



Five Lessons for HCP Planning Success

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National HCP Coalition
Annual Meeting

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Lesson #1: Maintain Momentum

Why?

- Finish faster!
- Control costs
- Avoid revisiting old decisions

How?

Big Picture

- Assign capable project manager
- Avoid funding gaps
- Demonstrate progress for FWS
- Maintain consistent staff

Day to Day

- Schedule regular meetings
- Set deadlines
- Provide frequent updates
- Hold everyone accountable





Lesson #2: Create Positive Relationships

Why?

- Builds trust, which speeds resolution

How?

- Communicate frequently
- Use respectful tone
- Respond to every comment
- Try to see perspective of regulator or applicant:
Be open to compromise



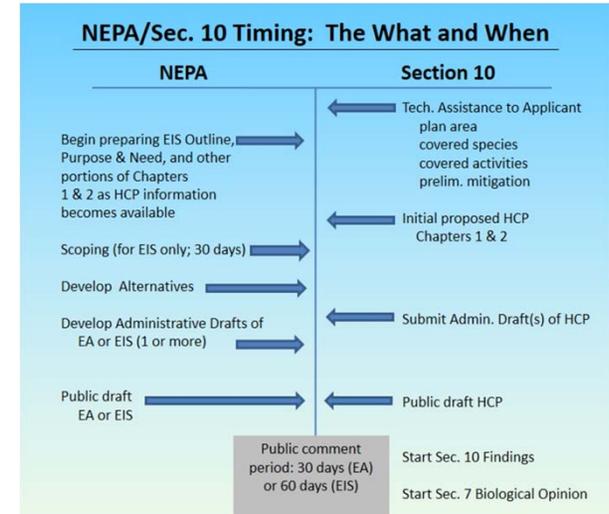
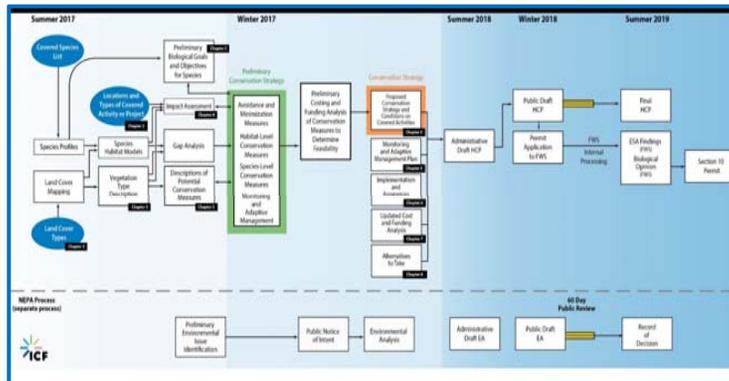
Lesson #3: Know the Entire Process

Why?

- Manage expectations
- Have solutions for tough problems

How?

- Study HCP Handbook
- Work with experienced consultants
- Plan for NEPA compliance
- Attend training
- Plan for implementation



**HABITAT CONSERVATION PLANNING
AND
INCIDENTAL TAKE PERMIT PROCESSING
HANDBOOK**

December 21, 2016

U.S. Department of the Interior
Fish and Wildlife Service

U.S. Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
National Marine Fisheries Service





Lesson #4: Understand the Alternatives

Why?

- Ensure that HCP investment is worth it
- Gain internal and external support for HCP

How?

- Understand all ESA compliance costs and time before HCP
- Compile case studies of project-by-project compliance
- Acknowledge that compliance will cost more in future, not less
- Consider years of benefits and annualized costs
- Recognize intangible benefits: regulatory certainty, predictable mitigation





Lesson #5: Minimize Complexity

Why?

- Balance needs with time in the process
- More complexity = more time and cost to complete



How?

- Define plan area to meet HCP needs
- Focus covered species
- Limit covered activities to risk of take
- Consider multiple applicants carefully
- Balance permit term with level of uncertainty



	Time to Finish (Yrs)	1: Lost Momentum	2: Lack of Trust	3: Got Stuck on Issues	4: Not Better than Alts	5: Too Complex
HCP 1	16					
HCP 2	20+					
HCP 3	19+					
HCP 4	19+					
HCP 5	12+					
HCP 6	4					
HCP 7	2					
HCP 8	7					
HCP 9	5					

	Time to Finish (Yrs)	1: Lost Momentum	2: Lack of Trust	3: Got Stuck on Issues	4: Not Better than Alts	5: Too Complex
HCP 1	16	Yes	Yes	Yes	--	Yes
HCP 2	20+	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
HCP 3	19+	Yes	--	Yes	Yes	Yes
HCP 4	19+	Yes	--	Yes	--	--
HCP 5	12+	Yes	--	Yes	Yes	Yes
HCP 6	4	--	--	--	--	--
HCP 7	2	--	--	--	--	--
HCP 8	7	--	--	--	--	Yes
HCP 9	5	--	--	--	--	--

Thank You!

