

NORTHWEST COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT

***ENVIRONMENTAL STREAMLINING &
INTERAGENCY COOPERATION ON
ENVIRONMENTAL &
TRANSPORTATION ISSUES***

TEA-21 SUMMIT

JANUARY 2000

***Northwest Cooperative Agreement on
Environmental Streamlining and
Interagency Cooperation on Environmental and Transportation Issues***

The undersigned agencies agree to work cooperatively to promote “environmental streamlining” that will facilitate the timely delivery of quality transportation programs, protect and enhance environmental quality, and make effective and efficient use of agency resources. This agreement sets forth principles for coordinating transportation planning, program, and project development processes in accordance with the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century, the National Environmental Policy Act, the Endangered Species Act, and other relevant state, tribal and federal statutes and initiatives.

Principles of Agreement

Section 1: Process Improvements

- ❑ Develop processes that assure the timely development of cost-effective and environmentally sound transportation plans and projects. These processes should emphasize early involvement and the use of concurrent reviews of plans and projects.
- ❑ Recognize effective and successful coordination processes and use them as a basis for improving coordination and cooperation among stakeholders.
- ❑ Develop regional and state specific interagency agreements and mutually agreed upon standard operating procedures. Programmatic approaches and the certification of state programs based upon performance audits should be considered as a means to streamline processes.
- ❑ Agencies should recognize regional state priorities and establish interagency review time frames.
- ❑ Establish an acceptable conflict resolution process.
- ❑ Review the effectiveness of streamlining processes with respect to timeliness and environmental protection benchmarks and make adaptive management changes as needed.

Section 2: Data Gathering, Data Development and Information Sharing

- ❑ Identify data needs, emphasize the development of compatible data management systems, gather pertinent data, and share information to help shape transportation decision making and improve environmental quality.
- ❑ Provide opportunities for the participation of all stakeholders and the public throughout transportation planning and project development processes.
- ❑ Respect other agency's proprietary information designations.
- ❑ Develop interagency capacity to share data by adopting compatible data system technologies.
- ❑ Encourage continued regional discussions as well as state specific dialogue on relationships between land use, growth, and transportation using state-of-the-art information management tools.

Section 3: Resources

- ❑ Remove constraints on agency workforce, budgets, and authorities which affect the success of streamlining activities.
- ❑ Develop pilot programs to promote new ways of utilizing fiscal and human resources. Allow agencies to demonstrate sufficient technical expertise and capabilities to administer new programs.
- ❑ Develop partnership agreements between agencies to share resources, promote watershed and programmatic approaches to reduce costs and improve benefits. Cost savings should be recaptured by the participants to promote further improvements.
- ❑ Support adequate staffing, program, and capital budgets needed for tribes, state, and federal agencies to successfully achieve environmental streamlining.

**Northwest Cooperative Agreement on
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/s/
Idaho Transportation Department

/s/
Idaho Division of Environmental Quality

/s/
Idaho Department of Water Resources

/s/
Idaho Department of Fish & Game

/s/
State Historic Preservation Office

/s/
USDOT, Federal Highways Administration,
Idaho Division

/s/
USDI, Bureau of Land Management, Idaho

/s/
USDA, Forest Service, Region 1

/s/
USDA, Forest Service, Region 4

**Northwest Cooperative Agreement on
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/s/
Oregon Department of Transportation

/s/
Oregon Dept. of Environmental Quality

/s/
Oregon Division of State Lands

/s/
Land Conservation & Development Dept.

/s/
Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife

/s/
State Historic Preservation Office

/s/
USDOT, Federal Highways Administration,
Oregon Division

/s/
US Fish & Wildlife Service, Region 1

/s/
US Army Corps of Engineers,
Northwestern Division

/s/
USDA, Forest Service, Region 6

/s/
USDI, Bureau of Land Management,
Oregon & Washington

/s/
USDI, Bureau of Indian Affairs,
Northwest Regional Director

**Northwest Cooperative Agreement on
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/s/
Washington State Dept. of Transportation

/s/
Washington State Department of Ecology

/s/
Washington State Dept. of Natural Resources

/s/
Washington State Dept. of Fish & Wildlife

/s/
Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation

/s/
USDOT, Federal Highways Administration,
Washington Division

/s/
USDOT, Federal Highways Administration,
Western Federal Lands

/s/
USDOT, Federal Transit Administration
Region 10

/s/
US Environmental Protection Agency,
Region 10

/s/
DOC, National Marine Fisheries Service,
Northwest Region

/s/
Department of Community, Trade and
Economic Development

**CONTACT LIST FOR
IDAHO/OREGON/WASHINGTON TRANSPORTATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL STREAMLINING
(5/10/00)**

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WASHINGTON

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FEDERAL

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