



## Kittitas County Qualified Critical Areas Professionals Roster

### Wetlands/Streams/Shorelines

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**Disclaimer:** *This roster is intended to provide assistance to applicants in retaining a Qualified Professional (when required). Inclusion on this list does not imply recommendation or endorsement by Kittitas County. The use of each or any of the above Qualified Professionals shall be at the applicant’s sole risk.*

There may be other qualified professionals that can help with critical areas on your property. Please see below for qualifications needed. Please know that the Director may reject data and findings from non-qualified consultants or require a third-party review per KCC 17A.01.110.3:

*The Director may engage technical consultants or agencies with expertise to provide third party review and interpret critical area data and findings submitted by or on behalf of the applicant in instances where County*

*staff lack the resources or expertise to review these materials. An applicant may be required to pay for or reimburse the County for the review costs incurred.*

#### 17A.02.620 Qualified Professional.

"Qualified professional" means a person with experience and training in the applicable field or critical area. A qualified professional must have obtained a B.S. or B.A. or equivalent degree in biology, soil science, botany, engineering, environmental studies, fisheries, geology or related field, and a minimum of 2 years of related work experience. Other equivalently qualified professionals may be approved by the Director on a case by case basis.

1. A qualified professional for wetlands and fish and wildlife habitat conservation areas must have a degree in biology, soil science, botany or related fields and relevant professional experience or professional certification (Professional Wetland Scientist Certification) that documents capability in functional assessment and mitigation techniques. For wetlands, Professional Wetland Scientist Certification, or other documentation of expertise, is required.
2. A qualified professional for preparing Geologically Hazardous Area Assessments must be a professional geologist or engineering geologist licensed in the State of Washington.
3. Engineered structures for mitigation of geologic hazards must be designed by a qualified professional engineer or engineering geologist, licensed in the State of Washington.
4. A qualified professional for critical aquifer recharge areas must be a professional hydrogeologist licensed in the State of Washington, who is trained and qualified to analyze geologic, hydrologic, and groundwater flow systems.

How do I locate a Qualified Professional Consultant?

The internet is a great place to start. Use search terms such as: ecological consultant, wetland consultant, stream or aquatic ecologist, wildlife consultant, critical areas consultant, etc. There are online databases that contain lists and forums where these professionals can be found. An example for Wetland Professionals is:

- Society of Wetland Scientists Professional Wetland Scientists:  
<http://www.wetlandcert.org/search.html>

The Department of Ecology also has guidance on hiring qualified wetland professionals:

<https://ecology.wa.gov/Water-Shorelines/Wetlands/Tools-resources/Hiring-a-qualified-wetland-professional>