

Consultation and Coordination

The Scoping Process

The NPS interdisciplinary team conducted multiple internal scoping meetings throughout the proposed project's inception from 2008 to 2010 at the Fort Clatsop Unit of the Lewis and Clark National Historical Park. The scoping was conducted to identify purpose and need for wetland restoration actions, establish objectives and goals for restoration, inventory an initial array of possible restoration techniques and methods for consideration, identify key environmental issues and analysis topics, and set screening and evaluation criteria against which method effectiveness would be judged and impacts would be analyzed.

On June 16, 2010, NPS notified local, state, and federal agencies, other interested organizations, and the general public of the proposed actions at Otter Point through a public scoping letter. This letter was posted on the National Park Service's website, and mailed out to individuals and groups on the park's mailing list. In addition, a news release was sent out on June 16, 2010 announcing the public and agency scoping meetings on Thursday June 24, 2010.

Agency and Tribal Consultation and Coordination

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and NOAA Fisheries

Section 7 of the ESA, Interagency Cooperation, is the process used to ensure that the actions taken by federal agencies do not jeopardize the existence of any listed species. This process is intended to involve the identification and resolution of species conflicts in the early stages of project planning. NPS will coordinate with NOAA Fisheries and USFWS regarding federally listed species that occur within the Fort Clatsop Unit of the Lewis and Clark National Historical Park and that may be affected by the proposed actions of this environmental assessment. All communication between agencies will occur through written letters and other NPS-established channels of communication.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

A joint permit application for Phase I of the Otter Point Restoration was applied for in order to perform work on USACE regulated property. Furthermore, USACE levee safety program manager provided guidance for levee design specifications during the design and scoping process. USACE will continue to be closely involved throughout the Otter Point project implementation through Phase I, the 408 process and throughout Phase II when the dikes are breached.

Oregon Department of State Lands

A joint permit application for fill and removal activities was also submitted to ODSL to gain consent to work within the submersed and submersible lands of the State of Oregon. ODSL approved the permit application on July 7, 2010.

Youngs Bay Watershed Council

The Youngs Bay Watershed Council was involved with the Otter Point project since its inception. The watershed council coordinator assisted NPS in obtaining grant funding as well as permits.

Region State and Tribal Historic Preservation Officers

The NPS initiated the Section 106 consultation in June 2010, when they sent a letter to Oregon SHPO with the findings of their archeological survey. NPS also offered consultations with the Clatsop-Nehalem Confederated Tribes, Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians, Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde and the Chinook Indian Nation. NPS will continue to consult with the Oregon SHPO, tribes, and interested parties, if appropriate, as part of its ongoing compliance with Section 106 consultation. NPS will undertake consultation through its established communication channels and practices. Copies of all NEPA documents and studies performed specifically in compliance with Section 106 will be provided to SHPO, tribes, and interested parties for review and comment.

City of Warrenton, Oregon

The City of Warrenton provided comment during the DSL removal/ fill permit public comment period, as well as during the scoping process. NPS will continue to work with the City of Warrenton to ensure that consensus is reached between both parties on all design aspects of the Otter Point Restoration project.

Supporting Compliance

In addition to the compliance actions previously listed in this chapter, NPS will also have to obtain permits to conduct restoration actions through the Department of State Lands, Army Corps of Engineers and Clatsop County.

Individuals conducting work that involves removal or filling in any waters of the State of Oregon is required to complete a Joint Permit Application. This application activates the permitting process for a removal/ fill permit from the Oregon Department of State Lands and several federal regulatory programs through the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Federal laws that are included within the Army Corps permit are Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act, and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act.

Grading of lands located outside of city limits or urban growth boundaries in Clatsop County, Oregon requires obtaining a county development permit. This permit verifies that the proposed work is a permitted use in the zone.

As previously mentioned, in the Planning Issues and Concerns section of Chapter 1, restoration alternatives that involve altering an existing flood protection structure are required to undergo the Federal Section 408 process in order to determine that the proposed modifications will not impact the intended use of the structure. This process requires providing the following information in order to obtain approval:

1. A written request by the non-federal interests for approval of the project modification/ alteration
2. A physical and functional description of the existing project.
3. A detailed description of the proposed modification.
4. The purpose/ need for the modification.

5. A description of any related, ongoing Corps studies/ efforts in the watershed.
6. A public interest determination.
7. Appropriate NEPA documentation.
8. Any Administrative Record.
9. A discussion of indirect effects.
10. A discussion of E.O. 11988 Considerations
11. Technical Analysis

Following the completion of the public interest determination and technical analyses regarding the impact of the proposed modification on the usefulness of the project, the Corps District Engineer will make a recommendation through the Division Commander to the Chief of Engineers for his consideration and approval under the 33 USC 408.

Distribution List

To inform the public of the availability of the environmental assessment, NPS distributed a letter to various agencies, tribes, and organizations, and published a press release in the local newspaper. Below is a list of agencies and organizations who received a letter announcing the availability of the environmental assessment. Copies of the environmental assessment were provided to interested individuals, upon request. Copies of the document were also available for review at the Astoria Public Library, the Warrenton Community Library, the library within the Lewis and Clark National Historical Park and on the internet at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/lewi>.

The environmental assessment is subject to a 30-day public comment period. During this time, the public is encouraged to submit their written comments to the National Park Service address provided at the beginning of this document.

Army Corps of Engineers
Oregon Department of State Lands
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
Oregon State Parks
Oregon Department of Forestry
Oregon State Historic Preservation Office
Clatsop-Nehalem Confederated Tribes
Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians
Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde
Chinook Indian Nation
Clatsop County Diking District #11
Clatsop County
City of Astoria, Oregon
City of Warrenton, Oregon
Youngs Bay Watershed Association

List of Preparers and Contributors

Madeline Dalton- Coordinator
North Coast Watershed Association

April Cameron-Biologist/Ecologist
Columbia River Estuary Study Taskforce

Micah Russell- Director
Columbia River Estuary Study Taskforce

Carla Cole- Natural Resource Manager
National Park Service- Lewis and Clark
National Historical Park

Nancy Eid- Biologist
National Park Service- Lewis and Clark
National Historical Park

**Amy Horstman- Columbia River
Fisheries Program Office**
United States Fish and Wildlife Service

Bruce Henderson- President
Henderson Land Services

**Alan Whiting- Senior Ecosystem
Planner**
PC Trask and Associates Inc.

**Heida Diefenderfer- Coastal
Assessment and Restoration Senior
Scientist**
Pacific Northwest National Laboratories:
Battelle

Army Corps of Engineers

Oregon Department of State Lands

**April Silva- Wetlands Monitoring
Specialist**
Columbia River Estuary Study Taskforce

David Szymanski- Superintendent
National Park Service- Lewis and Clark
National Historical Park

Zach Bolitho- Chief of Resources
National Park Service- Lewis and Clark
National Historical Park

Jason Smith- Research Assistant
National Park Service- Lewis and Clark
National Historical Park

Curtis Roegner- Chief Scientist
National Oceanic and Atmospheric
Administration

Don Leach- Superintendent
Clatsop County Diking District #11

**Amy Borde- Coastal Assessment and
Restoration Senior Scientist**
Pacific Northwest National Laboratories

**Lee Cain- Upward Bound Project
Leader**
Astoria High School

**Oregon Department of Fish and
Wildlife**

City of Warrenton, Oregon