STATE OF IDAHO
DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

1118 F Street • Lewiston, Idaho 83501 • (208) 799-4370

C.L. "Butch" Otter, Governor
Curt Fransen, Director

June 1, 2012

Mr. Gregory Martinez
Boise Regulatory Office
Walla Walla District, Corps of Engineers
10095 West Emerald Street
Boise, Idaho 83704

Subject: Water Quality Certification for NWW-2012-00200-B01

Dear Mr. Martinez:

Attached is the final §401 water quality certification for the above referenced project. The §401 process requires a public notice of 21 days. The comment period closed on May 23, 2012. No public comments were received by the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality. Therefore, DEQ is issuing the final certification.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at (208) 799-4370 or john.cardwell@deq.idaho.gov.

Sincerely,

Clayton Steele for

John Cardwell
Water Quality Program Manager
Lewiston Regional Office

c: Marilyn Wildey, Bitterroot National Forest, MT
Clayton Steele, TRIM Record
Miranda Adams, TRIM Record

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Idaho Department of Environmental Quality

Final §401 Water Quality Certification

June 1, 2012

404 Permit Application Number: NWW-2012-00200-B01

Applicant/Authorized Agent: Bitterroot National Forest

Project Location: Project sites are located in Sections 3,4,& 5 of Township 27 North, Range 15 East, Idaho County

Receiving Water Body: Halfway Creek, Shumaker Creek, and Scimitar 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 April 18, 2012, 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

The project will replace existing culverts with larger squash pipes capable of passing a 100 year flow event and providing aquatic life passage.

Antidegradation Review

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

- Tier 1 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 1 review is performed for all new or reissued permits or licenses (IDAPA 58.01.02.052.05).

- Tier 2 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; 58.01.02.052.06).
- Tier 3 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; 58.01.02.052.07).

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). Any water body not fully supporting its beneficial uses will be provided Tier 1 protection for that use, unless specific circumstances warranting Tier 2 protection are met (IDAPA 58.01.02.052.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. As part of the Section 401 water quality certification, DEQ is requiring the applicant to comply with various conditions to protect water quality and meet Idaho WQS, including the water quality criteria applicable to sediment.

Receiving Water Body Level of Protection

The culvert replacement project is located within the assessment unit (AU) 17060301CL031_02. This AU has not yet been designated. Because DEQ presumes most waters in the state will support cold water aquatic life and primary or secondary contact recreation beneficial uses, undesignated waters are protected for these uses (IDAPA 58.01.02.101.01.a). There is no available information indicating the presence of any existing beneficial uses aside from those that are already mentioned.

DEQ's working principles and policies for the 2010 Integrated Report presume that wilderness and roadless waters are fully supporting (2010 Integrated Report). This AU is included in waters wholly within the Bitterroot National Forest's designated wilderness and inventoried roadless area, and meets the intent of natural background conditions by virtue of the fact there has been little to no significant human management to cause changes in water quality or affect beneficial uses. As such, DEQ will provide Tier 2 protection for the aquatic life and contact recreation uses as well as Tier 1 protection (Idaho Code § 39-3603(2)(b)).

Protection and Maintenance of Existing Uses (Tier 1 Protection)

As noted above, a Tier 1 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 designated beneficial uses.

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. 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.

High-Quality Waters (Tier 2 Protection)

Halfway, Shumaker, and Scimitar Creeks are considered high quality for cold water aquatic life and contact recreation. As such, the water quality relevant to cold water aquatic life and contact recreation uses of Halfway, Shumaker, and Scimitar Creeks must be maintained and protected, unless a lowering of water quality is deemed necessary to accommodate important social or economic development.

To determine whether degradation will occur, DEQ must evaluate how the permit issuance will affect water quality for each pollutant that is relevant to cold water aquatic life and contact recreation uses of Halfway, Shumaker, and Scimitar Creeks (IDAPA 58.01.02.052.04). These pollutants include the following: sediment and *E. coli* bacteria. The only pollutant of concern for this project is sediment. Sediment is not relevant to recreational uses, but sediment is relevant to aquatic life use.

As noted above, the applicant will implement, install, maintain, monitor, and adaptively manage BMPs directed toward reducing erosion and minimizing turbidity levels in receiving water bodies downstream of the project. In addition, permanent erosion and sediment controls will be implemented, which will minimize or prevent future sediment contributions from the project area. Although this project may result in minimal short-term sediment impacts to the water body, DEQ does not expect long-term impacts or degradation to Halfway, Shumaker, and Scimitar Creeks. Therefore, DEQ concludes that this project complies with IDAPA 58.01.02.051.02 and IDAPA 58.01.02.052.06.

There is no available information indicating the presence of any existing beneficial uses aside from those that are already discussed above; therefore, the permit ensures that the level of water quality necessary to protect both designated and existing uses is maintained and protected in compliance with IDAPA 58.01.02.051.01, IDAPA 58.01.02.052.05, and 40 CFR § 131.12(a)(1).

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. If ownership of the project changes, the certification holder shall notify DEQ, in writing, upon transferring this ownership or responsibility for compliance with these conditions to another person or party. The new owner/operator shall request, in writing, the transfer of this water quality certification to his/her name.
4. 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.
5. Project areas shall be clearly identified in the field prior to initiating land-disturbing activities to ensure avoidance of impacts to waters of the US beyond project footprints.
6. 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.
7. 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.
8. If this project disturbs more than 1 acre and there is potential for discharge of stormwater to waters of the US, 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

1. Fill material shall be free of organic and easily suspendable fine material. The fill material to be placed shall include clean earth fill, sand, and stone only.
2. 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.
3. Placement of fill material in existing vegetated wetlands shall be minimized to the greatest extent possible.

4. All temporary fills shall be removed in their entirety on or before construction completion.
5. 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 of the state uncontrolled.

Erosion and Sediment Control

1. 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.
2. Permanent 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.
3. Structural fill or bank protection shall consist of materials that are placed and maintained to withstand predictable high flows in the waters of the state.
4. A BMP inspection and maintenance plan must be developed and implemented. At a minimum, BMPs must be inspected and maintained daily during project implementation.
5. BMP effectiveness shall be monitored during project implementation. BMPs shall be replaced or augmented if they are not effective.
6. All construction debris shall be properly disposed of so it cannot enter waters of the state or cause water quality degradation.
7. Disturbed areas suitable for vegetation shall be seeded or revegetated to prevent subsequent soil erosion.
8. 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.

Turbidity

1. All practical BMPs on disturbed banks and within the waters of the state must be implemented to minimize turbidity during in-water work.
2. Containment measures such as silt curtains, geotextile fabrics, and silt fences must be implemented and properly maintained to minimize in-stream sediment suspension and resulting turbidity.
3. Turbidity monitoring must be conducted; a properly and regularly calibrated turbidimeter is recommended. Turbidity shall not exceed background turbidity by more than fifty (50) nephelometric turbidity units (NTU) instantaneously or more than twenty-five (25) NTU for more than ten (10) consecutive days. If an exceedance occurs, the applicant must inspect the condition of the project BMPs. If the BMPs appear to be functioning to their fullest capability, then the applicant must modify the activity (this may include modifying existing BMPs).

In-water Work

1. 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 to waters of the State. If this is not practicable, appropriate measures must be taken to ensure disturbance to waters of the State is minimized.
2. Construction affecting the bed or banks shall take place only during periods of low flow.
3. Work in waters of the state shall be restricted to areas specified in the application.
4. Activities that include constructing and maintaining intake structures must include adequate fish screening devices to prevent fish entrainment or capture.
5. Stranded fish found in dewatered segments should be moved to a location (preferably downstream) with water.
6. Stream channel or stream bank stabilization must be completed prior to returning water to a dewatered segment.

Pollutants/Toxics

1. 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

1. To the maximum extent practical, staging areas and access points should be placed in open, upland areas.
2. 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.

Dredge Material Management

1. Upland disposal of dredged material must be done in a manner that prevents the material from re-entering waters of the state.

Management of Hazardous or Deleterious Materials

1. 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.
2. Equipment and machinery must be removed from the vicinity of the waters of the state prior to refueling, repair, and/or maintenance.

3. 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.
4. Emergency spill procedures shall be in place and may include a spill response kit (e.g., oil absorbent booms or other equipment).
5. Any spill less than 25 gallons must be cleaned up within 24 hours of the release but does not require reporting to DEQ. If the spill is less than 25 gallons and is not cleaned up within 24 hours, then it becomes a reportable quantity.
6. Any spill greater than or equal to 25 gallons must be cleaned up within 24 hours of the release and reported to DEQ by calling 1-800-632-8000 (Idaho State Communications Center). Any spill equal to or greater than 25 gallons is reportable immediately.
7. Any release that causes a sheen (of any size) in waters of the state must be reported immediately to the National Response Center at 1-800-424-8802 and the Idaho State Communication Center (1-800-632-8000).

Culverts

1. 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.
2. The culvert outflow shall be armored with riprap to provide erosion control. This riprap shall be clean, angular, dense rock that is free of fines and resistant to aquatic decomposition.

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 regarding the actions taken in this certification should be directed to Cindy Barrett, Lewiston Regional Office at (208) 799-4370 or Cynthia.Barrett@deq.idaho.gov.

Clayton Steele

Clayton Steele
Regional Administrator
Lewiston Regional Office