



Planning & Community Development

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Qualified Professionals

Critical Area Reports must be prepared by a qualified professional.

What is a qualified professional?

A qualified professional is a person with experience, training and competence in the pertinent discipline. A qualified professional must be licensed to practice in the State of Washington in the related professional field, if such field is licensed. If not licensed, a qualified professional must have a national certification in the pertinent field. If national certification in the field does not exist, the minimum qualification should be a bachelor's degree with 10 years of related professional work, or master's degree in the field and three years of related professional work. Minimum qualifications for specific fields of practice shall include but not be limited to the following:



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- A. Arborists must be certified arborists as defined in SMC [20.20.014](#) and have a valid ISA Tree Risk Assessment Qualification (TRAQ).
- B. Professionals for geologic hazard areas must be licensed and endorsed in the State of Washington as a geotechnical engineer or engineering geologist as defined in SMC [20.20.018](#) and [20.20.022](#).
- C. Professionals for streams and other fish and wildlife habitat must have a degree in biology, environmental planning, natural science, stream ecology or related field and the minimum years of experience, listed above, related to the subject habitat or species.
- D. Professionals for vegetation restoration planning where specific expertise for wetlands, streams or other fish and wildlife habitat is not required must have a degree in botany, environmental planning, natural science, ecology, landscape architecture or a related field and the minimum years of experience, listed above, with an emphasis on restoration ecology and vegetation management associated with critical areas and buffers. Professionals must demonstrate a minimum of three years of experience with the type of critical area of buffer for which the critical area report is being submitted.
- E. Professionals for wetlands must be currently certified as a professional wetland scientist (PWS) with the Society of Wetland Scientists or meet the minimum education and years of experience, listed above, as a wetland professional.
- F. Minimum qualifications of professionals for other disciplines shall be determined by the Director consistent with the minimum qualifications defined above and specific to the discipline identified. (Ord. 724 § 1 (Exh. A), 2015; Ord. 324 § 1, 2003).

Documentation verifying the qualified professional's qualifications must be submitted with a critical area report. Documentation includes a copy of their professional license, or certification, credentials, and/or resume.

Hours of Operation:

Monday 8:00 am-5:00 pm
Tuesday 8:00 am-5:00 pm
Wednesday 1:00 pm-5:00 pm
Thursday 8:00 am-5:00 pm
Friday 8:00 am-5:00 pm

Permit Processing Ends at 4:00 pm Daily