



# US FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

## Western Washington Fish and Wildlife Office

### CONSULTATION AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE DIVISION

#### Federal Activities Branch

#### Background

The Federal Activities Branch of the Division of Consultation and Technical Assistance works to protect the nation's fish and wildlife resources by consulting with other Federal agencies when the projects they carry out, fund, or permit may impact fish and wildlife. The primary authorities we use are Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA), the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act and the National Environmental Policy Act.

#### Who We Are

We are a team of dedicated biologists with broad expertise in stream, wetland, and nearshore ecology; fish and wildlife biology; ESA-listed species designated critical habitats; and hydrology.

#### Who We Serve

- The Public
- Permit applicants
- Ports, State and local governments
- Federal agencies
- Tribes
- Public interest groups

#### What We Do

We work with developers, utilities, ports, representatives of federal, state and local governments, Tribes, non-governmental groups, and private citizens to assess potential impacts to fish and wildlife resources and recommend

ways to avoid, minimize or compensate for those impacts. This work falls primarily into the following categories:

- Consultation under section 7 of the ESA with other Federal agencies. Our role is to ensure that proposed projects don't jeopardize the continued existence of Federally-listed species or destroy or adversely modify designated critical habitats. We also ensure that potential adverse effects to listed species and their habitats are minimized as much as possible.
- Implementation of the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act. The Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, as amended in 1964, was enacted to protect fish and wildlife



*Water flume in Cowlitz River (USFWS, Gene Stagner)*

- When federal actions result in the control or modification of a natural stream or body of water the statute requires Federal agencies to take into consideration the effect that water-related projects would have on fish and wildlife resources; take action to prevent loss or damage to these resources; and provide for the development and improvement of these resources.
- Comments on the documents prepared to comply with the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) such as Environmental Impact Statements and their drafts and Notices of Intent.
- Recent weather-related disasters have created a backlog of work for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). We provided assistance to FEMA by conducting initial site visits to the flood-damaged roads, fish hatcheries, culverts, berms and other structures for which disaster assistance has been requested. Most projects avoid harm to endangered species if proper building techniques are employed and are timed to avoid sensitive periods.

### Recent Projects and Accomplishments

- We are working to complete a 5-year Endangered Species Act consultation for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Mud Mountain Dam located on the White River near Enumclaw. The dam provides flood control for approximately 400,000 people in the White/Puyallup River Basin. The proposed project includes the replacement of the existing Buckley dam. As a result of the consultation, an updated fish trap facility will be installed, improving upstream fish passage for listed bull trout, White River Chinook salmon, and other salmonid species in the basin.



*A group of FEMA, NOAA, FWS, and county road representatives inspecting damage caused when flood waters reached the bridge deck above. (USFWS, Mark Hodgkins)*



*Damage at the existing Buckley diversion dam. The Corps' fish trap is visible in the background. (USFWS, Brian Missildine)*

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