Overview of the Environmental Impact Statement Process for Capitol Lake

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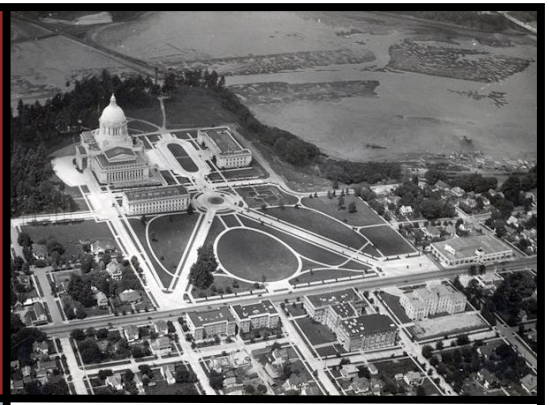

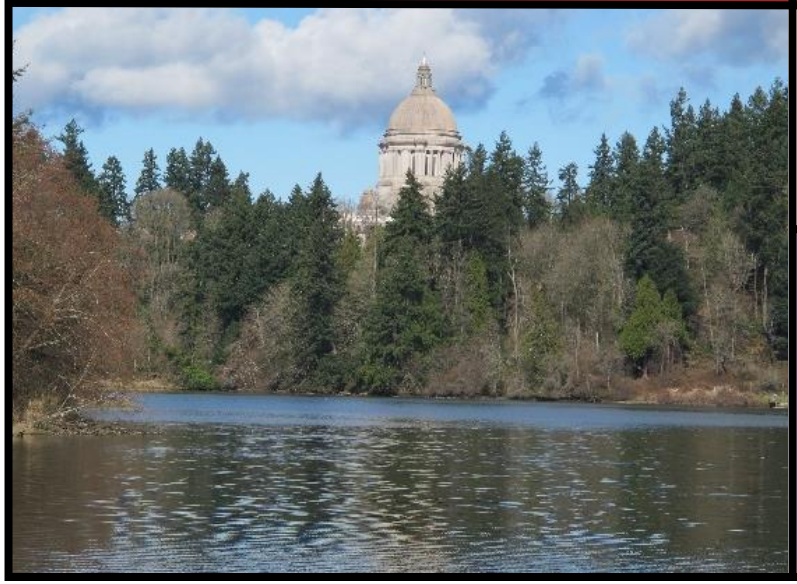

Washington State Department of Enterprise Services

JACOBS®

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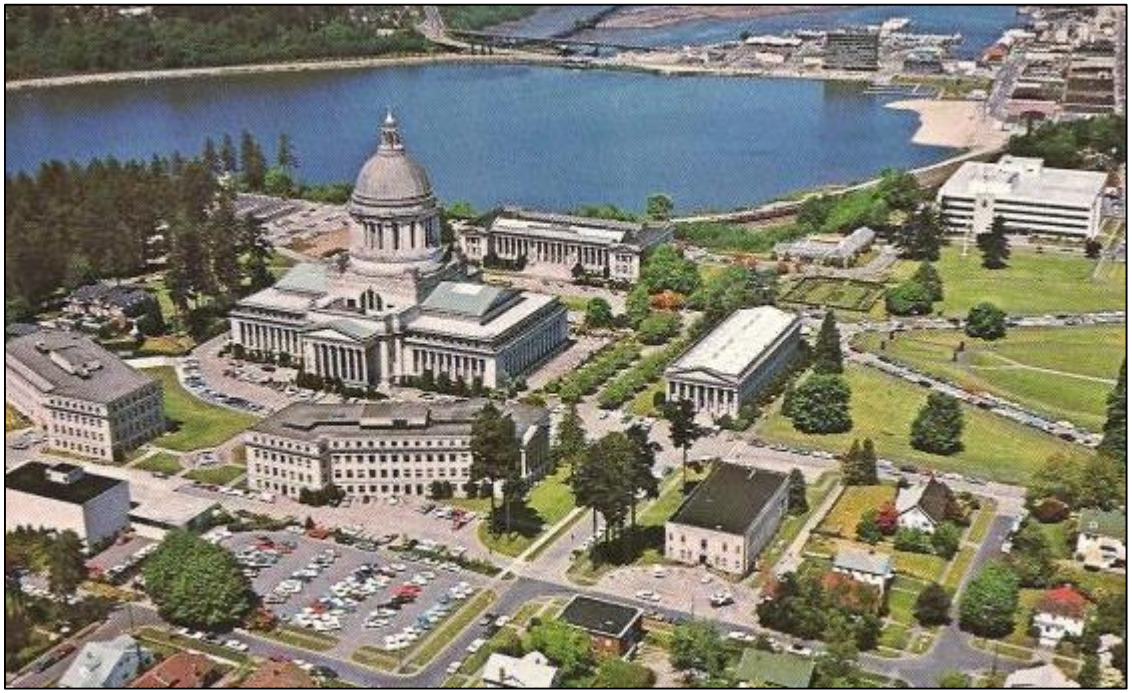
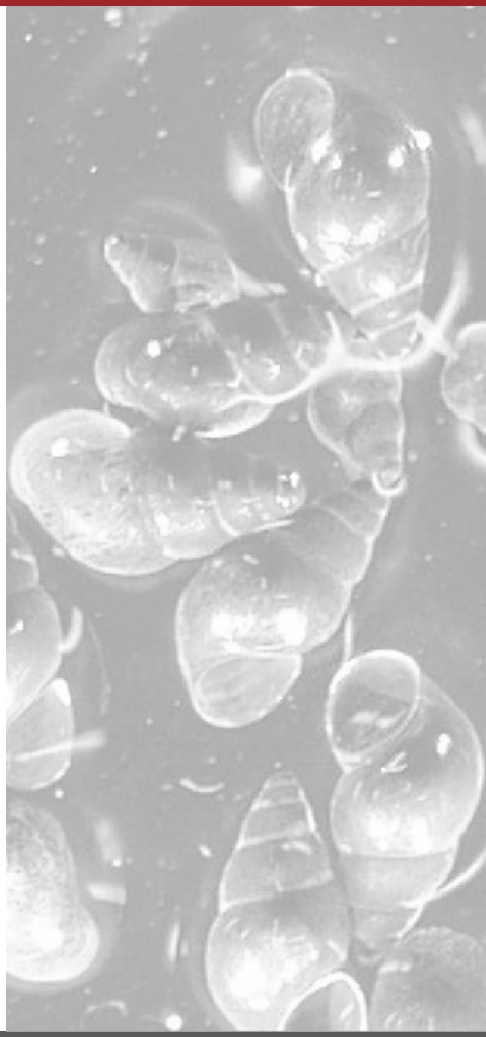
Brief History of Environmental Documentation for Capitol Lake

- **1977: Department of General Administration (GA; now DES) issues a Final EIS: Capitol Lake Restoration and Recreation Plan**
  - Evaluated and proposed maintenance dredging in the South and Middle Basins of Capitol Lake to reduce accumulation of sediment
  - Maintenance dredging began in 1979 and continued every 2 years until 1986
- **1991: Washington State Legislature appropriates funding for an update to the 1977 EIS**



Brief History of Environmental Documentation for Capitol Lake

- **1996: GA issues a Draft Supplemental EIS**
  - Proposes development of a Capitol Lake Management Plan to address management and maintenance for 10 to 20 years
  - Proposes a high level of involvement from regulatory agencies, tribal nations, and the public
- **1997: Capitol Lake Adaptive Management Plan (CLAMP) Steering Committee was formed to advise GA on issues associated with Capitol Lake**
  - CLAMP Steering Committee: Squaxin Island Tribe, Department of General Administration, Ecology, Department of Fish and Wildlife, Department of Natural Resources, City of Olympia, City of Tumwater, Thurston County, Port of Olympia
- **1999: GA issues Final Programmatic EIS: Capitol Lake Adaptive Management Plan**
  - Introduces the key questions, “Should Capitol Lake be restored to a tidal estuary?” and “Should it continue to be maintained as a freshwater lake?”
  - Indicates that the Plan will be updated and modified as “more is learned about how the water resource responds to different management/operational strategies”
  - Evaluates five management strategies but requires additional SEPA documentation to move forward on a project action



Brief History of Environmental Documentation for Capitol Lake

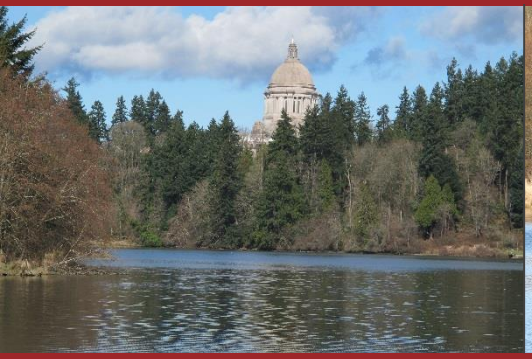
- **2002: GA releases a Capitol Lake Adaptive Management Plan for 2003–2013**
  - Proposes to "manage the lake as a freshwater impoundment" through comprehensive sediment management strategies, with additional efforts to improve water quality, flood management, fish use and habitat, and recreational opportunities
  - Evaluates option of restoring Capitol Lake to a tidal estuary
- **2009: GA releases a Capitol Lake Alternatives Analysis and Recommendation Report**
  - Alternatives evaluated include: no-action, managed lake, estuary, dual-basin estuary
  - Report suggests that sediment management will be required as part of any alternative
  - The Alternatives Analysis was used as the basis of the Recommendation Report that proposed two options for management of Capitol Lake: Estuary and Managed Lake

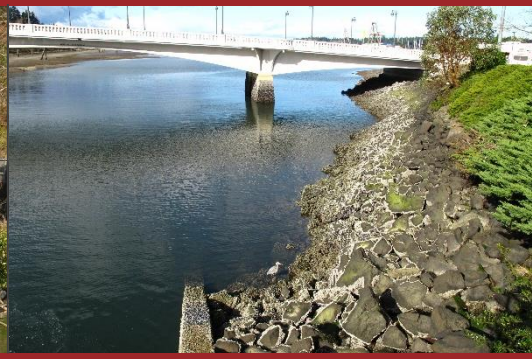
Brief History of Environmental Documentation for Capitol Lake

- **2013: DES issues a Permitting Recommendation Report**
  - Identifies required permitting process and constructability considerations for implementation of a long-term management option
- **Current: Building upon existing information to complete Phase I**
  - This work is consistent with the 1999 SEPA Final Programmatic EIS, where additional SEPA review must be completed before action is taken
  - The work from Phase I will allow DES and stakeholders to move the Phase II Project EIS
  - The Phase II Project EIS will evaluate alternatives, with consideration to changed conditions, and will ultimately make a recommendation for long-term management

Overview of an Environmental Impact Statement

What is an EIS?



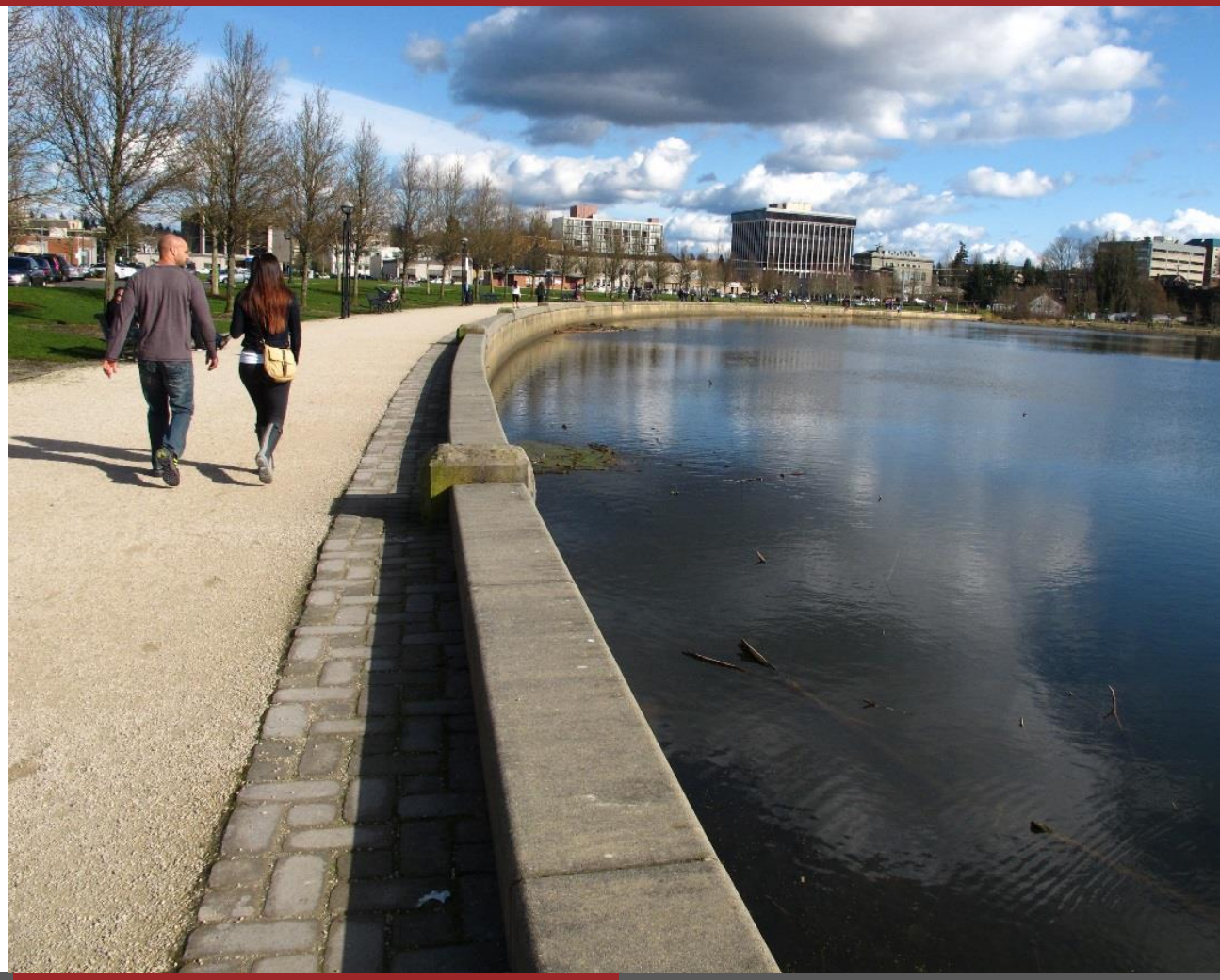


- **Provides opportunity for public, agencies, and tribes to participate in developing and evaluating information**
- **Identifies and evaluates environmental impacts of agency actions**
- **Identifies mitigation to reduce adverse impacts from construction and operation**
- **Provides decision-makers with environmental information and provides an opportunity to improve proposals from an environmental perspective**
- **Provides information necessary for regulators to determine whether the proposal should be approved, conditioned, or denied**
    - Permit applications will typically be submitted after the Draft EIS has been issued
    - Permits cannot be issued until the EIS is complete

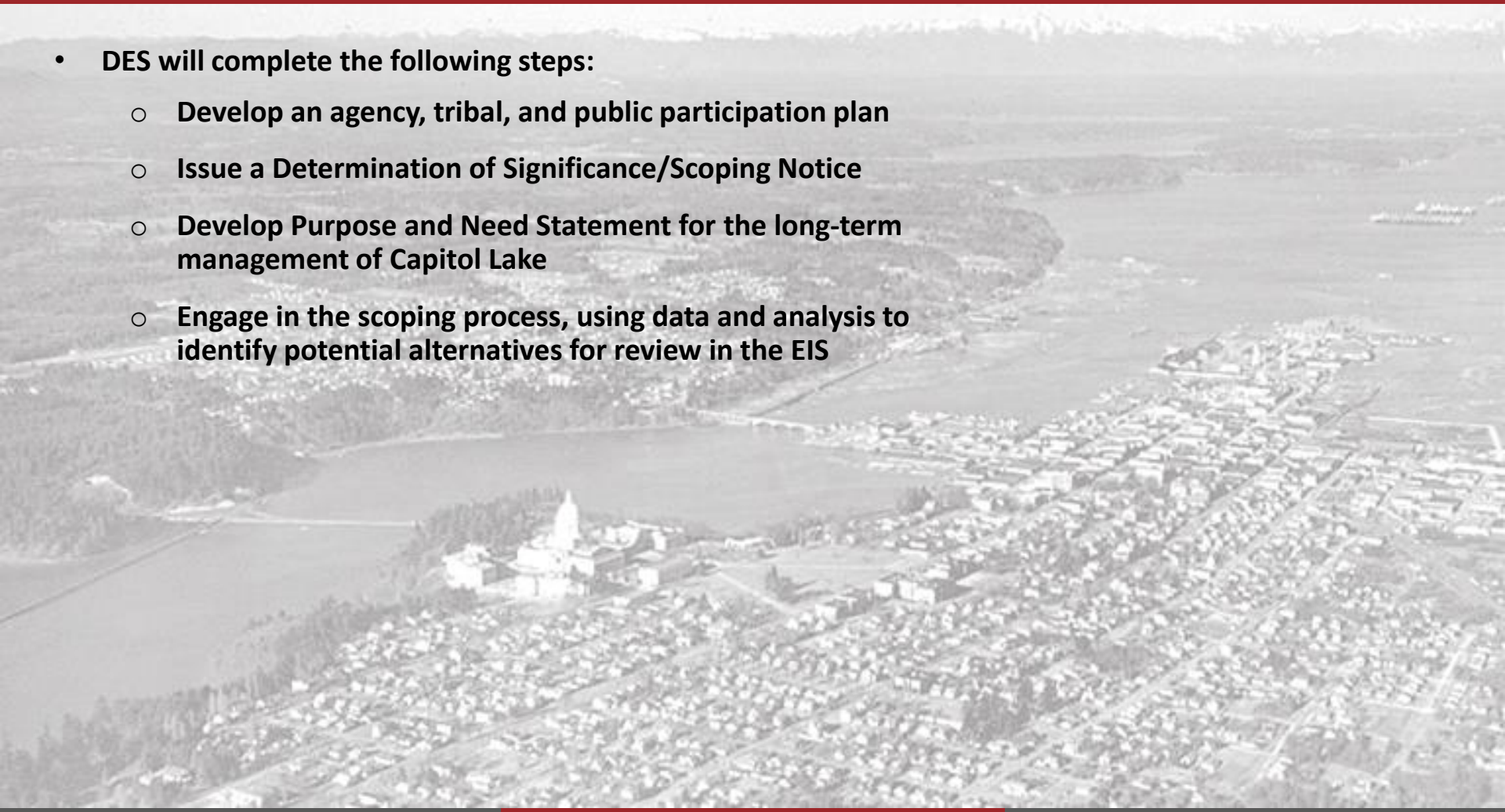
Project EIS For Capitol Lake

What is the EIS Process?

1. **Issue Determination of Significance and Scoping Notice**
2. **Determine scope of EIS**
   - Issues to analyze
   - Alternatives
3. **Prepare the EIS**
   - Describe proposal
   - Identify alternatives
   - Describe affected environment, impacts and mitigation
4. **Publish Draft EIS (and request comments)**
5. **Publish Final EIS (and respond to comments)**



Initiating the EIS Process



- **DES will complete the following steps:**
  - **Develop an agency, tribal, and public participation plan**
  - **Issue a Determination of Significance/Scoping Notice**
  - **Develop Purpose and Need Statement for the long-term management of Capitol Lake**
  - **Engage in the scoping process, using data and analysis to identify potential alternatives for review in the EIS**

Scoping – The First Step in the EIS Process

- **During scoping, DES will work with agencies, tribes, and the public to identify significant environmental issues and alternatives that should be analyzed in the EIS**
  - Narrows the focus of the EIS to significant environmental issues
  - Eliminates insignificant impacts from detailed study
  - Identifies alternatives to be analyzed in the EIS
  - Invites participation from regulatory agencies, tribes, and general public
  - Captures and summarizes key comments from stakeholders
  - Conceptualizes the scope and scale of the EIS

Preparing the EIS: Collect Data and Analyze Alternatives

- **Gather existing data and new data on project proposal**
- **Conduct technical studies on existing and hybrid options**
- **Analyze potential project effects on the environment from each alternative**
- **This will also include:**
  - Documenting full project proposal, including all related components
  - Evaluating affected environment, significant impacts, and mitigation
  - Identifying and refining alternatives to be evaluated in the EIS

Project EIS For Capitol Lake

Draft and Final Environmental Impact Statement

- **DES will then issue a Draft EIS for public review and comment, which will:**
  - Provide opportunity for public participation
  - Describe potential significant environmental impacts and benefits from project alternatives
  - Be distributed to interested agencies and continue stakeholder engagement
  - Result in comments that may influence proposal and final analysis
  - May identify a preferred alternative
- **The Final EIS will:**
  - Consider and respond to comments received on Draft EIS
  - Identify the selected alternative
  - Identify mitigation for potential environmental impacts
  - Provide a decision document for the lead agency and allow DES to take action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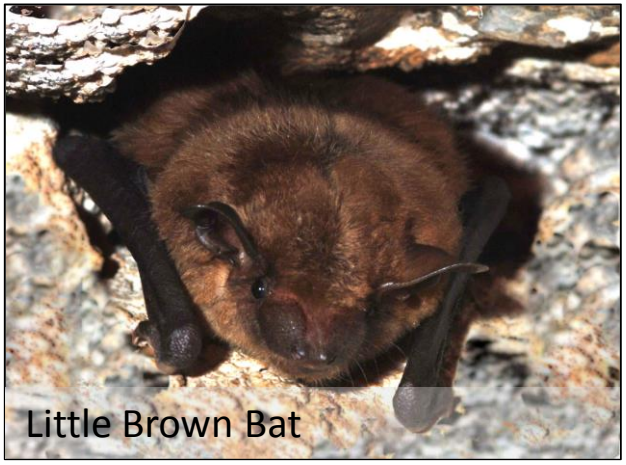
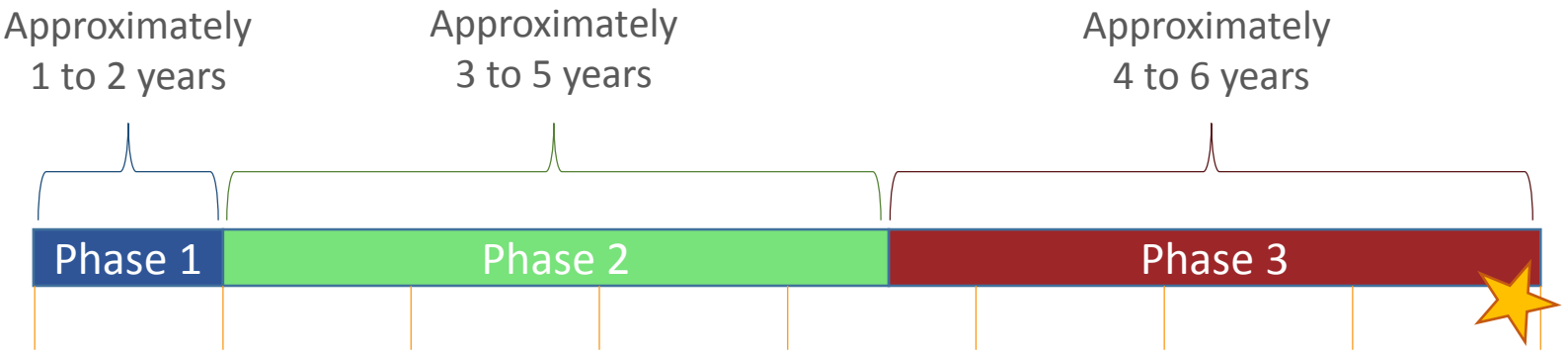

Little Brown Bat

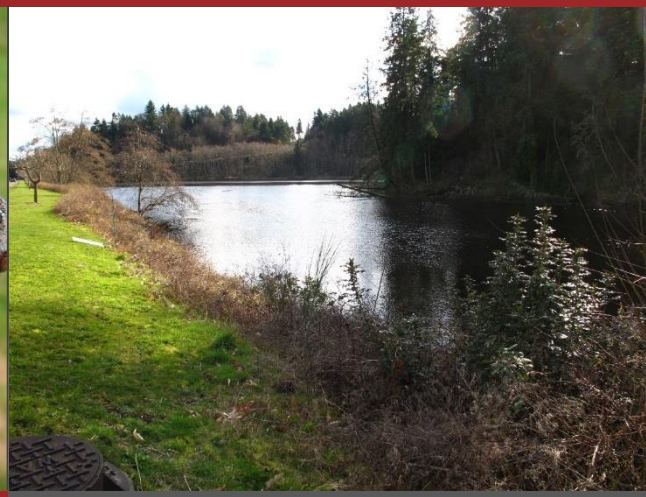
Timeline For Capitol Lake EIS through Construction

DES Capitol Lake Work Plan and Phased Conceptual Schedule

- **Phase 1: Prepare Proviso Report and lay foundation for future EIS process**
- **Phase 2: Secure EIS funding and complete EIS**
- **Phase 3: Secure funding for project construction, permit, design, and construct the Preferred Alternative identified through the EIS**



Thank you



Project EIS or Programmatic EIS

What are the differences?

- **Project EISs are appropriate for project actions**
  - A project action involves a decision on a specific project, such as a construction or management activity located in a defined geographic area (WAC 197-11-704)
  - A project EIS is prepared for a proposal that generally involves physical changes to one or more elements of the environment (SEPA Handbook)
- **Programmatic EISs are best suited for non-project actions**
  - Non-project actions involve decisions on policies, plans, or programs (WAC 197-11-704)
  - A programmatic EIS is prepared for planning decisions that provide the basis for later project review (SEPA Handbook)

Project EIS or Programmatic EIS

What are the differences?

	Programmatic EIS	Project EIS
Nature of Action	Strategic, conceptual	Construction, operations, site-specific actions
Level of Decision	Policy, program, planning, suite of similar projects	Individual project
Alternatives	Broad, general, research, land use allocations	Specific alternative locations, design, construction, operation, site-specific
Scale of Impacts	National, regional, or landscape scale	Project level, mainly local
Scope of Impacts	Broad in scale and magnitude	Localized and specific
Key Data Sources	Policy and planning instruments	Field work, local monitoring data, sample analysis
Impacts	Qualitative and maybe quantitative to the degree possible	Generally quantifiable
Decision	Broad, strategic program, policy, or plan	Detailed, project- or site-specific, action-oriented

Reference: Council on Environmental Quality, Effective Use of Programmatic NEPA Reviews, December 2014*

**Table adapted for use in this presentation*