

# Ecosystems

## Wetlands

- Approximately 5 acres affected on Anderson & Middleton site.
- Approximately 1.5 acres affected on Aberdeen Log Yard site.
- Low functioning at both sites.

## Fish and aquatic resources

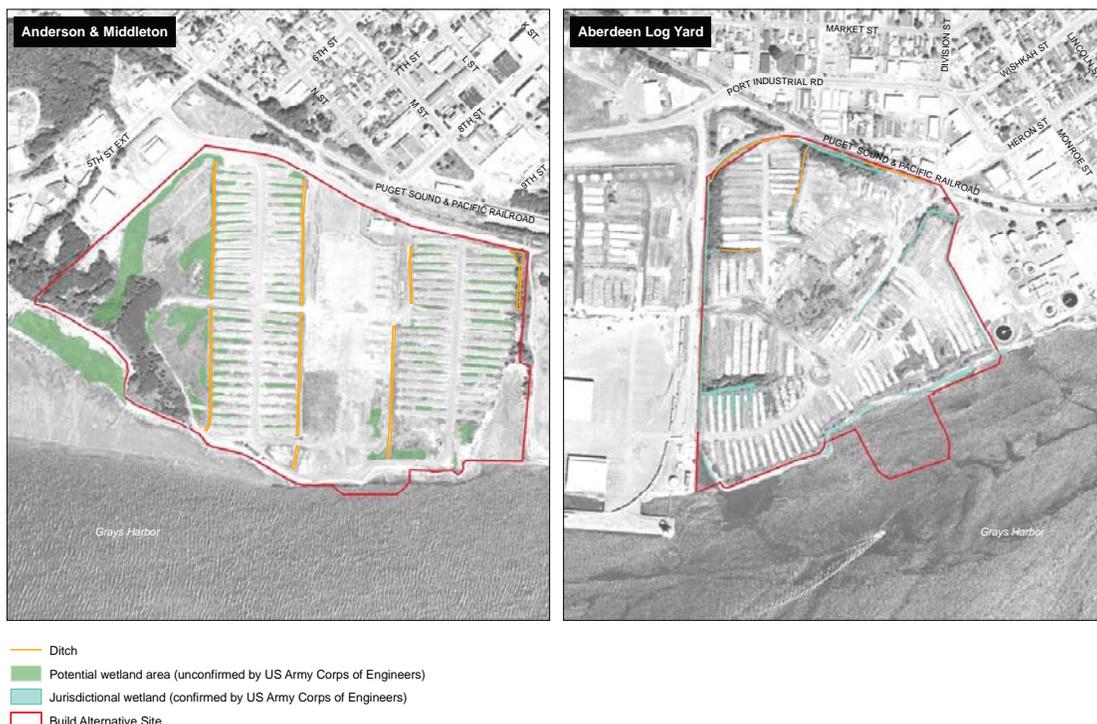
- Pile driving effects.
- Fish entrapment.
- Mudflat alterations:
  - Approximately 1 acre at Anderson & Middleton site.
  - Approximately 5 acres at Aberdeen Log Yard site.
- Moorage effects.

## Wildlife

- Direct displacement.
- Noise from construction and operations.

## Mitigation planning

- Impacts to wetlands and special aquatic sites would require compensatory mitigation.
- Mitigation would provide a net benefit to wetlands.
- The draft EIS does not identify a specific mitigation site. We are evaluating candidate mitigation sites.
- The selected mitigation site would be reflected in the final EIS.





# Endangered Species Act consultation

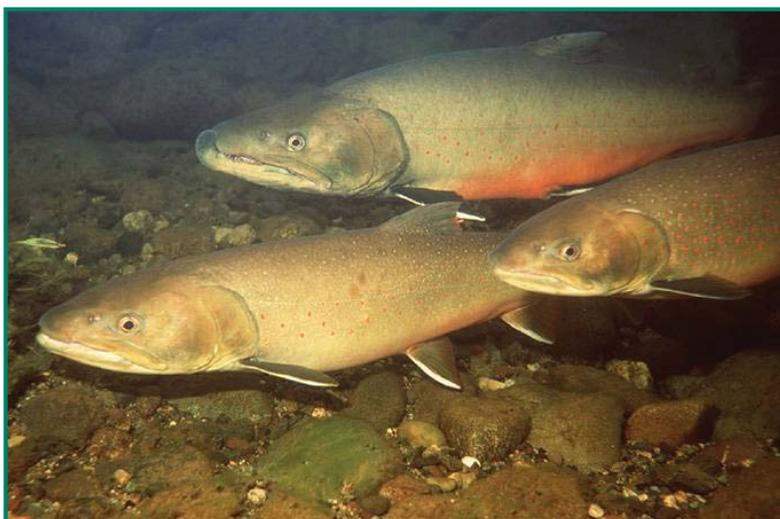
The Endangered Species Act (ESA), passed in 1973, protects animal and plant species whose populations are dangerously in decline or close to extinction. Section 7 of the ESA requires projects with federal funding or federal permits to consult with the appropriate federal resource agencies to determine whether the project could harm ESA listed species or their habitat.

Key ESA listed species in Grays Harbor County include green sturgeon, eulachon, bull trout, and marbled murrelets, among others.

## Endangered Species Act concerns include potential effects from:

- In-water construction (pile driving and dredging).
- Fish handling during basin operations.
- Construction timing (in-water work windows).

WSDOT is working with the National Marine Fisheries Service and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to analyze potential effects from the project and avoid and minimize the effects on listed species and their habitats. ESA consultation is expected to be completed in fall 2010.



*Spawning bull trout*