

ESA and the National Flood Insurance Program

Habitat Assessment and Mitigation Guidance



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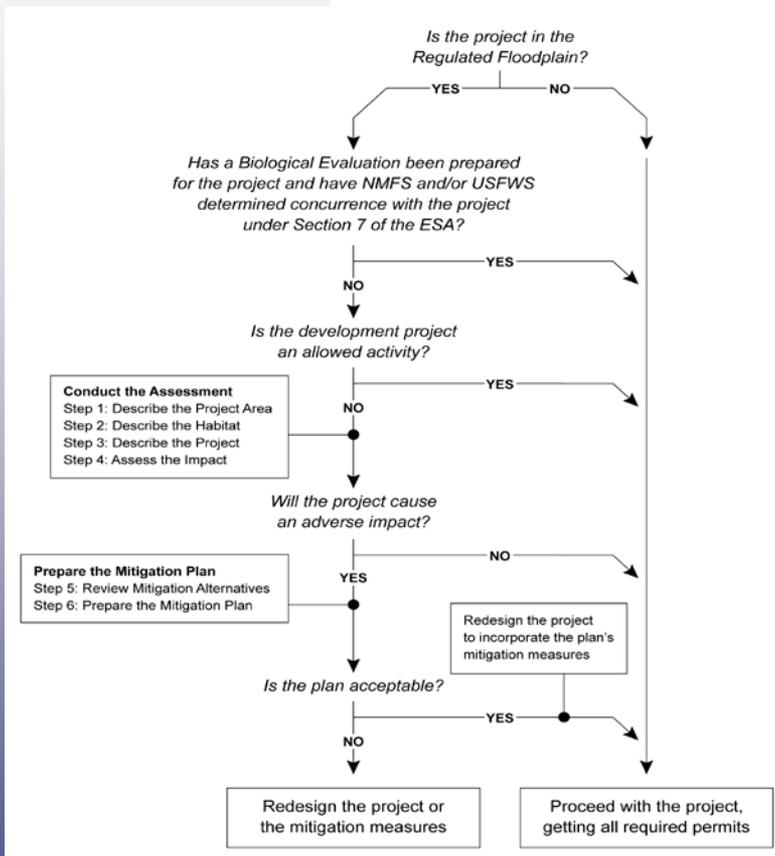
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Implementing a Salmon Friendly Program– FEMA Region 10
Regional Workshop- Habitat Assessment and Mitigation

Habitat Assessment

■ When do I need to conduct an assessment?

- ▶ Development must obtain a permit
 - Allowed Activities
 - Projects Already Consulted on
 - All other projects
- ▶ 4 Step Process
- ▶ Communicate and check in
- ▶ Is it worth it?

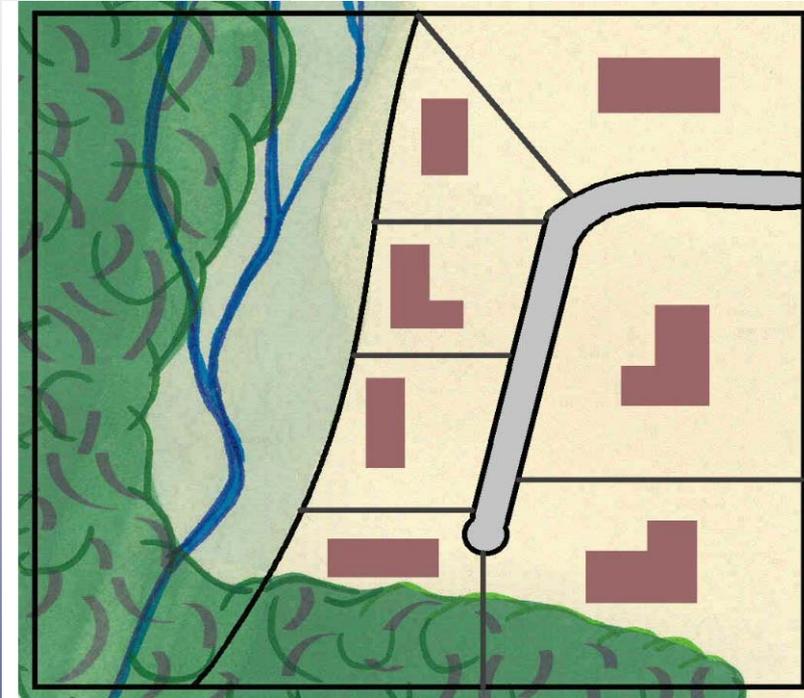


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Conducting the Assessment



■ Step 1: Describing the Project Area

- ▶ Written Description
 - Location
 - Water Resource Information
 - Fish and Wildlife Conservation Areas
- ▶ Map



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Conducting the Assessment



- Step 2: Describe the Habitat in the Project Area
 - ▶ Background Research
 - Species Identification
 - ▶ Site Investigation
 - ▶ Habitat Narrative
 - ▶ Habitat Area Map



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Conducting the Assessment



- Step 3: Project Description
 - ▶ Final Project
 - Features after project is completed
 - Description of any ongoing activities
 - Map to relate features to project area and habitat map
 - ▶ Construction Process
 - Description of the process
 - Protection measures taken



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Conducting the Assessment

■ Step 4: Assess the Impact

▶ Direct Effects

- Temp or Permanent Clearing and grading of any habitat area
- Structures or impervious surfaces placed within the habitat areas
- Stream Alterations
- Water Diversions



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Conducting the Assessment



■ Step 4: Assess the Impact

▶ Indirect Effects

- Disrupting Stream Flows
- Blocking Habitat Corridors
- Water Temperature Increases
- Vegetation Disturbance
- Wetland Modification

▶ Interdependent and Interrelated Actions



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Conducting the Assessment



- Step 4: Assess the Impact
 - ▶ Cumulative Impacts
 - Reasonably certain to occur
 - One “minor project” vs. 100 “minor projects”



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Conducting the Assessment



- Step 4: Assess the Impact
 - ▶ Effects Determination
 - Follow NMFS, USFWS and USACE Criteria
 - No Effect
 - May Affect, Not Likely to Adversely Affect
 - Likely to Adversely Affect



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Conducting the Assessment



■ Assessment Report

- ▶ No effect or NLAA w/ Minimization and Conservation Measures
 - Submit to community
 - Show your work
- ▶ NLAA w/o Minimization or Conservation measures
 - Prepare a Mitigation Plan



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Preparing a Mitigation Plan



- Step 5: Review of Mitigation Alternatives (Mitigation Sequencing)
 - ▶ Avoidance (preferred)
 - ▶ Minimization (except PA)
 - ▶ Restoration
 - ▶ Compensation



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Preparing a Mitigation Plan



■ Step 6 Prepare the Mitigation Plan

- ▶ Objective
 - Compensate for Habitat Impacts
 - Protected Area vs. Floodplain
- ▶ Format
 - Community determined format
 - Wetland Mitigation in Washington State Part 2
- ▶ Minimum Standards



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Reviewing Habitat Assessments and Mitigation Plans



- Suggested Ways a Community can Review Habitat Assessments and Mitigation Plans
 - ▶ Qualified Consultants
 - Ordinance Language
 - Maintain a List
 - ▶ Require Public Comment Periods
 - ▶ Third Party Review
 - ▶ Review Checklists



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