

## Other Efforts Underway at the Corps

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The Corps is actively working with the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and other State and local agencies to improve the Endangered Species Act consultation process. Some of these efforts include:

**Aquatic Habitat Guidelines for Washington State** Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), Washington Department of Ecology, Washington Department of Transportation, and the Corps are working together to develop Aquatic Habitat Guidelines (AHG) for the state of Washington for a variety of activities. For more information on the AHG process and guidelines developed to date, please see WDFW's website [www.wdfw.wa.gov/hab/ahg/](http://www.wdfw.wa.gov/hab/ahg/)

**Delegation on Non-Federal Lead Status** The Corps has delegated the informal consultation process to the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT), King County, and to Snohomish County as non-federal lead agencies. In the delegation process, the non-federal lead agency may consult directly with NMFS and/or USFWS for activities that "may affect, not likely to adversely affect" listed species. The Corps still retains authority to make determinations of "no effect" and consults directly with NMFS and/or USFWS on activities that "may affect, likely to adversely affect" listed species under the formal consultation process. WSDOT, King County, and Snohomish County must still meet other Department of the Army permit requirements.

**Proposed Initiatives: Application of the Portland District Programmatic Consultation to Washington State** In March 2001, the Portland District Corps of Engineers Regulatory Branch completed a Programmatic Consultation with NMFS for 15

categories of activities. The Seattle District Corps, Portland District Corps, and NMFS are actively working together to apply this programmatic consultation to Washington State. Application to the north-shore lower Columbia River is anticipated in Spring 2002. Seattle District is also working with USFWS to determine the applicability of the Programmatic Consultation for listed or proposed species protected by USFWS. For more information on the Programmatic Consultation for 15 Categories in Oregon, see Portland District's website at [www.nwp.usace.army.mil/op/g/](http://www.nwp.usace.army.mil/op/g/)

**Regional General Permits** The Corps is actively developing [Regional General Permits](#) (RGPs) to improve ESA consultation. The RGP provides a streamlined permitting tool for similar activities within a defined region or watershed and with defined parameters. As part of the RGP development process, the Corps consults with NMFS and/or USFWS on the activities that may be authorized under the time span of the RGP. Through this consultation process, activities authorized under an RGP would have pre-approved ESA consultation. Additional conditions and/or reporting requirements for ESA purposes may apply.

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Point of Contact: Regulatory Reception or  
Contact a Specific Staff Member

Phone: (206)  
764-3495

Email:  
MARNE.A.PACKER@USACE.ARMY.MIL