

Kyla Boswell

From: Sears, Tricia (DNR) <Tricia.Sears@dnr.wa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, July 2, 2024 10:56 AM
To: Michael Cerbone
Cc: Sears, Tricia (DNR); Long, Lexine (COM)
Subject: Ferndale's Critical Areas Ordinance: WGS comments

EXTERNAL EMAIL

7/2/24

Hello Michael,

In keeping with the interagency correspondence principles, I am providing you with comments on the proposed changes to the Ferndale's Critical Areas Ordinance (Commerce ID# 2024-S-7172).

For this proposal submitted via Planview, I looked at the proposal and focused on areas related to WGS work. Of note, but not limited to, I look for language around the geologically hazardous areas, mineral resource lands, mining climate change, and natural hazards mitigation plans.

Specifically in this proposal, I reviewed Chapter 16.08 Critical Areas. Kudos to you for updating your CAO.

Section 16.08.060 Critical area maps. The section refers to Appendix B to be used as a reference. In Appendix B, consider adding a reference to the WGS Geologic Information Portal. If you have not checked our interactive database, the WGS Geologic Information Portal, lately, you may wish to do so. [Geologic Information Portal | WA - DNR](#) You may also wish to add references to USGS maps related to earthquakes and volcanoes. These DNR and USGS maps provide support for your geologically hazardous areas provisions.

Section 16.08.430 Geologically hazardous areas classification. This section does not include landslides as a category. Consider adding a reference to WAC 365-190-120 geologically hazardous areas for definitions.

Section 16.08.440 Geologically hazardous areas indicators. The provision states that these are indicators for the need for a geologically hazardous area detailed report. It's not clear when /how the information in subsection C would be provided in the process. Wouldn't you need the detailed report to be submitted to have that finding from the qualified geologist or geotechnical engineer? It's good to see the deed requirement in subsection F of this section.

It's good to see the definition of qualified consultant in Appendix X.

Some jurisdictions have critical areas/geologically hazardous areas provisions that require temporary and or permanent physically marking the areas, and signage. Have you considered this?

Recognizing the limitations of the current proposals, I want to mention that it would be great for you to consider these in future work, be it in your comprehensive plan, development code, and SMP updates, and in your work in general:

- Consider adding a reference to WAC 365-190-120 geologically hazardous areas for definitions in other areas besides the CAO. In addition, consider adding a reference to WAC 365-196-480 for natural resource lands.
- Consider adding a reference to the WGS Geologic Information Portal in other areas besides the CAO. If you have not checked our interactive database, the WGS Geologic Information Portal, lately, you may wish to do so. [Geologic Information Portal | WA - DNR](#)
- If you have not checked out our Geologic Planning page, you may wish to do so. [Geologic Planning | WA - DNR](#)

Thank you for considering our comments. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me. For your convenience, if there are no concerns or follow-up discussion, you may consider these comments to be final as of the 60-day comment deadline of 8/24/24.

Cheerio,
Tricia

Tricia R. Sears (she/her/hers)
Geologic Planning Liaison
Washington Geological Survey (WGS)
Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR)
Cell: 360-628-2867 | Email: tricia.sears@dnr.wa.gov