

Course Description

Developing a Biological Assessment

Under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, federal agencies are required to describe the potential effects of their activities on threatened and endangered species in a written report, called a Biological Assessment (BA). 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 that provide adequate information for Fish and Wildlife Service or NOAA Fisheries.

Who should attend: Federal employees and their representative, who provide Section 7 biological assessments to the Fish and Wildlife Service and NOAA Fisheries.

Length: 16 hours

Objectives: Provide participants with the information necessary to develop Bas 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;
- d) conduct science-based effects and determinations; and
- e) shorten consultation time by providing federal agencies the information needed to facilitate the consultation process.