

# Scoping for Environmental

- **ROW**
  - Is the project adjacent to USFS or BLM? -additional coordination for environmental may be required.
- **Land Use**
  - Local permits needed?
  - Farmland Conversion?
- **Socioeconomics** – consider the following:
  - Disruptions to businesses?
  - Impacts to emergency or public services?
  - Detours (including pedestrians)?
- **Wetlands/Waters**
  - Is the project in a floodway or floodplain?
    - May need a “no rise” or floodplain certification
  - Will there be in-water work? May need:
    - OR DSL Fill/Removal Permits
    - US Army Corps of Engineers Permit
    - OR DEQ Clean Water Act Certification
    - Coast Guard approval/permit (for bridges over navigable waters) - ☹
  - Will there be impacts to wetlands/waters?
    - Mitigation may be required - \$
- **Water Quality**
  - Is the project increasing impervious surface, changing drainage patterns, or replacing a stream crossing?
    - Water quality treatment will likely be required. - \$
  - Is the project increasing the impervious surface area by over 0.25 acre? (other local jurisdictions have differing thresholds).
    - Detention may be required. - \$
- **Biological Resources**
  - ESA/T&E Species
    - Are there ESA-listed plants, wildlife, or fish species within or near the project API?
      - Will likely need to follow Federal Aid Highway Programmatic (FAHP) Biological Opinion Terms and Conditions for avoidance and minimization.
      - Mitigation for habitat removal? - \$
  - Does the project include bridge or culvert replacement or major repair?
    - Fish passage will likely be required (review and approval by ODFW and/or NMFS)
    - Consider impacts to migratory birds and/or bats.
- **Section 106 (Historic)** – Are there historic resources present?
  - Avoidance and minimization will be required to avoid adverse impacts to historic resources.
  - Can't avoid an adverse impact to a historic resource?
    - Mitigation will be required. - \$ ☹
- **Section 106 (Archaeology)** – are there archaeological resources present?
  - Project types with ground disturbance are likely to need subsurface exploration and SHPO permits to identify archeologically sensitive areas for avoidance or further investigation - \$
  - As with historic, if adverse impacts can't be avoided, mitigation will be required. - \$ ☹
- **Visual Resources**
  - Are there federally designated Wild & Scenic Rivers, State Scenic Waterways, Scenic Byways?
    - If so, coordination with appropriate officials and visual standards will be required.
- **Parks** – Is the project in or adjacent to a Park, Recreational Area, or Wildlife Refuge?
  - 4(f) – 4(f) is a US DOT requirement that includes Parks & Rec areas but also historic resources.
    - You cannot “use” a 4(f) resource for another purpose (like transportation) if there is any reasonable alternative.
      - Temporary occupancy or *de minimis* are not considered a “use”.
  - 6(f) – For parks that used Land & Water Conservation Funds.
    - “Conversion” of a 6(f) Park to another land use (like transportation) will require mitigation (i.e., another park) - \$ ☹
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- **Air Quality**
  - Projects in non-attainment areas (much of the Medford – Ashland area) may need air quality analysis. Does the project include any of the following:
    - Changes in vertical/horizontal alignment?
    - Interchange reconfiguration?
    - Signalization?
- **Noise** – certain types of projects may require noise impact analysis. Does the project include any of the following:
  - Added capacity?
  - New lanes (through lanes, auxiliary lanes)?
  - Changes to vertical/horizontal alignment?
  - “halves” the distance between the road and nearest receptor?
- **Hazmat** – most project will require some level of Hazmat analysis
  - Excavation, ROW acquisition, demo or repair of potentially hazardous materials (paint, electrical, treated timber, asbestos...)
- **Coordination!**
  - Tribal Coordination
  - Public Outreach
  - Regulatory agencies
- **Preliminary Work**
  - Will the project require geotechnical drilling or other exploratory work?
    - If so, preliminary work may require additional, “up-front” environmental clearances.

\*\*\* \$ - additional costs to project - ☹ - additional time during PE