



# ADMINISTRATIVE GUIDANCE ON CONTAMINATED SITES

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## Application of Wildlands Land Use

The Stage 10 Amendment to the Contaminated Sites Regulation (the Regulation) introduced two types of Wildlands land use: natural wildlands (WL<sub>N</sub>) and reverted wildlands (WL<sub>R</sub>). The purpose of this guidance is to provide assistance in the interpretation and application of wildlands land use under the Regulation. Natural and Reverted Wildlands land uses can be found in Schedule 3.1 of the Regulation.

### **What are wildlands land uses and how do they differ from urban park land use?**

Wildlands land use means the use of land for a primary purpose other than agricultural, commercial, industrial, urban park or residential land use. Typically, the definition of wildlands would apply to land used to support natural ecosystems; including the use of land for ecological reserves, national or provincial parks, protected wetlands or woodlands, native forests, tundra and alpine meadows, but would not apply to land used for agricultural, commercial, industrial, urban park or residential purposes.

Where the future land use of a contaminated site will not be for the primary purposes of agriculture, commercial, industrial, urban park or residential land use, the future land use of the site will be a wildlands land use.

Natural wildlands land use is a subset of wildlands land use and includes only those protected areas listed in Schedule 2.1 of the Regulation. Where a portion of the protected area is, or previously has been used for an agricultural, commercial, industrial, urban park

or residential land use, the natural wildlands designation does not apply to that portion of land within the protected area. The Regulation standards for the protection of WL<sub>N</sub> sites target a level of impact to ecological receptors of 15%, also described as an effects concentration of 15% or EC15.

Reverted wildlands land use means a wildlands land use other than a natural wildlands land use. Where a portion of land within a Schedule 2.1 protected area which is, or previously has been used for an: agricultural, commercial, industrial, urban park or residential land use, reverts to a wildlands land use, the reverted wildlands land use applies to that portion of land within the protected area. The Regulation standards for the protection of WL<sub>R</sub> sites target a level of impact to ecological receptors of 25%, or EC25 (i.e. a less stringent standard than that for natural wildlands land use).

Urban park land use (PL) means the use of urban land for the primary purpose of outdoor recreation including, without limitation, municipal parks, fairgrounds, sports fields, rifle ranges, captive wildlife parks, biking and hiking areas, community beaches and picnic areas. Note that the definition of urban park land use would not apply to wildlands such as ecological reserves, national or provincial parks, protected wetlands or woodlands, native forests, tundra or alpine meadows.

Both urban park and reverted wildlands land uses under the Regulation target a level of impact to ecological receptors of 25% or EC25.

**How do I know if natural wildlands land use applies at my site?**

All of the protected areas that comprise natural wildlands land use have been compiled into one layer in the BC Geographic Warehouse and the

extent of these areas is identified on a publicly available [Map of Natural Wildlands](#).

*Note: This document is solely for the convenience of the reader. It does not contain and should not be construed as legal advice. The current legislation and regulations should be consulted for complete information.*

*For more information, please direct your inquiries to [site@gov.bc.ca](mailto:site@gov.bc.ca).*

**Revision history**

Approved Date	Effective Date	Document Version	Notes
	November 1, 2017	1.0	Created as a result of CSR Stage 10 amendment