

# Action Area

For Consultation under the Endangered Species Act (ESA)

The **action area** is defined by regulation as all areas to be affected directly or indirectly by the action and not merely the immediate area involved in the action (50 CFR §402.02). This analysis is not limited to the "footprint" of the action nor is it limited by the Federal agency's authority.

To determine your action area, mark the project footprint on a topographic map. Identify the range of impacts such as:

1. Ground disturbance
2. Changes in water quality and quantity (both surface and underground water)
3. Air quality impacts
4. Lighting effects
5. Noise disturbance

Draw a line around all of the affected areas. This is the action area. Send us a copy of the map when you initiate Project Reviews.

Example:

