

ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT REVIEW

Project 4-A

Introduction

This project provides you an opportunity to learn more about environmental impact assessment and mitigation design. You'll do this by studying an environmental assessment report that documents potential impacts and mitigation techniques for a proposed project. Later in Project 4, you'll apply your new knowledge in our study of road impacts and mitigation design.



Learning outcomes

After completing this project assignment, you should be able to do the following:

- Describe the general purpose of an environmental assessment report in regional design projects
- Describe the purpose of an Environmental Impact Statement required by the National Environmental Policy Act
- Describe the typical contents and organization of an environmental assessment report
- Discuss examples of alternatives, negative impacts, and appropriate mitigation techniques
- Suggest ways that landscape architects can use their knowledge and skills to mitigate negative impacts

Assignment

With your team member, select an environmental report to review, summarize, and evaluate.

- A. What issue, need, or problem does the project address?
- B. Who proposed the project?
- C. Who is affected by the project? (types of stakeholder groups)
- D. What landscape patterns and resources are in the project region?
- E. What project alternatives are considered?
- F. What types of data analysis (data sources, interpretations) are used to identify potential impacts?
- G. What landscape resources would be changed by this project?
- H. What positive and negative impacts are described in the report?
- I. Which project alternative is selected for implementation? Why?
- J. What mitigation techniques are proposed to reduce/eliminate negative impacts?

Process

1. Start by examining the table of contents, then read/skim/view relevant sections of the report.
2. Type your summary using the outline above and MS Word.
3. Report your summary to the class on Wednesday, February 12.

Schedule

Due: Wednesday, February 12, beginning of studio

Evaluation

- 60 percent Strength of content and conclusions (knowledge of report contents and their applications)
20 percent Presentation (organization and clarity)
20 percent Typed summary (items A through J above, clear format, correct spelling/grammar/punctuation)

Minimum criteria for evaluation: Complete typed summary (items A through J above) finished by the beginning of studio Wednesday, February 12.