**Streamlined Consultation Guidance for Restoration/Recovery Projects (RRP):**

**Format for the Biological Evaluation/Assessment**

[Suggested language for inclusion in action agency memo or letter requesting formal consultation subject to the expedited process as set forth in the Service’s policy for restoration/recovery projects.]

The attached biological evaluation/assessment (BE/BA) was developed pursuant to the Fish and Wildlife Service’s *Streamlined Consultation Guidance for Restoration/Recovery Projects*. The BE/BA meets all of the criteria for an expedited consultation process set forth in that policy document.

[*insert* *name of requesting action agency*] hereby requests expedited formal consultation for the [*insert Project Name*].

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Signature of Requesting Action Agency Official Date

**Biological Evaluation/Assessment**

**[Enter project name here]**

**Prepared and Submitted by:**

**[Enter preparer name and agency here.]**

1. **Description of the Proposed Restoration/Recovery Action** [include maps, photographs, diagrams, etc. as appropriate]
2. Description of the Restoration/Recovery Objective(s)
3. Briefly describe the restoration and specific recovery action (citing source document when applicable) and its intended beneficial impact to the species.
4. Include a description of anticipated habitat improvements, and/or expected increases in species fitness, survivorship, etc. that are consistent with the recovery needs of the species.
5. Explain why there is a high certainty that implementation of the proposed action is likely to achieve its intended restoration/recovery objective under the second Criterion for Inclusion. This explanation should rely on either a proven track record or a high level of certainty that the habitat improvements are likely to cause the desired species response.
6. Describe over what time frame the conservation benefits of the proposed action are expected to accrue.
7. Define the Action Area

Generally describe the area to be affected directly and indirectly by the proposed action and not merely the “footprint” or the immediate area involved in the action. Explain where, how and when the project will be implemented.

1. Description of How the Project Will Be Implemented.

Identify all participating federal agencies and the role they play. Identify all components of the proposed action that may affect listed species and designated critical habitat. These include all components that may beneficially affect listed species and designated critical habitat, those that may adversely affect listed species and designated critical habitat, and those elements that may affect, but are not likely to adversely affect listed species and designated critical habitat.

Be sure to include descriptions of species surveys, pre-construction site preparation, construction, restoration, and operations and maintenance activities associated with the proposed action in this section. While the action agency should document its “no effect” determinations, do not include those components that will have no effect on the species or critical habitat in the BE/BA.

“Deconstruct” the action into its component parts, where each individual aspect of the action is identified along with the steps required to complete it [Suggest using table format]. This information will be used to identify relevant aspects of species biology and ecology and to identify stressors for discussion in the *Baseline*, *Status of the Species* and *Effects of the Action* sections.

1. Conservation Measures

Identify Best Management Practices (BMPs), Erosion and Sediment Control, and other measures (e.g., work windows, construction techniques, impact avoidance measures) designed to avoid or minimize adverse effects of the action on listed species or critical habitat, and/or benefit or promote species recovery if not already discussed above.

1. Monitoring and Reporting Plan

Describe the basis for monitoring and reporting the progress of the action relative to restoration/recovery objective(s). Include success criteria, the schedule for monitoring and reporting, and how changes to the baseline condition will be tracked. If appropriate, detail how adaptive management will be applied to insure the success of the action. Define what is meant by “success” (what is the desired future condition?).

1. **Status of the Species and Critical Habitat in the Action Area- Environmental Baseline**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **SPECIES** | **LISTING STATUS** |
| [Species name] | [Threatened or Endangered] |
| [Species name] Critical Habitat (if applicable) | Designated |

1. [**insert species name**]

Based on technical assistance from the Service, concisely describe only the relevant aspects (e.g., threats, stressors) of the current conservation status of species that will be affected by the proposed action *in the Action Area* with respect to its reproduction, numbers, and distribution. Those factors influencing that condition that will *not* be affected by the proposed action need not be discussed.

1. [**insert species name**] **Critical Habitat**

Based on technical assistance from the Service, concisely describe only the relevant aspects of the current condition of each affected critical habitat element that will be affected by the proposed action *in the Action Area* with respect to its essential features, primary constituent elements (PCE), or physical and biological features (PBF). Those factors influencing that condition that will *not* be affected by the proposed action need not be discussed. Include a map of the critical habitat within the Action Area.

1. **Effects of the Action and Cumulative Effects**
2. [insert species name]

Based on technical assistance by the Service, specifically discuss the following for each affected listed species:

1. Are adverse impacts (including those causing take) likely to be small in magnitude, temporary (meaning not continuous, recurring, or chronic), short-term, and geographically local with respect to each local population being addressed? [*Note: this standard does not preclude those activities that require periodic management actions that may involve limited adverse effects.*] How are adverse impacts caused by the action likely to influence the role of the Action Area in the conservation of the species?
2. Are adverse impacts that cause take likely to cause population-level effects to the species?
3. Is the action likely to cause a permanent loss of habitat or a permanent loss of habitat function?
4. Are beneficial impacts likely to be caused by the proposed action? Are these impacts permanent or short-term? How are beneficial impacts caused by the action likely to influence the role of the Action Area in the conservation of the species?
5. Summarize adverse and beneficial cumulative effects, if any, within the Action Area, and discuss how these effects are likely to influence the role of the Action Area in the conservation of the species.
6. [Species name] Critical Habitat

Based on technical assistance by the Service, specifically discuss the following for each affected critical habitat:

1. Are adverse impacts caused by the action to essential habitat features, PCEs, or PBFs likely to be small in magnitude, temporary (meaning not continuous, recurring, or chronic), short-term, and geographically local with respect to each affected Critical Habitat Unit? [Note: this standard does not preclude those activities that require periodic management actions that may involve limited adverse effects.]
2. Are adverse impacts caused by the action likely to result in a permanent loss of habitat and degrade the conservation support function of affected critical habitat in the Action Area such that there is net loss of habitat function, net loss of critical habitat or functional value of critical habitat?
3. Summarize adverse and beneficial cumulative effects to the critical habitat within the Action Area, and discuss how these effects are likely to influence the role of the Action Area in the conservation of the listed species.
4. **Conclusion-Determination of Effect**

This section must include a clear determination of effect (i.e., no effect, not likely to adversely affect, or likely to adversely affect) for each listed species and critical that may be affected by the proposed action. This determination should describe and quantify the type of impacts to species and/or habitat.

1. **List of References and Personal Communications**
2. **List of Appendices**

[*As needed, include appendices that describe Effect Matrices, Survey Data, and the Monitoring and Reporting Plan for the proposed action.*]