

ESA Overview Module 4 – Section 7, Interagency Consultation Text

Conclusion (slides 61 - 65)

In the extensive history of informal and formal consultations, cumulatively numbering in the thousands, only a handful of projects have been halted as a result of potential impacts to listed species.

Even with projects where adverse impacts are expected, the Services work with the consulting agency and applicants to develop alternative ways to undertake the project

Section 7(a)(2) consultation has been the most valuable and frequently used avenue of interagency involvement in the conservation of listed species.

If all Federal agencies fully engage in 7(a)(1), species recovery **could** be more likely and therefore 7(a)(2) responsibilities would lessen

We have covered a lot of information in this module. We'll now do a quick review of the module objectives

By now, you should have completed some exercises and scenarios highlighting the consultation process. You should be able to:

Determine if consultation is required, according to section 7 of Endangered Species Act and explain why.

You should also be able to explain the steps of the consultation process, including what information is required in the consultation package: from the action agency perspective and from the Services perspective, according to section 7 of the Endangered Species Act.

The major topics of this module include:

Under Section 7, federal agencies are directed to prevent species extinctions in two ways:-
Use their authorities to conserve listed species and their habitats.

And ensure their actions do not jeopardize the continued existence of listed species or destroy or adversely modify critical habitat

Action agencies must provide information regarding the proposed actions and their effects

Consultation is required if listed species or critical habitat may be affected

Consultation can be concluded informally if the effects are not likely to be adverse

If an action's effects are likely to be adverse, consultation is concluded with the preparation of a biological opinion.

Conferencing is similar to consultation but occurs with proposed species and proposed critical habitat. A conference can be converted to a consultation if the species becomes listed.

We've covered a lot in the module. The take home message of consultation is to engage in it early. Contact your Fish and Wildlife or National Marine Fisheries Service colleague early in the process. Call them, talk over the project, and invite them to the field to discuss. Although the process sounds complicated, and it often is, it can go smoothly for all involved with early coordination.

Thank you for your participation.

Whenever you're ready, continue on to the next module... Section 9, Prohibited Acts.