

**Planning and Land Services Department
DEVELOPMENT ENGINEERING DIVISION POLICY**

Policy Number: DE POL - 4012
Title: Additional Option for the Use of Full Dispersion
Date: March 7, 2017
Management Approval: 
Related Documents: SMMWW BMP T-5.30. / Ord 2015-48s

The following interpretation applies to the 2015 Pierce County Stormwater Management and Site Development Manual (Manual).

Policy:

As an additional option for mitigating stormwater runoff from a proposed development the following is acceptable:

A forested or native vegetation set aside can be provided at the rate of 6.5 square feet of set aside area to 1.0 square feet of hard surfacing under the following conditions:

- Clearing limits are set at the minimum necessary for driveway construction, home construction, and conversion of approximately 7500 square feet of yard area to lawn/landscaping.
- Clearing limits and the native vegetation set aside area must be clearly shown on the site development drawings.
- Proposed hard surfaces must be tributary to the native vegetation set aside area.
- Proposed lawn/landscaping areas must be tributary to the native vegetation set aside area.
- The native vegetation set aside area must be one contiguous area.
- The native vegetation set aside area cannot include septic drain fields, reserve areas, yards, etc.
- Proposed hard surfaces, lawn/landscaping areas, clearing, grading and other development that is not tributary to the native vegetation set aside area will be treated as a separate project area and will need to comply with Manual Figure 2.1, Figure 2.2 and the applicable Minimum Requirements.

Benefit:

- The size of the native vegetation set aside is smaller than the standard 65/10 Dispersion method.

Supporting Information:

This additional option appears to be supported by the following excerpt from BMP T5.30 Full Dispersion from the Department of Ecology's Stormwater Management Manual for Western Washington (SWMMWW).

The second and third paragraphs under "**Minimum Design Requirements for Residential Projects**" states:

"Where a development has less than 65% of a site available to maintain or create into a forested or native condition, that area may still be used for full dispersion of a portion of the developed area. The ratio of the native vegetation area to the impervious area, which is dispersed into the native vegetation, must not be less than 65 to 10. The lawn and landscaping areas associated with the impervious areas may also be dispersed into the native vegetation area. The lawn and landscaped area must comply with BMP T5.13. All design requirements listed also must be met.

The portion of the developed area which is not managed through full dispersion can be considered a separate project site. It must be evaluated against the thresholds in Figures 2.2 and 2.3 of Volume 1, whichever is appropriate, to determine the applicable minimum requirements. "