18, 1-2002</i>).
Piezometer	A small diameter tube, pipe or well used to measure the elevation of the water table body.
Pothole	A closed drainage basin from which there is no surface water outlet. (<i>PC Stormwater Management & Site Development Manual, 1999</i>).
Priority Habitat	A seasonal range or habitat element with which a given species has a primary association and which, if altered, may reduce the likelihood that the species will maintain or increase population over the long term. These might include areas of high relative density, breeding habitat, winter range, and movement corridors. Priority habitats might also include areas that are of limited availability or high vulnerability to alteration, such as cliffs, talus, wetlands, etc. (<i>Draft Definitions for PCC Title 18, 1-2002</i>)
Priority Species	An animal species of concern due to their population status and their sensitivity to habitat manipulation. Priority species include species of concern, monitor species, candidate species, priority game species, as well as other game and non-game species. (<i>Draft Definitions for PCC Title 18, 1-2002</i>)
Programmatic	Relating to a plan or procedure for dealing with some matter, e.g., regulations, policy guidelines, site design standards, operational policies and procedures, technical assistance, enforcement, and public outreach and educational programs.
Reach	A segment of a stream channel where the cross-section, slope and roughness of the channel are constant. Simulation of the flow in streams is done by dividing the stream channel into reaches. (<i>adapted from Nisqually River Basin, Draft 2514 Technical Assessment, 6-2002</i>)
Recharge Area	An area in which there are downward components of hydraulic head in the aquifer; where infiltration moves downward into the deeper parts of an aquifer (<i>Nisqually River Basin, Draft 2514 Technical Assessment, 6-2002</i>). 
Redd	Spawning nest made by salmonid fish.

Reed Canary Grass	An invasive grass species that thrives in open, wet areas, often a nuisance plant in riparian and wetland areas.
Reference Site (Stream Geomorphology Context)	The stable morphological stream type in the system. The type may, or may not, be in a pristine state. The majority of time, it is not pristine, however, the important geomorphologic and most likely vegetative components are there to sustain a long-term stable stream type. The reference site would fall within the range of natural variability for geomorphic type and bed load transport.
Regional Stormwater Facility	Stormwater detention, retention or water quality control facility designed to manage runoff from large tracts of land (subbasins) (<i>PCC Stormwater Management & Site Development Manual</i>).
Restoration	The reestablishment of a viable wetland or critical fish or wildlife habitat area from a previously filled or degraded site (<i>Draft Definitions for PCC Title 18, 1-2002</i>).
Retention	The holding of runoff in a basin without release except by means of evaporation, infiltration or emergency bypass (<i>1991 Storm Drainage & Surface Water Management Plan</i>).
Riffles	Shallow reaches with low subcritical flow (1-4 percent gradient) in alluvial channels of finer particles that are unstable and are characterized by small hydraulic jumps over rough bed material, causing small ripples, waves, and eddies, without breaking the surface tension. Riffles are important in maintaining the water level in the pool immediately upstream of the riffle body.
Right-Of-Way (ROW)	A strip of land held in an easement or separate tract which is occupied or dedicated to be occupied by a publicly or privately dedicated street or railroad, together with property reserved for utilities, transmission lines and extensions, walkways, sidewalks, bikeways, equestrian trails, and other similar uses.
Riparian Area	"Riparian area" means land areas directly influenced by a body of water. Usually such areas have visible vegetation or physical characteristics showing this water influence. Stream sides, lake borders, and marshes are typical riparian areas. Generally refers to such areas along flowing bodies of water. The term <i>Littoral</i> is generally used to denote such areas along non-flowing bodies of water. (<i>Draft Definitions for PCC Title 18, 1-2002</i>)

Riprap	A combination of large stone, cobbles and boulders used to line channels, stabilize banks, reduce runoff velocities or filter out sediment (<i>1991 Storm Drainage & Surface Water Management Plan</i>).
River Mile (RM)	The distance in miles measured from its downstream terminus used for specifying the location of features or facilities along a river (<i>adapted from Nisqually River Basin, Draft 2514 Technical Assessment, 6-2002</i>).
Road Density	A measure of the quantity of roads within a given area of land, usually represented in units of miles of road per square mile of watershed area (<i>Nisqually River Basin, Draft 2514 Technical Assessment, 6-2002</i>).
ROW	See Right-of-Way.
Runoff	Water originating from rainfall and other precipitation that is found in drainage facilities, rivers, streams, springs, seeps, ponds, lakes and wetlands, as well as shallow ground water (<i>PC Stormwater Management & Site Development Manual, 1999</i>).
Rural Lands	Lands, which are not within an urban growth area and are not designated as natural resource lands having long term commercial significance for production of agricultural products, timber, or the extraction of minerals. (<i>PCC 18A.10.050 and Draft Definitions for PCC Title 18, 1-2002</i>)
SEPA	State Environmental Policy Act (RCW 43C).
Salmonids	Fish of the family Salmonidae, including salmon, trout, char (salmon and steelhead stock inventory), whitefish and grayling native to Washington State.
Scour	Process by which floodwaters remove soil around objects that obstructs flow, such as the foundation wall of a house, the channel of a stream, or below a culvert.
Sediment	Solid material settled from suspension in a liquid (<i>Office of Water Programs, California State University, Sacramento, 2-2002</i>).
Sedimentation	The process of settling and depositing of suspending matter carried by runoff; usually occurring by gravity when the velocity of the surface water is reduced below the point at which it can transport the suspended material (<i>Office of Water Programs, California State University, Sacramento, 2-2002</i>).

Sinuosity	The ratio of stream channel length (measured in the thalweg) to the down-valley distance, or is also the ratio of the valley slope to the channel slope. When measured accurately from aerial photos, channel sinuosity is also used to estimate channel slope (valley slope/sinuosity). Sometimes sinuosity is referred to as the meander of a stream.)
Site Development Standards	A variety of standards applied to site development that can include, among others, principles for placement of buildings on site, provision of open space, access roads, drainage facilities, lighting, parking and landscaping. (<i>PCC Title 19, Appendix A</i>)
Soil Permeability	The ease with which gases, liquids, or plant roots penetrate or pass through a layer of soil. (<i>PC Stormwater Management & Site Development Manual, 1999</i>)
Spawning Habitat	Areas used by adult fish for laying and fertilizing eggs.
Stade	A short period of time (less than 10,000 years) characterized by climatic conditions associated with maximum glacial extent. (<i>Nisqually River Basin, Draft 2514 Technical Assessment, 6-2002</i>)
Stakeholder	An individual, jurisdiction, agency, or entity with an interest in the outcome of the planning process.
Storm Drains	The enclosed conduits that transport surface and stormwater runoff toward points of discharge.(sometimes referred to as storm sewers) (<i>PC Stormwater Management & Site Development Manual, 1999</i>)
Stormflow	The portion of flow which reaches the stream shortly after a storm event. (<i>1991 Storm Drainage & Surface Water Management Plan</i>)
Stormwater	The portion of precipitation that does not naturally percolate into the ground or evaporate, but flows via overland flow, interflow, channels or pipes into a defined surface water channel, or a constructed facility. (<i>PCC Stormwater Management & Site Development Manual, 1999</i>)
Stormwater Management	Management of the quantity, quality and conveyance of surface water runoff from precipitation.
Stream	A channel of perennial or intermittent flowing water.
Subbasin	A drainage area which drains to a watercourse or water body named and noted on common maps and which is contained within a basin; a basin or area which is part of a larger drainage basin or area. (<i>Draft Tri-County 4(d) Rule Proposal 5-2002</i>)

Substrate	The rock or soil material present in the bottom of the stream or river, including muck, sand, gravel, boulders and bedrock. (<i>Nisqually River Basin, Draft 2514 Technical Assessment, 6-2002</i>)
Surface Water	"Surface water" means an open body of water that flows or is collected on the earth's surface such as rivers, lakes, reservoirs, ponds, streams, seas, estuaries, etc., and all springs, wells, or other collectors directly influenced by surface water. (<i>Draft Definitions for PCC Title 18, 1-2002</i>)
Swale	A natural depression or wide shallow channel that temporarily stores, routes or filters runoff. (<i>1991 Storm Drainage & Surface Water Management Plan</i>)
Total Impervious Surface Area	The percentage of the surface area occupied by all impermeable surfaces. It includes both effective impervious surfaces that are connected to the surface water drainage system and the non-effective impervious surfaces that discharge to permeable surfaces where stormwater can infiltrate into the ground.
Total Nitrogen	The amount of nitrogen in water that is available for plant growth or exceeds the necessary amount. (<i>adapted from Glossary of Parameters, Washington State Section 303(b) Report, 9-2001</i>)
Total Phosphorus	Total phosphorus (in the form of phosphate) is a major source of nutrients for plant life, too much in water increases algae growth which can use up available oxygen necessary for the survival of fish and other inhabitants of fresh and marine waters. (<i>adapted from Glossary of Parameters, Washington State Section 303(b) Report, 9-2001</i>)
Total Suspended Solids (TSS)	A measure of the weight of mineral or organic solids suspended in a given volume of water; used as a measure of sedimentation or siltation and as an indicator of pollutants known to attach to solids. (<i>adapted from A Citizen's Guide to Understanding & Monitoring Lakes and Streams, WSDOE, 6-3-2002</i>)
Tri-County Endangered Species Act Response	A collaborative effort of Pierce, King and Snohomish Counties with Indian tribes, cities, businesses and environmental organizations to resolve issues surrounding recovery of depressed salmon stocks. Also known as the Tri-County Salmon Recovery effort. (<i>Adapted from information on the Tri-county Salmon Information Center website - www.salmoninfo.org</i>)
TSS	See Total Suspended Solids.

Turbidity	A measure of the amount of light scattered from a sample and therefore a measure of suspended solids in water. Too high of turbidity indicates blockage of sunlight needed for aquatic life and high sediment levels. <i>(Adapted from Glossary of Parameters, Washington State Section 303(b) Report, 9-2001 and Chapter 3, A citizen's Guide to Understanding & Monitoring Lakes and Streams, 6-3-2002)</i>
Undercutting	The removal of material at the base of a steep slope or cliff by the erosive action of waves, running or seeping water, or windblown sand. <i>(Draft Definitions for PCC Title 18, 1-2002)</i>
Undeveloped	A property in a state generally approaching being native or natural covered with living, mature vegetation. <i>(Draft Tri-County 4(d) Rule Proposal 5-2002)</i>
Urban Growth Area	Those areas established through the designation of a boundary which separates existing and future urban areas from rural and resource areas. An urban growth area defines where developments will be directed and supported with historical and typical urban governmental services and facilities, such as storm and sanitary sewer systems, domestic water systems, street cleaning services, fire protection services, and public transit services. Urban Growth Areas are established by the Pierce County Comprehensive Plan. <i>(Draft Definitions for PCC Title 18, 1-2002)</i>
USGS (United States Geological Survey)	Agency within the federal Department of the Interior responsible for collecting and distributing stream flow data for the nation. <i>(Nisqually River Basin, Draft 2514 Technical Assessment, 6-2002)</i>
Water Body	Surface waters including rivers, streams, lakes, ponds, marine waters, estuaries, and wetlands. <i>(Draft Definitions for PCC Title 18, 1-2002)</i>
Water Resources Inventory Area (WRIA)	An administrative and planning unit in Washington State that encompasses a large river basin. <i>(Nisqually River Basin, Draft 2514 Technical Assessment, 6-2002)</i>
Watershed	The region drained by or contributing water to a stream, lake, or other body of water. <i>(PCC Title 19, Appendix A)</i>
Water Table	The upper level of groundwater or the zone of saturation for underground water. It is an irregular surface with a slope or shape determined by the quantity of ground water and the permeability of the earth material. Also referred to as <i>Groundwater Table</i> . <i>(Shortened from Draft Definitions for PCC Title 18, 1-2002)</i>
WDFW	Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife.

WDOE	Washington State Department of Ecology.
WDOH	Washington State Department of Health.
Wetland	Areas that are inundated or saturated by surface water or ground water at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and that under normal circumstances do support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions. Wetlands generally include swamps, marshes, bogs, and similar areas. Wetlands generally do not include those artificial wetlands intentionally created from nonwetland sites, including, but not limited to, irrigation and drainage ditches, grass-lined swales, canals, detention facilities, wastewater treatment facilities, farm ponds, and landscape amenities; or those wetlands created after July 1, 1990, that were unintentionally created as a result of the construction of a road, street, or highway. However, wetlands may include those artificial wetlands intentionally created from nonwetland areas created to mitigate conversion of wetlands, if permitted by Pierce County. (<i>RCW 36.70A.030 & PCC Title 19, Appendix A</i>)
WRIA	See Water Resources Inventory Area.
Zoning	The process by which a county or a municipality legally controls the use of property and physical configuration of development upon tracts of land within its jurisdiction. Zoning is an exercise of the police power and as such must be enacted for the protection of public health, safety and welfare. (<i>PCC Title 19, Appendix A</i>)