



Environmental Training – Topic 4: Biology

Tom Loynes

- ODOT National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Fisheries Liaison – Endangered Species Act/Federal-Aid Highway Program (FAHP)
- 24 years with ODOT

Tom came to ODOT with 14 years of experience serving as a fish Habitat Biologist for the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. Tom's areas of expertise include Fish Biology, Fish habitat, and Endangered Species Act.



Federal Aid Highway Programmatic (FAHP)

CUG Annual Meeting December 3, 2024



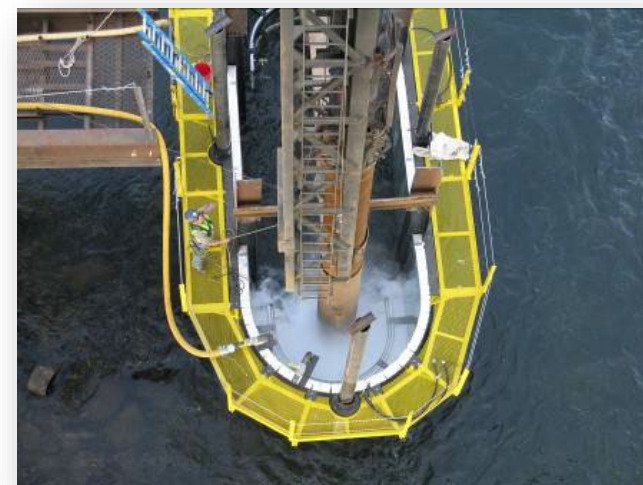
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Early and Often Coordination

- Think about the high-risk elements of the project and coordinate with Region biologists and engineers when appropriate.



- For the FAHP this early coordination is a requirement. FHWA requires this to be documented.



Seriously consider the risks associated with In-water work area isolation. Temporary Water Management (TWM).

- Complex TWM needs more coordination.
- TWM pre-construction meeting.
- Timing and coordination is critical.
- Contractor needs to have a clear understanding on when and where they can work below Ordinary High Water (OHW).
- Contractor needs to look at TWM as a key aspect of the project.

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Consider future Stormwater needs. Advanced Opportunistic Stormwater Credit system.

- Look at long range planning.
- When scoping projects think about Stormwater constraints.
- If you have a constrained project, think about other projects that are on a similar timeline.
- Regional Stormwater facilities.
- On any FHWA funded project look for stormwater opportunities.

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Coordinate with Region Environmental staff on FAHP projects.

- Keep ODOT Region Environmental staff in the loop on communications and coordination with Agencies and Consultants.
- Cc them on project related items. Project changes, project timelines, etc.
- Site visits.



- Early coordination is at the concept plan level, not when a design has been done that may have to change due to stormwater. Late coordination is a design problem to be avoided.
- Early coordination considering the Area of Potential Impact (API) and how it will accommodate stormwater treatment facilities. Is there space or will we need to offset the impacts, which will either expand the API or create a second API.
- Water draining to the project area from outside of the proposed API may increase Contributing Impervious Area (CIA) to be treated.
- Tie in the consulting biologist and not just the engineer at these consult meetings.

- There are potentially some differences between FAHP design standards and local agency design standards.
- Local standards may only be used if they meet or exceed the FAHP standards.
- Having biologist and hydraulic consultants that understand the FAHP requirements/process can avoid delays in getting NEPA completed.



Dev-stormwater.wef.org



Phoenixoregon.gov



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