

Determination of NEPA Adequacy: Introduction

Speaker Cathy Humphrey: Welcome to the "Determination of NEPA Adequacy" course. It's another in our series of online NEPA courses and resources. Be sure you have the 2008 BLM NEPA Handbook, a completed determination of NEPA adequacy worksheet from your office, and something to take notes with. If you don't have a copy of the handbook, then all you need to do is go to the resources tab, which is on the left side of your screen, and download it before proceeding.

So let's talk a minute about how to take an online course. As you know, obviously, it's different than taking a classroom course. And one of the benefits of an online course is that you have control over your learning environment. You have control over the day and the time of day you take the course, how long you participate, and to some extent you might have control over with whom you watch it.

First, let's talk about the learning environment. If you are watching this with a group of people, you will probably be in a conference room. If you are watching it alone, you may be at your desk or at a library. You might be at home. Regardless of whether you are alone or with a group, just be sure that everyone knows you are taking a class, and you are not to be bothered. Be sure to turn off your cell phone, turn off your other distractions. Put up a do not disturb sign. Get comfortable. Make sure that you can see and hear the screen. Use your headphones if you like so you don't bother your neighbors.

And if you are watching with a group of people, please be sure to keep your side conversations to a minimum. You may already know what we are talking about, but the person next to you might really be concentrating. So shh! Be quiet.

Be sure to pick a day and a time of day when you are fresh and alert because this can be kind of heavy stuff, and we want your mind to be sharp.

If you miss something, just stop the video and watch it again. If you need to think about something that we've said, stop the video and think about it. That's the beauty of online learning. You have control.

Okay. Let's get started. Now, this course is based on Chapter 5 of the BLM NEPA Handbook, and that chapter is called, "Using Existing Environmental Analyses." Section 5.1, that is about determination of NEPA adequacy, and we refer to that as the DNA process.

So your instructors are going to walk you through the DNA worksheet, and then upon completion of this course, this is what you should be able to do. You should be able to decide whether an action can be implemented through a determination of NEPA adequacy and to prepare appropriate documentation for a DNA.

So I'm going to introduce you to our instructors now. All of them are instrumental in developing the BLM NEPA Handbook. Meagan Conry, she's our district planning and environmental coordinator for the Roseburg District in Oregon. She's been with the

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BLM since 2004, and she started her career in the Washington office.

Nice to see you, Meagan.

MEAGAN: Hi, Cathy. I'm happy to be here.

CATHY: Richard Hardt is the ecologist for the Eugene District in Oregon. He's been with the BLM since 1994, and he's worked on some aspect of NEPA ever since.

Glad you could be here, Richard.

RICHARD: Thank you, Cathy.

CATHY: And Jolie Pollet is the planning environmental coordinator for the BLM's Alaska state office. She's been with the BLM since 1998. Before going to Alaska, Jolie worked for the BLM in Oregon and Utah.

Thanks for coming down for this.

JOLIE: Hi, Cathy. Thanks for including me.

CATHY: All right. I appreciate everyone being here, and let's get started.