

# WSDOT Wetland Discipline Report Preparation

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Discipline reports are prepared by Regional Offices or Divisions to document environmental studies and investigations during the NEPA process to allow transportation staff to make appropriately informed decisions. Discipline reports provide supporting documentation for an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), Environmental Assessment (EA), or Documented Categorical Exclusion (DCE).

## Wetland Discipline Reports

(Adapted from [Chapter 431 of the Environmental Procedures Manual](#))

A wetland discipline report is recommended when a project will:

- Have impacts to wetlands or streams,
- Require excavation or fill outside the existing road prism, or
- Require permanent or temporary property acquisition.

A Wetland Discipline Report describes wetlands and other aquatic resources, and evaluates the ecological significance of each alternative's potential impacts on these aquatic resources. The level of detail for a discipline report varies for each project. The level of documentation should be sufficient to allow transportation staff to make informed decisions about alternative selection, mitigation measures, and the need for early consultation with regulatory agencies.

During the scoping process, wetland impacts may be estimated based on field studies, NWI maps, critical areas maps, and aerial photograph interpretation. A range of possible impacts may be provided for each alternative.

For the NEPA/SEPA process, wetland boundaries should be delineated and surveyed to provide an accurate description of the size and quality of the wetlands. A Wetland Assessment Report describing the delineation should be appended to the Wetland Discipline Report. The Wetland Assessment Report does not include evaluation of impacts, and thus should not need to be updated if there are minor changes to the project design.

The Wetland Discipline Report calculates impacts for the project alignments being considered based on the location of the wetland edges. If there are potential impacts, the Wetland Discipline Report may identify ways they can be avoided and/or minimized. In addition to direct impacts, the Wetland Discipline Report should consider indirect and cumulative effects that a project might have on wetlands and other aquatic resources. Indirect impacts include disturbances that

reduce or eliminate wetland functions without directly filling or excavating wetland soils. Please also see [WSDOT's Guidance on Discipline Reports](#) and [Chapter 412 of the Environmental Procedures Manual](#).