

WAC 173-528-140 Future surface water withdrawals for environmental restoration. In keeping with the findings of the watershed plan, ecology finds that the public interest advanced by future withdrawals for ERPs, as defined and conditioned in this section, clearly overrides the minimal negative impacts on instream flows.

(1) A future withdrawal for an ERP may be approved only if it meets all the following:

(a) The proposed water use is for a bypass flow for salmonid restoration or riparian planting project, and the primary purpose of the project is restoration of salmonids.

(b) The proposed project will result in aquatic habitat benefits, and such benefits will exceed any detriment to aquatic habitat that may be caused by reductions in flow at specific locations and times of withdrawal.

(c) The proposed use qualifies for a temporary permit.

(2) Ecology, in consultation with the department of fish and wildlife, will evaluate proposed ERPs. ERPs approved by ecology are not subject to closures or instream flows set in this chapter, unless otherwise conditioned by the permit.

[Statutory Authority: Chapters 90.82, 90.54, 90.22, 90.03, and 90.44 RCW. WSR 09-01-127 (Order 08-03), § 173-528-140, filed 12/19/08, effective 1/19/09.]