



US FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Western Washington Fish and Wildlife Office

CONSULTATION AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE DIVISION

Transportation Planning Branch

Background

The Transportation Planning Branch is part of the Division of Consultation and Technical Assistance of the Western Washington Fish and Wildlife Office. This branch coordinates with the Federal Highway Administration, Washington Department of Transportation (WSDOT) and other agencies on transportation projects in western Washington.

Who We Are

While our focus is transportation issues, we also provide technical assistance and consultation for contaminant issues and communication infrastructure projects.

Our staff is unique in a number of ways. It includes two Geographic Information System (GIS) specialists who support all of our programs office-wide.

Several of our biologists are WSDOT employees who work for the Fish and Wildlife Service exclusively on WSDOT projects. One of our staff members, funded by the WSDOT, is located in the Urban Corridors Office in Seattle and represents both the FWS and the National Marine Fisheries Service.

Who We Serve

- Federal transportation agencies
- Washington Department of Transportation
- City and County transportation departments



FWS with other agency staff monitoring project site. (USFWS, Jim Muck)

What We Do

We work closely with Federal, State and local agencies from early in project planning, through the planning process and ending with consultation under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act. Our objective is to assist in the development of projects which minimize impacts to listed species, such as bull trout, marbled murrelets and bald eagles,

as well as other natural resources such as anadromous fish, wetlands and shorelines.



Bald Eagle

Because staff is supported by WSDOT, we are able to provide early input on their project designs and prioritize their project for Section 7 consultation, expediting completion of the consultation.

Our GIS staff provide support office-wide, and maintain up-to-date spatial information, ranging from listed species locations and distribution to land ownership. They work on a variety of projects with a particular emphasis on meeting mapping needs for recovery planning and listing, landscape spatial analysis for large projects such as habitat consultation plans, and site specific analysis on section 7 consultations.

Recent Projects and Accomplishments

- We are involved in the major transportation projects in the state. These include the Hood Canal Bridge Renovation, the Alaska Way Viaduct, the SR-520 Floating Bridge Replacement and the SR-167 Extension. These have been multi-year projects involving numerous agencies with major and environmental issues.
- We are also involved in environmental issues related to transportation such as storm water and pile driving.

- We have had significant involvement on Phases I and II National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) stormwater permits, and have a representative on the National Transportation Research Board's Committee on pile driving.



Crews clean out Thorton- Kramer Creek (USFWS, Jim Muck)

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