

Overview of Type N Water Buffer Rule WAC 222-30-021(2) Western WA protection for Type Np and Ns Waters

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Type Np Water Buffer Rule

Type Np Water Buffers under the current rules:

- Two-sided buffers for at least 50% of the length of Type Np stream;
- Buffering is accomplished through a combination of sensitive sites and riparian management zone (RMZ) buffers;
- Buffers are 50- foot wide, two-sided, no-harvest buffers, measured horizontally from the outer edge of bankfull width;
- Length of the buffers are determined using the entire length of the Type Np stream starting at the confluence of the Type Np water with either a Type S or F water.



Type Np Water Buffer Rule

Step 1: Determine the length of required buffer along each side of Type Np Water.

Length of Type Np Water from the confluence with a Type S or F Water	Length of Type Np Water 50 foot buffer (2-sided) from the confluence with a Type S or F Water	Additional buffer based on percent of remaining length
Less than or equal to 300 ‘	100%	-
301 - 1000 ‘	Buffer 300 feet or 50% of the entire length, whichever is greater.	
1001 – 1300’	500’	19%
1301 - 1600 ‘	500’	27%
1601 - 2000 ‘	500’	33%
2001 – 2500’	500’	38%
2501 – 3500’	500’	42%
3501 - 5000 ‘	500’	44%
Greater than 5000’	500’	45%



Type Np Water Buffer Rule

Step 2: Locate and buffer all sensitive sites within the forest practices operating area.

Sensitive Site	No Harvest Buffers
Headwall seeps	The area within 50 feet of the outer perimeter of a soil zone perennially saturated from a headwall seep.
Side-slope seeps	The area within 50 feet of the outer perimeter of a soil zone perennially saturated from a side-slope seep.
Intersection of two or more Type Np Waters	The area within a 56 foot radius buffer patch centered on the point of intersection of two or more Type Np Waters.
Headwater springs, upper most extent of perennial flow (perennial initiation point)	The area within a 56 foot radius buffer patch centered on a headwater spring or, in the absence of a headwater spring, on a point at the upper most extent of a Type Np Water as defined in WAC 222-16-031 .
Alluvial fans	Entire area of an alluvial fan.



Type Np Water Buffer Rule

Step 3 If the percentage of Type Np buffer length is not met by protecting sensitive sites, add Type Np buffers in designated priority areas. Buffered segments must be a minimum of one hundred feet in length:

- Low gradient areas;
- Perennial water reaches of non-sedimentary rock with gradients greater than twenty percent in the tailed frog habitat range;
- Hyporheic and groundwater influence zones; and
- Areas downstream from other buffered areas.

No timber harvest is allowed in the designated priority areas with the exception of:

- construction and maintenance of road crossings and the creation and use of yarding corridors.



Type Np Water Buffer Rule

Harvest Considerations:

- Avoid yarding corridors or road crossings through Type Np Water RMZ or sensitive sites and associated buffers *within reasonable expectations*.
- Avoid management activities resulting in soil compaction, the loss of protective vegetation or sedimentation in perennially moist areas.
- Where yarding corridors or road crossings through Type Np Water RMZs or sensitive sites and their buffers cannot reasonably be avoided, the buffer area must be expanded to protect the sensitive site by an area equivalent to the disturbed area or by providing comparable functions through other management efforts.
- If there is an existing stream-adjacent parallel road within a Type Np Water RMZs or sensitive site buffer, landowners must leave additional acreage equivalent to the number of acres (including partial acres) occupied by the road.



Type Np and Ns Water Buffer Rule

Step 4 Apply the equipment limitation zone (ELZ) provisions:

The ELZ is a 30 foot wide zone measured horizontally from the outer edge of the bankfull width of a Type Np or Ns Water where equipment use and other forest practices are specifically limited;

On-site mitigation is required if any of the following activities within the equipment limitation zone exposes the soil on more than ten percent of the surface area of the zone:

- Ground based equipment;
- Skid trails;
- Stream crossings (other than existing roads); or
- Cabled logs that are partially suspended.

Mitigation must be designed to replace the equivalent of lost functions especially prevention of sediment delivery.

