

WSDOT's Environmental Services Office and Highways & Local Programs present:

Biological Assessment Preparation For Transportation Projects

February 16-19, 2010 (#01717)
Exam: February 19, 2010; 10:30-2:30

Lacey Community Center
6729 Pacific Avenue SE
Lacey, WA 98503 (360) 491-0857

(The phone number above may be used in case of emergency to contact a student in the class.)

Cost: \$75 **Time:** 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. February 16-19, 2010 **Class Size:** 40
8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. February 19, 2010 (Exam)

Instructors:

Marion Carey, WSDOT Fish & Wildlife Program Manager; Ryan McReynolds, WSDOT Liaison to US Fish and Wildlife Service; Herrera Environmental Consultants; and Cindy L. Callahan, Environmental Specialist/Biologist, Federal Highway Administration Washington Division

Target Audience *

Consultants: Required for on-call consultants who write Biological Assessments (BAs) for WSDOT.

Local Agencies: Not required for local agencies or consultants who write BAs for FHWA funded projects, but may be of interest to this group.

*Please note that this seminar is intended only for individuals who actually write BA documents.

Information for WSDOT Consultants

On June 1, 2006, WSDOT implemented requirements for on-call environmental consultants who prepare BAs. One of the qualification requirements is completion of this seminar and a passing score on the exam.

For information on qualification requirements see:

<http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/Environment/Biology/BA/qualification.htm>.

Information for Local Agencies

This course and exam are **not mandatory**, but are recommended, for local agencies that either prepare BAs or hire consultants to prepare BAs for FHWA funded projects. The intent of these requirements is to achieve greater consistency and quality in BA format, content, and analysis of project effects to listed species and designated critical habitat. Improved consistency and quality has the potential to significantly reduce the number of reviews and comments received during both

the Department's and the Services' reviews of a local agency BAs. A reduction in review times yields a significant savings in cost and avoidance in delay to your schedules.

Seminar Description

This three and a half day seminar will provide guidance for preparing BAs for WSDOT projects. The seminar will cover fundamentals as well as more advanced topics. Topics will include: how to organize a WSDOT BA, what to include in a WSDOT BA, the consultation process, crafting a project description, conservation measures, minimization measures, indirect and cumulative effects, defining an action area, making appropriate effect determinations, and how to address stormwater and noise impacts. WSDOT completed new BA guidelines that will be presented and included in the class materials. While some of the information will be familiar to individuals who prepare BAs on a regular basis, new information will also be provided on the latest WSDOT and FHWA policies and procedures associated with the consultation process.

Exam

The exam will be offered February 19, 2010 – from 10:30 pm to 2:30 pm. A two hour review period will be held before the exam. Local agencies and consultants working for local agencies are encouraged, but not required, to take the exam. However, on-call consultants writing BAs for WSDOT are required to pass this exam.

The **Biological Assessment Seminar Information Guide** provides important details about the exam. It is recommended that you review the materials prior to the course in order to be successful on the exam. The study guide is available at

<http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/NR/rdonlyres/EAA3EC84-B0FF-40C8-8BAE-DBBA130E85A5/0/BAStudyGuide.pdf>

We are no longer able to provide course participants with a hard copy of the BA Manual, but a CD version will be provided at the seminar. We recommend that you print out a copy of the manual and bring it with you to the seminar. It is available on line at:

<http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/Environment/Biology/BA/default.htm>

Wait until the manual has been updated February 2010 before printing to insure that you have the correct version for the seminar.

Questions?

Seminar information for local agencies: Bill Leonard at LeonardB@wsdot.wa.gov, (360) 705-7344.

Seminar information for WSDOT consultants: Marion Carey at Careym@wsdot.wa.gov, (360) 705-7404

Registration

Please register on-line using this link: [On-line Registration](http://eefmapps.wsdot.wa.gov/fmi/xsl/LTAPTraining/default.xsl) or copy this web address into your browser: <http://eefmapps.wsdot.wa.gov/fmi/xsl/LTAPTraining/default.xsl>

Fill in the requested information, select this class from the drop-down menu, then press "Submit." You will receive an e-mail notification with driving directions to the training site when we process your request. If you do not receive this e-mail notification within a day or two, you may not be registered and should contact us by phone.

Please do not prepay, an invoice will be mailed to you after the class. Confirmation letters will be mailed three weeks prior to the class. If you are unable to attend, someone else from your agency may attend in your place.

All other questions on this training, for registration assistance or cancellations: Judy McDonald at McdonJT@wsdot.wa.gov, or (360) 705-7355.

Disability accommodations provided upon request.

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<http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/localprograms/ltap/>