



NEPA: Writing the perfect EA/FONSI or EIS

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Course ID: POL - 302

August 6 - 7, 2008, 8:30 A.M. to 5 P.M. (2 Days)

Desert Botanic Garden

Webster Auditorium

1201 N Galvin Parkway

Phoenix, Arizona 85008

Instructor: Owen L. Schmidt, BA, MA, JD

Description: This training course will present to the NEPA practitioner a set of practical skills for preparing either an EA/FONSI or EIS that includes all the required content, as well as skills for safely leaving out content that is not necessary. The descriptor "perfect" refers to both content that is necessary as well as to content that is not necessary. NEPA lessons learned will also come from various project examples.

Information is provided by a substantial handout that includes graphical models, case lists that support the models, and sample documents. The presentation includes a PowerPoint-type of graphical illustration of the models. Each attendee will take home a copy of the extensive handout, which serves as a reference in the workplace. Major themes include: How to make the findings required by law; Timing the NEPA process to the decisionmaking process; All eight good legal reasons not to prepare an EIS; Scoping a reasonable range of alternatives; Writing the "perfect" cumulative effects analysis; and the Administrative Record.

About the Instructor: OWEN L. SCHMIDT, BA, MA, JD, has more than 32 years of service with the Federal Government. He has served as Senior Counsel with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the General Counsel in Portland, Oregon, where he advised the Forest Service, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and other USDA agencies in Washington and Oregon. He was also a Special Assistant United States Attorney in the District of Oregon.

Before joining USDA in 1991, he was an attorney for the Bonneville Power Administration, where he joined the legal staff after several years as an Environmental Specialist. Mr. Schmidt received his J.D. from Northwestern School of Law of Lewis & Clark College (1977), and a B.A. (1969) and M.A. (1973) in biology from St. Cloud State University, Minnesota. Mr. Schmidt is a frequent author and lecturer on the National Environmental Policy Act. He served as a Vice-Chair of the American Bar Association's Book Publication Committee for the Section of Environment, Energy, and Resources and as a Vice President for the Ninth Circuit, The Federal Bar Association. He was the Editor of Oregon Birds, a quarterly journal of Oregon Field Ornithologists, for 14 years (1985-99), and is a long-time member of the Oregon Bird Records Committee.

Course Topics:

Writing the Perfect FONSI

Ultimate conclusions
Basic conclusions
Evidence
Reasons

SCOPE: Alternatives

Proposal for action
Need underlying the proposal
Action alternatives:
-Alternative places to go
-Alternative ways to get there
No-action alternative
Mitigation not included in the proposal
Decision factors

Timing the NEPA process to the decisionmaking process

Idea
Proposal
Recommendation or report
DecisionAction
Monitoring, Supplements

Writing the perfect cumulative impacts analysis

Actions:
-Reasons to lump
-Reasons to split
Impacts:
-Direct, indirect, and cumulative

	-Increments to past, other present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions
8 good reasons not to prepare an EIS	Writing the perfect cumulative impacts analysis, continued
Writing the perfect EA or EIS 8 plain-language questions any EA or EIS should readily answer	Administrative Record
Writing the perfect ROD Double winnowing	Questions and discussion

Intended Audience: Whether you work for an agency of the federal government, seek a permit, grant, or approval from a federal agency, or are otherwise interested in federal decisionmaking, you need to know about NEPA. This workshop is designed to serve both as a comprehensive introduction for those new to NEPA and a refresher for more experienced professionals. The course is beneficial to federal agency staff and decisionmakers, attorneys, consultants, and members of environmental organizations, as well as interested citizens who are concerned about the environmental effects of federal decisions. Up-to-date case lists will be valuable to any NEPA practitioner. Even those who have worked with NEPA their entire careers will stand to learn more about the secrets to successful NEPA compliance.

Course Materials: Each participant will receive a copy of the course proceedings including notes and reference material on the first day of the course.

Continuing Education Units: 1.3

What to Bring: Mechanical pencil, coffee mug and water bottle (to reduce waste). Please wear comfortable clothing appropriate for the prevailing weather.

Registration: \$495 (*\$395 reduced tuition is available for Native American tribes; government employees; nonprofits; students; and NAEP, NEBC, NWAEP members). You may register via the link below or by calling the Northwest Environmental Training Center at 206-762-1976.

Cancellation Policy: Registration fees are fully refundable up to 30 days prior to the event and 50 percent refundable thereafter up to the day prior to the event. Registration may occur up to the day prior to the event provided that space is available.

Northwest Environmental Training Center

A nonprofit 501(c)(3) program of the Northwest Environmental Education Council
650 S. Orcas Street, Suite 220, Seattle, Washington 98108
Phone: (206)762-1976, Fax: (206)762-1979
www.nwetc.org



Directions to the:

Desert Botanic Garden

1201 N Galvin Parkway
Phoenix, Arizona 85008
(480) 941-1225
www.dbg.org

From Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport (PHX)

Head east on E Sky Harbor Blvd
Take the Priest Drive exit toward Center Parkway
Turn left at N Priest Drive
Continue on N Galvin Parkway
End at 1201 N Galvin Parkway

From Points North: Via I-17 Southbound

Take I-17 S
Take exit 200A to merge onto I-10 E toward Tucson
Take exit 147A-B to merge onto AZ-202-LOOP E
Take exit 4 for 52nd Street toward Van Buren Street
Turn left at N Galvin Parkway
End at 1201 N Galvin Parkway

From Points Southeast: Via I-10 W

Take I-10 W
Take exit 153A to merge onto AZ-143 N toward Sky Harbor Airport
Take exit 4 for Washington Street
Turn right at E Washington Street
Turn left at N 56th Street
Turn right at E Van Buren Street
Turn left at N Galvin Parkway
End at 1201 N Galvin Parkway

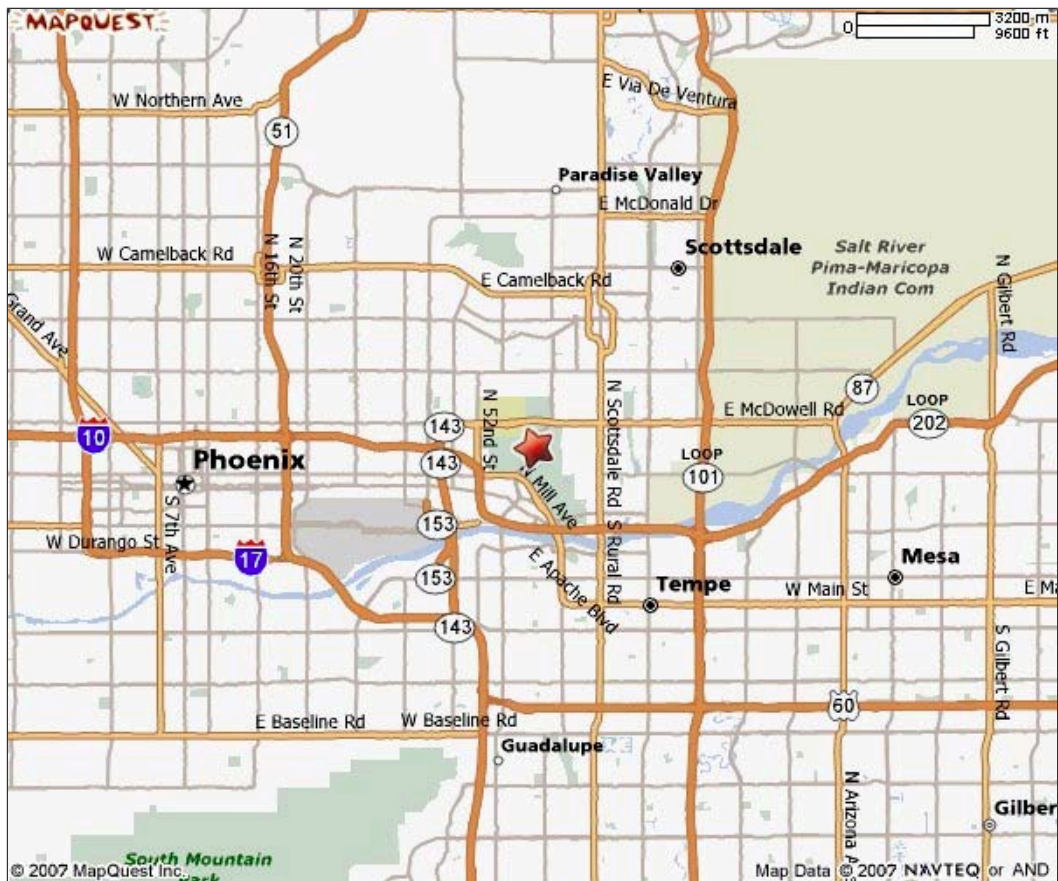
From Points West: Via I-10 Eastbound

Take I-10 E
Take exit 147A-B to merge onto AZ-202-LOOP E
Take exit 4 for 52nd Street toward Van Buren Street
Turn right at N 52nd Street
Turn left at E Van Buren Street
Turn left at N Galvin Parkway
End at 1201 N Galvin Parkway

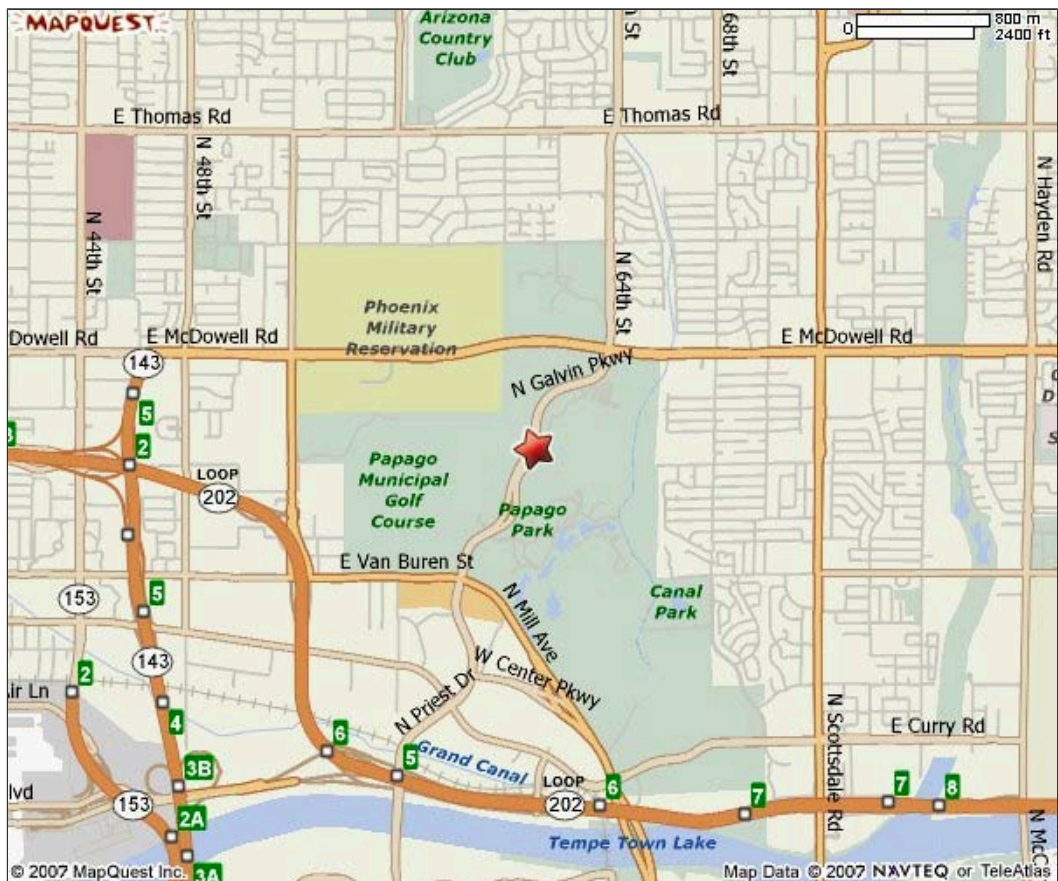
From Points Southwest: Via I-8 Eastbound

Take I-8 E
Take exit 115 toward Phoenix/Ajo/AZ-85
Merge onto I-8-BL E
Continue on AZ-85 N
Take the exit onto I-10 E
Take exit 147A-B to merge onto AZ-202-LOOP E
Take exit 4 for 52nd Street toward Van Buren Street
Turn right at N 52nd Street
Turn left at E Van Buren Street
Turn left at N Galvin Parkway
End at 1201 N Galvin Parkway

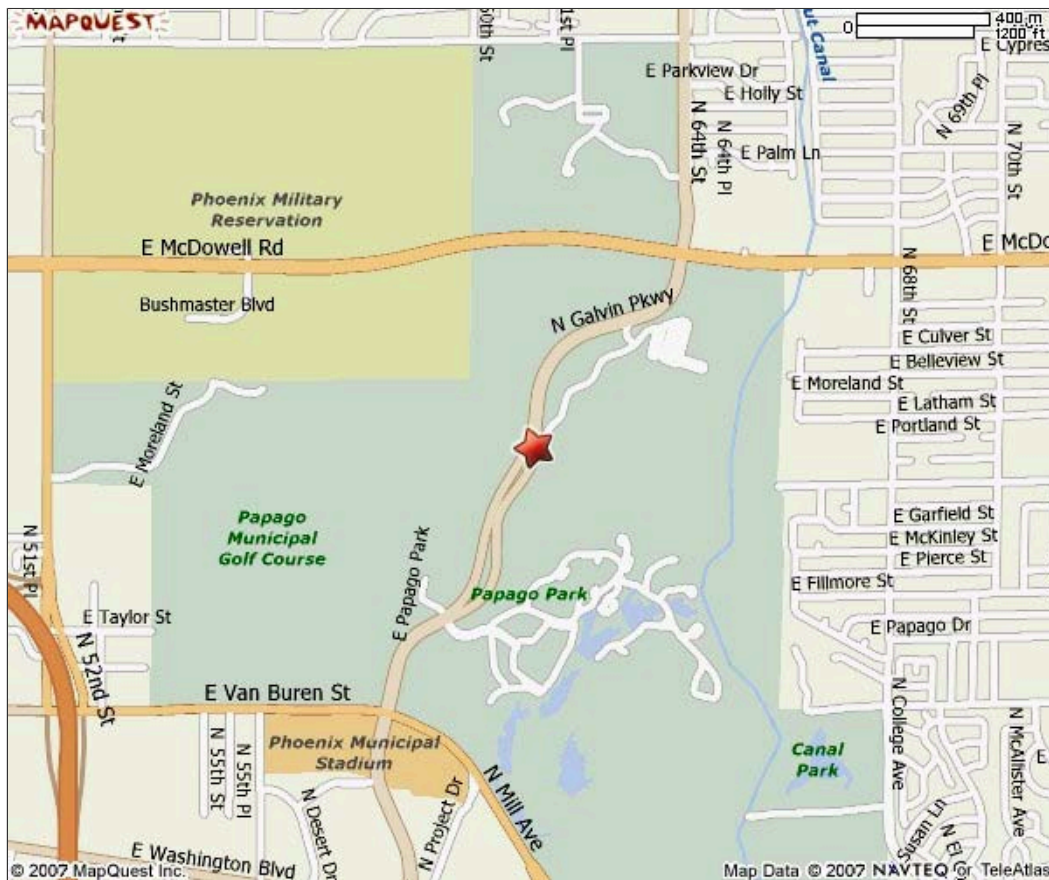
REGIONAL MAP:



CITY MAP:



STREET MAP:



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Phoenix, Arizona | ACCOMMODATIONS near the Desert Botanic Garden

Desert Botanic Garden

(Workshop Location)
 1201 N Galvin Parkway
 Phoenix, Arizona 85008
 (480) 941-1225
 www.dbg.org

<p>Best Western Papago Inn & Resort 7017 E McDowell Road Scottsdale, AZ</p> <p>www.bestwesternarizona.com</p>	<p>(480) 947-7335</p>	<p>Hospitality Suites 409 N Scottsdale Road Scottsdale, AZ</p> <p>www.hospitalitysuites.com</p>	<p>(480) 949-5115</p>
<p>Holiday Inn Express - Scottsdale 3131 N Scottsdale Road Scottsdale, AZ</p> <p>www.hiexpress.com</p>	<p>(480) 675-7665</p>	<p>Country Inn & Suites - PHX Airport 808 N Scottsdale Road Tempe, AZ</p> <p>www.countryinns.com</p>	<p>(480) 858-9898</p>
<p>Executive Suites Extended Stay 1635 N Scottsdale Road Tempe, AZ</p> <p>www.executivesuitesextendedstay.com</p>	<p>(800) 678-8466</p>	<p>Radisson Hotel - PHX Airport 427 N 44th Street Phoenix, AZ</p> <p>www.radisson.com/phoenixaz_airportnorth</p>	<p>(602) 220-4400</p>
<p>Embassy Suites - PHX Airport 1515 N 44th Street Phoenix, AZ</p> <p>www.embassysuites.com</p>	<p>(602) 244-8800</p>	<p>Hampton Inn & Suites 1429 N Scottsdale Road Tempe, AZ</p> <p>www.hamptoninn.hilton.com</p>	<p>(480) 675-9799</p>

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