

**WAC 173-700-315 Considerations for determining credit conversion rates for wetland preservation.** (1) Preserving wetlands may generate credit when the preservation occurs in conjunction with the reestablishment, creation, rehabilitation, or enhancement of a wetland or, in exceptional circumstances, as the sole means of generating credits.

(2) Unless an alternative credit determination method is used under WAC 173-700-321, the department shall use the following considerations to determine specific conversion rates for preserved wetlands on a bank site:

(a) The degree to which the preservation area contributes to the ecological functioning of the overall bank site and the protection of watershed processes;

(b) The site is located in an area identified as a high priority for preservation and restoration in a watershed plan or characterization;

(c) The area proposed for preservation is a high quality wetland system, as determined using the considerations under WAC 173-700-316; and

(d) The area proposed for preservation is at risk because the wetland is under demonstrable threat of loss or substantial degradation, due to human activities that might not otherwise be expected to be restricted based on local zoning codes, critical areas ordinances, Forest Practices Act, and foreseeable future land uses in the watershed.

[Statutory Authority: Chapter 90.84 RCW. WSR 09-19-013 (Order 04-13), § 173-700-315, filed 9/3/09, effective 10/4/09.]