

Which Waterways Are Omitted from the Streamlined Agricultural Drainage Assistance Program

King County has developed a waterway classification system that uses the state's hydraulic code channel designations (natural, modified, and artificial) as well as known or expected level of use by salmonids (high, moderate, low). These classifications are used to determine appropriate best management practices to maintain agricultural drainage.

However, some waterways may not be appropriate for the proposed streamlined Agricultural Drainage Assistance Program (ADAP). This does not necessarily prohibit farmers from applying to conduct drainage maintenance. Rather, such projects may need a grading permit and/or would need to be performed on an individual basis and might require additional or different best management practices (BMPs) as well as possibly additional mitigation.

Below are criteria and rationale for determining which waterways are not eligible for King County's streamlined agricultural drainage assistance program. These were developed by King County and agreed to by Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife as guidelines to determine whether projects are eligible for an facilitated Hydraulic Project Approval (HPA).

- **20 cfs or higher mean annual flow** – this is the cut-off under the Shoreline Management Act; such waterways likely have too high flow in summer to follow the streamlined ADAP bypass BMPs. These are also the waterways most likely to have more than rare or infrequent use by Endangered Species Act-listed Chinook. Examples: Harris Creek, Cherry Creek, Griffin Creek, Patterson Creek, Newaukum Creek, Coal Creek, and Boise Creek.
- **Classified as natural in King County's waterway classification system** – such waterways have high ecological value and may require BMPs other than dredging as well as additional mitigation. Examples: Harris Creek, East Fork Patterson Creek, and Patterson Creek.
- **Waterways having fish-construction-window flows higher than can be handled by one 4-inch pump** will need more pumping capacity and will fall outside streamlined ADAP and require individual permits. Example: Lower reaches of Tuck Creek.

Note about waterways that have different classifications for different segments: Where a single waterway has different classifications for different segments, the streamlined ADAP may be used in the modified segments, while the natural segments may require individual attention and possibly additional BMPs. Examples: Ames Creek, Cherry Creek, Sikes Lake Creek, Mill Creek, Mullen Slough, and North Fork Newaukum Creek.