

# Appendix L: Quantifying Habitat Types for Acquisition Projects

For acquisition projects or combination projects with an acquisition component, applicants must quantify the acreage of lake, riparian, tideland, upland, or wetland habitat present on the property to be acquired to determine the required matching share; for more information see the Matching Share Section. For this purpose, uplands are those areas that fall outside of other specified habitat types and their buffers.

Riparian acreage may include the entire channel migration zone and floodplain. For guidance to determine the channel migration zone for riparian projects, applicants may refer to the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife's 2020 [Riparian Ecosystems, Volume 2: Management Recommendations](#).

For quantifying buffers around lakes, tidelands, and wetlands, sponsors may choose to apply a "standard buffer" or a "site-specific buffer." The standard buffer is a simple method for quantifying habitat types. The site-specific buffer is based on the site potential tree height at 200 years (SPTH<sub>200</sub>).

The **standard buffer** requires a 200-foot buffer around lakes, streams, channel migration zones, floodplains, and tidelands. Wetlands that are hydrologically connected to fish-bearing waters also have a 200-foot buffer; those that are not connected to fish-bearing waters have a 100-foot buffer.

The **site-specific buffer** requires that a buffer of one SPTH<sub>200</sub> is used around all habitat types except wetlands. For wetlands, the site-specific buffer width should be based on the county critical area ordinance.

When using the site-specific buffer, the application should reference the site potential tree height used and the section of county code where the wetland buffer widths are

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listed. Applicants may use the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife's [SPTH<sub>200</sub> mapping tool](#) to determine the appropriate site potential tree height.

Regardless of the above calculation methods used, all property areas outside of these habitat types and their buffers are considered "uplands" for the purposes of determining an applicant's required matching share.

**Note:** The "standard" and "site-specific" buffers are tools for a streamlined, consistent approach for estimating relative proportions of habitat types for the purpose of applying for Salmon Recovery Funding Board acquisition grants. If restoration projects are subsequently pursued on the property, regulatory buffers may vary by jurisdiction.