

July 1, 2026
Thurston County Planning
Commission

CAO Update: Critical Aquifer Recharge Areas Gap Analysis

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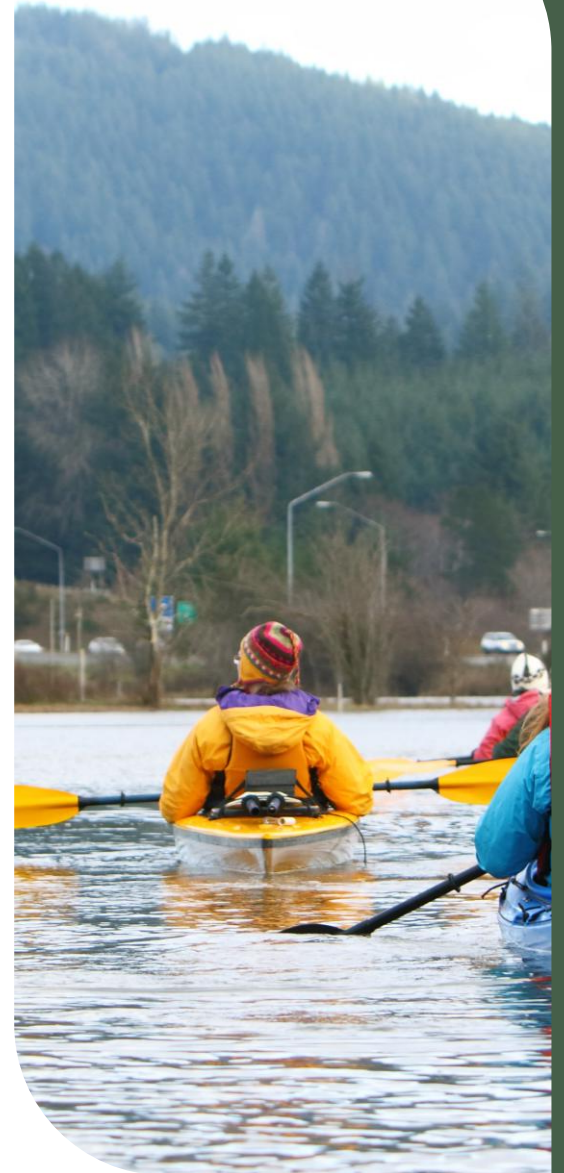


Presentation Outline: Critical Aquifer Recharge Areas Gap Analysis

- Key BAS points
- Gap analysis and recommended changes
- Discussion



1 Intro



Key BAS Points

- Injection wells can increase CARA sensitivity
- CARAs support both drinking water, and healthy instream habitat, temperature, and flow
- New soil data can be incorporated into maps

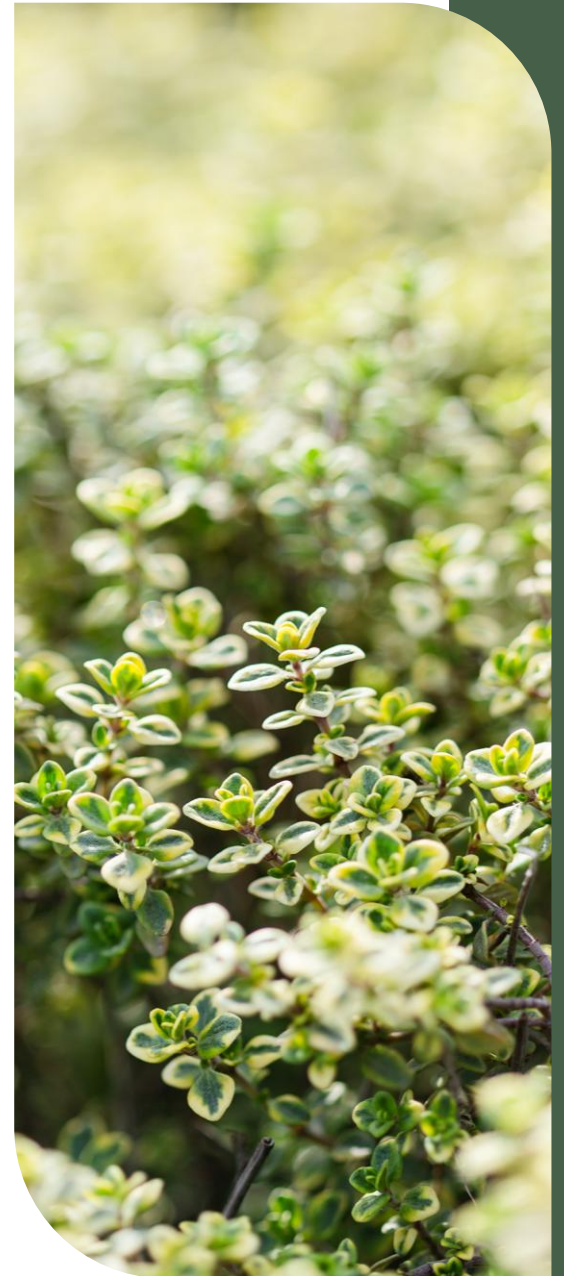


Other desired changes

- Transparency in screening tools and report requirements
- Flexibility where appropriate
- Clarity and navigability of code language



3 Other Changes



Gap analysis

Code Section	Title	Recommendations	Reason
24.10.010	Critical Aquifer Recharge Areas Designated	Include designation criteria in code section	Accessibility, usability, and transparency
24.10.010	Critical Aquifer Recharge Areas Designated	Remove outdated references	Refer accurately to maps, tables, data, and departments.
24.10.010	Critical Aquifer Recharge Areas Designated	Designate areas near deep underground injection control wells as CARA I	Expert opinion, piercing confining layers increases CARA sensitivity



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Gap analysis

Code Section	Title	Recommendations	Reason
Table 24.10-1	Prohibited and Restricted Uses and Activities Within Critical Aquifer Recharge Areas	Allow for infiltration of reclaimed water, manual aquifer recharge, and aquifer storage and recovery	Additional guidance and permitting processes from the Dept of Ecology and federal government have come out since the last update
Table 24.10-1	Prohibited and Restricted Uses and Activities Within Critical Aquifer Recharge Areas	Updated language regulating Underground Injection Control Wells	Consistency with state law

Gap analysis

Code Section	Title	Recommendations	Reason
24.10.190	Reclaimed water, aquifer storage and recovery, and managed aquifer recharge	Allow for infiltration of reclaimed water, manual aquifer recharge, and aquifer storage and recovery	Additional guidance and permitting processes from the Dept of Ecology and federal government have come out since the last update
Table 24.10-3	Critical Aquifer Recharge Areas Geologic Features	Remove table	Out of date with current data
Table 24.10-4	Critical Aquifer Recharge Area Soil Series	Remove Table	Out of date with current data



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Discussion

- Are any additional changes needed?
- Questions?





5/6/26	Dryland Fish and Wildlife Habitat Conservation Areas
5/20/26	Presentation on SMP and HCP integration
6/3/26	Invite DFW to present on FWHCAs
6/17/26	GHA Gap Analysis and Feedback Incorporation
7/1/26	CARA Gap Analysis and Feedback Incorporation
7/15/26	FFA Gap Analysis and Feedback Incorporation
8/5/26	Wetland Gap Analysis and Feedback Incorporation
8/19/26	FWHCA Gap Analysis and Feedback Incorporation
9/2/26	Permit Processes, FWHCAs and Wetlands code presentation
9/16/26	Revisit Permit Processes, FWHCAs and Wetlands
October 2026	Final review, public hearing, and recommendation

“Permit Processes” will also include other general standards chapters like definitions, nonconforming structures.

8 Schedule

Questions and Comments

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Find future project updates at ThurstonCriticalAreas.org.

