OREGON DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

ENVIRONMENTAL BASELINE REPORT GUIDANCE

February 2006

Purpose

The purpose of the Environmental Baseline Report (EBR) is to provide existing environmental resource information for selected Categorical Exclusion (CE) projects prior to the beginning of project design, and to identify those environmental resources which may be affected by a project. The Environmental Baseline Report will be provided to designers and project teams to assist them in developing project alternatives that avoid or minimize impacts to environmental resources.

Process

ODOT uses a completed Prospectus Part 3 and checklist to aid in preparing EBRs. Occasionally an EBR can be developed prior to the development of the Prospectus Part 3. The following outlines ODOT’s procedures for preparing EBRs.

- The Region Environmental Coordinator (REC) will coordinate with the project team to identify the study area of potential project impact. The Area of Potential Impact (API) should be broad enough to encompass all potential design alternatives including right of way, access roads, staging areas, easements, agency supplied material sources, and temporary structures. RECs will be responsible for coordinating the final EBR document. (Note: An Environmental Consultant (EC) may prepare the EBR under contract, but the REC shall serve as the Project Team representative.)

- The Project Leader will provide a project description including engineering-related purpose and an aerial map, or other scale-appropriate mapping of the project area with the area of project impact delineated on it to the REC. The REC will provide this information to the EC, if the EBR preparation is contracted out.

- The REC will conduct a search of the project file to determine if any baseline work has been conducted in the study area in the past, and will provide any background information to the appropriate technical staff member (i.e., wetlands, noise, air, etc.)

- The REC will coordinate with the appropriate regional tech center staff and consultant staff to determine what environmental issues need to be included in the EBR.

- The REC will provide the tech center and/or consultant staffs with a project description, purpose and need, all appropriate existing engineering data and project aerial mapping.
The ODOT or consultant technical staffs then prepare the appropriate technical memos, summaries, or reports. If the technical information is prepared by consulting forces, the information will be reviewed by an appropriate ODOT staff person. Appendix A includes a comprehensive outline for each environmental issue area.

The regional ODOT technical center staff will provide draft reports or technical memos to their REC for peer review. If consultants are responsible for preparing technical reports, the appropriate ODOT technical staff member will review their draft reports.

The ODOT or consultant technical staff will incorporate any necessary changes and provide the REC or EC with final technical reports and/or memos.

The REC or EC will prepare a draft EBR, which summarizes the information in the technical reports. The REC will distribute the final document to the project team, including the Project Leader, Project Designer(s), and technical staff (if requested).

The project team and project designer will use the information and recommendations included in the EBR to develop design alternatives which avoid or minimize effects to environmental resources to meet the project's purpose and need.
ENVIRONMENTAL BASELINE REPORT FORMAT AND TEMPLATE

The following elements should be included in the EBR.

Cover Page

Project name, county, region, key number, township, range, section, 7.5 USGS Map and date.

Table of Contents (Optional, based on complexity and size of document)

List of report contents, list of figures, and list of tables.

Project Description

Project name, city, county, highway/roadway name, highway number, ODOT region, funding source, cost estimate, engineering purpose and need, beginning and end mile point (MP), and length. Also include a description of the area of project impact (API) boundaries and how they were identified.

Note: The project description and supporting information will be developed by the Project Team and provided to the staff or consulting forces preparing the baseline document and accompanying technical memos and reports.

Project Area Map

Aerial map, survey map or USGS Quad of the project area including the area of project impact (API) delineated on it. The API needs to be broad enough to encompass all reasonable potential design alternatives and environmental constraints including:

- access roads
- easements
- right of way
- potential staging areas
- temporary structures
- location and extent of identified environmental resources (may be provided on separate mapping, as needed)
Environmental Conditions Summary  (Optional)

If the EBR technical reports indicate a large number of potential environmental impacts or concerns, a written summary should be prepared to outline the existing environmental conditions and potential permit requirements based on the findings in the technical baseline reports prepared for the project. The summary should include the following table (see below) and environmental constraints map(s) (i.e., delineated or determined wetland boundaries, critical habitat areas, potential hazardous materials sites, land use, and so forth.).

If the EBR is small in scope, or only a limited number of environmental resources are potentially affected by the project, these tables can be used as a substitute for the more comprehensive “Discussion of Environmental Conditions” section, as long as sufficient information is provided to the design and project teams to allow for the design of avoidance and minimization alternatives, and adequate references are included to indicate the preparers and dates of applicable technical memos, reports, and other documentation that supports the findings, conclusions or recommendations included in the table.

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<tr>
<th>Environmental Discipline</th>
<th>Requires Further Study Y/N</th>
<th>Comments</th>
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<td>Air Quality</td>
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<td>Other waters of U.S. and State</td>
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Permits

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<th>Comments and Timeline</th>
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<td>Access Permit or Temporary Easement</td>
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<td>Activities on the Ocean Shore Permit (State Parks)</td>
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<td>Endangered Species Act Permits (USFWS, NMFS)</td>
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<td>Floodplain Permits (Local)</td>
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<td>Corps of Engineers Permits (Section 10 and/or 404)</td>
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<td>DSL Fill and Removal Permits</td>
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<td>Solid Waste Letter of Authorization permit</td>
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<td>UST Decommissioning Notification</td>
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<td>Utility Permits</td>
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<td>Wastewater Permit</td>
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**Discussion of Environmental Conditions**

- A discussion of each environmental resource category should be included in the EBR. For each discipline, the discussion should generally outline the following, based on the findings included in the environmental resources technical reports or memos, and according to the guidance presented in Appendix A of this document:

  - Statement of presence or absence of environmental resources (Archaeology, Historic, Biology/ESA, Wetlands, etc), or description of potentially effected residences/businesses or other environmental constraints (Hazmat, Air Quality Maintenance Area, Noise, etc).
  - Short description of resources or affected properties, if present
  - Value ranking or significance of resources (i.e. high/low quality wetlands, potentially eligible/not eligible for NRHP, etc).
  - Approximate cost and time to mitigate resources, if potentially affected by project (refer, “Environmental Mitigation Estimates” discussion on page 6).
  - Mapping adequate to show project designer the location of each resource in enough detail to allow for avoidance/minimization design alternatives (refer, “Geographic Information System Support” discussion on page 6).
  - Reference to Technical Report or other documentation indicating preparer and date, to support the conclusions and/or recommendations included in EBR.
**Justification of Null Results**

- When it is determined that there are no resources present for a specific environmental discipline, or that there is no potential to affect specific types of environmental resources, the EBR should contain a brief statement justifying the null results for that discipline, and documenting that an environmental professional supports that determination. For example, if there are no historic resources present in the project area, the EBR would indicate:

  *No historic resources present in project area (refer, PA memo by Leslie Schwab, 10/2/05).*

**Environmental Mitigation Estimates**

- When there is potential for a project to affect an environmental resource, information should be provided in the EBR indicating estimated costs and timeline to mitigate the potential effects. For example, if the project may encroach upon an archaeological site, the EBR should indicate approximate costs to do a recovery effort for the site, and how long it would take to complete. Likewise, if there is a potential to affect a wetland area, information should be included in the EBR estimating the cost to mitigate the wetland impacts, ie, $50,000 per acre, and the additional time required to develop the mitigation is approximately XX months.

**Geographic Information System Support**

- All project mapping and resource data collection should be prepared in accordance with ODOT GIS Data Management Standards. (Note: Until the GIS standards are completed, mapping should be prepared on the most efficient mapping resources available, including aerial, topographic, straight-line, and other project area maps as appropriate to illustrate the various environmental resources or constraints.)
Appendix A: Technical Documentation Guidance

**NOTE:** Complete Procedural Guidance for each environmental discipline is available on the ODOT FTP site. Links to Procedural Guidance, Standardized Scopes of Work, and Regulatory Compliance documentation examples and forms are provided on the ODOT Geo-Environmental Website. ([http://www.oregon.gov/ODOT/HWY/GEOENVIRONMENTAL/](http://www.oregon.gov/ODOT/HWY/GEOENVIRONMENTAL/))

**Air Quality**

- Document whether the API is located in an air quality attainment area, a non-attainment area, or a maintenance area. If it is located in a non-attainment or maintenance area, specify for what pollutant.

- Document if the project involves adding lanes, increases capacity, signalization, channelization, and/or alignment changes. If the project includes these elements, note that an Air Quality Technical Report may be required.

- Document if the project is in: (specify the respective planning period of the most recently approved STIP, RTP, MTIP)
  - a State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP),
  - the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP),
  - And the Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Plan (MTIP).

  *(Note: If the project is in an MPO area, the project should be in the STIP, the RTP, and MTIP. If the project is in a non-MPO area, the project should be in the STIP.)*

- If the project is located in a non-attainment/maintenance area, contact the appropriate agency responsible for the regional conformity analysis to answer the following:
  - Was the project included in the regional conformity analysis?
  - Was it identified as a regionally significant project, a Table 2 or a Table 3 project of the Transportation Conformity Rule?

- If the project is in a non-attainment or maintenance area describe what additional work needs to be done during the project development phase to be in compliance.
  - Regional conformity determination?
  - Project level conformity determination?
    - CO hot spot analysis; or
    - PM-10 hot spot analysis
  - STIP/RTP/TIP amendment required?
Archaeology

Existing Conditions

- Conduct background records and literature search to determine if there are any previously recorded sites in the project impact area. This should also include tribal coordination.

- Conduct a field review/preliminary survey.

- If an archaeological site(s) is identified, conduct a Phase 1 pedestrian survey with possible subsurface probing. Note: If sites are found they need to be evaluated. Tribal coordination will be done by ODOT archaeology staff.

- Document existing conditions including:
  - Tribal information (if appropriate)
  - Historic/ethnographic/past research
  - Cultural and historic context
  - Geologic/geographic setting
  - Current and past ecological environment

- Setting including vegetation, visibility, soils, topography, water (type, direction, and aspect)

- Section of quad map (SHPO Requirement) along with encompassing legal descriptions.

References

- Include any sources used to prepare technical report/memo.

- Document any phone conversations with tribes, resource agencies, property owners, etc.

- Copies of completed site forms and isolated finds will be available on request from the ODOT archaeology staff. (This information is considered confidential.)
Biology

Botanical Resources:
- Access available information to determine the likelihood that ESA state or federal listed or candidate plants are located on the project site (e.g., ORNHIC database, USFWS quarterly lists).
- Check with local agencies and federal land agencies (if appropriate) to determine if specific surveys are required.
- Perform site visits during the appropriate growing seasons to document and map ESA state or federal listed or candidate plants and any critical habitat, or to document the absence of botanical resources of concern. Habitat Assessments can substitute for surveys which cannot be completed during the growing season.

Noxious Weeds:
- Access available information to determine the likelihood that noxious weeds are located on the project site (e.g., ORNHIC database, ODA weed list, USDA APHIS weed maps).
- Perform site visits during the appropriate growing seasons to document and map noxious weeds using the ODA Noxious Weed Rating System, or to document the absence of weeds of concern. Habitat Assessments can substitute for surveys which cannot be completed during the growing season.

Wildlife (includes Terrestrial Invertebrates):
- Access available information to determine the likelihood that ESA state or federal listed or candidate wildlife species are located on the project site or will impacted by the project (e.g., ORNHIC database, USFWS quarterly lists, ODFW lists, The Xerces Society).
- Check with local agencies and federal land agencies (if appropriate) to determine if specific surveys are required.
- Perform site visits and surveys to document the presence/absence of state and federal ESA listed wildlife species; surveys must be conducted according to appropriate regulatory protocols or methodologies.
- Document the importance of wildlife crossings in the project area, if appropriate.
- Document if vegetation will be removed and if birds/bats nest or roost on transportation structures (bridges/culverts) for potential MBTA concerns.

Fish and Aquatic Resources:
- Access available information to determine the likelihood that ESA state or federal listed or candidate fish species (including ESUs) or their critical habitats are located on the project site or will impacted by the project (e.g., ORNHIC database, USFWS quarterly lists, NMFS lists and ESU maps, ODFW lists).
- Perform site visits and surveys to document the presence/absence of state and federal ESA listed wildlife species (including ESUs) and to map their critical habitats (if present); surveys must be conducted according to appropriate regulatory protocols or methodologies.
- Scope drainage conditions in the project area and document whether any Fish Passage State Statute "trigger conditions" are met (ORS 509.585).
Hazardous Materials

- Use “Hazardous Materials Corridor Study” report template located on the ODOT FTP site.
- Reference the Hazardous Materials Corridor Study or Survey Memo, including name of preparer and date
- Statement of hazardous materials present or absent
- Describe hazardous materials and location, if present
- Describe recommendations, including mitigation cost estimates, as needed.

Example language:

ODOT Region #X HazMat Group conducted a Hazardous Materials Corridor Study for the project ________________ (Key # ____). The purpose of the assessment was to identify potential environmental conditions (sources of hazardous materials) that could impact Project construction. For details regarding this investigation and it's findings, refer to the "Hazardous Materials Corridor Study: Project Name, Key #: ____ , Hwy, MP, City, County, Date"

Select either:

No Finding Option
This Corridor Study did not identify any potential environmental conditions that would likely impact the proposed construction or right of way acquisitions within the Project Corridor. Unless the scope of the Project changes, no further investigation is recommended. If the scope of the Project changes to include additional excavation or right of way acquisition, please contact the Region HazMat Coordinator.

Or:
List Potential Environmental Conditions Identified
The Corridor Study identified the following potential environmental conditions that could impact the proposed construction or right of way acquisitions:

☐ Three LUST sites, two active gasoline stations and a dry cleaners adjacent to the Project Corridor and could have contaminated soil and groundwater within the proposed construction areas
☐ Mercury vapor lamps and treated timbers are present and would require special handling if they require removal or replacement.
☐ etc.

Based on these findings, ODOT HazMat Group recommends the following:
☐ Additional site specific research to complete a Phase 1 that meets the ASTM E1527-00 standard for # properties and/or
☐ A magnetometer and ground penetrating radar survey to determine the presence of suspected USTs at # locations and/or
☐ A subsurface investigation on or adjacent to each area of property acquisition or proposed excavation and/or
☐ A survey to determine the number and size of mercury vapor lamps / light ballasts / treated timbers / etc. that require removal and prepare contract special provisions for handling and disposal of these materials.

- If the scope of the Project changes to include additional excavation or right of way acquisition, please contact the Region HazMat Coordinator.

Report preparation conducted by ____________________.

_____________________________________  ____________  
Signature                      Date

Technical review conducted by ____________________, R.G.

_____________________________________  ____________  
Signature                      Date

Corporate review conducted by ____________________.

_____________________________________  ____________  
Signature                      Date

Registered Geologist Stamp
**Historic Resources**

- Conduct a local historic site inventory review and SHPO literature search.
- Conduct a field review/preliminary survey.
- Document existing conditions including:
  - Definition of the Area of Potential Effect (APE)
  - Site location information
  - Photographs of potential historic property(s) including addresses.
  - Document if the resource is potentially eligible for listing in the National Register (NRHP) and is potentially a 4(f) property.
  - Map including locations of potential historic resources.
  - Estimate cost and time to mitigate, if NRHP eligible resources are affected.
  - Name of Cultural Resources Specialist who prepared the information, including reference to any memos or technical reports which were prepared supporting the determinations stated in the EBR.

**References**

- Include any sources used to prepare this report.
- Document any phone conversations or interviews with resource agencies or property owners.
- Document any field research with location maps and a table that includes photographs, ID number, property address/tax lot, construction date, resource type and National Register status.
**Land Use**

- Review project to determine its compatibility with DLCD state wide goals in particular Goal 2 (Land Use Planning), Goal 3 & 4 (Agricultural & Forest Lands), goal 9 (Economic Development) and Goal 12 (Transportation).

- Review the project for consistency with the Oregon Highway Plan policy regarding the state highway freight system, lifeline routes, efficiency of freight movement, land use and transportation, scenic byways, highway mobility standards, environmental resources, and scenic resources. (Other policies may also be applicable.)

- Review and determine project consistency with local land use plans and zoning ordinances. Indicate how this project is compatible.

- Review and determine project consistency with local jurisdiction transportation plans, if such documents exist. (Most jurisdictions are required to have a transportation plan under Oregon Planning Law.)

- Meet with city and county planning staffs to:
  - Describe the project and obtain planning and zoning information.
  - Obtain site specific permitting information.
  - Determine if any special provisions in the local planning and zoning ordinances are applicable, which may need special reports or application procedures.

- If Federal lands are involved refer to agency maps and corresponding management plans and reports. Talk to agency personnel on specific project issues and requirements.

**Existing Conditions**

- Provide a description of the area regarding the natural and manmade features seen on the landscape. It should be a descriptive narrative which gives the reader a general feel for the landscape and what’s on it.

- Review the local Transportation System Plan (TSP) or the RTP (Regional Transportation Plan, if applicable) and the Oregon Highway Plan

- Review zoning and comprehensive plan

- Review statewide planning goals

- Document existing conditions including:
- Local planning departments(s) and ask for written input on whether the project is in compliance with local planning and zoning and if not, what land use actions are needed.

- Conformance or nonconformance with the local TSP and/or the RTP.

- Identify land designations in the project area.

- Identify any possible goal exceptions and possible plan amends.

- Identify any possible land use permits that may be required. (It should be noted that ODOT does not need a local building permit.)

- Zoning/Comprehensive Plan Map.

(Note: For most projects, Land Use determinations can be prepared by the Region Environmental Coordinator in a manner similar to normal Part 3 preparation.)

**References**

- Include any land planning or resource agency documents used to prepare the technical report.

- If a permit is needed identify the local ordinance (name, citation number) that requires it.

- Document any phone conversations or face to face meeting with planning department, resource agencies, property owners and so forth. If at all possible get any local staff determinations in writing.
Noise

Traffic noise has the potential to affect the project design if noise mitigation is necessary or, if avoidance is desirable through grade changes or the wasting of excess cut materials in berm construction. The construction of berms or sound walls can require additional easements or right-of-way acquisition. The construction of noise walls along shoulders may mean a change in the project typical sections for the area where the walls would be constructed.

Noise studies are required whenever one or more of the following conditions occur:

- The construction will involve creation of an additional lane of through traffic. This also applies to the construction of a passing lane or HOV lane.
- The construction results in an acoustically significant increase in noise due to a shift in the horizontal or vertical alignment of the roadway.
- The construction will create a new roadway on a new alignment. This also applies to on or off ramps.
- The construction will remove acoustic shielding (i.e. embankments, dense stands of trees and vegetation, buildings etc.) that currently significantly reduce noise to a receptor.

If none of the above occur a traffic noise study is not required! If any of the above occur a noise study is required! The question that must then be answered is, are there noise sensitive developments close enough to the roadway to have potential for noise impact? Noise sensitive developments consist of homes, businesses, parks, schools, churches or playgrounds that currently exist, or that are planned, designed or programmed. Planned designed or programmed generally refers to building permits issued. If such development is present some basic questions as to the nature of the development must then be answered. For example, is the development a residential subdivision or mobile home park? Does the development have direct access to the roadway, through driveways or streets which would limit or eliminate potential noise mitigation?

At this early stage in project design it might be reasonable to assume that a nearby development has potential for noise impact. If that is the case, a quick estimate of the potential cost of providing noise mitigation can be made by estimating the cost for a wall the length of the development. The cost of such mitigation can then be estimated by multiplying the length of the wall in feet times the height of the wall (use 16 feet) and multiplying that square footage by $20. This is only a ball park estimate for rough dollar value consideration. The final design will require a traffic noise study complete with a wall design. By no means are these rough considerations to be made public. No implied promise of noise mitigation is to be made until a comprehensive noise study is accomplished that includes an in depth mitigation analysis.
For projects where a noise study is not required, the RECs or other preparers may use the following statement in the noise section of the EBR:

The proposed project will not add a through lane of traffic, construct a new roadway on a new alignment, result in an acoustically significant shift in the roadway alignment, or bring about a new traffic noise impact. Therefore, a traffic noise study is not required.

*(Ref: ODOT Noise Manual, Appendix A)*

If a question arises during this process ODOT’s Acoustical unit should be contacted.

**Existing Conditions**

- Identify Sensitive Noise Receptors (SNRS) within the API
  - An SNR is defined as a use that may be impacted by increased noise and/or vibration caused by increased traffic volumes or speeds or by a reconfigured existing roadway directing traffic in a manner that increases noise or vibration.
  - Surveyed SNRs should include the following:
    - Residential (single-family homes, multifamily homes, mobile homes, apartments.
    - Senior /care residential facilities
    - Motels/hotels
    - Hospitals
    - Schools and play grounds
    - Libraries
    - Places of worship
    - Vibration sensitive industrial/commercial facilities
    - Parks, campgrounds, and recreational facilities
- Is there a shift in horizontal or vertical alignment? If there is determine the amount of shift
- Does the project increase the number of through travel lanes? (Review Part 1 & 2 of the project prospectus or talk to the project team leader.)
• Is a new roadway being proposed on a new alignment?

• Are there any known noise problems or complaints? If there are what are they and where are they located?

• Will this project result in the removal of topographical features which currently shield receptors?

• Approximate number of buildings/activity areas within 200 feet of the proposed right-of-way line?
**Section 4(f)/6(f)**

**Existing Conditions**
- Research quad maps, city and county maps to identify public parks, recreation lands, or wildlife and waterfowl refuges.

- Contact local planning and/or parks departments to identify parks and recreation areas, whether they are significant to their overall park and recreation objectives, usage, etc.

- Contact the State Parks Planning and Grants Project Officer and local parks and recreations to determine if special funding has been used to develop the park (e.g., Section 6(f), Land and Water Funds).

- Conduct site visit.

- Coordinate with Cultural Resources to verify if 4(f) documentation may be needed for any historic properties/structures.

- Document existing conditions including map of potential Section 4(f)/6(f) resources.

**References**
- Include any sources used to prepare technical report.

- Document any phone conversations with resource agencies, property owners, etc.
**Socioeconomics**

**Existing Conditions**

- Conduct site visit.

- Gather information on access, tax revenues, neighborhoods, businesses, services, and other social amenities using existing documents such as comprehensive plans, previous environmental studies and census data. Indicate reference sources used, and document any phone conversations with resource agencies, property owners, etc.

- Document existing conditions addressing the following economic issues as appropriate:
  - Population – Describe local and regional population, including current census data.
  - Housing – Describe the housing market (housing types, shortages, and availability of affordable housing) in the project area and project vicinity. Describe established residential areas in the project vicinity.
  - Economy – Describe the general economic climate, including median household income and poverty status (industries, employment, tourism) in the project area and established business districts in the project vicinity.
  - Relocation and Right-of-Way – State the number of residences, businesses, and community service facilities that may be impacted or require relocation as a result of the project.

- Document existing conditions addressing the following social issues as appropriate:
  - Protected Populations and Environmental Justice – Describe racial composition, poverty level, and age of the population in the region or project area (demographics) compared to project vicinity. Identify minority or low income populations that could be disproportionately and adversely effected by the project.
  - Community Services – Describe services available in the project area (schools, churches, medical facilities, fire and police facilities, cemeteries, and governmental institutions).
  - Neighborhood Cohesion – Describe neighborhood cohesion and linkages with community facilities (churches, schools, etc.).
  - Recreation – Describe recreational opportunities in the project area, including areas that are not formally designated for recreation but that are used as such.

(Note: For most projects, Socioeconomics determinations can be prepared by the Region Environmental Coordinator in a manner similar to normal Part 3 preparation.)
Water Quality

Existing Conditions

- Document existing conditions including:
  - Description of Receiving Waters
    - Type (stream, lake, groundwater, wetland)
    - Hydrology
    - Water quality condition and status (TMDL, 303d list, sole source aquifer, wellhead protection zone)
    - Physical condition
    - Riparian condition
  - Beneficial Uses
    - As defined by DEQ
    - Locally important uses (domestic or municipal water intakes etc.)
    - Threatened or endangered aquatic species
  - Floodplain
    - Floodway
    - 100 year floodplain
    - 500 year floodplain
  - Soils
    - Permeability
    - Erodibility
  - Watershed landuse and vegetation cover
    - Percentage developed, agriculture, undeveloped
  - Existing Highway Facilities
    - Project existing impervious surface area
    - Drainage facilities description
      - Type
      - Extent
      - Water quality effectiveness
  - Treatment Opportunities
    - Assessment of project area for treatment options
  - Permits other than NPDES held by ODOT
    - Indian Reservation
    - NPDES 1200-C from EPA
    - Reservation specific permits
    - Clean Water Act Section 401 Certification/Water Quality approval (for projects with CWA 404/DSL Removal-Fill permits
    - UIC (underground injection control system) permit for discharge to groundwater
    - Local Jurisdiction permits, as appropriate.

References

- Include any sources used to prepare technical report.
- Document any phone conversations with resource agencies, property owners, etc.
Wetlands and other Waters of the U.S. and State

- Determination that wetlands are present or absent within the API- based on Corps of Engineers 1987 Wetland Delineation Manual (provide in table)
- For areas that meet the criteria for wetland in accordance with the 1987 Corps of Engineers Wetlands Manual, a determination as to whether such wetland areas are jurisdictional under state and federal regulations. If jurisdiction is not readily apparent, state why and what steps need to be taken to make the determination (e.g. additional field data, timing, regulatory agency site visit, etc.)
- Short description of wetlands in the API (Cowardin classification, dominant vegetation type/species, approximate size or extent (if appropriate)
- Briefly describe the quality of wetlands in the API- be sure to note whether wetlands located within existing right of way differ in quality than those outside. Use best professional judgment (BPJ) and document reasoning.
- If wetland resources occur on both sides of a highway or structure, rank these resources in order to help a designer make informed choices regarding design changes. Use BPJ and document reasoning.
- Identify potential avoidance and minimization measures
- Note the cost of mitigation if wetlands within the API are impacted, and note whether the project site is located within the service area of a mitigation bank
- Include a map that shows the location of observed wetlands, waterways, and other bodies of water occurring within the API
- Note any areas within the API that were not investigated, and why.
- Include reference to any technical reports or memos, indicating name of specialist responsible for determinations, and date of report/memo.
Visual Resources

- Research quad maps, city and county maps to identify Federal Scenic Highway or Tour Route and indicate designation: National Scenic Byway, All-American Road, Oregon Scenic Byway, Oregon Tour Route, or Oregon Memorial Drive; Oregon Scenic Waterways and National Wild and Scenic Rivers; Federal, State or Local parks and recreation or conservation lands (includes National Historic and Scenic Trails, wildlife sanctuaries, refuges and preserves, 'beach land'). Determine if there is a USFS or BLM Management Plan. Document sources of data used and methods used to research and collect data. Contact ODOT's District Maintenance Office and determine if there a vegetation management plan for the area. Contact local agency to determine design review requirements.

- Conduct site visit and photograph existing conditions, including view areas. Document existing conditions including map of potential Section 4(f)/6(f) resources. Follow FHWA guidelines and Visual Resource Template (Roadside Development Design Manual) to identify and describe resources, potential impacts.

- Include photographs of the project area and surrounding views. Key photographed views to map.

References

- Include any sources used to prepare technical report.

- Document any phone conversations with resource agencies, property owners, etc.

- Federal and State statutes dealing wild and scenic rivers, national scenic byways, national historic and scenic trails, and state /federal wildlife refugees and sanctuaries.

- Federal and state management agency plans dealing with the resources in question.