



STATE OF IDAHO
DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

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

August 15, 2016

William Perry
Payette National Forest
500 N. Mission, Bldg #2
McCall, ID 83638

Re: Reference No. NWW-2016-271-B03
Culvert Replacements East Branch Weiser River

Dear Mr. Perry:

The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has considered water quality certification for construction related to the referenced project. DEQ is issuing the attached 401 Water Quality Certification subject to the terms and conditions contained therein.

This certification shall remain in effect until December 31, 2016, at which time construction must be completed.

If you have any questions or further information to present please contact Julia Achabal at 208-373-0321, or via email at Julia.Achabal@deq.idaho.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Aaron Scheff".

Aaron Scheff
Regional Administrator
Boise Regional Office

JRA:dr

ec: Eric M. Gerke, COE, Boise
Nicole Deinarowicz, DEQ State Office
TRIM 2016AKF85



Idaho Department of Environmental Quality Final §401 Water Quality Certification

August 15, 2016

404 Permit Application Number: NWW-2016-271-B03

Applicant/Authorized Agent: Payette National Forest

Project Location: The two projects are located in Adams County, Idaho within Section 26 of Township 20N, Range 1W and Section 23 of Township 20N, Range 1W respectively.

Receiving Water Body: East Branch Weiser River

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 June 13, 2016, 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.

This certification shall remain in effect until December 31, 2016 at which time construction must be completed.

Project Description

This project will remove undersized culverts and install larger culverts at two locations on the East Branch Weiser River. This project will benefit aquatic life by improving their passage at these stream crossings.

In one location, two, 68-inch diameter by 80-inch by 40-foot culverts will be replaced with a single, 18-foot by 8-foot by 24-foot two-legged concrete box culvert. The project includes reshaping the channel 25 linear feet upstream and downstream of the crossing location. An estimated 16 cubic yards of simulated streambed material will be discharged below the ordinary high water mark.

The other location will replace an 8-foot diameter by 40-foot culvert with a 16-foot by 63-inch by 50-foot long open bottom arch. This culvert replacement project includes the construction of vortex rock weirs upstream and downstream of the culvert crossing. An estimated 30 cubic yards of simulated native streambed material will be discharged below the ordinary high water mark.

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 58.01.02.052.07).
- 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; 58.01.02.052.08).
- 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; 58.01.02.052.09).

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 1 protection for that use, unless specific circumstances warranting Tier 2 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. 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 East Branch Weiser River within the Weiser River Subbasin assessment unit (AU) 17050124SW007_02 (Weiser River 1st and 2nd order (upstream of Keithly Creek). This AU has been designated for cold water aquatic life, primary contact recreation and domestic water supply beneficial uses. Salmonid spawning has also been recognized as an existing use. This is a sub-category of the aquatic life use. 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 2012 Integrated Report, this receiving water body AU is fully supporting its assessed uses (IDAPA 58.01.02.052.05.a). As such, DEQ will provide Tier 2 protection in addition to Tier 1 for this water body (IDAPA 58.01.02.051.02; 58.01.02.051.01).

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.

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 designated and existing uses is maintained and protected in compliance with the Tier 1 provisions of Idaho's WQS (IDAPA 58.01.02.051.01 and 58.01.02.052.07).

High-Quality Waters (Tier 2 Protection)

The East Branch Weiser River is considered high quality for cold water aquatic life, salmonid spawning, and primary contact recreation. As such, the water quality relevant to these uses 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, salmonid spawning, and primary contact recreation uses of the East Branch Weiser River (IDAPA 58.01.02.052.06). The only pollutant of concern for this project is sediment. Because sediment is not relevant to contact recreation, project activities will not result in a lowering of water quality with respect to recreational beneficial use support. Sediment is relevant to the aquatic life beneficial use and the permittee must minimize the transport of sediment through the implementation of best management practices (BMPs).

It is stated that the purpose of this project is to improve aquatic organism passage at two stream crossings. The project will be implemented during low flow to minimize sediment transport to the river and before the salmonid spawning period. The worksite will be temporarily dewatered by pumping or trenching with a fish biologist present to transfer or protect aquatic organisms. Materials for stream-simulation will be salvaged from the excavation of the pipes for the construction of a natural channel. Excess material will be scattered in a designated upland

location or hauled away. In addition, filtering systems will be installed downstream from the worksites. All disturbed areas will be reshaped and reseeded with a native seed mix. As such, the project complies with IDAPA 58.01.02.051.02 and IDAPA 58.01.02.052.06.

In order to maintain the ambient water quality conditions, permanent erosion and sediment controls must be implemented which will minimize or prevent future sediment contributions from the project area. The provisions in the 404 permit, coupled with the conditions of this certification, ensure that degradation to the Weiser River 1st and 2nd order (upstream of Keithly Creek AU or the East Branch Weiser River will not occur. Therefore, DEQ concludes that this project complies with the Tier 2 provisions of Idaho's WQS (IDAPA 58.01.02.051.02; 58.01.02.052.06 and 58.01.02.052.08).

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 state 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 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

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. Placement of fill material in existing vegetated wetlands shall be minimized to the greatest extent possible.
3. All temporary fills shall be removed in their entirety on or before construction completion.
4. 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. One of the first construction activities shall be placing permanent and/or temporary erosion and sediment control measures around the perimeter of the project or initial work areas to protect the project water resources.
3. Permanent 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.
4. 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.
5. Top elevations of bank stabilization shall be such that adequate freeboard is provided to protect from erosion at 100-year design flood elevation.
6. 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.
7. A BMP inspection and maintenance plan must be developed and implemented. At a minimum, BMPs must be inspected and maintained daily during project implementation.
8. BMP effectiveness shall be monitored during project implementation. BMPs shall be replaced or augmented if they are not effective.
9. All construction debris shall be properly disposed of so it cannot enter waters of the state or cause water quality degradation.
10. Disturbed areas suitable for vegetation shall be seeded or revegetated to prevent subsequent soil erosion.

11. 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.
12. To the extent reasonable and cost-effective, the activity submitted for certification shall be designed to minimize subsequent maintenance.
13. 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

1. 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).
2. Containment measures such as silt curtains, geotextile fabrics, and silt fences must be implemented and properly maintained to minimize instream sediment suspension and resulting turbidity.
3. Turbidity monitoring must be conducted each day during project implementation when project activities may result in turbidity increases above background levels. If the downstream turbidity exceeds upstream turbidity by fifty (50) nephelometric turbidity units (NTU) or more, or more than twenty-five (25) NTU for more than ten (10) consecutive days, the project is causing an exceedance of the WQS. If an exceedance occurs, the permittee must inspect the condition of the projects 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 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.
2. Construction affecting the bed or banks shall take place only during periods of low flow.
3. 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.

4. Heavy equipment working in wetlands shall be placed on mats or suitably designed pads to prevent damage to the wetlands.
5. Activities in spawning areas must be avoided to the maximum extent practicable.
6. Work in waters of the state shall be restricted to areas specified in the application.
7. Measures shall be taken to prevent wet concrete from entering into waters of the state when placed in forms and/or from truck washing.
8. Activities that include constructing and maintaining intake structures must include adequate fish screening devices to prevent fish entrainment or capture.
9. Stranded fish found in dewatered segments should be moved to a location (preferably downstream) with water.
10. To minimize sediment transport, 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. Disturbance of existing wetlands and native vegetation shall be kept to a minimum.
2. To the maximum extent practical, staging areas and access points should be placed in open, upland areas.
3. Fencing and other barriers should be used to mark the construction areas.
4. Where possible, alternative equipment should be used (e.g., spider hoe or crane).
5. 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

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. Vegetable-based hydraulic fluid should be used on equipment operating in or directly adjacent to the channel if this fluid is available.

3. 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. A log book of these inspections shall be kept on site and provided to DEQ upon request.
4. Equipment and machinery must be removed from the vicinity of the waters of the state prior to refueling, repair, and/or maintenance.
5. 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.
6. Emergency spill procedures shall be in place and may include a spill response kit (e.g., oil absorbent booms or other equipment).
7. 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. Immediately notify DEQ of the spill by calling the Idaho State Communications Center at 1-800-632-8000.
 - e. Collect, remove, and dispose of the spilled material in a manner approved by DEQ.
8. In accordance with IDAPA 58.01.02.851.04, any aboveground spill or overflow of petroleum that results in a release that exceeds 25 gallons *or that causes a sheen on a nearby surface water* shall be reported to DEQ within 24 hours and corrective action in accordance with IDAPA 58.01.02.852 shall be taken.
9. In accordance with IDAPA 58.01.02.851.04, any aboveground spill or overflow of petroleum that results in a release less than 25 gallons *and does not cause a sheen on nearby surface water* shall be reported to DEQ by calling the Idaho State Communications Center at 1-800-632-8000 if cleanup cannot be accomplished within 24 hours.
10. 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 DEQ by calling the Idaho State Communications Center at 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 shall be installed such that it does not impede fish passage.
3. The culvert outflow shall be armored with riprap to provide erosion control. This riprap will be clean, angular, dense rock that is free of fines and resistant to aquatic decomposition.
4. Culverts shall be sized appropriately to maintain the natural drainage patterns.

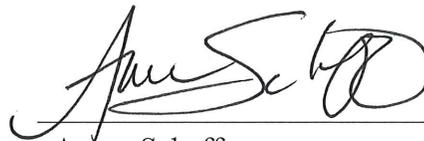
Treated Wood

1. Any use of treated wood materials in the aquatic environment must be conducted in accordance with DEQ's "Guidance for the Use of Wood Preservatives and Preserved Wood Products In or Around Aquatic Environments." This guidance is available online at http://www.deq.idaho.gov/media/488795-wood_products_guidance_final.pdf.

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 Julia Achabal, Boise Regional Office, at (208) 373-0321 or Julia.Achabal@deq.idaho.gov.



Aaron Scheff
Regional Administrator
Boise Regional Office