



# Pierce County

Department of Planning and Land Services

## **“Creating the Best Permitting Agency in the State through new Policy Improvements”**

### **New Policy for Rating Wetlands:**

On January 1, 2015, Department of Ecology updated the Washington State Wetland Rating System for eastern and western Washington. The update provides a more accurate characterization of wetland functions based on the most recent science.

Effective July 1, 2015, Pierce County Planning and Land Services, PALS, will use the 2014 Washington State Wetland Rating System for categorizing wetlands in Pierce County.

For information on the new rating system please reference the Department of Ecology Website (<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/>) or the following link:

<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/sea/wetlands/ratingsystems/2014updates.html> (Please use the Conversion tables for “Converting Category Scores”)

### **Are you using the new SEPA Checklist?**

**SEPA Reminder:** On May 12, 2014, the SEPA Environmental Checklist was revised by Washington Administrative Code, 197-11-960. The checklist was amended to include questions about farm and forestlands, expand the historic and cultural preservation and environmental health questions, and more.

The new checklist is available on the County website for via the Link: [Environmental Checklist](#).

And through the Ecology link:

<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/sea/sepa/agenciesApplicantsGuidance.html>

**Electronic Submittal Process....Feed Back Please:** In my last industry notice I asked you take a moment and let me know how the **Electronic Application** process is working for YOU. I have heard from a few of you, but I would appreciate hearing from more of you. Can you please tell me:

- If you have submitted for an application electronically, what was your

experience?

- If you have completed a re-submittal using email, what was your experience?
- Have you had an opportunity to search through all the '**project specific**' review material available through the [PALS Online Permits](#) Application/Permit Lookup? What was your experience?

Best Permitting Efforts work best when we have good feedback from our customers. Thanks in advance for input and your continued support of our efforts to be the best!

Dennis Hanberg

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