



Areas of minimal effect

We determined that the project would have limited effects to the study area under the following topics:

- Air quality
- Energy and climate change
- Geology and soils
- Land use
- Navigable waterways
- Public services and utilities
- Section 4(f)
- Social elements
- Visual quality
- Water resources

WSDOT has designed the project to limit environmental effects. Steps in this process include:

- **Avoiding** effects to the extent possible through measures like selecting the sites for analysis with fewest wetlands that could be affected by site development.
- **Minimizing** effects by using best management practices such as erosion control, water quality monitoring and treatment, and environmentally sensitive timing of certain construction activities.
- **Identifying appropriate mitigation measures** to offset project effects that cannot be avoided or minimized.



Rationale for identifying the preferred alternative

WSDOT and FHWA have identified the Aberdeen Log Yard Alternative as the preferred alternative for pontoon construction.

Preliminary investigations and analyses indicate that WSDOT could build a casting basin facility at the Aberdeen Log Yard site with lower risks and less cost than at the Anderson & Middleton site.

Key factors:

- **Costs:** There would be higher development costs at the Anderson & Middleton site.
- **Risks:** Dewatering at the Anderson & Middleton site could have a greater effect on adjacent wetlands.
- **Cultural resources:** Pre-contact Native American fish traps present at the Anderson & Middleton site are eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

Final site selection will take place at the end of the environmental process.