



King County
Department of Development
and Environmental Services
900 Oakesdale Avenue Southwest
Renton, WA 98057-5212
206-296-6600 TTY 206-296-7217

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SELECTING A WETLANDS / STREAM CONSULTANT

For alternate formats, call 206-296-6600.

There are a number of factors you should consider before hiring a wetlands or stream consultant. Be sure to ask the following questions before making your selection:

- Training:** Does the consultant have a Bachelor's Degree in Biology, Botany, Wildlife Biology, Fisheries, Zoology, Ecology or Environmental or Soil Science?
- Wetlands:** Is the consultant trained in the use of the Washington State Wetlands Identification and Delineation Manual (1997). This is the wetlands methodology approved by King County. Does the consultant have additional training or expertise in wetland ecology, wetland plant species identification, hydric soils or hydrology?
- Streams:** Is the consultant trained in doing stream surveys using USDA Forest Service Stream Habitat Classification and Inventory Procedures? This is the methodology approved by King County Department of Development and Environmental Services.
- Experience:** How long has the consultant been doing wetland/stream work? How much experience does he/she have delineating wetlands in the field, assessing wetland values, or working with wetland regulations? How much experience does he/she have surveying stream systems in the Pacific Northwest? Has the consultant worked in King County? King County requires at least one year of experience within western Washington.
- References:** Who were some of the consultant's past clients? Were they satisfied customers? Call them and find out with whom they worked from the consulting firm and how they liked working with them. Ask whether there were any problems that occurred during or after the project, how the consultant handled those problems and what they charged for their work.
- Staff:** Who will be working on your project? Will it be the principal consultant with the years of experience or someone with less experience who works for them? Know who you are hiring!
- Cost:** How much will the consultant cost? Compare rates but do not let cost be your sole criteria. Be sure to consider training, experience and the other factors as well.

Wetlands/stream consultants may be found in the Yellow Pages of your phone directory (or the directories of the larger cities) under the headings of "Environmental and Ecological Services," "Consultant -- Environmental" and "Wetlands Consultants."

For information about the DDES [preferred consultants program](#), which includes a list of preferred wetland consultants, visit the DDES Web site at www.kingcounty.gov/permits. To reach DDES Critical Areas staff, call 206-296-6600.

[Customer information bulletins](#) also are available via the Department's Web site, or call DDES Customer Service at 206-296-6600 to request information by mail.

Check out the DDES Web site at www.kingcounty.gov/permits