

LEON 
Environmental, LLC

Environmental Consulting Services



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Leon Environmental, LLC is a small group of highly experienced scientists, planners and engineers whose technical expertise provides effective and efficient resolution to the environmental issues our clients face.

We were founded on the simple principle that prioritizing a client's interests ensures success. Our small business focuses on delivering cost-effective, technical expertise to clients seeking efficient solutions with minimal overhead costs.

Our Mission

Efficient and effective delivery of environmental consulting services.



Firm Overview

Leon Environmental, LLC is an environmental consulting firm that specializes in aquatic natural resource science, permitting, sediments, contaminated site management, and technology solutions. We serve as an extension of clients' staff for issues requiring additional expertise or resources. We deliver multidisciplinary solutions to the challenges our clients face in designing, permitting, and conducting aquatic, shoreline and technology projects in the Pacific Northwest. Our technical areas of expertise include:

Permitting and Regulatory Compliance:

Federal, state and local permits

Habitat Restoration Design: Estuarine wetlands and shorelines

Sediment Investigations: Dredging characterizations and remedial investigations

Dredged Material Management:

Beneficial reuse and open-water disposal

CERCLA/MTCA/RCRA:

Technical solutions, project management and litigation support

Endangered Species Act (ESA):

Science-based analysis and compliance

Biological Assessment (BA) and Evaluation (BE):

Preparation and peer-review

State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA):

SEPA documentation and compliance

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA):

NEPA compliance and EIS

Technology Solutions: Data visualization, spatial analysis, modeling

Geographic Information Systems (GIS):

Design, support and analysis

Grant writing: Project funding and support

Services

Permitting and Regulatory Compliance

- Federal (Corps, EPA, NOAA, USFWS, USCG, FERC)
- State (Ecology, DNR, WDFW)
- Local (City, County, Port District)

Environmental Science & Technical Services

- Sediment investigation, characterization, and remediation
- Shoreline, intertidal & subtidal habitat evaluation, design and restoration
- Endangered Species Act evaluations
- Freshwater resources and wetland science
- Hydroelectric licensing & support
- Litigation support

Technology Solutions

- Data visualization, spatial analysis, and modeling
- Process improvement and automation
- Technology deliverables



Permitting & Regulatory Compliance

Leon Environmental associates offer decades of experience providing science-based solutions to help our clients maintain compliance with existing Federal, state and local regulations. We help our clients identify, obtain and manage the permits needed to conduct projects in the water, along the shoreline, and in critical areas. We recognize that permitting is merely one milestone in a larger project timeline and have established cost-effective strategies to help clients navigate these processes, especially when a project has an inflexible timeline. Our permitting experience enables us to design and execute a permitting strategy based upon project-specific regulatory processes, agency timelines (and the staff who drive these timelines), in-water work windows, seasonal sampling constraints, and the many other factors that influence project schedules.

Local Shoreline/Critical Areas Permits and Exemptions

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

- Section 404 of the Clean Water Act
- Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899
- Letter of Permission, Individual Permit, and Nationwide Permit
- Dredged Material Suitability and Beneficial Use Determination

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

- Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) compliance
- Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) compliance

Washington Department of Ecology

- Section 401 Water Quality Certification
- Sediment Management Standards (SMS) compliance
- Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA) compliance
- National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) compliance

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

- Hydraulic Project Approval (HPA)

Washington Department of Natural Resources

- Site Use Authorization
- Aquatic Land Lease
- Right-of-Entry to State-Owned Aquatic Land (SOAL)

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) & State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA)

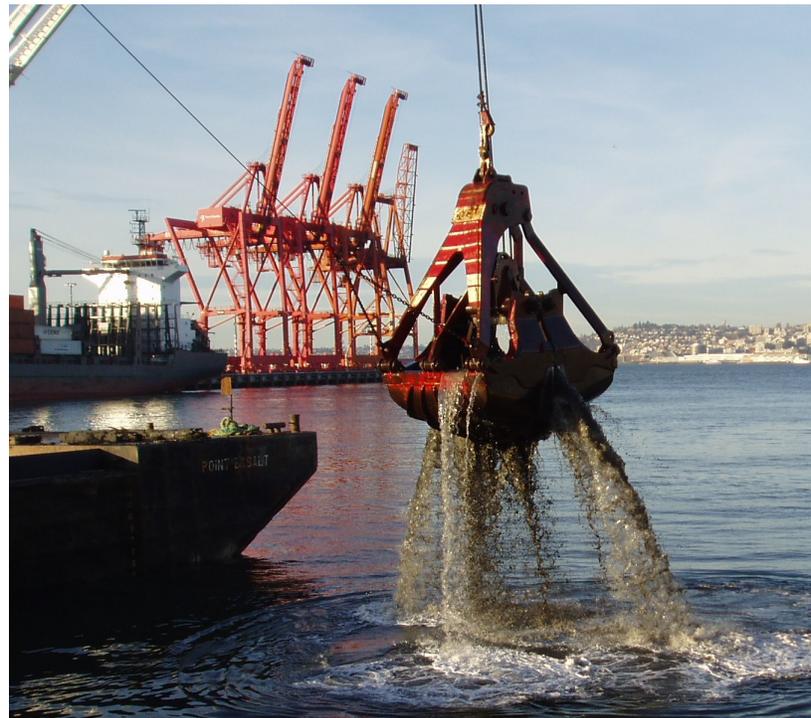
- Environmental Checklist
- Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)
- Exemption Memorandum

Endangered Species Act (ESA) compliance for USFWS/NOAA

- Biological Assessment (BA)
- Biological Evaluation (BE)

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC)

U.S. Coast Guard (USCG)



Environmental Science & Technical Services

Our scientists and engineers all provide 20 – 40+ years of experience conducting a wide range of biological, hydrological, and sediment investigations, with a special focus on aquatic environments. Leon Environmental staff have prepared and implemented monitoring programs for a wide range of fish, invertebrate, and plant species. We have particular expertise in analyses of Endangered Species Act listed species (BEs & BAs) to achieve approval of both freshwater and marine actions. These efforts have commonly involved habitat restoration design to avoid or mitigate impacts of proposed actions. We provide information in the form of maps or other data visualization to aid decision making, and provide technology solutions that combine environmental science information into tools that meet client needs.

Site investigation, characterization, & remediation

Our senior associates each offer decades years of experience conducting chemical, biological and physical site investigations on behalf of clients needing federal, state and local agency project approvals.

- Sediment characterization – chemistry, toxicity and conventional testing
- Eelgrass and macrophyte surveys
- Benthic biota
- Fish habitat assessment and restoration
- Impact minimization
- Contaminated sediment remediation
- Woodwaste characterization and remediation
- Beneficial reuse of dredged sediments
- Bathymetry
- Data visualization and analysis

Pier demolition/removal & creosote studies

Our staff are experienced in the removal of old creosote treated timber structures that are common in Pacific Northwest ports, marinas and waterways. Many of these structures are past their useful life and must be removed to allow efficient continued shoreline operations.

- Investigations of demolition issues
- Demolition permitting
- Monitoring of biological and sediment contamination during demolition
- Sediment remediation following demolition
- Analysis of creosote release and biological contamination

Shoreline, intertidal & subtidal habitat design & restoration

We have conducted intertidal and shallow subtidal investigations to support shoreline redevelopment permitting in a number of Pacific Northwest ports and other shoreline areas.

- Existing habitat characterizations
- Agency-Tribal coordination to develop restoration goals
- Alternative design concepts
- Public-NGO presentations and coordination
- Final design and monitoring
- Ordinary High Water Mark delineation



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Environmental Science & Technical Services

ESA evaluations

Our Endangered Species Act (ESA) evaluations have focused primarily on listed species that rely on aquatic and riparian habitats. We have a library of scientific reports that support our analysis of the presence and absence of adverse effects to listed species included in these analyses. Our expertise includes:

- Preparation of biological evaluations / assessments for actions
- Critical habitat evaluations
- Routinely updating ESA listing information
- Habitat evaluation and restoration design
- Essential Fish Habitat Evaluations
- Environmental Assessments of species and habitats
- Salmon habitat design, restoration and monitoring

Freshwater resources & wetland science

Our staff has experience in a number of freshwater monitoring, evaluation, and restoration projects in support of salmon habitat, water quality, and biological diversity. Our wetland habitat design efforts have provided freshwater wetlands and saltmarsh habitat that restores functions necessary to support reproduction and natural rearing conditions for aquatic species, including endangered fish and wildlife.

- Habitat design, restoration, and mitigation
- Water quality monitoring
- Stream benthos monitoring and assessment
- Inventorying and mapping of riparian noxious weed populations
- Limnological data collection
- Watershed mapping and geospatial support

Hydroelectric licensing & support

We have more than 40 years' experience in activities supporting hydroelectric licensing and relicensing ranging from conceptual design through analysis of the performance including:

- Anadromous fish passage
- Operations effects on salmonid reproduction
- Hydraulic model evaluation of biological effects
- Assessment of habitat effects
- Water quality investigations
- Expert testimony
- Dissolved gas supersaturation and Gas Bubble Disease

Litigation support

Our senior associates have experience providing expert testimony and litigation support in a broad range of technical capacities including:

- Federal, State and local litigation support and expert testimony
- Shorelines Hearings Board expert testimony
- Water Pollution Control Board expert testimony
- CERCLA/MTCA cost recovery and allocation
- Hydraulic Project Approval (HPA) appeals
- Land use code: adoption, judicial review, hearings, appeals, and interpretations
- SEPA administrative appeals
- Federal Energy Regulatory Commission licensing expert testimony
- Geotechnical expert testimony exhibit support
- Exhibits (data presentations/analysis, posters, videos and interactive presentations)



Technology Solutions

We provide technology to integrate data for risk assessment and decision-making across all Leon Environmental services. We specialize in large- and small-scale spatial analyses and modeling, creating data visualizations to communicate needs and messages, and improving work flow processes. We use a variety of software programs, programming languages, and computing platforms to provide the following:

Data visualization, spatial analysis, and modeling

Our products help clients understand large datasets to help guide decision-making. Our analyses and modeling projects are scientifically based, backed by statistics, repeatable, and defensible. Our products translate data into messages that are easily understood and usable including:

- GIS analysis
- Bayesian statistical analysis
- Geostatistics
- Mapping and cartography
- Diagrams, tables and graphics

Process improvement & automation

We assess client's organizational and technology structures, and offer strategies to help clients optimize processes and data flow. By helping our clients identify more logical technology utilization and organization strategies, we enhance client's ability to integrate data into decision making processes more efficiently.

- Workflow optimization
- Workplan development
- Budget and cost-control
- Technology and process streamlining
- Rapid Assessment Workshops

Technology deliverables

We work with our clients to design technology solutions (mobile or web) that are easy to use, meet the client's needs and are developed using standard technology. For our GIS products, we use Esri technology to perform our analyses and provide information to our clients in both hardcopy and digital formats.

- Requirements
- Workflow documentation
- Specifications
- Budgeting
- Metadata
- IT / Agile project management



Key Staff



**Kyla
Leon**

CEO

Kyla is an executive manager and senior technical project manager with over 15 years of experience in multiple industries and with different types of organizations. Kyla excels at client management, cross-agency coordination, dispute resolution, technical team management, and leveraging complex data to meet client needs. She is adept at translating business needs into technical requirements, and designing data-focused strategies.



**Peter
Leon**

Principal Scientist

Peter leads science and regulatory services for Leon Environmental. Peter offers 20 years of experience as an environmental scientist with an engineering background and a passion for shorelines and industrial aquatic sites. He provides technical and management expertise in permitting, sediments, habitat restoration, dredging, CERCLA, regulatory compliance and negotiation, interagency coordination, training development and public outreach. Through his work for Ports, industrial shoreline facilities, agencies and private landowners, he has earned a reputation for integrity and effective project delivery. Peter's success stems from his ability to listen and understand client concerns; his attention to quality, scope, schedule and budget; and his ability to communicate effectively with project proponents, staff, team partners, regulators and stakeholders.



**Joanne
Markert**

**Technology
Solutions Principal**

Joanne leads the Technology Solutions program for Leon Environmental. She is a program and project manager with a multidisciplinary background in science and technology. Joanne has two decades of experience delivering successful GIS and IT technology solutions for both technical and non-technical users. Joanne excels at using technology to communicate and interpret complex natural resource data. With her primary focus on understanding and meeting client needs, Joanne provides services ranging from basic GIS figure preparation to developing full-featured applications that interpret natural resource data. Joanne's projects depend upon her aptitude for strategic planning, conceptual architecture development, data design, workflow documentation and application development. Joanne has a proven track record as an effective communicator and leader who can deliver complex projects requiring significant coordination, complex analysis, and implementation of enterprise-wide systems.





Don Weitkamp

Ph.D.

Senior Biologist

Don has conducted a variety of projects ranging from permitting to contaminated site remediation projects at Puget Sound shoreline locations for over 40 years. Don's expertise includes site contamination, estuarine and freshwater biological assessment, remediation alternatives analysis, habitat restoration, site monitoring and litigation support. He has conducted numerous investigations to analyze the habitat important to endangered species, particularly shoreline habitats, and provided ESA analyses to achieve project approvals. Don has resolved a variety of complex sediment and Natural Resource Damage Assessment issues, and conducted agency, NGO, and general public coordination. Don is effective at working with representatives of agencies and public interest groups to incorporate their interests in development and mitigation alternatives that generate broad support, allowing the projects to occur.



Bill Rehe

Senior Biologist

Bill is a Fisheries Biologist and Restoration Ecologist with 20 years of experience working with Ports, tribes, natural resource agencies (federal, state, local), NGOs, commercial and residential parties. He serves as a technical expert and project manager for a diverse range of projects including critical area investigations, permitting, all phases of mitigation, monitoring and compliance. Bill uses his experience and reputation to find solution to a wide range of natural resources problems.



Brad Helland

PE

Senior Environmental Engineer

Brad is a professional engineer with 25 years of experience solving environmental problems for both public and private sector clients. Brad manages projects, conducts site characterization and feasibility studies, supports regulatory compliance and litigation efforts, and performs hazardous waste remediation and spill response operations. His site management and remediation expertise stems from extensive experience with the Washington Department of Ecology, US EPA, US Navy, and several consulting firms. He helped revise the Sediment Management Standards and Model Toxics Control Act rules, and served as the RI/FS Technical Lead for the Lower Duwamish Waterway CERCLA/MTCA site. His international experience includes working on water supply projects with Engineers Without Borders in Thailand, and managing the Environmental Health and Safety Program for all US Navy facilities in the Bahamas.



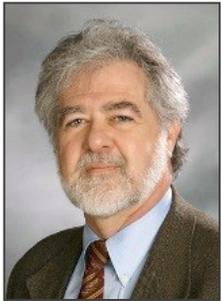


David Sherrard

AICP

Senior Planner

David is a senior environmental planner with over three decades' experience managing complex planning, environmental review and regulatory programs for public and private clients. His experience encompasses the Washington State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), GMA Comprehensive Plans, Critical Areas regulations, Shoreline Management programs, Transportation Plans, Subarea Plans, and a variety of infrastructure plans. He has worked on a wide variety of private projects ranging from large Master Plan Developments, to commercial and industrial development, to single family subdivisions and permits. David is particularly skilled in applying complex scientific issues to address local public policy requirements. He has developed regulations for environmentally sensitive areas, shorelines, tree preservation, wireless communication facilities, utilities, subdivision, planned unit developments, and design review. His extensive experience working for municipal government provides him with a perspective on the need to meet multiple and competing goals in projects and programs.



John Malek

Senior Consultant

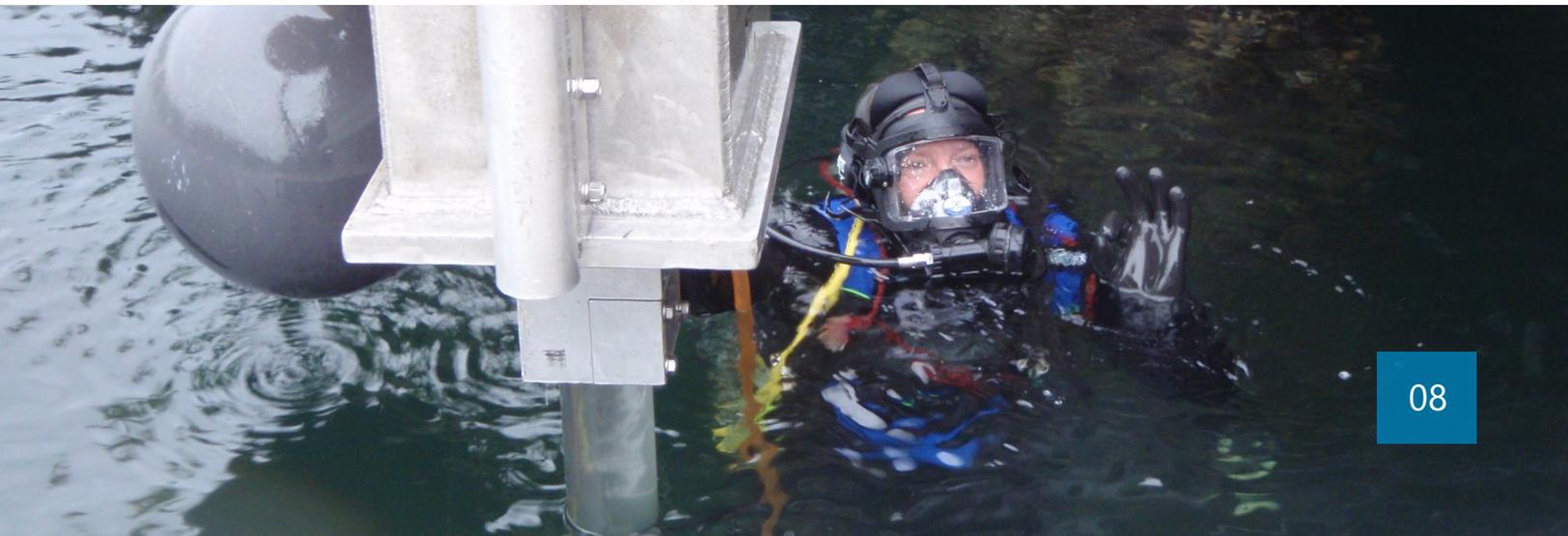
John is a technical, policy and strategy expert focused on development and aquatic natural resource issues, particularly related to dredging and contaminated sediments. He has been involved with environmental project management, permitting and resource issues throughout the Pacific Northwest for more than 40 years, including development and implementation of the Puget Sound Dredged Disposal Analysis program, design and conduct of sediment investigations, habitat restoration and planning, and other environmental studies in Puget Sound. John's experience includes technical, policy and management support to Region 10's Superfund program, particularly ARAR compliance (e.g., habitat mitigation/restoration per CWA 404), and interpretation of policies and practices of U.S. EPA and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, particularly CERCLA, CWA, MPRSA, and NEPA. He advises governments and industries in meeting multimedia environmental requirements related to marine and freshwater environments, sediment management, and contaminated site remediation and restoration.



Liz Springborn

Senior GIS Analyst

Liz is a senior GIS analyst with 20 years of applied GIS experience related to terrestrial, coastal and marine environments in the Pacific Northwest and Europe. Liz is a cartographer who specializes in spatial database creation, analysis, maintenance, and management. She is also experienced in web map usability design with a focus on visual design, user interaction, and application testing. Her work in Federal, State, and research organizations has involved providing customer service and working with large, multidisciplinary teams.



Contact US

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