

ADOT Environmental Planning Group Update

Navajo Nation DOT Partnership
Steering Committee Meeting
February 26, 2015

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ADOT Environmental Planning Group

What is the Environmental Planning Group?

Part of Intermodal Transportation Division

What We Do?

- Environmental review and clearance of projects

Why Do We Do It?

- Required by law for federally funded projects (NEPA, 1969; many other environmental regulations)

How Do We Do It?

- Prepare/review environmental documentation

Environmental Review Areas

- Biology
- Hazardous Materials
- Cultural Resources
- Air Quality
- Noise
- Water Quality/404
- Section 4(f) and 6(f)
- Socioeconomic
- Environmental Justice /Title VI
- Visual Resources
- Cumulative Impacts
- Secondary Impacts
- Farmlands
- Land Use
- AZPDES/NPDES
- Utilities
- Construction-related Impacts
- Sole Source Aquifers
- Floodplains

ADOT Environmental Process

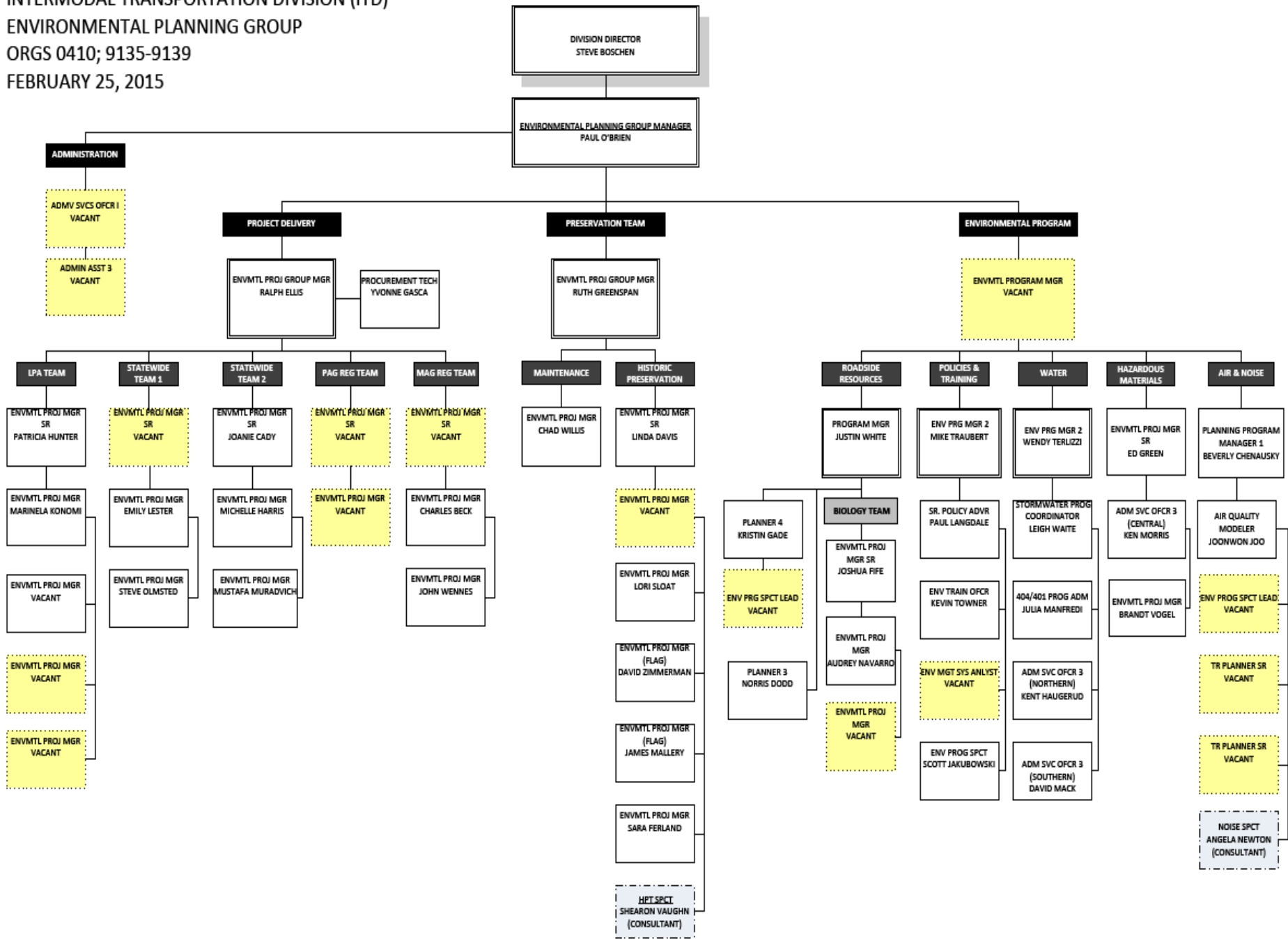
All development projects require an environmental analysis and clearance

- EPG is responsible for obtaining appropriate resource information and preparing technical analyses in accordance with ADOT and FHWA standards
- On ADOT easement across Navajo Nation lands, adhere to NN standards and requirements as well

EPG Reorganization

- EPG merged with Environmental Services
- One group under direction of Paul O'Brien
- Three sections:
 - Project Delivery (formerly NEPA Section)
 - Preservation
 - Environmental Program

INTERMODAL TRANSPORTATION DIVISION (ITD)
 ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING GROUP
 ORGS 0410; 9135-9139
 FEBRUARY 25, 2015



Biology and Water Quality Presentations

In your packets

Section 106 Consultation

- FHWA AZ Division currently consulting individually on projects throughout Arizona
- All parties agree that some types of projects can be addressed programmatically

SHPO Programmatic Agreement

- FHWA and ADOT developing overarching PA with SHPO
- Will address how FHWA conducts Section 106 consultation for ADOT projects
- Will include list of actions that can be exempted or addressed programmatically
- Tribes and agencies will be consulted on the PA and will be invited to participate

Tribal Historic Preservation Office

- Navajo Nation certified by NPS as THPO
- Assumes the duties of SHPO on Navajo lands
- Individual agreement with the THPO and/or THPO can be a signatory to the FHWA/ADOT/SHPO agreement

What about actions not covered by Section 106?

- Maintenance activities with no federal nexus
- Natural resource activities with no federal nexus
- Federal or state projects affecting culturally sensitive resources not protected by Section 106
- Early consultation before Section 106 is initiated

SHPO Programmatic Agreement: How does this affect the Navajo Nation?

- If Navajo Nation chooses to participate in the SHPO PA, the stipulations included in the PA can guide FHWA and ADOT's Section 106 consultation with the Navajo Nation
- PA can reference an individual agreement and vice versa
- The two documents together can address full range of issues relating to protection and treatment of culturally sensitive resources

Beyond Cultural Resources?

Individual agreement with Navajo Nation can address natural resources as well as cultural resources

- Application of herbicides
- Burning
- Culvert and pipe cleaning
- Other maintenance activities

Environment and Planning

- If the Steering Committee would still like presentation on PEL process or PARA studies, ADOT's Multimodal Planning Division can provide that at a future meeting
- Handout in your packet on PEL process
- Links for more information:
 - <http://azdot.gov/business/environmental-planning/programs/planning-and-environmental-linkages>
 - <http://azdot.gov/planning/CurrentStudies/corridor-profile-studies>
 - <http://azdot.gov/planning/CurrentStudies/PARAStudies>

Contact Information

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