

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

Biological Assessment Preparation For Transportation Projects

**No class scheduled at this time, tentatively scheduled for 2013
only the BA Re-Qualification class is offered at this time.**

A 4 day course (exam on day 4)

Date: TBD - Tentative 2013

Class Size: Up to 100

Location: TBD

Cost: TBD for Washington local agency staff or Washington consultants

All others: TBD

Instructors:

Marion Carey, WSDOT Fish & Wildlife Program Manager

Sharon Rainsberry, WSDOT Biologist

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 Federal Highway Administration (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 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, noise impacts and marine mammals. 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.

Study Guide

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 will be available when the class is scheduled.

BA Manual

We recommend that you print out a copy of the BA manual and bring it with you to the seminar as we are no longer able to provide course participants with a hard copy. Wait until the manual has been updated (first week of March 2012) before printing, to insure that you have the correct version for the seminar. It will be available on-line on March 1st at:

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

Exam

An exam will be offered. 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.

Registration and Fee Schedule

No Class scheduled at this time:

Questions

Seminar information for WSDOT consultants' contact:

Marion Carey, CareyM@wsdot.wa.gov, or 360-705-7404.

Seminar information for local agencies contact:

Bill Leonard: 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 contact:

Judy McDonald at McdonJT@wsdot.wa.gov, or 360-705-7809.

[Disability accommodations provided upon request.](#)

Visit the Washington State LTAP Center's Web Page:

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