

**RCW 36.70A.172 Critical areas—Designation and protection—Best available science to be used.** (1) In designating and protecting critical areas under this chapter, counties and cities shall include the best available science in developing policies and development regulations to protect the functions and values of critical areas. In addition, counties and cities shall give special consideration to conservation or protection measures necessary to preserve or enhance anadromous fisheries.

(2) If it determines that advice from scientific or other experts is necessary or will be of substantial assistance in reaching its decision, the growth management hearings board may retain scientific or other expert advice to assist in reviewing a petition under RCW 36.70A.290 that involves critical areas. [2010 c 211 § 3; 1995 c 347 § 105.]

**Effective date—Transfer of power, duties, and functions—2010 c 211:** See notes following RCW 36.70A.250.

**Finding—Severability—Part headings and table of contents not law—1995 c 347:** See notes following RCW 36.70A.470.