



Wetland Types

San Juan County Code 18.30.150

San Juan County wetlands are classified by the Washington State Wetlands Rating System categories. Wetlands need to be rated by a qualified wetlands professional.

	WETLAND CATEGORY I
	<p>Category I wetlands represent a unique or rare wetland, are more sensitive to disturbance than most wetlands, are relatively undisturbed and contain ecological attributes that are impossible to replace within a human lifetime; or provide a very high level of functions. These are wetlands that are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Relatively undisturbed estuarine wetlands larger than 1 acre; ▪ Wetlands that are identified in the Washington Natural Heritage Program as high quality wetlands; ▪ Bogs; ▪ Mature and old-growth forested wetlands larger than 1 acre; ▪ Wetlands in coastal lagoons; or ▪ Wetlands that perform many functions well.
	WETLAND CATEGORY II
	<p>These wetlands are difficult, though not impossible, to replace, and provide high levels of some functions. They occur more commonly than Category I wetlands and need a relatively high level of protection. They include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Estuarine wetlands smaller than 1 acre, or disturbed estuarine wetlands larger than 1 acre; ▪ Disturbed coastal lagoons; ▪ Interdunal wetlands larger than 1 acre; or ▪ Wetlands with a moderately high level of functions.
	WETLAND CATEGORY III
	<p>Wetlands in this category may have been disturbed in some way and are often less diverse or more isolated from other natural resources in the landscape than Category II wetlands. They provide important functions and values and habitat for a variety of flora and fauna. Category III wetlands are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Wetlands with a moderate level of functions; or ▪ Interdunal wetlands between 0.1 and 1 acre in size.
	WETLAND CATEGORY IV
	<p>These wetlands are smaller, isolated, and have less diverse vegetation than Category I, II, and III wetlands. Category IV wetlands have the lowest levels of functions and values and are often heavily disturbed.</p>