



STATE OF IDAHO  
DEPARTMENT OF  
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

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C.L. "Butch" Otter, Governor  
John H. Tippetts, Director

December 15, 2017

Damon Allen, P.E.  
District Engineer  
Idaho Transportation Department  
600 W. Prairie Ave  
Coeur d'Alene, ID 83815

RE: Final §401 Water Quality Certification for State Highway 6 Tributary to Santa Creek Box Culvert Project; Unnamed Tributary to Santa Creek NWW-2016-552-B02

Dear Mr. Allen,

Enclosed is the final water quality certification for the above referenced project. The draft certification was advertised for public comment for 21 days from November 22 to December 13, 2017. No comments were received and no substantive changes have been made to the final certification. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact June Bergquist at 208.666.4605 or via email at [june.bergquist@deq.idaho.gov](mailto:june.bergquist@deq.idaho.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Daniel Redline".

Daniel Redline  
Regional Administrator  
Coeur d'Alene Regional Office

c: Nicholle Braspennickx , Corps of Engineers – Boise Regulatory Office  
Loren Moore, DEQ State Office



## Idaho Department of Environmental Quality Final §401 Water Quality Certification

December 15, 2017

**404 Permit Application Number:** NWW-2016-552-B02

**Applicant/Authorized Agent:** Idaho Transportation Department District; Highway 6 Box Culvert Project

**Project Location:** Latitude 47° 08' 08.03"N; Longitude -116° 34' 38.30"W Benewah County State Highway 6 milepost 30.2

**Receiving Water Body:** unnamed tributary of Santa Creek

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Pursuant to the provisions of Section 401(a)(1) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (Clean Water Act), as amended; 33 U.S.C. Section 1341(a)(1); and Idaho Code §§ 39-101 et seq. and 39-3601 et seq., the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has authority to review activities receiving Section 404 dredge and fill permits and issue water quality certification decisions.

Based upon its review of the joint application for permit, received on October 6, 2017, DEQ certifies that if the permittee complies with the terms and conditions imposed by the permit along with the conditions set forth in this water quality certification, then there is reasonable assurance the activity will comply with the applicable requirements of Sections 301, 302, 303, 306, and 307 of the Clean Water Act, the Idaho Water Quality Standards (WQS) (IDAPA 58.01.02), and other appropriate water quality requirements of state law.

This certification does not constitute authorization of the permitted activities by any other state or federal agency or private person or entity. This certification does not excuse the permit holder from the obligation to obtain any other necessary approvals, authorizations, or permits.

### Project Description

Idaho Transportation Department proposes to replace a structurally and geometrically deficient stiff leg culvert with a new wider precast box culvert. To accommodate the wider culvert design approximately 0.03 acre of wetland fill is required. This fill will be mitigated by purchase of wetland credits from the Valencia Wetland Bank in Priest River. If there is flowing water during construction it will be diverted around the work site and effectively isolate the stream from the work site. Fish passage during construction will be provided. Work will be done during low flow conditions. Turbidity monitoring will also be conducted.

### Antidegradation Review

The WQS contain an antidegradation policy providing three levels of protection to water bodies in Idaho (IDAPA 58.01.02.051).

- Tier I Protection. The first level of protection applies to all water bodies subject to Clean Water Act jurisdiction and ensures that existing uses of a water body and the level of water quality necessary to protect those existing uses will be maintained and protected (IDAPA 58.01.02.051.01; 58.01.02.052.01). Additionally, a Tier I review is performed for all new or reissued permits or licenses (IDAPA 58.01.02.052.07).
- Tier II Protection. The second level of protection applies to those water bodies considered high quality and ensures that no lowering of water quality will be allowed unless deemed necessary to accommodate important economic or social development (IDAPA 58.01.02.051.02; 58.01.02.052.08).
- Tier III Protection. The third level of protection applies to water bodies that have been designated outstanding resource waters and requires that activities not cause a lowering of water quality (IDAPA 58.01.02.051.03; 58.01.02.052.09).

DEQ is employing a water body by water body approach to implementing Idaho's antidegradation policy. This approach means that any water body fully supporting its beneficial uses will be considered high quality (IDAPA 58.01.02.052.05.a). Any water body not fully supporting its beneficial uses will be provided Tier I protection for that use, unless specific circumstances warranting Tier II protection are met (IDAPA 58.01.02.052.05.c). The most recent federally approved Integrated Report and supporting data are used to determine support status and the tier of protection (IDAPA 58.01.02.052.05).

### ***Pollutants of Concern***

The primary pollutant of concern for this project is sediment. Temperature is not a concern as there is currently no riparian vegetation that will be affected by this construction project. Increased bridge width should create more shade. As part of the Section 401 water quality certification, DEQ is requiring the applicant comply with various conditions to protect water quality and to meet Idaho WQS, including the water quality criteria applicable to sediment.

### ***Receiving Water Body Level of Protection***

This project is located on an unnamed tributary to Santa Creek within the St. Joe Subbasin assessment unit (AU) ID17010304PN010\_02 (Santa Creek source to mouth). This AU has the following designated beneficial uses: cold water aquatic life, salmonid spawning and primary contact recreation. In addition to these uses, all waters of the state are protected for agricultural and industrial water supply, wildlife habitat, and aesthetics (IDAPA 58.01.02.100).

According to DEQ's 2014 Integrated Report, this AU is not fully supporting its aquatic life uses. Causes of impairment include sediment and temperature. As such, DEQ will provide Tier I protection (IDAPA 58.01.02.051.01) for the aquatic life use. The contact recreation beneficial use is unassessed. DEQ must provide an appropriate level of protection for the contact recreation use using information available at this time (IDAPA 58.01.02.052.05.c).

The only pollutant of concern associated with this project is sediment. However, sediment is not relevant to recreational uses since sediment will not degrade water quality necessary to support recreation uses, and it is therefore unnecessary for DEQ to conduct a Tier II analysis.

### ***Protection and Maintenance of Existing Uses (Tier I Protection)***

A Tier I review is performed for all new or reissued permits or licenses, applies to all waters subject to the jurisdiction of the Clean Water Act, and requires demonstration that existing uses and the level of water quality necessary to protect existing uses shall be maintained and protected. The numeric and narrative criteria in the WQS are set at levels that ensure protection of existing and designated beneficial uses.

Water bodies not supporting existing or designated beneficial uses must be identified as water quality limited, and a total maximum daily load (TMDL) must be prepared for those pollutants causing impairment. Once a TMDL is developed, discharges of causative pollutants shall be consistent with the allocations in the TMDL (IDAPA 58.01.02.055.05). Prior to the development of the TMDL, the WQS require the application of the antidegradation policy and implementation provisions to maintain and protect uses (IDAPA 58.01.02.055.04).

During the construction phase, the applicant will implement, install, maintain, monitor, and adaptively manage best management practices (BMPs) directed toward reducing erosion and minimizing turbidity levels in receiving water bodies downstream of the project. This project will be implemented during non-runoff or low flow periods to reduce the potential for turbidity. If there is flowing water during construction it will be diverted around the work site to allow work to be performed in dry conditions. In addition, permanent erosion and sediment controls will be implemented, which will minimize or prevent future sediment contributions from the project area. As long as the project is conducted in accordance with the provisions of the project plans, Section 404 permit, and conditions of this certification, then there is reasonable assurance the project will comply with the state's numeric and narrative criteria. These criteria are set at levels that protect and maintain designated and existing beneficial uses. In addition, the project will be consistent with the *St. Maries River Subbasin Assessment and Total Maximum Daily Load and St. Joe River Subbasin Temperature TMDL addendum*. As previously noted there will not be any riparian vegetation removal and therefore no temperature degradation. A wider span culvert should provide increased shade to the stream. Best management practices such as stream diversion, riprap, wood fiber mulch or rock mulch, revegetation of disturbed areas, fiber wattles and/or silt fencing are proposed and should minimize movement of sediment into the stream. Turbidity monitoring will be conducted to ensure compliance with turbidity standard. Long term stabilization will be accomplished with riprap and vegetation.

There is no available information indicating the presence of any existing beneficial uses aside from those that are already designated and discussed above; therefore, the permit ensures that the level of water quality necessary to protect both existing and designated uses is maintained and protected in compliance with the Tier I provisions of Idaho's WQS (IDAPA 58.01.02.051.01 and 58.01.02.052.07).

## Conditions Necessary to Ensure Compliance with Water Quality Standards or Other Appropriate Water Quality Requirements of State Law

### **General Conditions**

1. This certification is conditioned upon the requirement that any modification (e.g., change in BMPs, work windows, etc.) of the permitted activity shall first be provided to DEQ for review to determine compliance with Idaho WQS and to provide additional certification pursuant to Section 401. Such modifications may not be implemented until DEQ has determined whether additional certification is necessary.
2. DEQ reserves the right to modify, amend, or revoke this certification if DEQ determines that, due to changes in relevant circumstances—including without limitation, changes in project activities, the characteristics of the receiving water bodies, or state WQS—there is no longer reasonable assurance of compliance with WQS or other appropriate requirements of state law.
3. A copy of this certification must be kept on the job site and readily available for review by any contractor working on the project and any federal, state, or local government personnel.
4. Project areas shall be clearly identified in the field prior to initiating land-disturbing activities to ensure avoidance of impacts to waters of the state beyond project footprints.
5. The applicant shall provide access to the project site and all mitigation sites upon request by DEQ personnel for site inspections, monitoring, and/or to ensure that conditions of this certification are being met.
6. The applicant is responsible for all work done by contractors and must ensure the contractors are informed of and follow all the conditions described in this certification and the Section 404 permit.
7. If this project disturbs more than 1 acre and there is potential for discharge of stormwater to waters of the state, coverage under the EPA Stormwater Construction General Permit *must* be obtained. More information can be found at <http://yosemite.epa.gov/R10/WATER.NSF/NPDES+Permits/Region+10+CGP+resources>.

### **Fill Material**

8. Fill material subject to suspension shall be free of easily suspended fine material.
9. Fill material shall not be placed in a location or in a manner that impairs surface or subsurface water flow into or out of any wetland area.
10. Placement of fill material in existing vegetated wetlands shall be minimized to the greatest extent possible.
11. All temporary fills shall be removed in their entirety on or before construction completion.
12. Excavated or staged fill material must be placed so it is isolated from the water edge or wetlands and not placed where it could re-enter waters.

### ***Erosion and Sediment Control***

13. BMPs for sediment and erosion control suitable to prevent exceedances of state WQS shall be selected and installed before starting construction at the site. One resource that may be used in evaluating appropriate BMPs is DEQ's *Catalog of Stormwater Best Management Practices for Idaho Cities and Counties*, available online at <http://www.deq.idaho.gov/media/494058-entire.pdf>. Other resources may also be used for selecting appropriate BMPs.
14. Erosion and sediment control measures shall be installed in a manner that will provide long-term sediment and erosion control to prevent excess sediment from entering waters of the state.
15. Erosion and sediment control measures shall be installed at the earliest practicable time consistent with good construction practices and shall be maintained as necessary throughout project operation.
16. A BMP inspection and maintenance plan must be developed and implemented. At a minimum, BMPs must be inspected and maintained daily during project implementation.
17. BMP effectiveness shall be monitored during project implementation. BMPs shall be replaced or augmented if they are not effective.
18. All construction debris shall be properly disposed of so it cannot enter waters of the state or cause water quality degradation.
19. Disturbed areas suitable for vegetation shall be seeded or revegetated to prevent subsequent soil erosion.
20. Maximum fill slopes shall be such that material is structurally stable once placed and does not slough into the stream channel during construction, during periods prior to revegetation, or after vegetation is established.
21. Sediment from disturbed areas or able to be tracked by vehicles onto pavement must not be allowed to leave the site in amounts that would reasonably be expected to enter waters of the state. Placement of clean aggregate at all construction entrances or exits and other BMPs such as truck or wheel washes, if needed, must be used when earth-moving equipment will be leaving the site and traveling on paved surfaces.

### ***Turbidity***

22. Sediment resulting from this activity must be mitigated to prevent violations of the turbidity standard as stipulated under the Idaho WQS (IDAPA 58.01.02). *Any violation of this standard must be reported to the DEQ regional office immediately.*
23. All practical BMPs on disturbed banks and within the waters of the state must be implemented to minimize turbidity. Visual observation is acceptable to determine whether BMPs are functioning properly. If a plume is observed, the project may be causing an exceedance of WQS and the permittee must inspect the condition of the projects BMPs. If the BMPs appear to be functioning to their fullest capability, then the permittee must modify the activity or implement additional BMPs (this may also include modifying existing BMPs).

### ***In-water Work***

24. Work in open water is to be kept at a minimum and only when necessary. Equipment shall work from an upland site to minimize disturbance of waters of the state. If this is not practicable, appropriate measures must be taken to ensure disturbance to the waters of the state is minimized.
25. **Construction affecting the bed or banks shall take place only during periods of low flow.**
26. Fording of the channel is not permitted. Temporary bridges or other structures shall be built if crossings are necessary.
  - a. Temporary crossings must be perpendicular to channels and located in areas with the least impact. The temporary crossings must be supplemented with clean gravel or treated with other mitigation methods at least as effective in reducing impacts. Temporary crossings must be removed as soon as possible after the project is completed or the crossing is no longer needed.
27. Heavy equipment working in wetlands shall be placed on mats or suitably designed pads to prevent damage to the wetlands.
28. Work in waters of the state shall be restricted to areas specified in the application.
29. Stranded fish found in dewatered segments should be moved to a location (preferably downstream) with water.
30. To minimize sediment transport, stream channel or stream bank stabilization must be completed prior to returning water to a dewatered segment.

### ***Pollutants/Toxics***

31. The use of chemicals such as soil stabilizers, dust palliatives, sterilants, growth inhibitors, fertilizers, and deicing salts during construction and operation should be limited to the best estimate of optimum application rates. All reasonable measures shall be taken to avoid excess application and introduction of chemicals into waters of the state.

### ***Vegetation Protection and Restoration***

32. If authorized work results in unavoidable vegetative disturbance, riparian and wetland vegetation shall be successfully reestablished to function for water quality benefit at pre-project levels or improved at the completion of authorized work.

### ***Management of Hazardous or Deleterious Materials***

33. Petroleum products and hazardous, toxic, and/or deleterious materials shall not be stored, disposed of, or accumulated adjacent to or in the immediate vicinity of waters of the state. Adequate measures and controls must be in place to ensure that those materials will not enter waters of the state as a result of high water, precipitation runoff, wind, storage facility failure, accidents in operation, or unauthorized third-party activities.
34. Vegetable-based hydraulic fluid should be used on equipment operating in or directly adjacent to the channel if this fluid is available.

35. Daily inspections of all fluid systems on equipment to be used in or near waters of the state shall be done to ensure no leaks or potential leaks exist prior to equipment use.
36. Equipment and machinery must be removed from the vicinity of the waters of the state prior to refueling, repair, and/or maintenance.
37. Equipment and machinery shall be steam cleaned of oils and grease in an upland location or staging area with appropriate wastewater controls and treatment prior to entering a water of the state. Any wastewater or wash water must not be allowed to enter a water of the state. **Cleaning shall be sufficient to remove all life stages of aquatic invasive species.**
38. Emergency spill procedures shall be in place and may include a spill response kit (e.g., oil absorbent booms or other equipment).
39. In accordance with IDAPA 58.01.02.850, in the event of an unauthorized release of hazardous material to state waters or to land such that there is a likelihood that it will enter state waters, the responsible persons in charge must:
  - b. Make every reasonable effort to abate and stop a continuing spill.
  - c. Make every reasonable effort to contain spilled material in such a manner that it will not reach surface or ground waters of the state.
  - d. Call 911 if immediate assistance is required to control, contain, or clean up the spill. If no assistance is needed in cleaning up the spill, contact the appropriate DEQ regional office during normal working hours or Idaho State Communications Center after normal working hours (1-800-632-8000). If the spilled volume is above federal reportable quantities, contact the National Response Center (1-800-424-8802).
    - Coeur d'Alene Regional Office: 208-769-1422 / 877-370-0017
  - e. Collect, remove, and dispose of the spilled material in a manner approved by DEQ.

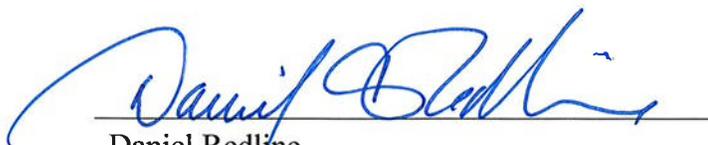
### **Culverts**

40. To prevent road surface and culvert bedding material from entering a stream, culvert crossings must include best management practices to retain road base and culvert bedding material. Examples of best management practices include, but are not limited to, parapets, wing walls, inlet and outlet rock armoring, compaction, suitable bedding material, anti-seep barriers such as bentonite clay, or other acceptable roadway retention systems.
41. The culvert shall not constrict the stream channel and shall not be angled such that the outflow is directed toward the stream bank. The culvert's flow line shall match the existing stream invert at its entrance and exit. Adequate grade control shall be installed to prevent channel down cutting or excessive deposition from occurring.
42. The culvert shall be installed such that it does not impede fish passage.

## Right to Appeal Final Certification

The final Section 401 Water Quality Certification may be appealed by submitting a petition to initiate a contested case, pursuant to Idaho Code § 39-107(5) and the “Rules of Administrative Procedure before the Board of Environmental Quality” (IDAPA 58.01.23), within 35 days of the date of the final certification.

Questions or comments regarding the actions taken in this certification should be directed to June Bergquist, Coeur d’Alene Regional Office at 208-666-4605 or via email at [june.bergquist@deq.idaho.gov](mailto:june.bergquist@deq.idaho.gov).



Daniel Redlme  
Regional Administrator  
Coeur d’Alene Regional Office