

## **HCP BASICS<sup>TWS</sup>**

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Habitat Conservation Plans (HCPs) are coming to the Rockies. HCPs are plans that support the issuance of Permits by the Fish and Wildlife Service and/or National Marine Fisheries Service (together referred to as the services) that allow incidental take of species listed under the Endangered Species Act. This presentation will describe the components of an HCP and permit, describe the application and development processes, and applicable criteria. Most importantly, this presentation will focus on biologists that work for tribes, state agencies, or other federal agencies giving them enough information about how HCPs are put together and when opportunities for public participation arise to make them effective participants in a negotiated process which is primarily conducted between the applicant and the services. The discussion will include specific examples from the HCPs being developed in the "coastal" Northwest and ample time will be allowed for questions and answers so as to tailor the session to the needs of the participants.