

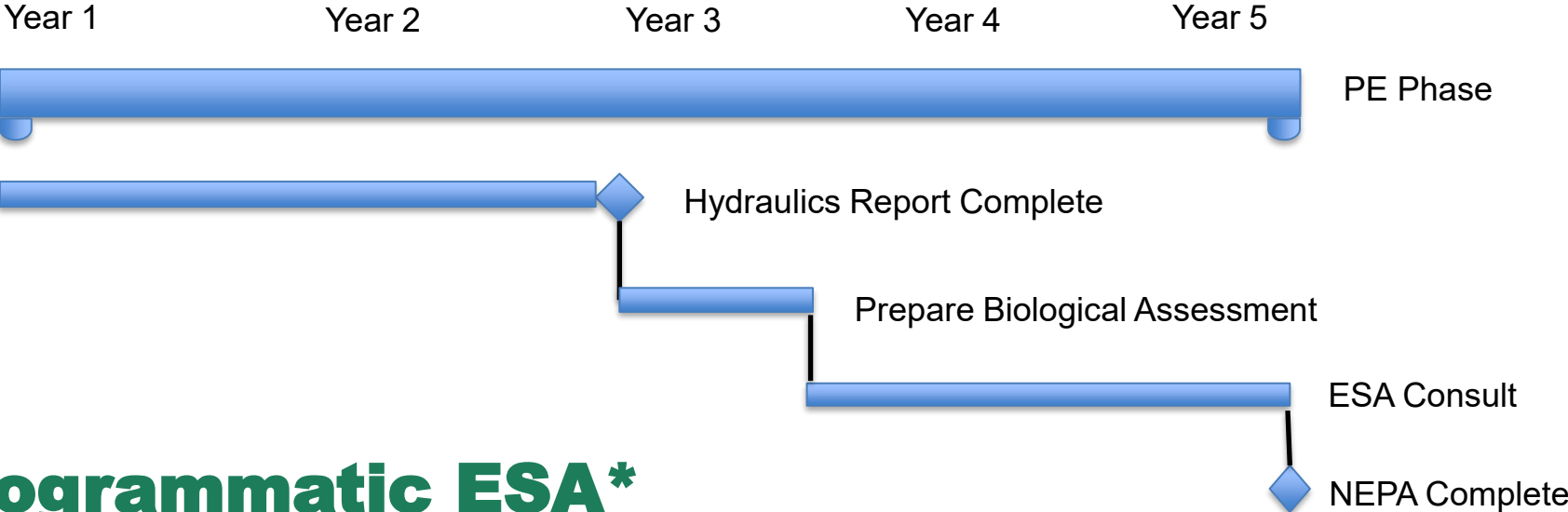
# **Endangered Species Act, Stormwater, and Project Delivery**

## **Puget Sound Regional Council RPEC Meeting**

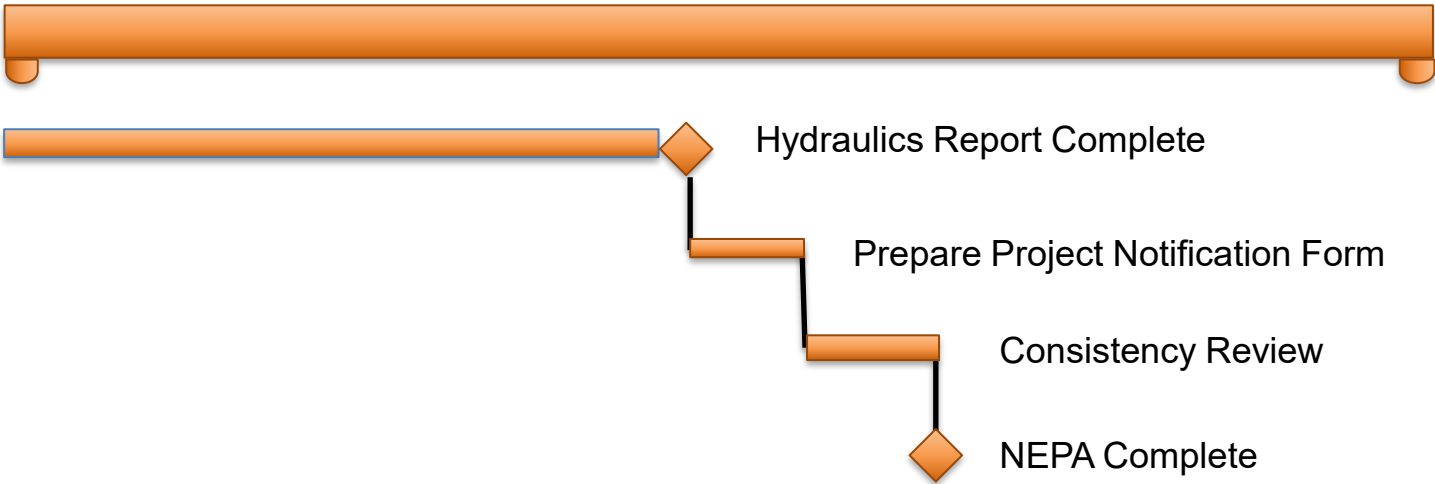
Melanie Vance  
WSDOT Local Programs  
Environmental Manager

May 22, 2026

# Concept Project Schedule



## \*Programmatic ESA\*



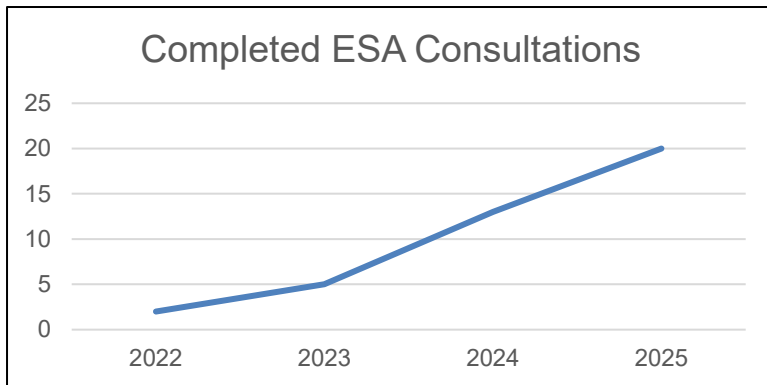
# Other Time Considerations...

- Biological Assessments are legal, technical documents.
  - This can require multiple review cycles to get them right.
  - Review cycles happen both at WSDOT LP and FHWA.
- Biological Assessments are living documents.
  - They describe what you build as well as how you build it.
  - The ESA requires revisiting the consultation record to determine if reinitiation triggers apply to the project.
  - Biological Opinion updates are negotiated between FHWA and the Service(s).
  - Biological Opinions often have construction reporting requirements.

# Local Programs ESA Liaisons

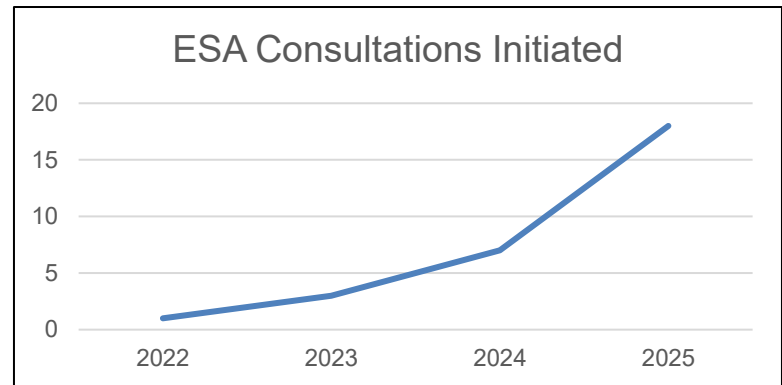
Consultations Completed CY 2025:

	NMFS	USFWS
Formal	17	1
Informal	0	4



Current Review Queue:

	NMFS	USFWS
Formal	17	13
Informal	0	16



Other functions include:

- Craft programmatic materials.
- Point of contact for local agency consultations.

# Questions?



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Photo Credit: Melanie Vance, Ozette Reservation