



Developing a Biological Assessment Training California Desert Export

Under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA), Federal agencies are required to describe the potential effects of their activities to threatened and endangered species in a written report, called a Biological Assessment (BA). The BA development process may be improved if the natural resource agency (typically the Fish and Wildlife Service or NOAA Fisheries) concisely describes the interagency consultation process and needed elements of a BA, to the action agency. This course is designed to provide instruction and materials on the BA development process to local action agencies. Emphasis will be placed on efficiently developing BAs which provide adequate information for the natural resource agencies.

Who Should Attend: Federal, State, and Tribal biologists and managers, private contractors, and others who prepare biological assessments, evaluations and similar documents.

Length: 2 days/16 hours

Objectives:

Provide participants with the instruction and training materials necessary so they can more easily:

- a) develop a thorough project description,
- b) determine the project action area,
- c) identify direct and indirect effects, to species and critical habitat, as described in the ESA, and
- d) conduct science-based effects determinations; and

Shorten consultation time by providing federal agencies the information to facilitate the consultation process.

When: We have scheduled the training for Monday, May 4 through Wednesday, May 6 in 29 Palms. The training would begin at noon Monday and conclude at noon on Wednesday.

Cost: Exact cost have not been determined yet, put tuition will be around \$120 per reason regardless to agency. For those in travel status, travel is estimated at \$350 taking the entire training cost about \$470. If this training were taken at NCTC travel costs alone would approach \$1000.

We will be announcing registration soon.

Please also pass this training information to other districts or regions within you agency so they can also benefit from this training. We will send out registration and room block information soon!

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