

Concise Explanatory Statement (CES)

Concise Explanatory Statement for:

HPA rule making implementing RCW 77.55.480 regarding streamlining of environmental permitting for habitat recovery projects

Rules amended as part of this rulemaking:

N/A

Rules repealed as part of this rulemaking:

N/A

Rules created as part of this rulemaking:

WAC 220-660-490 Habitat Recovery Projects

1. Background/Summary of Project:

A new rule in chapter 220-660 WAC is necessary to implement RCW 77.55.480. This statute was passed into law as Engrossed Second Substitute House Bill 1382 (Laws of 2021, c. 75) during the 2021 legislative session. The statute creates a habitat recovery pilot program. The program provides a streamlined permitting process so that qualified habitat recovery projects may advance to construction quickly and efficiently, thereby creating jobs and further bolstering the natural resources and natural resource economy. WDFW will evaluate qualified HPA project applications according to the process described in statute. Other aspects of chapter 220-660 WAC remain unchanged.

2. Reasons for adopting the rule:

This rule proposal adopts the habitat recovery pilot program by reference to statute. The expedited proposal ensures that the pilot program is implemented quickly, allowing it to be fully functional for the longest duration possible before its designated sunset date.

3. Differences between the text of the proposed rule and the rule as adopted:

No changes from the proposed rule.

4. Public comments, response to comments, and consideration of comments

This is an expedited rule. No comments or objections were received during the 45-day waiting period. Therefore, the agency is entering an order adopting the rule without further notice or a public hearing.