

Non-Forest Land Water Type Modifications FAQs

Who may request a change to the streams and water bodies on non-forest lands shown on the Water Type Map?

Property owners may propose changes to streams shown on the Water Type Map by submitting a “Ferry County Water Type Modification Application.” Complete this application when you want to:

- a) Request a change to the assigned water type classification;
- b) Delete streams or water bodies that do not exist on the ground;
- c) Reclassify flowing water that does not meet the definition of typed water (un-typed streams); and/or
- d) Correct the mapped location of a stream or water body.

What are non-forested lands?

In the State of Washington, non-forested lands generally include areas converted to a residential or commercial use, lands used for agricultural purposes, low-density neighborhoods, and the urban interface lacking managed forests. Non-forested lands are all lands in the State of Washington that do not meet the following definition of “forest land” ([WAC 222-16-010](#)):

Forest land means all land which is capable of supporting a merchantable stand of timber and is not being actively used for a use which is incompatible with timber growing. Forest land does not include agricultural land that is or was enrolled in the conservation reserve enhancement program by contract if such agricultural land was historically used for agricultural purposes and the landowner intends to continue to use the land for agricultural purposes in the future.

What is the Department of Natural Resources Water Type Map?

The Water Type Map is used by land managers and local governments for applying the appropriate riparian protection and making land use decisions. Water bodies depicted on the Water Type Map are classified in accordance with the definitions described in [WAC 222-16-031](#). These classifications include “Type S” (Shorelines of the State), “Type F” (fish habitat), “Type N” (non-fish), or “Type U” (unknown). Some of these waters are a “best approximation” and may not be accurately delineated in all areas. Over time, the Water Type Map is updated by DNR when field-verified data is made available.

What is the process for making changes to the Water Type Map?

Landowners seeking revisions to DNR’s Water Type Map should first consult the Ferry County Planning Department, regarding the proposed change. Once the application and appropriate information has been received, the Planning Department will coordinate with the WDFW habitat biologist and/or Ecology forest practices specialist. If it on the reservation, we will also coordinate with tribal biologists.