

Appendix C: Development Permit Guidelines

1. No development, subdivision or sewage disposal system will be permitted in the “Sensitive Ecosystems DPA”, except as allowed by a Development Permit or subject to the general exemptions as outlined in Section 6.2 of this Plan.
2. Avoid intrusion of development into Development Permit Areas and to minimize the impact of any activity in these areas. Development shall generally only be supported where the applicant provides compelling reasons supported by a Qualified Environmental Professional's recommendations for mitigation to support the request or if there are no alternate building locations. Variances from other applicable regulations, including height, setback and location regulations may be considered in order to minimize encroachment into the Development Permit Area.
3. Development or subdivision of land should be designed to comply with the policies in Section 5.3.2 of the Plan.
4. The applicant for a Development Permit for land within the “Sensitive Ecosystems DPA” must provide an assessment by a Qualified Environmental Professional on the environmental conditions on the proposed development site and recommendations on the suitability of the site for the proposed development. The assessment must include recommendations for vegetation protection, enhancement or retention, where applicable. A plan prepared by a British Columbia Land Surveyor may be required as a condition of the Development Permit.
5. As a condition of the issuance of a Development Permit, compliance with any or all conditions recommended in the report prepared by the Qualified Environmental Professional may be required.
6. Disturbance to existing vegetation that is not directly affected by the footprint of building, ancillary uses, and driveways must be minimized. Any disturbed areas shall be rehabilitated with appropriate landscaping and habitat compensation measures. Loss of natural habitat shall be minimized.
7. A buffer zone within which land alteration or structures will be limited to those compatible with the characteristics of the sensitive ecosystems, or those that can be mitigated in a manner recommended by a Qualified Environmental Professional may be required and the specific or general location of the buffer zone may be designated.
8. In order to ensure unnecessary encroachment does not occur into the Development Permit area at the time of construction, permanent or temporary fencing measures may be required.
9. Environmentally sensitive areas and the habitat requirements for wildlife species at risk as defined in the federal Species at Risk Act should remain in their natural state and should not be developed or disturbed.
10. Where possible, large tracts of wildlife habitat or continuous habitat corridors should be preserved, in order to facilitate movement of wildlife. In addition, where possible, landscape plans should enhance, expand or create wildlife habitat such as wetlands, native aquatic and terrestrial plants.
11. Planting of invasive species adjacent to or within designated “Sensitive Ecosystems DPA” will not be permitted.
12. Changes in the land surface which could affect the health of vegetation or the biodiversity of any plant communities and disturbance of mature vegetation and under-storey plants will be minimized.
13. Any development must be designed to avoid storm water runoff and the development or subdivision may be required to be carried out in accordance with recommendations contained in a drainage plan that the applicant may be required to provide.
14. Removal of gravel, sand, soil or peat in “Sensitive Ecosystems DPA” will be strictly limited and only permitted if impacts can be mitigated in a manner recommended by a Qualified Environmental Professional.
15. Development should generally conform to Develop with Care 2012: Environmental Guidelines for Urban and Rural Land Development in British Columbia.
16. Development may be required to incorporate environmentally sound building practices where appropriate, such as natural drainage, or use of permeable paving materials.
17. A subdivision application which proposes the creation of parcels less than the average parcel size supported by this Plan and located within a smaller footprint of the parent parcel may be supported where the conditions are secured for the permanent on-going protection or restoration of environmentally sensitive features without an amendment to this Plan. However, the overall number of parcels must be consistent with the Land Use Designation.
18. Where the Qualified Environmental Professional or Qualified Professional recommends re-vegetation or remediation works, a landscaping plan and security deposit may be required.