

**TABLE OF CONTENTS for CONSULTANT
BIOLOGICAL RESOURCE REPORT/PRELIMINARY BIOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT
Revised November 2018**

This outline should be used in formatting a Biological Resources Report/Preliminary Biological Assessment (BRR/PBA) for MDT projects. Section 1.0 provides a discussion of the general project area. Beginning with Section 2.0, all analysis and discussion should focus on the project specific study area.

Refer to Activity 182 Biological Resource Report/Preliminary Biological Assessment for specific instruction and tasks required to complete the BRR/PBA.

Some sections may not apply based on project location, absence of specific resources, and/or scope of work. In such cases, include the section heading and a brief explanation why the section is not relevant to the project. If a section is not relevant, do not include related subsections in the document.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Detailed Project Description and Location
Ecological Setting and General Area Description

- Land cover
- Ecoregion (Woods, Payne, Nesser, et al.)

2.0 TERRESTRIAL RESOURCES

2.1 GENERAL HABITAT/VEGETATION COMMUNITIES

Methods

- Agency Coordination/Consultation
- Literature/Database Searches
- Field Survey Protocol

Land use/land ownership

Species present, general abundance, distribution, indicator status

Potential Impacts

Avoidance and Minimization Recommendations

2.2 NOXIOUS WEEDS/REGULATED PLANTS

Methods

- Agency Coordination/Consultation
- Literature/Database Searches
- Field Survey Protocol

Species present, distribution, degree of infestation, status

Avoidance and Minimization Recommendations

2.3 GENERAL WILDLIFE SPECIES

Methods

- Agency Coordination/Consultation
- Literature/Database Searches

- Field Survey Protocol
- 2.3.1 MAMMALS
 - Species observed/documented, general abundance, distribution, and habitat requirements
 - Potential Impacts
 - Avoidance and Minimization Recommendations
- 2.3.2 BIRDS
 - Species observed/documented, general abundance, distribution, and habitat requirements
 - Potential Impacts
 - Avoidance and Minimization Recommendations
 - Include requirements under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act
- 2.3.3 REPTILES and AMPHIBIANS
 - Species observed/documented, general abundance, distribution, and habitat requirements
 - Potential Impacts
 - Avoidance and Minimization Recommendations

2.4 WILDLIFE ACCOMMODATION NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES

A wildlife accommodation is defined as “a feature or strategy designed and implemented into a transportation facility to moderate the effects of the infrastructure on wildlife and their habitat. The objective is to minimize or eliminate barriers to wildlife movement, protect important habitat components within the landscape, and reduce or eliminate the potential for wildlife-vehicle conflicts”.

Methods

- Agency Coordination/Consultation
- Literature/Database Searches
- Animal carcass/crash analysis
- Field Survey Protocol

Needs Analysis

Discuss the species present in the project area, movement patterns including trails, sign, observed live animals and/or carcasses, collision and carcass data, etc., barriers to wildlife movement, habitat suitability, current and any documented future adjacent land use, and any wildlife needs that may warrant accommodation with the project. Specifically mention if a wildlife accommodation is recommended as a conservation measure for a federally listed species under the Endangered Species Act or special status species under other federal, Tribal, or state requirements.

General Recommendations

Make general conceptual recommendations to address these needs for consideration during project development. Identify apparent potentially affected design elements for further feasibility analysis with the Design Team (grade, right-of-way, structure sizes, natural or cultural resources, geotechnical or hydraulic considerations, constructability, utilities, etc.) Specific and detailed recommendations will be made later in project development under Activity 707/109 Wildlife Accommodation Recommendation Memo (WARM).

3.0 AQUATIC RESOURCES

3.1 WATERWAYS (rivers/streams/drainages, irrigation facilities)

Methods

- Agency Coordination/Consultation
- Literature/Database Searches
- Field Survey Protocol

Site Description/Stream Morphology

Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Listing 303(d)

Potential Impacts

Avoidance and Minimization Recommendations

Permitting Required

Stream Mitigation Requirements

Exemptions

Baseline Stream Factors

Stream Type

Stream Order (Strahler)

Stream Status

Existing Condition

Dominant Impact (Collective Impact)

Credit Factors (stream credit opportunities)

Riparian Enhancement

Stream Channel Restoration

4.1 GENERAL AQUATIC SPECIES

Methods

- Agency Coordination/Consultation
- Literature/Database Searches
- Field Survey Protocol

Species observed/documented, general abundance, distribution, and habitat requirements

Potential Impacts

Avoidance and Minimization Recommendations

Include Resource Agency recommendations for instream timing restrictions

4.3 WETLANDS

Methods

- Agency Coordination/Consultation
- Literature/Database Searches
- Field Survey Protocol/Wetland Delineation Methods

Description of Delineated Wetlands

Potential Impacts

Avoidance and Minimization Recommendations

Required Permitting

Proposed Compensatory Wetland Mitigation Strategy

5.0 SPECIES OF CONCERN and SPECIAL STATUS SPECIES

Methods

- Agency Coordination/Consultation
- Literature/Database Searches
- Field Survey Protocol

5.1 PLANTS

Species observed/documented, general abundance, distribution, and habitat requirements

Potential Impacts

Avoidance and Minimization Recommendations

5.2 TERRESTRIAL SPECIES

Species observed/documented, general abundance, distribution, and habitat requirements

Potential Impacts

Avoidance and Minimization Recommendations

5.3 AQUATIC SPECIES

Species observed/documented, general abundance, distribution, and habitat requirements

Potential Impacts

Avoidance and Minimization Recommendations

6.0 THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES

PRELIMINARY BIOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

Methods

- Agency Coordination/Consultation
- Literature/Database Searches
- Field Survey Protocol

Species status, distribution, habitat requirements, reasons for decline

Environmental baseline/documented or potential occurrence/behavior in the project area

Potential Impact Analysis

Preliminary Determination of Effect

Threatened or Endangered Species and designated critical habitat:

No Effect or May Affect

Make only a *No Effect* or a *May Affect* determination. If a *May Affect* determination is made, do not include *Likely* or *Not Likely to Adversely Affect*. State that: “A final Determination of Effect will be made at a later phase in project development in coordination/consultation with the USFWS.”

Proposed or Candidate Species:

Not Likely to Jeopardize the Continued Existence or

Likely to Jeopardize the Continued Existence

Potential Cumulative Effects Analysis

Recommended Conservation Measures

REFERENCES

LIST OF TABLES AND FIGURES

APPENDICES Including but not limited to:

- Project location map
- Topographic/aerial maps
- Agency coordination letters and phone call logs
- Photographs of relevant sites
- Completed USACOE Wetland Delineation Forms
- Completed MDT MT Wetland Assessment Method Forms
- Wetland delineation maps (plan sheets/aerial photos)
- MTNHP Element Occurrence/Species of Concern Data report
- Species lists (common and scientific names)

END BRR TOC