

**RCW 36.70A.550 Aquifer conservation zones.** (1) Any city coterminous with, and comprised only of, an island that relies solely on groundwater aquifers for its potable water source and does not have reasonable access to a potable water source outside its jurisdiction may designate one or more aquifer conservation zones.

Aquifer conservation zones may only be designated for the purpose of conserving and protecting potable water sources.

(2) Aquifer conservation zones may not be considered critical areas under this chapter except to the extent that specific areas located within aquifer conservation zones qualify for critical area designation and have been designated as such under RCW 36.70A.060(2).

(3) Any city may consider whether an area is within an aquifer conservation zone when determining the residential density of that particular area. The residential densities within conservation zones, in combination with other densities of the city, must be sufficient to accommodate projected population growth under RCW 36.70A.110.

(4) Nothing in this section may be construed to modify the population accommodation obligations required of jurisdictions under this chapter. [2007 c 159 § 1.]