

Existing Regulation(s)	Proposed Amendment & Description
<p>The existing wildlife habitat corridor regulations (SMC 21A.50.327) provide for wildlife habitat corridors with an “ideal” width of 300 feet, which may be reduced to 150 feet. Development of property within the wildlife habitat corridor is limited (buildings and structures are generally prohibited).</p>	<p>Revise the wildlife corridor standards to increase wildlife protection in those areas not already constrained by existing development. Increased protection entails an increase to the width of wildlife habitat corridors (minimum widths) to better address benefits and impacts.</p>
<p>Desired Result of Amendment: Wildlife habitat corridors are intended to protect and preserve connections between habitats along a designated wildlife habitat network; the proposed regulations would improve the value of such connections to wildlife.</p>	

Amendment Source:

Best Available Science Report “Streams and Fish and Wildlife Habitat Conservation Areas” by AMEC Environment & Infrastructure, Inc.

Best Available Science Support: Supported

Best Available Science Report “Streams and Fish and Wildlife Habitat Conservation Areas” by AMEC Environment & Infrastructure, Inc.

Relevant Information (includes technical papers and/or references):

- East Sammamish Draft EIS, King County Planning & Community Development, July 1992
- East Sammamish Basin and Non Point Action Plan, King County SWM Division, December 1994
- WDFW Species and Habitat Management Recommendations website:
http://wdfw.wa.gov/conservation/phs/mgmt_recommendations/

Affected Code Section(s) (includes duplicative and overlapping sections):

- 21A.50.327 Wildlife habitat corridors

Public Comment Reference(s):

35, 118

Notes:

Ratings are either: large positive (P), small positive (p), neutral, large negative (N), small negative (n)			
Environmental	p	Implementation	p
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased on-site protection of wildlife corridor Neutral protection of public assets and resources (e.g. streets, water quality) Decreased cumulative impacts to wildlife corridors Neutral potential to restore damaged wildlife corridors Decreased chance of damage to wildlife corridors Decreased potential to damage high quality, unique wildlife corridor Decreased loss of wildlife corridor functions and values <p>Increasing the minimum width of wildlife corridors will better protect wildlife habitat on site and connections between habitat areas. The amendment would result in reduced chances of damage to wildlife corridors in general as well as unique high quality corridors. There would likely be an incremental improvement in water quality, where the wildlife corridor coincides with a stream or wetland system.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clearer regulations, lesser chance for unintended consequences Increased ability for consistent, efficient implementation by the staff Increased likelihood of support/approval by other agencies Neutral effective mitigation, easier to monitor <p>Standardizing the (increased) width of wildlife corridors increases certainty of requirements, and provides for more efficient and consistent implementation. The increased protection increases the likelihood of other agency approval. There is no effect on mitigation.</p>	
Property	N	Overall Effect	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decreased flexibility and options for property owner's use of property Increased predictability for permit applicants and neighbors Continued recognition of site improvements and existing uses in standards <p>Neutral effect on expense / time</p> <p>An increase width of wildlife corridor decreases flexibility for property owners, but increases predictability for applicants and neighbors. Site improvements would continue to be recognized, and no additional expense or time would be required. Affects those properties on designated wildlife corridors.</p>		<h2>Negative</h2>	

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<p><u>Desired Result of Amendment:</u> Wildlife habitat corridors are intended to protect and preserve connections between habitats along a designated wildlife habitat network; the proposed regulations would improve the value of such connections to wildlife.</p>	

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