



**NOAA
FISHERIES**

**WEST
COAST
REGION**

Streamlining Restoration Project Consultations Using Programmatics

NOAA Fisheries West Coast Region supports efforts to restore the ecological function of our region's habitat in Oregon, Washington, Idaho, and California. Restoring habitat contributes to the recovery of species currently protected under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), ensures that critical habitat designated under the ESA will serve its intended conservation role, and advances the conservation and enhancement of essential fish habitat (EFH) designated under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA).

Why is consultation required for habitat restoration actions?

In the long term, well-designed restoration actions will contribute to improving many of the factors limiting the recovery of aquatic species. These factors include such things as impaired fish passage, floodplain connectivity, reduced aquatic habitat complexity, and degraded water quality and riparian conditions. Well-designed restoration projects can improve the environmental baseline, particularly at the site scale. However, even actions that ultimately will be beneficial may have short-term adverse effects. The actions likely to have the most significant short-term effects are those that will disturb the banks and channels of natural water bodies. Those actions include fish passage restoration, manual and mechanical plant control, juniper removal, livestock crossings, off-channel restoration, piling removal, bank set-backs, and removal of water control structures. These short-term effects, from actions that have a Federal nexus, are what trigger the requirement for consultation under the ESA and the MSA.

What are the benefits of programmatic consultations for restoration actions?

NOAA Fisheries developed programmatic consultations as a streamlining alternative to conducting ESA and MSA-EFH consultations separately and on single actions. Programmatic consultations analyze multiple similar actions and address both statutory requirements in one document to:

- promote more consistent use of conservation measures;
- address the effects of multiple activities at larger scales;
- manage workload more efficiently;
- save valuable funds for project implementation; and
- provide better customer service.

Programmatic consultations for restoration actions achieve these objectives in several ways. Federal and non-Federal partners planning restoration projects gain greater certainty of the expected conservation benefits of their actions, project costs, and timelines for approval by following project design criteria that are delineated in programmatic consultations. These design criteria have been developed by NOAA Fisheries biologists who have extensive experience working with restoration partners, NOAA Fisheries scientists, and engineers. The design criteria ensure that short-term adverse effects of project construction are limited and they provide long-term conservation benefits needed to recover ESA-listed species.

Designing projects to be eligible for programmatic consultations can also reduce regulatory requirements and timelines to allow for expedited project approval. Programmatic consultations, and the categories of restoration projects they cover, have already been through NOAA Fisheries’ internal technical, legal, and quality control reviews and approvals. Therefore, when a proposed restoration action falls within the limits of an existing programmatic consultation, the internal review and approval process is significantly streamlined.

For example, a review of consultations for restoration actions completed in Washington last year showed that the average time for restoration projects covered by a programmatic consultation was six days or less—in some cases a single day—as compared to 135 days or longer for restoration projects that required individual ESA consultation.

What consultation tools are available to accelerate restoration projects?

NOAA Fisheries actively maintains a portfolio of programmatic biological opinions to simplify and shorten the ESA and MSA regulatory process. We also use protective regulations issued under ESA Section 4(d) rules to promote restoration actions and provide “take exemptions” to non-Federal partners. Under Section 4(d), the ESA prohibits the killing or injury of listed species (i.e., “take”) but NOAA Fisheries can provide exemptions under certain limits if it determines that a project is not likely to “take” a significant level of at-risk listed species. NOAA Fisheries is committed to exploring and developing additional programmatic approaches when the need or opportunity is identified.

How do I use programmatic consultations?

If a proposed project requires a Federal permit, funding, or action, and it may affect an ESA-listed species or its designated critical habitat, ESA consultation with NOAA Fisheries is required. To expedite the consultation process, project proponents should first review the proposed action with their Federal agency partner(s) to determine whether the action fits, or can be modified to fit, under a category of restoration actions covered in an existing programmatic consultation. Reviewing protective regulations issued under ESA Section 4(d) rules may also prove valuable in preparing a project’s design and placement for an expedited review process.

The Next Steps

The attached tables summarize NOAA Fisheries’ current portfolio of programmatic consultations for actions whose purpose includes restoration.

Search the Public Consultation Tracking System (PCTS) for a biological opinion.

<https://pcts.nmfs.noaa.gov>

1. Locate the PCTS Tracking Number in the last row of a table, and enter it into the “Quick Search” box on the PCTS site.
2. Review or download copies of the documents available, and contact the federal action agency for assistance in using their biological opinion(s) for your project.

List of Acronyms

BIA	Bureau of Indian Affairs
BLM	Bureau of Land Management
BPA	Bonneville Power Administration
FHWA	Federal Highway Administration
NMFS	National Marine Fisheries Service
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
USACE	United States Army Corps of Engineers
USFS	United States Forest Service

Programmatic Name	Action Agency	Action Area	Restoration Category Types (subcategories)
<p>Restoration Activities at Stream Crossings on National Forest and BLM Public Lands in Idaho. (USFS, BLM Culverts)</p> <p>CY 2012 - CY 2022</p> <p>PCTS Tracking Number: NWR-2011-5877</p>	<p>USFS BLM</p>	<p>National Forest and BLM lands in the Snake (HUC 170601), Salmon (170602) and Clearwater (170603) basins in Idaho.</p>	<p>Seven Action Categories:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Culvert Removal/Replacement and Channel Rehabilitation; 2. Culvert, Bridge or Ford Replacement with a Bridge; 3. Culvert/Ford Replacement with a Culvert or Open-bottom Arch; 4. Culvert Replacement with a Lower-water Trail Ford; 5. Programmatic Project Maintenance; 6. Road/Trail Relocation and Decommissioning Related to Crossing Replacement; and 7. Bridge Construction in Sockeye Habitat.
<p>20 Aquatic Habitat Restoration Activities in Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Nevada and California. (ARBO II)</p> <p>CY 2013 - CY 2018</p> <p>PCTS Tracking Number: NWR-2013-9664</p>	<p>USFS BLM BIA</p>	<p>Streams and riparian areas on Federal lands administered by the Forest Service, BLM, or the Coquille Indian tribe, or on eligible adjacent private lands that are also within the present or historic range of ESA-listed salmon or steelhead and their designated critical habitats within the States of Oregon and Washington. Forest Service and BLM administrative units are primarily located in Oregon and Washington, but overlap into California (Rogue/Siskiyou National Forest), Nevada (Lakeview and Vale BLM District), and Idaho (Wallowa-Whitman National Forest).</p>	<p>Twenty Action Categories:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Fish Passage Restoration (Stream Simulation Culvert and Bridge Projects; Headcut and Grade Stabilization; Fish Ladders; Irrigation Diversion Replacement/Relocation and Screen Installation/Replacement); 2. Large Wood (LW), Boulder, and Gravel Placement (LW and Boulder Projects; Engineered Logjams; Porous Boulder Weirs and Vanes, Gravel Augmentation; Tree Removal for LW Projects); 3. Dam, Tide gate, and Legacy Structure Removal; 4. Channel Reconstruction/Relocation; 5. Off- and Side-Channel Habitat Restoration; 6. Streambank Restoration; 7. Set-back or Removal of Existing Berms, Dikes, and Levees; 8. Reduction/Relocation of Recreation Impacts; 9. Livestock Fencing, Stream Crossings and Off-Channel Livestock Watering; 10. Piling and other Structure Removal; 11. In-channel Nutrient Enhancement; 12. Trail Erosion Control and Decommissioning; 13. Non-native Invasive Plant Control; 14. Juniper Removal; 15. Riparian Vegetation Treatment (controlled burning); 16. Riparian Vegetative Planting; 17. Bull Trout Protection; 18. Beaver Habitat Restoration; 19. Sudden Oak Death (SOD) Treatments; and 20. Fisheries, Hydrology, Geomorphology Wildlife, Botany, and Cultural Surveys in Support of Aquatic Restoration.

Programmatic Name	Action Agency	Action Area	Restoration Category Types (subcategories)
<p>Revisions to Standard Local Operating Procedures for Endangered Species to Administer Stream Restoration Activities and Fish Passage Improvement Actions Authorized or Carried Out by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in the State of Oregon and on the North Shore of the Columbia River (SLOPES V Restoration)</p> <p>CY 2013 - CY 2018</p> <p>PCTS Tracking Number: NWR-2013-9717</p>	<p>USACE</p>	<p>Includes streams, rivers and estuaries in 12 of the 18 river basins that occur in Oregon: North Coast, Mid Coast, Umpqua, South Coast, Rogue, Willamette, Sandy, Hood, Deschutes, John Day, Umatilla (including part of the Walla Walla River), and Grande Ronde. Five river basins in Oregon are not included: Goose and Summer Lakes, Harney, Owyhee, Malheur, and Powder and the waters that form the Klamath River system do not fall within the geographic jurisdiction of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Portland District and are not included.</p>	<p>Ten Action Categories:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Boulder Placement; 2. Fish Passage Restoration; 3. Large Wood Restoration; 4. Off- and Side-channel Habitat Restoration; 5. Pile Removal; 6. Set-back Existing Berms, Dikes and Levees; 7. Spawning Gravel Restoration; 8. Streambank Restoration; 9. Water Control Structure Removal; and 10. Wetland Restoration.
<p>Habitat Improvement Program in Oregon, Washington, and Idaho (HIP III)</p> <p>CY 2013 - CY 2018</p> <p>PCTS Tracking Number; NWR-2013-9724</p>	<p>BPA</p>	<p>Columbia River Basin waters and Oregon Coast tributaries north of Cape Blanco, and land under the jurisdiction of the NWPPC's Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program Portland District. This includes the recovery domains within Oregon, Washington and Idaho: Willamette-Lower Columbia, Interior Columbia, and Oregon Coast.</p>	<p>Eight Action Categories:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Fish Passage Restoration; 2. River, Stream, Floodplain and Wetland Restoration; 3. Invasive Plant Control; 4. Piling Removal; 5. Road and Trail Erosion Control, Maintenance and Decommissioning; 6. In-channel Nutrient Enhancement; 7. Irrigation and Water Delivery and Management Actions; and 8. Fisheries, Hydrologic and Geomorphic Surveys.
<p>Programmatic Restoration for Joint Ecosystem Conservation by the Services (PROJECTS) by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and NOAA Restoration Center in the States of Oregon, Washington and Idaho.</p> <p>CY 2013 - CY 2018</p> <p>PCTS Tracking Number: NWR-2013-10221</p>	<p>NOAA Fisheries Restoration Center</p>	<p>State-wide in Oregon, Washington, and Idaho</p>	<p>Eighteen Action Categories:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Fish Passage Restoration; 2. Large Wood, Boulder, and Gravel Placement; Engineered Logjams; Constructed Riffles, Porous Boulder Step Structures and Vanes; Gravel Augmentation; Tree Removal for LW Projects; 3. Dam and Legacy Structure Removal; 4. Fluvial Channel Restoration; 5. Off- and Side-Channel Restoration; 6. Streambank Restoration; 7. Set-Back or Removal of Existing Berms, Dikes, and Levees; 8. Reduction/Relocation of Recreation Impacts; 9. Livestock Fencing, Stream Crossings and Off-Channel Livestock Watering; 10. Piling and other Structure Removal; 11. Shellfish Bed/Nearshore Habitat Restoration; 12. In-channel Nutrient Enhancement; 13. Road and Trail Erosion Control and Decommissioning; 14. Juniper Removal; 15. Bull Trout Protection; 16. Beaver Habitat Restoration; 17. Wetland Restoration; and 18. Tide/Flood Gate Removal, Replacement, or Retrofit.

Programmatic Name	Action Agency	Action Area	Restoration Category Types (subcategories)
<p>RGP – 12 Habitat Restoration Programmatic - 2015</p> <p>CY 2016 - CY 2021</p> <p>PCTS Tracking Number: WCR-2015-2400</p>	<p>USACE</p>	<p>Corps-San Francisco District counties: San Benito, San Luis Obispo, Monterey, Santa Cruz, San Mateo, Santa Cruz, Santa Clara, San Francisco, Alameda, Contra Costa, Solano, Trinity, Glen, Lake, Napa, Marin, Sonoma, Mendocino, Humboldt, Del Norte, Shasta, and Siskiyou.</p>	<p>Seven Action Categories:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Instream habitat improvements (e.g. Re-connect side-channels and floodplains); 2. Instream barrier removals; 3. Streambank Stabilization; 4. Fish Passage Improvements at Road Crossings; 5. Riparian Habitat Improvements; 6. Upslope Watershed Restoration; and 7. Streamflow Augmentation (e.g. water purchase/lease).
<p>Washington State Department of Transportation, Preservation, Improvement, and Maintenance Activities</p> <p>CY 2016 - CY 2021</p> <p>PCTS Tracking Number: WCR-2016-3939</p>	<p>FHWA USACE</p>	<p>Washington State-wide.</p>	<p>Eleven Action Categories:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Pavement Preservation; 2. Slide Abatement and Repair; 3. Bank Stabilization and Flood Damage Repair; 4. Bridge Repair, Retrofit, Replacement, and Maintenance; 5. Mobility Improvement; 6. Safety Improvement; 7. Facilities Preservation and Construction; 8. Environmental Retrofit and Enhancement; 9. Drainage System Maintenance and Repair; 10. Dynamic Revetment; and 11. Beach Nourishment.
<p>Routine Actions and Maintenance Activities of the USDA Forest Service, USDI Bureau of Land Management and the Coquille Indian Tribe on Land Held in Trust for the Tribes by the Bureau of Indian Affairs in Western Oregon and southwest Washington (RAMBO)</p> <p>CY 2018 - CY 2023</p> <p>PCTS Tracking Number: WCR-2016-5787</p>	<p>USFS BLM BIA</p>	<p>Coquille Indian Tribal Trust Lands in western Oregon and southwestern Washington.</p>	<p>Ten Action Categories:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Road Maintenance; 2. Repair of Storm-damaged Roads, Bridges and Culverts; 3. Maintenance of Trails, Recreational and Public Use Facilities; 4. Environmental and Cultural Program Implementation; 5. Maintenance and Use of Fire-fighting Facilities and Equipment; 6. Tree Removal Within the Road Prism; 7. Public Use of Federal Lands; 8. Rafting; 9. Maintenance of ROW for Telephone and Power Lines; and 10. Rock Quarry Operations.

Programmatic Name	Action Agency	Action Area	Restoration Category Types (subcategories)
<p>Fish Passage and Restoration Actions in Washington State (FPRP III)</p> <p>CY 2017 - CY 2022</p> <p>PCTS Tracking Number: WCR-2017-0621</p>	<p>USACE</p>	<p>Washington State-wide.</p>	<p>Twelve Action Categories:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Limit 8 actions; 2. Fish Passage Restoration and Improvement; 3. Installation of In-water Structures and Streambank Stabilization Features; 4. Levee Removal or Modification and Public Access Facilities; 5. Channel Restoration and Reconnection; 6. Salmonid Spawning Gravel Restoration; 7. Beach Nourishment, Living Shorelines and Beneficial use of Landslide Material; 8. Installation of Livestock Crossings; 9. Irrigation Screen Installation or Replacement; 10. Debris and Structure Removal; 11. Mitigation and Conservation Bank Construction; and 12. Invasive Plant Control.
<p>Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Programmatic for Oregon and Washington</p> <p>CY 2018 - CY 2023</p> <p>PCTS Tracking Number: WCR-2017-7216</p>	<p>NRCS</p>	<p>NRCS areas of assistance to farmers, ranchers, non-commercial forest landowners and Tribes on non-federal and tribal lands in Washington and Oregon where the species considered in this consultation may exist, or where there is designated critical habitat.</p>	<p>Six Action Categories:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Fish Passage Restoration; 2. Tide and Flood Gate Removal, Replacement, or Retrofit; 3. Stream, Floodplain, and Wetland Restoration and Management; 4. Vegetation Management; 5. Road Erosion Control, Maintenance, and Decommissioning; and 6. Irrigation and Water Delivery Management
<p>Tidal Area Restoration Authorized, Funded, or Implemented by the Corps of Engineers, Federal Emergency Management Agency, and Federal Highways Administration, in Oregon and the Lower Columbia River. (TARP)</p> <p>CY 2018 - CY 2013</p> <p>PCTS Tracking Number: WCR-2018-8958</p>	<p>FEMA FHWA USACE</p>	<p>Tidally-influenced areas from California border up to and including the Columbia River in Oregon and Washington.</p>	<p>Twelve Action Categories:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Tide/flood gate removal, replacement or retrofit; 2. Set-back or Removal of Dikes and Levees; 3. Large wood and Engineered Log Jams; 4. Dam and Legacy Structure Removal; 5. Channel Restoration/Relocation; 6. Off- and Side-channel habitat restoration; 7. Streambank Restoration; 8. Livestock Fencing, stream Crossings and Off-channel Livestock Water Facilities; 9. Piling and Other Structure Removal; 10. Beaver Habitat Restoration; 11. Wetland Restoration; and 12. Temporary Safety Stabilization.