

ENDANGERED SPECIES PROGRAM (ESA) COORDINATOR

JOB PURPOSE AND SUMMARY

Under the direction of the Board of County Commissioners and oversight from the County Administrator, the ESA Program Coordinator is responsible for bringing Clark County into compliance with the Endangered Species Act (ESA). These actions are necessary because the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) have listed populations of salmonids residing in Clark County as threatened with extinction.

Clark County finds itself in a similar position to many of the other jurisdictions in Washington State. Presently, the evolving regulatory requirements of the Endangered Species Act, the Clean Water Act, the Washington Department of Ecology's stormwater and erosion control NPDES permit, the county's Comprehensive Plan Update and the Shorelines Management Plan revision make it necessary for Clark County to revisit many of its existing environmental regulations and responsibilities. The driving force behind many of these issues is the ESA.

The county's ESA Program Coordinator must develop, implement and coordinate the countywide response to the ESA and adequately represent ESA concerns in the full range of additional regulatory arenas. This single position classification has responsibility for the County's ESA program, staff and activities, including policy, project and budget development. This position has a high level of program responsibility and cross-departmental authority for all County ESA efforts.

CLASSIFICATION DISTINCTIONS

This is a single position classification with program responsibility for all County ESA and related efforts. The ESA program applies to lands outside incorporated areas and is based on the (NMFS) Critical and Desirable Elements enumerated in the 1996 NMFS Working Guidelines for Salmon Restoration Initiatives, the final 4(d) rules for steelhead and salmon, as well as state and regional guidelines.

KEY OR TYPICAL TASKS AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Must have a detailed understanding and working knowledge of the Endangered Species Act as a federal law, and must fully comprehend the methods and consequences of compliance and non-compliance. Must have the knowledge, skill and determination necessary to bring the county into compliance with the ESA in a timely manner.
- Develop and recommend policies, procedures and systems necessary to support this effort.
- Develop a program that monitors and coordinates the compliance efforts of all County departments impacted by the ESA and related environmental regulations.

- Serve as a technical resource to staff and a variety of committees, task forces and commissions involved with salmon recovery and related environmental issues.
- Develop, implement and monitor the ESA program budget.
- Manage the ESA program staff.
- Maintain strong liaisons with other staff involved in ESA and related environmental activities.
- Serve as a liaison to external organizations: federal and state agencies; legislative representatives; other local governments; natural resource interest groups; technical advisory sources; business and community groups; and other stakeholders regarding the ESA and related environmental issues.

QUALIFICATIONS

Education and Experience:

A Bachelor's or higher degree, preferably emphasizing the disciplines of public administration, land use planning, natural resources management, other natural sciences, the law or business administration.

Considerable professional level experience in public administration providing an ability or aptitude for natural resource policy development and preservation. Program management experience is highly desirable, as is a specific understanding of relevant law and how the salmonid life cycle biology and habitat requirements interact.

Knowledge of . . . the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and how it is applied with regard to existing federal, state and local law and the biological requirements of populations of west coast salmon, steelhead and other salmonids; salmon habitat needs and the effects of County-managed services and functions on this habitat; the role and processes of local government and its relationship to other forms and levels of government and governance, particularly relative to salmonid issues; experience with Washington State law and regulations is desirable.

Ability to . . . facilitate, mediate and build consensus among diverse groups representing a broad range of interests; develop and maintain effective working relationships with County staff, county citizens, constituents, agency representatives and officials and other private interest groups; prepare and present written and oral reports/testimony to a broad range of audiences, on occasion under adverse conditions often under tight timeframes; develop and interpret complex studies involving difficult multi-disciplinary analytical methodologies for a broad range of audiences.