

## **Biological Report Requirements FAQs**

### **When is a Biological Report Required?**

An application proposing development activities within a Streamside Management Area or Other Wet Area (including wetlands) shall include a site-specific biological report prepared consistent with the zoning regulations.

### **Who Prepares the Biological Report and Who Reviews It?**

The written report prepared by a qualified biologist shall be referred to CDFG for review and comment. If no reply is received from CDFG within ten (10) working days of the date of the referral, it shall be assumed that the report satisfies CDFG requirements.

### **What Becomes of the Recommendations of the Biological Report?**

The recommendations contained within the written report shall be incorporated into any development permit as conditions of approval by the Responsible Department.

### **Is Monitoring Required?**

The monitoring of mitigation measures and reporting of monitoring activities made as conditions to any permit issued pursuant to this section shall be performed as specified in the project's adopted mitigation and monitoring plan.

No development permit final acceptance, certificate of compliance or certificate of occupancy, nor any further development permits shall be issued unless and until all initial mitigation measures are completed and accepted by the County.

### **What if the Project is Phased?**

Where a project is phased or where mitigation measures are to be monitored beyond an initial building, grading, or construction period, or where mitigation measures are required beyond this initial period, as described within the development permit, the permittee shall post a bond or equal security with the Responsible Department prior to commencing any grading or construction activities. The amount of the bond or security is to be based upon the cost of performing the required mitigation measures, the related monitoring and report activities, and the County's administrative and processing costs.

Following a written notice to the permittee of a failure to complete or fully implement mitigation or monitoring measures within the time period specified within the permit conditions, the bond or other security may be forfeited and applied to the incomplete mitigation or monitoring measures at the discretion of the Responsible Department.

### **What if the Project is an Emergency?**

The provisions of Section 312-15 of the County Zoning regulations shall be followed in cases of emergencies. Following the issuance of an emergency development permit or variance, application shall be made and processed for the required development permit or variance in accordance with the applicable provisions of the County Code.

### **What are the Required Contents of a Biological Report?**

Where a Biological Report is required, the report shall be prepared by a qualified professional educated, trained, and experienced in the subject matter, and the report shall contain the following:

# BIOLOGICAL REPORT

**Section I Summary of Findings and Conclusions**

**Section II Introduction, Background, and Project Understanding**

**Section III Methods**

- A. Field Observation and Studies
- B. Trustee and Other Agency Consultation
- C. Document and Report Review
- D. Cumulative Biological & Watershed Effects

**Section IV Results and Discussion**

- A. Existing Site Conditions
  - 1. Terrestrial
  - 2. Hydrologic and Aquatic
  - 3. Sensitive Species or Habitats
- B. Offsite Conditions
  - 1. Terrestrial
  - 2. Hydrologic and Aquatic
  - 3. Sensitive Species or Habitats
- C. Development Effects
  - 1. Direct
  - 2. Indirect
  - 3. Cumulative

**D. Recommended Mitigation and Monitoring Measures (Mitigation and Monitoring Plan)**

**Section V References**

- A. Plant Species Observed
- B. Other Species Observed directly or indirectly (e.g. nests, scats, tracks, etc.)
- C. Sensitive Species or Habitats in the Project Vicinity (listing)

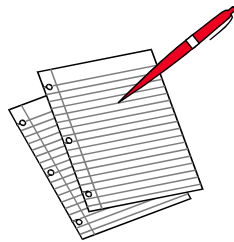


**Required Contents of a Mitigation and Monitoring Plan?**

When a mitigation or monitoring plan is required, information sufficient to answer all of the following is required:

## Mitigation and Monitoring Plan

- (1) Statement of project/mitigation goals – what do you want to create?
  - (a) Map and/or description of existing site conditions.
- (2) Schedule for implementation, inspection, and maintenance.
- (3) Description of site preparation; i.e., excavation, grading, stockpile of topsoil, etc.
- (4) Identify the planting material; i.e., cuttings, seedlings, seed, plugs, container size (source if not obtained from commercial nursery).
  - (a) Use of mulch and/or fertilizers.
  - (b) Description of plant preparation, if necessary; i.e., how cuttings were obtained, size, treatment with rooting hormone.
  - (c) Necessity for irrigation and/or fencing.
- (5) Performance Standards – how to measure success through defined criteria; i.e., number of viable species, cover values, height, growth, etc. For example:
  - (a) Year one – 80% tree species viable and achieving at least 4 inches of growth from initiation of planting.
  - (b) Year three – plugs of silverweed shall cover at least 30% of project site.
- (6) Monitoring Requirements – (standard is five years of monitoring).
  - (a) Conduct during June each year; however, may be modified if specific species are involved (i.e., annual that blooms in April).
  - (b) Photos.
- (7) Reporting – listing of appropriate agencies to receive copies of monitoring report.
- (8) Remedial Measures – plan shall include measures for mitigation not achieving specified performance criteria; i.e., replanting, irrigation, fencing, etc.



# Biological Report



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## **POLICY ON NON-DISCRIMINATION ON THE BASIS OF DISABILITY**

The County of Humboldt does not discriminate on the basis of disability in employment, services or activities. Persons alleging discrimination on the basis of disability may file a complaint on a form provided for this purpose with either the County Personnel Director, the County Administrative Officer or the County official directly responsible for the service, program or activity, whoever is most appropriate under the circumstances. Investigation of all such complaints shall be handled in an expedited fashion.

Questions regarding this policy may be directed to the ADA Coordinator, Room 111 (County Administrative Office), Humboldt County Courthouse, 825 Fifth Street, Eureka, CA 95501, telephone (707) 445-7266.