

33rd Annual

# Endangered Species Act *Conference*



**JAN. 29 & 30, 2026**

COURTYARD  
MARRIOTT - PIONEER  
SQUARE

**Seattle, WA**

**ACCREDITATION**

WA MCLE, OR CLE,  
CA CLE, ID CLE,  
MT CLE, AK CLE, APA

*(see inside for details)*

THE SEMINAR GROUP

~ RAISING THE BAR OF CONTINUING LEGAL AND PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION

## Seminar Overview

Our 33rd Annual Endangered Species Act conference is a day and a half seminar in which ESA practitioners, agency officials, and scientists provide the latest and most important information you'll need for ESA compliance. This conference will help attorneys, businesses, conservation organizations, and government staff to understand the complexities of the law.

Our program will provide updates on recent and proposed ESA regulatory and legislative changes, updates on proposed and final listings and critical habitat designations in the Pacific Northwest, ESA-related case law, policy developments impacting agency work, and ethical considerations. It will also offer practical insights and an opportunity to network with experts and colleagues.

### **Who Should Attend:**

Attorneys  
Land Planners  
Tribal Members  
Conservationists  
Government Employees

### **SILVER SPONSOR**



## Endangered Species Act Thursday, January 29, 2026

### 9:00 Introduction and Overview – Day One

PST

**Cherise M. Gaffney**, Program Co-Chair  
*Gaffney Law PLLC*

**Ankur K. Tohan**, Program Co-Chair  
*K&L Gates LLP*

### 9:10 Regulatory and Legislative Updates

This panel will provide an overview of the proposed revisions to ESA regulations including the interagency consultation regulations (Section 7) and the listing/delisting and critical habitat designation regulations, as well as updates on any ESA-related bills being considered by Congress and the implications of Presidential Executive Orders on ESA implementation.

**Cherise M. Gaffney**  
*Gaffney Law PLLC*

**John W. Northington Jr.**  
*K&L Gates LLP*

### 10:30 Break

### 10:45 Listing and Critical Habitat

Learn about proposed and final species listings, critical habitat designations, and relevant listing petitions with a focus on the Pacific Northwest, including West Coast Chinook, sunflower sea star, western ridged mussel, monarch butterfly, torrent salamander, northwestern pond turtle, and Suckley's cuckoo bumble bee.

**Shelby H. Pace**  
*HDR Engineering, Inc.*

**Kai M. Steimle**, Aquatic Ecologist  
*Kleinschmidt Associates, Inc.*

### 12:00 Midday Break

### 1:15 Case Law Update

This session will provide attendees with an overview of recent cases relevant to an ESA practice and agency implementation of the ESA.

**Jenna R. Mandell-Rice**  
*Van Ness Feldman LLP*

### 2:00 Forestry and Timber Related ESA Issues

HCP and ESA Section 7 updates; unique issues facing the forestry industry

**Matthew House**  
Conservation and Compliance Manager  
*Green Diamond Resource Company*

**Meghan E. Tuttle**  
Western Environmental Affairs Manager  
*Weyerhaeuser Company*

### 3:15 Break

### 3:30 Agency Happenings

This panel will cover recent developments at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service, including implementation of executive orders and agency memoranda, land management policies, development of agency handbook and guidance, implementation of NEPA changes, and rumored agency changes.

**Josh Kaplowitz**  
*Troutman Pepper Locke LLP*

**Paul S. Weiland**  
*Nossaman LLP*

5:00 Adjourn & Reception ~ Sponsored by:



# K&L GATES

## Endangered Species Act Friday, January 30, 2026

### 9:00 Introduction and Overview – Day Two

PST

**Cherise M. Gaffney**, Program Co-Chair  
*Gaffney Law PLLC*

**Ankur K. Tohan**, Program Co-Chair  
*K&L Gates LLP*

### 9:05 ESA and Environmental Compliance

Learn about ESA implementation and compliance issues with EPA programs, including how ESA issues arise in the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) implementation of the Toxic Substances Control Act and Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act; the overlay of ESA Section 7 consultation with EPA's approval of state programs, UAAs, and NPDES programs; and how to effectively integrate ESA ecological considerations into Superfund cleanup planning

**Shane Cherry, PG**, Principal Scientist  
*HydroGeoLogic, Inc.*

### 10:15 Break

### 10:30 Section 10 Permitting: Developments in Community Conservation Agreements and Habitat Conservation Plans

This panel will discuss regulatory and policy updates as well as recent examples of CCAs and HCPs, and will discuss how proposed changes in the definition of "harm" may impact existing, pending and future permitting.

**Endre M. Szalay**  
*K&L Gates LLP*

**Ankur K. Tohan**  
*K&L Gates LLP*

### 11:15 Ethical Considerations – Permitting and Transactional Issues

Hear about ethical issues that are particularly relevant to an environmental law practice, including communicating with agency staff and management (Rule 4.2), best practices for attorney-consultant communications, and best record keeping practices.

**Courtney A. Kaylor**  
*McCullough Hill PLLC*

### 12:15 Adjourn



# Faculty - Endangered Species Act



**Cherise M. Gaffney**, Program Co-Chair, is the founding member of Gaffney Law PLLC. She has over 25 years of experience guiding complex energy and large development projects through federal environmental and natural resources permitting and compliance issues, with a focus on ESA laws.



**John W. Northington Jr.** is a government affairs advisor and a member of the Public Policy and Law practice group at K&L Gates LLP. John has more than a decade of public and private sector energy policy and regulatory experience. He focuses in upstream, midstream, and renewable issues.



**Ankur K. Tohan**, Program Co-Chair, is a partner in the Environmental, Land and Natural Resources practice of K&L Gates LLP. His practice focuses on energy infrastructure, natural resource development, compliance counseling and defense of governmental & citizen enforcement actions.



**Shelby H. Pace** is an Environmental Scientist at HDR Engineering, Inc. During her tenure at HDR, she has supported environmental permitting efforts on a variety of projects across the western United States, with an emphasis on projects that impact federally-listed species.



**Shane Cherry, PG**, is a principal scientist and Vice President of Environmental Protection Planning at HydroGeoLogic, Inc. With a strong background in fluvial geomorphology & commitment to large-scale habitat restoration, he has successfully led approximately 100 river and stream projects.



**Kai M. Steimle** is an aquatic ecologist with Kleinschmidt Associates, Inc. She has 22 years of hydropower-specific experience and specializes in impact assessment for water quality, aquatic ecology and fisheries issues, including work with federal and state listed species.



**Matthew House** is the Conservation and Compliance Manager at Green Diamond Resource Company. He started with Greed Diamond in 1998 as an Aquatic Biologist and served over 23 years in that role. Matt holds an M.S in Forest Hydrology from Oregon State University.



**Endre M. Szalay** is a partner in the Environment, Land, and Natural Resources group with K&L Gates LLP. He assists a broad range of clients, including public entities, utilities, small businesses, and large corporations, in developing compliance strategies to solve complex problems.



**Josh Kaplowitz** is Counsel at Troutman Pepper Locke LLP who focuses on regulatory, policy, contractual, and litigation matters related to offshore wind and renewable energy. He has extensive experience with major clean energy infrastructure projects in both the public and private sectors.



**Meghan Tuttle** is a Western Environmental Affairs Manager at The Weyerhaeuser Company and serves on the Washington State Forest Practices Board. She manages regulatory issues involving the Endangered Species Act, Clean Water Act, forest carbon policy and state forestry practices.



**Courtney A. Kaylor** is a partner at McCullough Hill PLLC. Her practice focuses on land use and environmental permitting, administrative appeals and litigation. She provides advice and advocacy to achieve her clients' land use entitlement goals and resolve land use litigation matters.



**Paul S. Weiland** is Assistant Managing Partner and a member of Nossaman LLP's Environment & Land Use Group. He has represented clients in high profile, precedent setting environmental permitting, regulatory and litigation matters throughout California and across the nation.



**Jenna R. Mandell-Rice** is a partner at Van Ness Feldman LLP and Co-Coordinator of the firm's Land, Water & Natural Resources practice. She helps clients navigate complex regulatory, permitting, enforcement and litigation matters under a range of environmental statutes.

# Endangered Species Act

## Credits

### **WA MCLE**

This course is approved for 8.0 hours of law and legal credit and 1.0 hours of ethics CLE credit by the Washington MCLE board (Live Credits for In Person Attendance & Webcast). Self-Study credit will be available upon request, specific credit amount to be determined.

The Seminar Group is an accredited sponsor with the Washington State Bar

### **OR CLE**

This course is pending with the Oregon State Bar for 8.0 general and 1.0 ethics CLE credits (Live Credits for In Person Attendance & Webcast).

### **CA CLE**

The Seminar Group is a State Bar of California approved MCLE provider; therefore, this course is approved for 8.25 general and 1.0 ethics CLE credits (Live Credits for In Person Attendance & Webcast).

The Seminar Group is a State Bar of California approved MCLE provider

### **ID CLE**

This course is pending with the Idaho State Bar for 8.0 general and 1.0 ethics CLE credits (Live Credits for In Person Attendance & Webcast). Self-study credits can be applied for upon request.

### **MT CLE**

This course is pending with the Montana State Bar for 8.0 general and 1.0 ethics CLE credit (Live Credits for In Person Attendance & Webcast). Self-study credit accepted for up to 5.0 CLE credits including 1.0 ethics per year. To receive self-study credits you will need to watch for the verification codes in the On Demand.

### **AK CLE**

Alaska bar members may claim CLE credit for this course (Live Credits for In Person Attendance & Webcast).

### **APA**

This course has been approved by the American Planning Association for 9.25 CM credits (Live Credits for In Person Attendance & Webcast). Credits for recorded courses available upon request.

## Location

### **Courtyard Marriott Seattle Downtown/Pioneer Square**

612 2nd AVE  
Seattle, WA 98104

Phone: 206-625-1111

The seminar is located in the Alaska Ballroom. Please call the hotel for directions/questions.

#### **PARKING**

Onsite parking is available. Please contact the venue for the current rate.

## Fees

### **Live Seminar:**

Attorney	\$799.00
Government / Tribal / Non-Profit	\$699.00
Other Professionals	\$699.00
Student / Professor	\$599.00
Day One	\$674.83
Day Two	\$323.92

### **Live Webcast:**

Attorney	\$799.00
Government / Tribal / Non-Profit	\$699.00
Other Professionals	\$699.00
Student / Professor	\$599.00
Day One	\$674.83
Day Two	\$323.92

### **Pre Order On Demand:**

All Sessions	\$799.00
Single Session	\$99.00

### **Pre Order MP3 Download:**

All Sessions	\$799.00
Single Session	\$99.00

### **Pre Order Materials Download:**

All Sessions	\$229.00
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Go to our website to register:  
[www.TheSeminarGroup.net](http://www.TheSeminarGroup.net) or call our office at 206-463-4400. You can also contact us at [info@theseminargroup.net](mailto:info@theseminargroup.net) or by mail to The Seminar Group, P.O. Box 523, Vashon, WA 90870.

**CANCELLATION POLICY:** We will refund your tuition, less a \$50 cancellation charge, if we receive your cancellation by 1/23/26. No refunds will be given after this date. Please note that if you do not cancel by the deadline and/or do not attend, you are still responsible for payment.

### **Register at**

**[TSGregistration.net/7360](http://TSGregistration.net/7360)**