

FACT SHEET

LUMMI NATION WETLAND MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Frequently Asked Questions	Response
What is a Wetland?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wetlands are legally defined as, “those areas that are inundated or saturated by surface or ground water at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and that under normal circumstances do support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions. Wetlands generally include swamps, marshes, bogs, and similar areas” (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers [Corps] 1987). • For an area to be classified as a wetland, it must exhibit all three characteristics: water loving (hydrophytic) vegetation, saturated or water logged (hydric) soils, and hydrologic processes that support wetland functions. In general, a wetland is an area that is seasonally submerged under water or has saturated soils for 23 days of the growing season (April – September).
Are there Wetlands on the Lummi Indian Reservation?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 1999 comprehensive inventory of Lummi Reservation wetlands indicated that approximately 43 percent of the Reservation upland areas are either wetlands or wetland complexes. Of these Reservation wetlands, about 60 percent are located in the flood plains of the Lummi and Nooksack rivers. • Wetland complexes are areas where wetlands formed a highly interspersed mosaic with upland hummocks. During the 1999 wetland inventory, boundaries were drawn around the outer edges of the mosaic and the entire area labeled a “wetland complex”. As a result, the estimated wetland area identified in the inventory generally represents more wetland area than actually exists. All wetland boundaries mapped during the 1999 wetland inventory are general boundaries based on interpretation of color and infrared aerial photographs with some field verification. An effort has been underway since 2005 to improve the spatial resolution of the 1999 wetland inventory. In addition, specific wetland boundaries will be delineated on the ground as needed for specific activities.
Why are Reservation Wetlands Important?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wetlands perform important functions including: ground water recharge/discharge; flood flow storage (reduction in peak discharge); maintaining base stream flow; shoreline stabilization; food chain support by providing habitat for a variety of terrestrial and aquatic organisms; microbial control; and removal or reduction of sediment, nutrients, and toxicants from waters. • Wetlands provide areas of cultural significance, recreation opportunities, and outdoor education opportunities.
Do Tribal or Federal Laws protect Reservation Wetlands?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Title 17 of the Lummi Code of Laws and Section 401 and Section 404 of the federal Clean Water Act protect Reservation wetlands.
Why is Wetland	Wetland Management on the Reservation is important to:

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Management Important on the Lummi Reservation?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect the functions and values of Reservation wetlands from the impacts of residential and commercial development; • Encourage residential development by and for tribal members as well as commercial and business growth on the Reservation for tribal employment opportunities by providing defined wetland management standards, requirements, and mitigation alternatives for effective project planning; • Protect and enhance fish and shellfish resources, wildlife resources, cultural resources, the quantity and quality of Reservation ground water; and the quantity and quality of storm water.
What Happens if there is a Wetland on My Property and I want to Build a House?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any development that impacts wetlands must comply the Lummi Code of Laws and the Federal Clean Water Act. • If possible, impacts to the wetlands must be avoided (for example, the house should be located on the property where there are no wetlands). • If impacts to the wetlands cannot be avoided, the impacts must be minimized. • If wetland impacts have been avoided or minimized to the extent practicable and there are still impacts, these impacts must be mitigated.
What is Wetland Mitigation?	<p>If development occurs on a wetland, it can result in the loss of all or a portion of the wetland area and the associated wetland functions. Mitigation attempts to maintain a net balance or gain of wetland area and function. There are four general types of wetland mitigation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishment (creation) or Re-establishment of wetlands, Ratio 1 : 1 (for every one acre of wetland destroyed, one new acre is created) • Rehabilitation of degraded wetlands, Ratio 1.5 : 1 • Enhancement of existing wetlands, Ratio 6 : 1 • Preservation of existing wetlands, Ratio 10 : 1
What Actions are Planned for the Reservation Wetland Management Program?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue efforts to develop a wetland and habitat mitigation bank on the Reservation to provide compensatory mitigation of unavoidable impacts to Lummi Nation Waters and waters of the United States, including wetlands, which result from activities authorized under Title 17 and Section 401 and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. • Continue efforts to update and improve the wetland inventory. • Develop wetland management regulations to provide more guidance on acceptable wetland management tools. • Continue to review wetland mitigation plans for proposed development. • Continue to evaluate land use permit applications for potential impacts on Reservation wetlands.