

From: [Thomas, Sue](#)
To: [Sollmann, Lorenz](#)
Cc: [BrownScott, Jennifer](#)
Subject: RAF for Shorebird Surveys
Date: Wednesday, April 29, 2020 10:10:26 AM
Attachments: [DRAFT RAF Shorebird 4-28-2020.docx](#)

Good Morning,

Attached is my first attempt at completing the RAF. I've got the survey paired down to the minimum that I think you and I could cover - max 4 days between approval and May 15th depending on tides and the EUGC schedule. This would involve just mm 2 & 3 as well as Graveyard sites so we would be distanced from each other. The only unknown is the status of visitation on the spit for the person doing mm 2 & 3. Not pushing this now as I realize you are busy dealing with the governor's order, but wanted to get something to you so that I can act on it when you think its right.

Thanks!

Sue

Sue Thomas
Wildlife Biologist
Washington Maritime NWRC
360 457 8451

Washington Maritime NWRC

Risk Assessment for Fieldwork (RAF) Approval during COVID-19 Pandemic⁴

Instructions: Supervisors should complete this form to request permission to conduct mission essential fieldwork during the COVID-19 Pandemic. Completed forms should be submitted to the Project Leader/Deputy Project Leader for approval. (*naming convention: RAF_fieldwork name_date.pdf*)

Please Note: Fieldwork that is not mission essential will not be approved at this time.

Refuge & Fieldwork Title	Date submitted
Dungeness NWR, Spring Shorebird Migration Counts in and around Aquaculture Project Area.	04/29/2020

Field work/activities being evaluated: Activity, date(s) to be conducted, team lead, participants, specific location, equipment needed, etc.

Activity: Conducting spring migratory shorebird surveys in and around a proposed aquaculture project site- We will modify the established protocol to reduce team size to one per survey area; reduce the amount of area covered to the minimal necessary to assess shorebird use in and around the aquaculture project area. *Dates:* Monitoring would begin as soon as approval is granted and be scheduled twice per week through May 15 for a maximum of 4 surveys. *Team lead:* Sue Thomas, Refuge Wildlife Biologist. *Participant:* Lorenz Sollmann Deputy Project Leader. *Location:* Dungeness NWR –Dungeness Spit and Harbor as well as Graveyard Lagoon. *Equipment Needed:* ATV/UTV for transportation of equipment (i.e. spotting scopes, binoculars, GPS, clipboards, writing utensils, etc.) and staff.

Current state or local public health advisories for location of proposed fieldwork. Provide all details.

Washington State Proclamation 20-25.1: Extends “Stay Home, Stay Healthy” order until May 4th, 2020. The order requires every Washingtonian to stay at home, except for people: Pursuing an essential activity, like shopping for groceries or going to a medical appointment and going to work at an essential business. All gatherings of people for social, spiritual and recreational purposes are prohibited and must be postponed for public health and safety. Essential businesses include “Federal, State, and Local, Tribal, and Territorial employees who support Mission Essential Functions and communications networks.” As per US DOI: USFWS functions not telework eligible, which must be continued throughout a disruption, and or change to normal operations include essential infrastructure protection services. Personnel who perform habitat management (i.e., *moving water, treating invasives and conducting prescribed burns*) are considered essential to completing mission critical functions that can only be accomplished by physically being onsite for the protection of life and property.

Explain why the fieldwork is an essential time sensitive function during this pandemic. Indicate the Mission Essential Function (MEF) to which this activity applies. (see below for list)

Shorebird abundance within and around the proposed aquaculture plot on Dungeness NWR reaches annual peak numbers during spring migration from April 27-May 15. Spring shorebird migration is rapid with individual use days revolving every three days. Collecting peak use data in spring is essential for evaluating the impact of the aquaculture project, which is located in one of the highest use areas for shorebirds on the Refuge.

PMEF #3 - Provide emergency response and recovery support to the Nation including rivers and aquifers.

o MEF 3-7: Monitor the quantity and quality of water in the Nation’s rivers and aquifers, assess the sources and fate of contaminants in aquatic systems, to protect and enhance water resources for human health, aquatic health, habitat management/ invasives, and environmental quality- habitat management activities.

Summarize the risk of Covid-19 exposure during completion of this fieldwork AND describe the potential for public contact.

No public contact is expected. Work will be conducted in areas of the refuge that are closed to the public. Additionally, no legal public access points are accessible as Clallam County parks and public lands are completely closed. Prior to this fieldwork, all participants have been staying at home and practicing all precautionary guidance as issued by the CDC and local health departments.

Will all station avoidance measures be met, i.e. one vehicle per person, practicing “exaggerated” physical distancing or independently working in the areas of the refuges that are off limits to the public, required PPE available and utilized? Describe any additional mitigation measures to avoid risk.

In addition to all regular safety procedures related to this project, staff will employ following safety precautions related to Covid-19 transmission reduction:

- Staff will travel one person/vehicle and will survey in different areas.
- Maintain at least 6-ft social distance at all times
- If social distancing measures cannot be met N95 masks, disposable gloves and protective eyewear will be worn.
- Staff will wear an assigned ATV/UTV helmet and safety glasses for the duration of the pandemic
- Each staff member will be assigned their own project tools/supplies (e.g., scopes, clip boards and binoculars).
- Items assigned to a specific staff member should be stored/labeled in a way that eliminates accidental use by others.
- All ATV/UTV surfaces and contacted building surfaces (e.g., light switches, door knobs and gas cans) will be sanitized with Covid-19 approved cleaning agents after use)
- Staff will be reminded that gloved hands do not reduce transfer of the virus between surfaces and safety precautions are still required (e.g., disinfection of surfaces, do not touch face, wash hands after removing gloves).
- Staff will wear N95 masks while in the shop building and will wash/sanitize hands following CDC guidelines at the conclusion of each shift.
- Project staff will inform supervisor and others, as needed, of project activities.

Acknowledgement that all participants have reviewed and agree to all conditions:

Request prepared by:

Sue Thomas

PL/DPL Approval/Disapproval: Signature and date

Approved ____ Not Approved ____

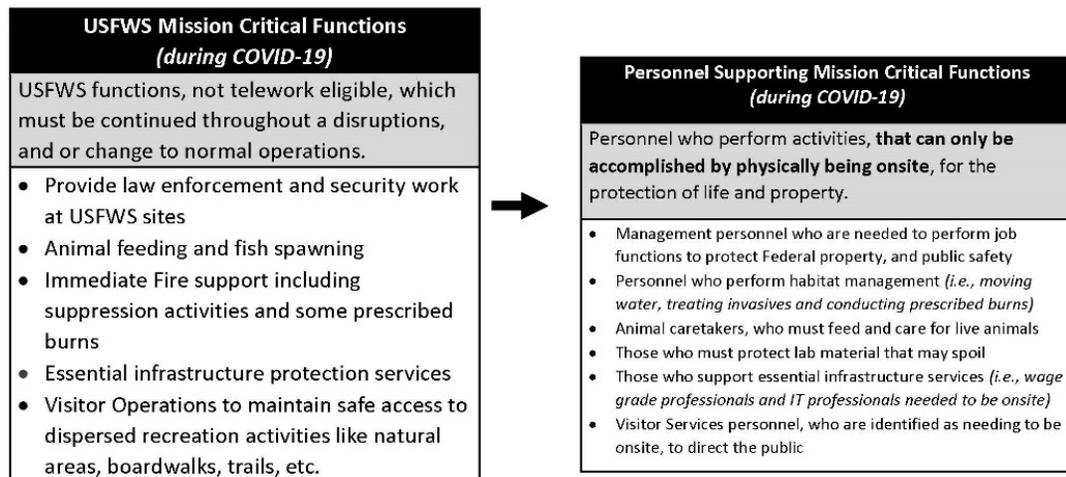
Mission Essential Functions Reference for Fieldwork Risk Assessment:

PMEF's: Primary Mission Essential Functions (PMEFs) are performed by the departments and agencies of the Executive Branch. Successful execution of PMEFs is supported through activities detailed in DOI Mission Essential Functions (MEFs). Essential Supporting Activities (ESAs) are the support activities that ensure the MEFs continue. ESAs support MEFs, and MEFs support PMEFs.

- PMEF #1 - Coordinate Federal emergency response and provide emergency response capability on Department of the Interior administered public lands:
 - MEF #1-2: Manage public access routes through DOI administered ... lands to ensure the continuation of emergency response activities and commerce
- PMEF #2 - Provide essential ... critical infrastructure protection services on Department of the Interior administered public lands:
 - MEF #2-9: Protect facilities and infrastructure required to execute DOI PMEFs.
- PMEF #3 - Provide emergency response and recovery support to the Nation including rivers and aquifers.
 - MEF 3-7: Monitor the quantity and quality of water in the Nation's rivers and aquifers, assess the sources and fate of contaminants in aquatic systems, to protect and enhance water resources for human health, aquatic health, habitat management/ invasives, and environmental quality-habitat management activities.
 - MEF #3-14: Monitor diseases in wildlife populations, predict the ecological and public health consequences and provide data for disease management practices (wildlife and plant surveys).
- Safety support to field staff performing MEFs: ESA #7: Operate and maintain facilities (including trails and signs) required to execute MEFs including MEF 3-7 and MEF #3-14.

USFWS Mission Critical Functions Flow Chart

Provided below are descriptions of mission critical functions which are not telework eligible. These activities require personnel to be physically onsite. Safety of our personnel is of utmost importance. This guidance is to help you maintain your station.



Note: This flow chart is created with the recognition that identifying Mission Critical Functions, in response to COVID-19, utilizes different planning elements compared to a lapse in appropriation. This is subject to change as additional CDC guidance is provided. During a Pandemic incident, the goal is **not to shut down**, but instead to implement the social distancing strategy to ensure personnel support Continuity of Operations and stop the spread of disease.