

SIN 899-1 – Environmental Planning Services and Documentation

- ***Environmental Assessments and EISs under NEPA***
- ***Endangered Species Act***
- ***Wetlands and Watersheds***
- ***Natural Resource Management Plans***
- ***Environmental Program Management***
- ***Environmental Regulation Development***
- ***Economic, Technical, and/or Risk Analysis***
- ***Other Environmental Studies and/or Consultations***

Environmental Planning Services and Documentation

Each of our senior staff has decades of experience in Environmental Impact Statements (EISs), the Endangered Species Act (ESA), watershed management, sediment management, and water-related and riparian environmental issues in freshwater and marine ecosystems. We have extensive experience coordinating negotiations between clients and agencies, negotiating permit conditions, preparing permit applications, managing multidisciplinary teams, preparing and managing schedules and budgets, and preparing technical reports.

Our services under this SIN are:

Environmental Assessments and EISs under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

MCS personnel have prepared environmental assessments, EISs, and NEPA documentation for state, federal, and local agencies. Our range of activities includes: compliance for ports and harbors, marinas, housing developments, water and wastewater facilities, and public improvements. Through years of experience, we are well versed in all applicable laws.

Endangered Species Act

As more species are added to endangered species lists, clients need help complying with the ESA—both to obtain project permits and to protect themselves against third-party lawsuits under Section 11 of the ESA.

MCS works with the client to assess the risk to listed species from ongoing or proposed activities. We then determine the best courses of action, gather data, and draft scientifically sound justifications for the proposed approach. We can then meet with the lead federal agency and negotiate on the client's behalf as part of the informal or formal review process.

Wetlands and Watersheds

MCS staff is experienced in delineating wetlands on all scales, from individual lots as small as 10,000 sf to large developments covering as much as 160 acres. We have extensive experience in interpreting and using protocols used by the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), the US Fish and Wildlife Service



(USFWS), and the US Forest Service (USFS). We perform wetland delineations using the Comprehensive Determinations method specified in the 1987 Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual. Our techniques and reporting formats are designed to help projects meet the requirements of State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) checklists, Joint Aquatic Resources Permit Applications (JARPA), and other supporting information for an Individual Section 10/404 Permit from USACE, Individual Section 401 Water Quality certifications from the Washington State Department of Ecology, and Hydraulic Project Approvals from WDFW.

Natural Resource Management Plans

MCS has assisted many clients in the protection of our valuable natural resources. These services include fish habitat monitoring, watershed assessments, water quality monitoring, and wildlife habitat evaluations. Several of our scientists have extensive experience with Instream Flow Incremental Modeling. Through the years, MCS has developed close relationships with other consulting firms that complement our natural resource expertise. These firms provide high-quality expertise in the areas of noise and air pollution, historical and archeological resource studies, and transportation planning.



Environmental Program Management and Environmental Regulation Development

MCS scientists have comprehensive experience aiding clients in their environmental program and regulation management. We provide a full range of services consisting of technical document review, document preparation, technical analysis, and public involvement and communication support. We have assisted many agencies with Best Management Practices, Critical Areas Ordinances, EISs, and Habitat Conservation Plans. Our staff is actively involved with federal, state, and local permitting. We have been very successful in assisting both private and public clients comply with the extensive range of environmental regulations.

Economic, Technical, and/or Risk Analysis

Environmental risk and injury assessments characterize the risk of contaminants or habitat alterations in aquatic and terrestrial environments. These assessments are conducted for both accidental spills and historic, chronic discharges; they can involve one contaminant or a mixture of pollutants. Risk and injury assessments can be used by government agencies or

trustees to identify the “potentially responsible parties” (PRPs) and to assign liability to them. MCS has worked on behalf of PRPs to accurately define the limits of injury caused by their activities.

Projects

Coyote Ridge Correctional Facility, EIS, Washington Department of Corrections

MCS personnel worked as part of a team to prepare a SEPA EIS for the Washington State Department of Corrections (DOC), evaluating the environmental impacts of constructing and operating a 2,048-bed correctional facility. Our scientists conducted a field survey to evaluate plant, fish, and wildlife habitat within and adjacent to the proposed site. We prepared EIS sections on geology and soils, vegetation, fish and wildlife, water quality, wetlands, and floodplains. Services included:

- Evaluating impacts on geology, habitat, surface water, and groundwater;
- Conducting a field survey of habitat in and adjacent to the project area; and
- Preparing EIS sections.

MCS and Huckell/Weinman Associates, jointly, with DOC, worked on environmental permitting and consultation on environmental aspects of the design for the final selected site in Franklin County. We followed the process through the draft and final versions.

Lake Keechelus Dam, Restoration – Seeding and Planting, Bureau of Reclamation

MCS restored 56 acres of wetland, forest, and grassland following reconstruction of the Lake Keechelus earthen dam by the Bureau of Reclamation. The work was scheduled to follow the reconstruction work, but because of modifications, the restoration was performed concurrent with the final phases of reconstruction. MCS worked alongside the reconstruction contractor to complete the restoration. To fulfill project requirements, MCS

- cleared the site of oversized rock, wood, and debris;
- regraded erosion channels;



Environmental Impact Statement
Fish and Wildlife Habitat Surveys
Surface Water and Groundwater Studies

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Wetland, forest, and grassland restoration

Replanted over 20 acres of forest, scrub-shrub, and emergent zones

Monitored the plants to assure the client's required survivability



Instream Flow Incremental Methodology

Fish Habitat and Use

Watershed Studies

Geomorphic Analysis

Habitat Conservation Plan

Groundwater and Surface Water Studies

- hydroseeded 56 acres with a customized blend of wetland or grassland/re-forest seed with mineral and organic fertilizer; and
- touched up small areas disturbed by the final construction activities by re-seeding.

To take advantage of a short, favorable weather window, the work was compressed from three to four weeks in the field to less than two weeks.

In the spring of 2005, MCS restored 20 acres of forest, scrub-shrub, and emergent zones. After refining a planting plan, MCS planted over 12,000 conifers, deciduous trees, bushes, cuttings, sedges, and grasses. MCS also replanted 5 acres of grass using 2-pass hydroseeding. To capture a more favorable planting season, MCS deployed extra crews and equipment to expeditiously restore the area before warmer, drier weather arrived. Following the planting, MCS watered and maintained the plants over four months to assist our client in meeting their survivability requirements.

Rock Creek Water Supply Facility Biological Assessment (BA) and Watershed Studies, City of Kent

MCS prepared a draft BA to evaluate operations of the City of Kent's Clark Springs water supply facility in the Rock Creek basin. To gather information needed to prepare the BA, MCS conducted watershed studies, including assessment of fish habitat and use, basin geomorphology, spawner surveys, fish habitat mapping, quantification of fish habitat using the Instream Flow Incremental Methodology, geomorphic analysis of the stream channel, and analysis of interactions between groundwater and surface waters. Biologists also analyzed land use over time to evaluate historical, current, and projected future conditions in the watershed and to assess potential effects on ground and surface waters and the resultant influence on fish habitat. The BA and related technical studies provided a foundation for the development of a Habitat Conservation Plan for the City to provide certainty regarding the future water supply and operations of its Clark Springs facility while protecting the habitat of resident and anadromous fish in the Rock Creek system.