

PUGET SOUND

National Estuary Program

MULTI-AGENCY REVIEW TEAM

The Multi-Agency Review Team (MART) is a team of federal and state regulatory staff working together to streamline the permitting process for habitat recovery projects. The MART started as 2-year pilot to test a facilitated, coordinated team approach to help permit ecologically beneficial restoration projects on marine shorelines. Due to its success, the MART is implementing this process and expanded its scope to freshwater restoration projects. Efforts focus on expediting the federal permitting process in coordination with state and local permits.

How It Works

The MART works within existing permitting pathways but differs from the conventional process in two main ways, by: 1) Bringing federal, state, and local agencies together at the start of the permitting process using a facilitated, coordinated team approach; and 2) facilitating navigation through the permitting process and directing applicants to existing or emerging streamlined permit pathways that might not be known or clear. Applicants found the facilitated, collaborative process beneficial and most useful in helping to navigate and expedite the more complex federal permit review process in coordination with tribes, state, and local agencies (see next page). While permitting delays and issues can arise, the team meets monthly and uses an adaptive management approach to try to resolve these issues and move the permitting forward as quickly as possible.

Opportunities to streamline permits

The permitting process (local, state and federal) is complex, and several permits are interdependent. If you have a habitat recovery project that is ready to permit, we can assist you with an expedited pathway through the process and provide direct access to a team of permitting agencies that will work with you through the entire process.



MART project: Hoypus Point Bulkhead removal (Deception Pass, NW Straits Foundation)

MART TEAM

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), WA Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), WA Department of Ecology (WDOE), WA Department of Natural Resources (WDNR), Puget Sound Partnership, and coordinating with local jurisdictions.

PARTNER PROGRAMS

- [Habitat Recovery Pilot Program](#) – streamlined state and local permitting for habitat recovery projects
- If you are a property owner with a failing bulkhead, contact your local [Shore Friendly](#) program.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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BENEFITS OF PARTICIPATING IN THE MART

- MART-tagged projects are prioritized by permitting agencies
- MART facilitator aids navigation through the permitting process
- Direct and early access to a coordinated team of federal, state, and local permitting agencies
- Provides clear path to permit requirements prior to application submittal
- MART tracks project and adaptively resolves issues that arise, where possible
- Potential reduction in permit process time, particularly for projects where cultural resources are not within the project area. For one MART project, federal permit processing time was 30% less than average.

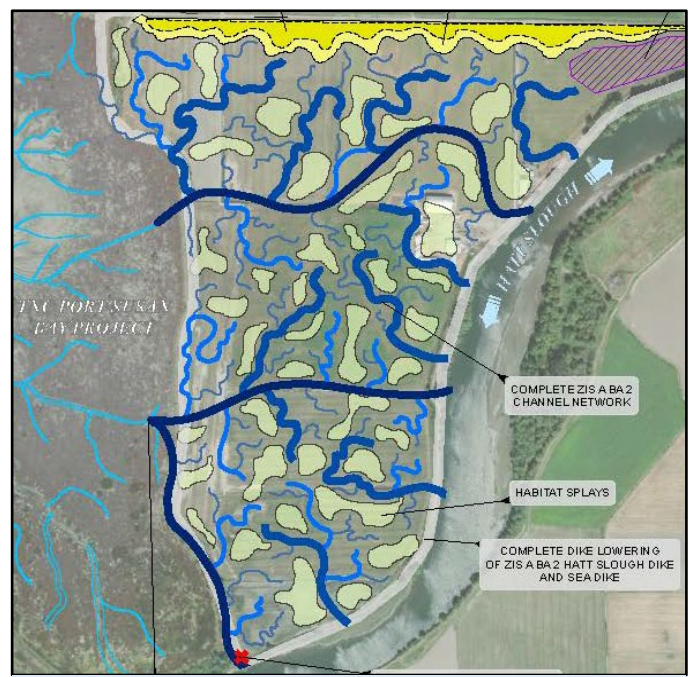
APPLICANTS SAID

- Pre-application meetings with all permitting agencies and regular communication between applicants and the MART was beneficial.
- The MART process was very helpful especially in gathering all the right players at the table early in the permitting process.
- MART process provided clearer understanding of the required permits, application materials, and the overall permit process.
- MART information on expedited permits is in understanding the full range of permitting options, particularly for federal permits.
- MART helped with clearly understanding and implementing federal permits for their project.
- Very useful to have all the appropriate agency contacts identified as a group.

PROJECT EXAMPLES



**Agate Beach Bluff/Beach Restoration
(Lopez Island, San Juan County/FHWA)**



**Zis a Ba II 230-acre estuary restoration
(Port Susan Bay, Stillaguamish Tribe)**