

WSA and RAPR: Application Clarity

Water Sustainability Act (WSA) and Riparian Areas Protection Regulation (RAPR)

Tools to manage and protect water resources and aquatic ecosystems, including wetlands.

Intent: Provide clarity on the regulatory overlap of these two pieces of legislation.

WSA

The WSA is the principal law for managing the diversion and use of water resources in B.C. The WSA provides tools to protect and manage water and regulates the requirements for making changes to or working in streams or stream channels.

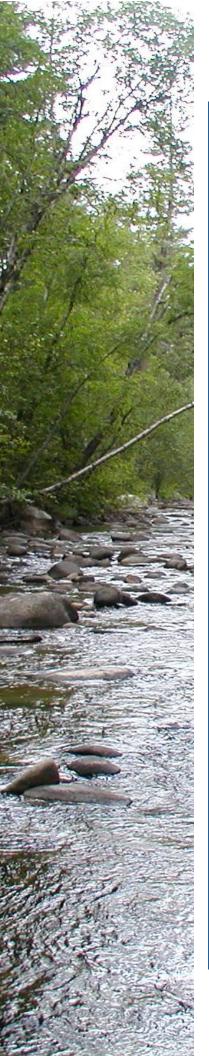
RAPR

Enabled under the Riparian Areas
Protection Act, the RAPR requires certain
local governments to enact bylaws that
protect riparian areas vital to fish health
and productivity during commercial,
industrial, or residential development.

Comparison:

	WSA	RAPR
Administrative boundaries	Province-wide	Applies to private and municipal land in certain areas of the province
Definition of a "stream" and application to wetlands	Wetlands are included in the definition of a "stream," however, bogs are not included in the definition of "wetland"	Wetlands are included in the definition of a "stream," and bogs are included in the definition of "wetland"
For more information, consult: <u>WSA</u> ; <u>RAPR</u> .	Does not require the watercourse to be identified as fish habitat	Applies to fish habitat or connection by surface flow to fish habitat; does not apply to isolated wetlands
	The stream boundary, or "stream channel", includes the stream bed and banks, both above and below the natural boundary and whether or not the channel has been	The stream boundary includes the active floodplain up to the highwater mark
	modified, and includes side channels	Does include constructed ditches
	Sometimes includes constructed ditches (generally only if it was or still is a "natural watercourse" or a source of water supply)	





	WSA	RAPR	
What triggers a	Proposed "changes in and about a	Proposed commercial, industrial, or	
permit,	stream", or when a person intends	residential development within 30m	
application or	to divert, store, or use water from	of a stream	
notification of	streams and aquifers (with some		
work?	exemptions)	Triggered through the local	
		government development permit	
	"Changes in and about a stream"	process	
	means any modification to the		
	nature of the stream (including any		
	modification to the land, vegetation		
	and natural environment or the flow		
	of water), or any activity or		
	construction within a stream		
	channel that has or may have an		
	impact on a stream		
Where the WSA		about a stream (under the WSA) and	
and RAPR align	upland development within 30m of a stream (under the RAPR) will require		
		SA and the RAPR (e.g. moving or infilling	
		as retaining walls and dock or water	
	access, etc.).		
	The need for approvals under both the	e WSA and the RAPR arises because the	
		s to aquatic and riparian habitats. The	
	· ·	at affect watercourses, while the RAPR	
	addresses impacts to the riparian zone	·	
	·		
	Any proposed channel work or acti	vity, such as watercourse or channel	
	realignment, will require WSA approval first and cannot be included in a RAPR		
	Assessment Report until this approval has been obtained.		
Common	Instream works	Removing or altering plants or	
activities under		disturbing soils	
the legislation	Channel modifications/enclosure		
		Constructing buildings and structures	
	Culvert crossings		
	Deales whomes and water access	Constructing roads, trails, drainage	
	Docks, wharves, and water access	systems, and utility corridors	
	Instream drainage maintenance and	Creating hard surfaces such as decks	
	flood protection	and pavement	
The permitting	There are several permissions that	Required RAPR assessments must be	
process	can be granted under the WSA. All	conducted by a hired Qualified	
	applications are processed through	Environmental Professional (QEP)	
For more	Front Counter BC.	certified in RAPR methodology.	
information visit:		RAPR assessments are submitted by	
FrontCounterBC		the QEP to the <u>Riparian Areas</u>	
RAPR website		Regulation Notification System	
		(RARNS) for provincial review.	
Contact	FrontCounterBC@gov.bc.ca	RiparianAreas@Victoria1.gov.bc.ca	

