

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

WSDOT Biological Assessment Author Re-Qualification Seminar

February 17-19, 2010 (# 01718)

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: \$40

Time: February 17, 12:30 to 5:00 p.m.
February 18, 8:30 to 5:00 p.m.
February 19, 8:30 to 2:30 p.m.

Class Size: 60

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

Seminar Description

This two and a half day **Re-qualification Seminar** will focus on the more challenging consultation topics and the new methods that have been developed in the last year. This information will complement the information presented in the initial *Biological Assessment Preparation for Transportation Projects Seminar*. The seminar will present new and up-to-date guidance for preparing Biological Assessments (BAs) for WSDOT projects. Topics covered include:

- Consultation hot topics: learn what the latest issues are in the consultation world
- The new stormwater assessment protocol for eastern and western Washington
- Noise assessment review and update
- The new indirect effects analysis
- Using the Analytical Framework – what is it and when is it required

The Re-qualification Seminar will be taught in conjunction with the last half of the *Biological Assessment Preparation for Transportation Projects* seminar. Individuals wishing to review all of the information in the BA manual may sign up for the entire seminar.

Target Audience

Consultants: The re-qualification seminar is required to maintain a qualified Senior or Junior WSDOT BA Author status. Attending this seminar and achieving a passing score on the exam are required every two years.

Please Note: The re-qualification seminar is for consultants who are already qualified as WSDOT BA authors. The re-qualification seminar will not count toward an initial qualification.

Local Agencies: This seminar is recommended, but not required, for consultants or individuals who write BAs for local agencies.

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. If you have met the initial qualification requirements and are currently a Junior or Senior Biological Assessment Author, every two years you will need to take the re-qualification seminar and pass the exam with a score of at least 80 percent to remain qualified.

If you are currently qualified as a Junior BA Author and would like to change your status to Senior BA Author, you may do so by clearly providing proof of **two full years** of BA author experience and a detailed resume. For information on how to submit documentation of experience or general qualification requirements, see <http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/Environment/Biology/BA/qualification.htm>.

Information for Local Agencies

This re-qualification requirement is recommended, but not required, for local agencies that either prepare BAs or hire consultants to prepare BAs for FHWA-funded projects. The intent of the **Re-qualification Seminar** is to complement the information given in the original *Biological Assessment Preparation for Transportation Projects Seminar* by presenting new and up-to-date guidance on writing BAs. Participants should 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 will reduce the number of quality-control reviews and may decrease turn around times at the Services. Decreasing review timelines can yield significant cost savings and help keep projects on schedule.

Exam

The exam will be offered on the third day of the class, after a two hour review and question and answer period. Individuals and consultants working for local agencies are not required to take the exam, but are encouraged to do so. On-call consultants writing BAs for WSDOT are required to take and pass this exam to remain a Senior or Junior BA Author.

The exam is not limited to information presented in the Re-qualification Seminar and may include anything in the current *Advanced Training Manual: Biological Assessment Preparation for Transportation Projects* (BA Manual). **It is recommended that you review the BA Manual prior to the course to be successful on the exam.** 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.

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>

Seminar Registration

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

Fill in the requested information, select **WSDOT BA Author Re-qualification** 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.

Questions?

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

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

For information on the WSDOT Consultant BA Qualification Program:

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

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.

Visit the
Washington State LTAP Center's Web Page:
<http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/localprograms/ltap/>

