

Scoping

The scope of the written EIS for the Port of Vancouver (USA)'s Columbia Gateway master development plan was determined through broad participation. Discussions were held with City of Vancouver staff, port staff, and resource and regulatory agency representatives. The public responded to a scoping notice issued in July 1999, and additional comments were gathered at a scoping open house on August 19, 1999. The scoping notice was sent to approximately 500 citizens, agencies, and businesses. The scoping notice briefly described five alternatives developed as part of the master plan completed by the port in 1998. Alternative 1, a plan for the placement of dredge disposal material from the US Army Corp of Engineers Columbia River Federal Navigation Channel Improvement Project, originally included in the scoping notice, was later eliminated from consideration. Alternatives 2, 3, and 4 of the Subarea Plan could accommodate disposal of dredge material.

The scoping notice also included information about the project's history and location. The scoping notice was a request for affected agencies, Native American tribes, and members of the public to provide comments on any aspect of the proposed scope of the EIS. A summary of major comments relating to the scope of the EIS is presented below—

- The EIS should include a detailed discussion of potential adverse impacts associated with wetland and vegetation loss. It should also include a detailed discussion of the potential impacts to wildlife from permanent loss of riparian areas and agricultural lands.

- Analysis of environmental impacts to threatened and endangered species and natural resources should be science-based.
- The EIS should include analyses relating to water quality, fish predation, and critical habitat for the proposed boat basin and any in-water structures and the proposed pierhead line.
- The EIS should address the use of potentially contaminated sediments that may be used to fill Columbia Gateway to prepare it for development.
- Potential land use impacts from the Subarea Plan alternatives should be thoroughly addressed in the EIS.
- Potential impacts to cultural resources located at Columbia Gateway from Subarea Plan alternatives should be thoroughly addressed in the EIS.

During the scoping process, a number of agency representatives and members of the public expressed support for one alternative or another. Where possible, these comments were incorporated during the alternative refinement process. Comments collected during the scoping process also included suggestions for mitigating potential adverse impacts of alternatives.

14.1 Determining Components

The actual scoping process resulted in a decision to include these components in the environmental impact assessment:

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| 1. Geography (Location) | 11. Light and Glare |
| 2. Geology and Soils | 12. Aesthetics |
| 3. Air quality | 13. Recreation |
| 4. Noise | 14. Historic and Cultural Resources |
| 5. Wetlands | 15. Transportation |
| 6. Hydrology and Water Quality | 16. Jobs and Economic Growth |
| 7. Vegetation and Wildlife | 17. Utilities and Public Services |
| 8. Fish | Infrastructure |
| 9. Environmental Health | |
| 10. Land Use | |

For this example of the modern approach to environmental impact assessments five of the above components will be used to illustrate the