



ASOTIN COUNTY ROAD STANDARDS

CHAPTER 5 - CLEARING AND GRADING

5.1 INTRODUCTION

The design of temporary erosion and sediment control (ESC), clearing and grading plan shall conform to the requirements herein.

The purpose of these requirements is to provide the design criteria necessary to preserve the Asotin County's water courses; minimize surface and ground water quality degradation; protect adjacent and downstream property owners from erosion and flooding; and ensure the safety and stability of Asotin County's roads and rights-of-way.

Although the construction phase of a project is usually considered a temporary condition, construction work may take place over several seasons. All Best Management Practices used in the course of construction should be of sufficient size, strength, and durability to readily outlast the expected construction schedule and operate properly during the design storm rainfall conditions. Maintenance of these Best Management Practices system is mandatory.

This section relates to required State of Washington Department of Ecology Phase I Stormwater permitting. See the MS4 map for Asotin County. This chapter of the Road Standards pertains mainly to right-of-way work. When site improvements occur on projects that overlap onto slope easements or private property, the County Engineer will determine if any inconsistencies between these standards and other County ordinances need to be clarified.

This section does not relieve the project proponent of any increased responsibilities for professional involvement by geotechnical engineers or environmental scientists should site conditions warrant. Clearing and grading permits do not allow the filling in of critical habitat areas such as wetlands etc. without proper scientific study performed to a standard acceptable to the profession and the Asotin County.

5.2 EROSION AND SEDIMENT CONTROL REQUIREMENTS

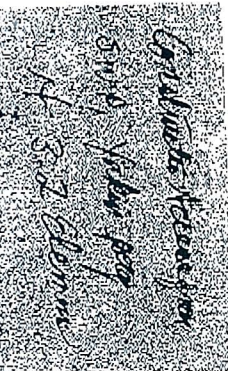
The applicant for a development permit is ultimately responsible for containing all soil on the project site and must recognize the potential for changing or unexpected site and weather conditions.

When required, the ESC plan shall be prepared in accordance with Chapter 9 - Erosion and Sediment Control Design of the Eastern Washington Stormwater Manual, as amended. Detailed examples and descriptions of the Best Management Practices (BMP) referenced in the above chapter are included in Chapter 7 of the *Eastern Washington Stormwater Manual*. The ESC plan shall address the following items:

- Construction sequence,
- Construction access route,
- Installation of sediment control,

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- Provisions for soil stabilization,
 - Protection of inlets,
 - Control of runoff from construction sites,
 - Washout site for concrete trucks and equipment,
 - Material storage/stockpiling,
 - Handle cut and fill slopes properly,
 - Stabilization of temporary conveyance channels and outlets,
 - Dewatering construction site,
 - Control of pollutants other than sediment on construction sites including airborne particulate (dust), and,
 - Maintenance of BMPS.

5.3 CLEARING, GRUBBING, & GRADING REQUIREMENTS

Clearing and grubbing includes, but is not limited to, removing trees, stumps, roots, brush, structures, abandoned utilities, trash, debris and all other materials found on or near the surface of the ground in the construction area and understood by generally accepted engineering practice not to be suitable for construction of the type contemplated.

Grading is the physical manipulation of the earth's surface and/or surface drainage pattern without significantly adding or removing on-site materials. This includes removing the duff layer, all surcharging, preloading and re-contouring the ground, and may include minor excavation and filling.

Underground structures such as basements, vaults, septic tanks and drainfields shall be addressed during clearing and grading.

5.3.1 GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

This section provides general criteria for clearing, grubbing, and grading activities. In general, clearing, grubbing, and grading activities shall:

- Not contribute to or create erosion, landslides, accelerated soil creep, settlement of soils, or flooding of public or private property.
- Not contribute to or create flooding, erosion, increased turbidity, or siltation of a watercourse.
- Contain reasonable provisions for the preservation of natural features, vegetation, sensitive areas, and drainage courses.
- Expose the smallest area of soil for the least amount of time;
- Reasonably preserve natural land, vegetation, drainage, and other natural features;

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- Minimize groundwater and tree disturbance; and,
- Not divert existing watercourses.

If the County determines that an existing excavation, embankment, fill, or cut will become a hazard to life or limb, or endangers property, or adversely impacts the safety, use, or stability of public or private property, drainage channel or natural resources, the owner of the property shall repair and/or eliminate such hazard upon receiving notice from the County within the period specified therein. It is the responsibility of the property owner or project proponent to share information defined above with the Asotin County staff.

5.3.2 GEOTECHNICAL EVALUATION

A geotechnical evaluation is required and shall include data regarding feasibility of the site for the proposed uses; recommendations for grading, including site preparation and placement of fill; nature, distribution, erosion hazards, and strength of existing surface and subsurface soils; foundations recommendations; finished slope stability; adequacy and stability of the geologic subsurface for cuts and fill loads, surface and subsurface drainage; and soil description.

The County will require geotechnical analysis, by a licensed geotechnical engineer in the state of Washington or other qualified professional approved by the County Engineer, when work is proposed for the following situations:

- When proposing a design that does not adhere to the criteria specified in this chapter;
- Slopes with surface water flows,
- Slopes greater than 2:1,
- In areas of questionable soils conditions,
- When extensive fill is proposed,
- Where the length of the slope requires terracing,
- When unusual situations are encountered,
- In other situations where slope stability could be in question, as determined by the County, or,
- In cases where the project may negatively affect down stream or neighboring parcels.

The separate issue of drainage outside the pavement surface area may also require a geotechnical evaluation, regardless of whether or not an evaluation was made on the road section, to verify if stormwater erosion is an unintentional consequence of the roadway improvement.