



Island County Planning and Community Development

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<https://www.islandcountywa.gov/Planning/Pages/Home.aspx>

Tips for Hiring an Environmental Consultant:

Hiring an environmental consultant can potentially help you to avoid delays during project development while ensuring that critical areas are protected during construction.

Wetlands, streams, lakes, and fish and wildlife conservation areas are all protected from development impacts by Island County Critical Areas regulations. Environmental consultants can help you by identifying critical areas that may affect your development plans on your parcel, or adjacent parcels. These consultants will research background information on soils, vegetation, hydrology, stream typing, and priority wildlife habitat. They will prepare a critical areas report to submit with your development proposal. If necessary, they can prepare mitigation plans to compensate for adverse impacts when a critical area would be affected by a development plan.

Before you contact a consultant to assist you with your project, take the time to do as much research as possible. Is the property within shoreline jurisdiction? Do you know if there are conservation easements on the parcel? Are there known critical areas on site? Describe what you want to do with your property and obtain as much information about it as possible.

What qualification should I look for when interviewing an Environmental Consultant in Island County:

- Listed as a ["Qualified Consultant"](#) here in Island County
- Education and professional training certifications
- Familiarity with Island County regulatory and permitting requirements
- Availability
- Costs

Example questions to consider:

For simpler projects:

What professional endorsements or training do they have? (Ordinary High Water Mark training, Professional Wetland Scientist, Certified Restoration practitioner, American Fisheries society)

What experience do they have with Island County and State regulations?

What is their cost estimate?

Who are the staff that will be assigned to your project?

Request references and example reports from past clients that were similar in nature to the scope of your project

Do they provide a site plan to scale that can be used for your development proposal?

Are they acting as your agent through the permitting process, or just providing the required reports?



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For more complex projects:

Do they assist with obtaining other state permits or processes (ex: SEPA/JARPA)

Do they have experience or expertise with Conservation Easements and Mitigation Plan development?

How long did their last projects take to reach an official determination?

How many review letters/additional information requests have they received on previous projects?