



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, PORTLAND DISTRICT
P.O. BOX 2946
PORTLAND, OR 97208-2946

April 20, 2026

Regulatory Division
Corps No. NWP-2025-00102

Mr. Stan Petrowski
South Umpqua Rural Community Partnership
34620 Tiller-Trail Hwy
Tiller, OR 97484
stanley@surcp.org

Dear Mr. Petrowski:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) received your request for Department of the Army authorization to permanently remove up to 44 cubic yards (cy) of concrete, large wood, and water intake structure at the Highland Ditch Dam, from 0.07 acre (ac) of Cow Creek below the ordinary high-water mark (OHWM) to restore aquatic habitat. The project is proposed in Cow Creek at 192 Woodpath Lane in Azalea, Douglas County, Oregon (Latitude / Longitude: 42.795720°, -123.239321°). This letter verifies your project as depicted on the enclosed drawings (Enclosure 1) is authorized by Nationwide Permit (NWP) No. 33, Temporary Construction, Access, and Dewatering (*Federal Register*, January 8, 2026, Vol. 91, No. 5). Permit (NWP) No. 53, Removal of Low-Head Dams (*Federal Register*, January 8, 2026, Vol. 91, No. 5).

In order to minimize disruption to stream flow, structure removal will occur in two phases. Phase 1 includes the temporary placement of up to 53 cy of sandbags into 0.07 ac of Cow Creek below the OHWM to partially isolate the northern portion of the project area during removal activities. Up to 35 cy of concrete, large wood, and intake structure will be removed and disposed of in an upland location. Phase 2 includes the placement of up to 53 cy of sandbags into 0.07 ac of Cow Creek below the OHWM to partially isolate the southern portion of the project area in order to remove the remainder of the Highland Ditch Dam. Upon project completion, all temporary structures will be removed.

In order for this authorization to be valid, you must ensure the work is performed in accordance with the enclosed Nationwide Permit 33 and 53 Terms and Conditions (Enclosure 2); the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Section 401 Water Quality Certification Conditions (Enclosure 3); and the following special condition:

- a. You must comply with the mandatory terms and conditions that apply to the activity within the Corps' jurisdiction to implement the reasonable and prudent measures associated with "incidental take" of those species identified in the

National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), Programmatic Biological Opinion titled Programmatic Restoration Opinion for Joint Ecosystem Conservation (PROJECTS) is a 2015 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Programmatic Biological Opinion (NMFS Reference Number NWR-2013-10221, May 2015) and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Programmatic Biological Opinion titled Programmatic Restoration Opinion for Joint Ecosystem Conservation (PROJECTS) (USFWS Reference Number: 01EOFW00-2014-F-0222, May 2015). The USFWS is the lead federal agency for Endangered Species Act (ESA) consultation for this project. The USFWS has determined the proposed project meets the requirements of these Programmatic Biological Opinion. It is your responsibility to obtain a copy of the terms and conditions from the lead federal agency. The Corps' jurisdiction is limited to activities that require Department of the Army authorization. All of the mandatory terms and conditions in the Programmatic Biological Opinions apply to the activity. The USFWS and NMFS have the final authority to determine compliance with the terms and conditions of its Programmatic Biological Opinion, and with the ESA.

We have reviewed your project pursuant to the requirements of the Endangered Species Act, the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act and the National Historic Preservation Act. We have determined the project complies with the requirements of these laws provided you comply with all of the permit general and special conditions. The requirements of the Endangered Species Act were met through programmatic biological opinions as listed in the special condition above.

The DEQ has issued a Section 401 Water Quality Certification for this project. No further coordination with DEQ is required provided the work is performed in accordance with all of the enclosed conditions.

The Corps did not prepare a jurisdictional determination for this project. The Corps has treated the aquatic resource to be affected by this project as jurisdictional waters of the United States. If you believe the Corps does not have jurisdiction over some or all of the aquatic resources at the project site, you may request an Approved Jurisdictional Determination (AJD). If one is requested, please be aware that we may require the submittal of additional information to complete the AJD and work authorized in this letter may not occur until the Corps completes the AJD.

The verification of this NWP is valid until March 15, 2031, unless the NWP is modified, reissued, or revoked prior to that date. If the authorized work has not been completed by that date and you have commenced or are under contract to commence this activity before March 15, 2031, you will have until March 15, 2032, to complete the activity under the enclosed terms and conditions of this NWP. If the work cannot be

completed by March 15, 2032, you will need to obtain a new NWP verification or authorization by another type of Department of the Army permit.

Our verification of this NWP is based on the project description and construction methods provided in your permit application. If you propose changes to the project, you must submit revised plans to this office and receive our approval of the revisions prior to performing the work. Failure to comply with all terms and conditions of this NWP verification invalidates this authorization and could result in a violation of Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. You must also obtain all local, state, and other federal permits that apply to this project.

Upon completing the authorized work, you must fill out and return the enclosed *Certification of Compliance with Department of the Army Permit* form (Enclosure 5). We would like to hear about your experience working with the Portland District, Regulatory Division. Please complete a customer service survey form available on our website (<https://regulatory.ops.usace.army.mil/customer-service-survey/>).

If you have any questions regarding this NWP verification, please contact Ms. Alexandra Holecek by telephone at (541) 297-9938 or by email at alexandra.holecek@usace.army.mil.

FOR THE COMMANDER, LARRY D. CASWELL, JR., PE, PMP, COLONEL, U.S. ARMY,
DISTRICT COMMANDER and DISTRICT ENGINEER:



For: William D. Abadie
Chief, Regulatory Division

Enclosures

cc:

Cascade Stream Solutions LLC (Joey Howard, joey@cascadestreamsolutions.com)
Oregon Department of State Lands (Bryan Gillooly, bryan.gillooly@dsl.oregon.gov)
Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (401certifications@deq.oregon.gov)

Highland Ditch Dam Removal Project

Construction Plans

June 2025

Approved by: _____

SOUTH UMPQUA RURAL COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP: _____ Date: _____

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GENERAL NOTES

1. CONTRACTOR SHALL NOTIFY OREGON UTILITY NOTIFICATION CENTER AT 811 OR 1-800-332-2344 TO REQUEST IDENTIFICATION AND LOCATION OF EXISTING UNDERGROUND UTILITIES. CONTRACTOR SHALL CONTACT OREGON UTILITY NOTIFICATION CENTER 2 TO 14 DAYS BEFORE PLANNED EXCAVATION DATE.
2. THIS PROJECT IS SUBJECT TO REQUIREMENTS OF PERMITS ISSUED BY VARIOUS REGULATORY AGENCIES. THE CONTRACTOR IS RESPONSIBLE TO UNDERSTAND AND PERFORM ALL WORK IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE PERMITS. PRIOR TO COMMENCING WORK THE CONTRACTOR SHALL COORDINATE WITH THE CONTRACTING OFFICER TO VERIFY THE MOST RECENT COPY OF ALL APPLICABLE PERMITS ARE INCORPORATED IN TO THE PROJECT CONSTRUCTION DOCUMENTS..
3. IN THE EVENT THAT ANY ARCHEOLOGICAL ARTIFACTS ARE UNCOVERED DURING CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES, THE CONTRACTOR SHALL STOP ALL WORK IMMEDIATELY IN THE AREA AND CONTACT THE CONTRACTING OFFICER. WORK IN THE AREA SHALL NOT RESUME UNTIL APPROVED BY OFFICER.
4. DURING CONSTRUCTION THE CONTRACTING REPRESENTATIVE MAY MAKE ADJUSTMENTS TO THE DESIGN TO ACCOMMODATE CONDITIONS ENCOUNTERED AT THE SITE.

Leonard Joey Howard

Leonard Joey Howard
OREGON REGISTERED
PROFESSIONAL ENGINEER NO. # 64402
Cascade Stream Solutions, LLC

DATE

ABBREVIATIONS

CLR	CLEAR
TYP	TYPICAL
O.C.	ON CENTER
DIAM	DIAMETER
EQ	EQUAL

ATTENTION:
Oregon law requires you to follow rules adopted by the Oregon Utility Notification Center. Those rules are set forth in OAR 952-001 through 952-001-0090. You may obtain copies if the rules by calling the center.

NOTE:
The administrative telephone number for the Oregon Utility Notification Center is (503) 232-1987.



NOTE:

1. PRIOR TO ENTERING PROJECT AREA, ALL HEAVY EQUIPMENT, POWER TOOLS, AND VEHICLES MUST BE POWER WASHED, ALLOWED TO COMPLETELY DRY AND INSPECTED FOR LEAKS.
2. PETROLEUM BASED HYDRAULIC FLUIDS MUST BE REPLACED WITH BIODEGRADABLE PRODUCTS IN HYDRAULIC EQUIPMENT, VEHICLES, AND POWER TOOLS THAT WILL BE WITHIN 150 FEET OF THE CREEK.



South Umpqua Rural Community Partnership
34620 Tiller Trail Hwy.
Tiller, Oregon 97484

Cascade Stream Solutions

961 Bellview Ave.
Ashland, Oregon 97520
Phone: (541) 864-0492



Drawing Information

Date	21 July 2025
Status	
Designer	
Drafter	
Checked	
File Name	Dam Removal
Plotted Scale	0 1/2 1

Revisions

No.	Date	Description



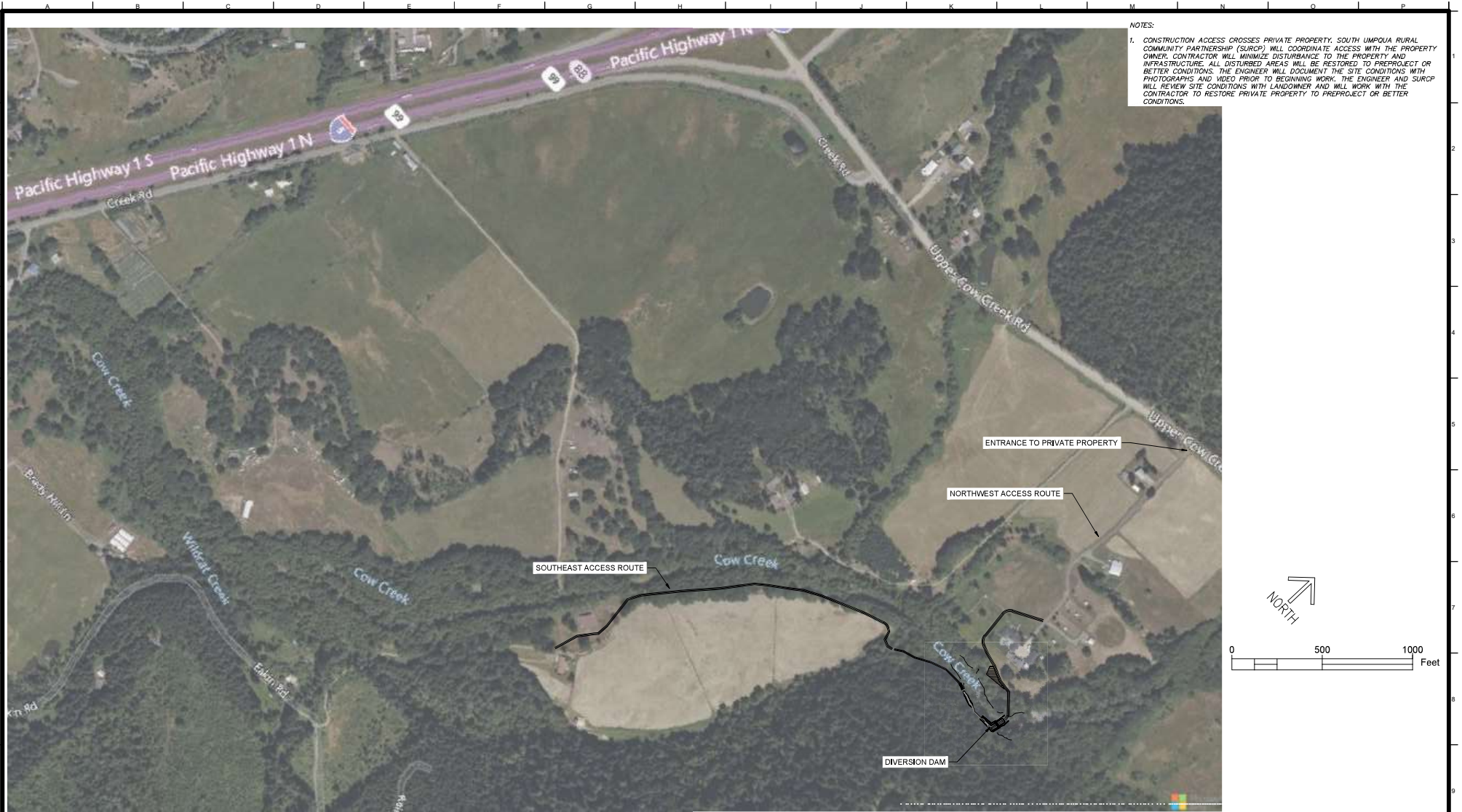
Highland Irrigation District
Dam Removal Project
Title Sheet

Job Number

Sheet Number

1

Sheet 1 of



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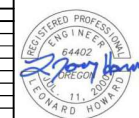


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Highland Irrigation District
Dam Removal Project
Site Access

Job Number

Sheet Number

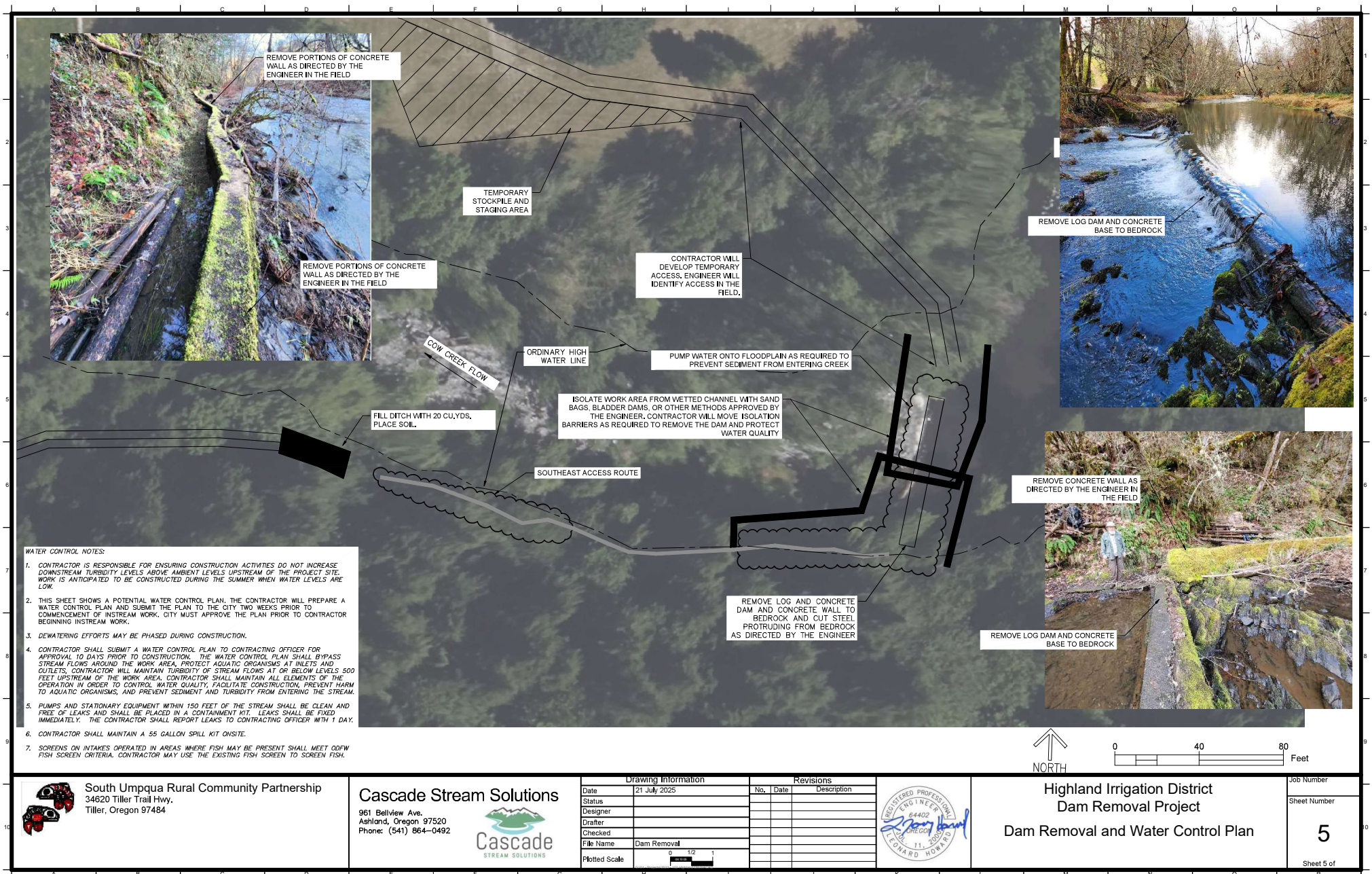
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Sheet 2 of 2



- NOTES:**
1. CONSTRUCTION ACCESS CROSSES PRIVATE PROPERTY. SOUTH UMPQUA RURAL COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP (SURCP) WILL COORDINATE ACCESS WITH THE PROPERTY OWNER. CONTRACTOR WILL MINIMIZE DISTURBANCE TO THE PROPERTY AND INFRASTRUCTURE. ALL DISTURBED AREAS WILL BE RESTORED TO PREPROJECT OR BETTER CONDITIONS. THE ENGINEER WILL DOCUMENT THE SITE CONDITIONS WITH PHOTOGRAPHS AND VIDEO PRIOR TO BEGINNING WORK. THE ENGINEER AND SURCP WILL REVIEW SITE CONDITIONS WITH LANDOWNER AND WILL WORK WITH THE CONTRACTOR TO RESTORE PRIVATE PROPERTY TO PREPROJECT OR BETTER CONDITIONS.
 2. DEWATERING EFFORTS MAY BE PHASED DURING CONSTRUCTION.
 3. CONTRACTOR SHALL SUBMIT A WATER CONTROL PLAN TO CONTRACTING OFFICER FOR APPROVAL 10 DAYS PRIOR TO CONSTRUCTION. THE WATER CONTROL PLAN SHALL BYPASS STREAM FLOWS AROUND THE WORK AREA, PROTECT AQUATIC ORGANISMS AT INLETS AND OUTLETS, CONTRACTOR WILL MAINTAIN TURBIDITY OF STREAM FLOWS AT OR BELOW LEVELS 500 FEET UPSTREAM OF THE WORK AREA. CONTRACTOR SHALL MAINTAIN ALL ELEMENTS OF THE OPERATION IN ORDER TO CONTROL WATER QUALITY, FACILITATE CONSTRUCTION, PREVENT HARM TO AQUATIC ORGANISMS, AND PREVENT SEDIMENT AND TURBIDITY FROM ENTERING THE STREAM.
 4. PUMPS AND STATIONARY EQUIPMENT WITHIN 150 FEET OF THE STREAM SHALL BE CLEAN AND FREE OF LEAKS AND SHALL BE PLACED IN A CONTAINMENT KIT. LEAKS SHALL BE FIXED IMMEDIATELY. THE CONTRACTOR SHALL REPORT LEAKS TO CONTRACTING OFFICER WITH 1 DAY.
 5. CONTRACTOR SHALL MAINTAIN A 55 GALLON SPILL KIT ON SITE.
 6. SCREENS ON INTAKES OPERATED IN AREAS WHERE FISH MAY BE PRESENT SHALL MEET ODFW FISH SCREEN CRITERIA. CONTRACTOR MAY USE THE EXISTING FISH SCREEN TO SCREEN FISH.
 7. PUMPS (PREFERABLY ELECTRIC) SHALL REMAIN IN OPERATION DOWNSTREAM OF THE BYPASS DAM TO CONTROL WATER DURING CONSTRUCTION. A PUMP SHALL BE MAINTAINED RUNNING AS NECESSARY TO DIVERT WATER CONTAINING SEDIMENT TO THE FLOODPLAIN WHERE IT WILL BE FILTERED BEFORE ENTERING BACK INTO THE STREAM DOWNSTREAM OF THE ISOLATION AREA. IF PUMPED FLOWS ARE CAUSING DOWNSTREAM TURBIDITY LIMITS TO BE EXCEEDED, CONTRACTOR SHALL USE A DEWATERING BAG. PUMPS SHALL REMAIN IN POSITION ON SITE EVEN IF WATER DISCHARGE DROPS CONSIDERABLY, TO BE PREPARED FOR STORM FLOWS.
 8. THE CONTRACTOR SHALL DEVISE A MEANS TO DISSIPATE ENERGY OF FLOWS RETURNING TO THE CHANNEL AT THE PIPE OUTLET. THE ENERGY DISSIPATOR MAY CONSIST OF A BASIN OF ROCK OR SAND BAGS THAT ALLOWS FLOWS TO REENTER THE CREEK IN A NON-EROSIVE OR A PERFORATED LARGE DIAMETER PIPE THAT REDUCES THE KINETIC ENERGY TO POINT THEY ARE NOT ERODIVE. TURBIDITY SHALL NOT EXCEED THE AMBIENT CONDITIONS AS MEASURED 500 FEET UPSTREAM OF THE WORK AREA.

 South Umpqua Rural Community Partnership 34620 Tiller Trail Hwy. Tiller, Oregon 97484	Cascade Stream Solutions 961 Bellview Ave. Ashland, Oregon 97520 Phone: (541) 864-0492 	Drawing Information		Revisions			Highland Irrigation District Dam Removal Project Access and Staging Plan	Job Number
		Date: 21 July 2025 Status: Designer: Drafter: Checked: File Name: Dam Removal Plotted Scale: 0 1/2 1	No. Date Description	Sheet Number 3 Sheet 3 of 3				



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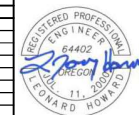


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Revisions

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Highland Irrigation District
Dam Removal Project
Dam Removal and Water Control Plan

Job Number

Sheet Number

5

Sheet 5 of 5



US Army Corps
of Engineers®
Portland District

Nationwide Permit 33

Terms and Conditions

Effective Date: March 15, 2026

-
- A. Description of Activities Authorized by Nationwide Permit 33
 - B. Nationwide Permit General Conditions
 - C. District Engineer's Decision
 - D. Further Information
 - E. Nationwide Permit Definitions
 - F. Portland District Regional Conditions
 - G. Portland District Nationwide Permit-Specific Regional Conditions
 - H. Portland District Regional Conditions Definitions
-

In addition to any special conditions that may be required on a case-by-case basis by the District Engineer, the following terms and conditions must be met, as applicable, for a Nationwide Permit authorization to be valid in Oregon.

A. Description of Activities Authorized by Nationwide Permit (NWP) 33

33. Temporary Construction, Access, and Dewatering. Temporary structures, work, and discharges of dredged or fill material, including cofferdams, necessary for construction activities or access fills or dewatering of construction sites, provided that the associated primary activity is authorized by the Corps of Engineers or the U.S. Coast Guard. This NWP also authorizes temporary structures, work, and discharges of dredged or fill material, including cofferdams, necessary for construction activities not otherwise subject to the Corps or U.S. Coast Guard permit requirements. Appropriate measures must be taken to maintain near normal downstream flows and to minimize flooding. Fill must consist of materials, and be placed in a manner, that will not be eroded by expected high flows. The use of dredged material may be allowed if the district engineer determines that it will not cause more than minimal adverse environmental effects. Following completion of construction, temporary fill must be entirely removed to an area that has no waters of the United States, dredged material must be returned to its original location, and the affected areas must be restored to pre-construction elevations. The affected areas must also be revegetated, as appropriate. This permit does not authorize the use of cofferdams to dewater wetlands or other aquatic areas to change their use. Structures left in place after construction is completed require a separate section 10 permit if located in navigable waters of the United States. (See 33 CFR part 322.)

Notification: The permittee must submit a pre-construction notification to the district engineer prior to commencing the activity if the activity is conducted in navigable waters of the United States (i.e., section 10 waters) (see general condition 32). The preconstruction notification must include a restoration plan showing how all temporary fills and structures will be removed and the area restored to pre-project conditions. (Authorities: Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 and Section 404 of the

Clean Water Act)

B. Nationwide Permit General Conditions

Note: To qualify for NWP authorization, the prospective permittee must comply with the following general conditions, as applicable, in addition to any regional or case-specific conditions imposed by the division engineer or district engineer. Prospective permittees should contact the appropriate Corps district office to determine if regional conditions have been imposed on an NWP. Prospective permittees should also contact the appropriate Corps district office to determine the status of Clean Water Act Section 401 water quality certification and/or Coastal Zone Management Act consistency for an NWP. Every person who may wish to obtain permit authorization under one or more NWPs, or who is currently relying on an existing or prior permit authorization under one or more NWPs, has been and is on notice that all of the provisions of 33 CFR 330.1 through 330.6 apply to every NWP authorization. Note especially 33 CFR 330.5 relating to the modification, suspension, or revocation of any NWP authorization.

1. *Navigation.* (a) No activity may cause more than a minimal adverse effect on navigation.

(b) Any safety lights and signals prescribed by the U.S. Coast Guard, through regulations or otherwise, must be installed and maintained at the permittee's expense on authorized facilities in navigable waters of the United States.

(c) The permittee understands and agrees that, if future operations by the United States require the removal, relocation, or other alteration, of the structure or work herein authorized, or if, in the opinion of the Secretary of the Army or his or her authorized representative, said structure or work shall cause unreasonable obstruction to the free navigation of the navigable waters, the permittee will be required, upon due notice from the Corps of Engineers, to remove, relocate, or alter the structural work or obstructions caused thereby, without expense to the United States. No claim shall be made against the United States on account of any such removal or alteration.

2. *Aquatic Life Movements.* No activity may substantially disrupt the necessary life cycle movements of those species of aquatic life indigenous to the waterbody, including those species that normally migrate through the area, unless the activity's primary purpose is to impound water. All permanent and temporary crossings of waterbodies shall be suitably culverted, bridged, or otherwise designed and constructed to maintain low flows to sustain the movement of those aquatic species. If a bottomless culvert cannot be used, then the crossing should be designed and constructed to minimize adverse effects to aquatic life movements.

3. *Spawning Areas.* Activities in spawning areas during spawning seasons must be avoided to the maximum extent practicable. Activities that result in the physical destruction (e.g., through excavation, fill, or downstream smothering by substantial turbidity) of an important spawning area are not authorized.

4. *Migratory Bird Breeding Areas*. Activities in waters of the United States that serve as breeding areas for migratory birds must be avoided to the maximum extent practicable.

5. *Shellfish Beds*. No activity may occur in areas of concentrated shellfish populations, unless the activity is directly related to a shellfish harvesting activity authorized by NWP 4 and 48, or is a shellfish seeding or habitat restoration activity authorized by NWP 27.

6. *Suitable Material*. No activity may use unsuitable material (e.g., trash, debris, car bodies, asphalt, etc.). Material used for construction or discharged must be free from toxic pollutants in toxic amounts (see section 307 of the Clean Water Act).

7. *Water Supply Intakes*. No activity may occur in the proximity of a public water supply intake, except where the activity is for the repair or improvement of public water supply intake structures or adjacent bank stabilization.

8. *Adverse Effects from Impoundments*. If the activity creates an impoundment of water, adverse effects to the aquatic system due to accelerating the passage of water, and/or restricting its flow must be minimized to the maximum extent practicable.

9. *Management of Water Flows*. To the maximum extent practicable, the preconstruction course, condition, capacity, and location of open waters must be maintained for each activity, including stream channelization, storm water management activities, and temporary and permanent road crossings, except as provided below. The activity must be constructed to withstand expected high flows, including tidal flows. The activity must not restrict or impede the passage of normal or high flows, including tidal flows, unless the primary purpose of the activity is to impound water or manage high flows. The activity may alter the pre-construction course, condition, capacity, and location of open waters if it benefits the aquatic environment (e.g., stream restoration or relocation activities).

10. *Fills Within 100-Year Floodplains*. The activity must comply with applicable FEMA-approved state or local floodplain management requirements.

11. *Equipment*. Heavy equipment working in wetlands or mudflats must be placed on mats, or other measures must be taken to minimize soil disturbance. If mats are used to minimize soil disturbance, the affected areas must be returned to preconstruction elevations, and revegetated as appropriate. In circumstances where the use of mats has caused significant soil compaction, efforts using techniques (e.g., soil reaeration techniques) to break up the compaction should be employed to return the soil to a pre-construction state prior to returning to pre-construction elevations.

12. *Soil Erosion and Sediment Controls*. Appropriate soil erosion and sediment controls must be used and maintained in effective operating condition during construction, and all exposed soil and other fills, as well as any work below the ordinary high water mark or high tide line, must be permanently stabilized at the earliest practicable date.

Permittees are encouraged to perform work within waters of the United States during periods of low-flow or no-flow, or during low tides.

13. *Removal of Temporary Structures and Fills.* Temporary structures must be removed, to the maximum extent practicable, after their use has been discontinued. Temporary fills must be removed in their entirety and the affected areas returned to preconstruction elevations. The affected areas must be revegetated, as appropriate.

14. *Proper Maintenance.* Any authorized structure or fill shall be properly maintained, including maintenance to ensure public safety and compliance with applicable NWP general conditions, as well as any activity-specific conditions added by the district engineer to an NWP authorization.

15. *Single and Complete Project.* The activity must be a single and complete project. The same NWP cannot be used more than once for the same single and complete project.

16. *Wild and Scenic Rivers.* (a) No NWP activity may occur in a component of the National Wild and Scenic River System, or in a river officially designated by Congress as a “study river” for possible inclusion in the system while the river is in an official study status, unless the appropriate Federal agency with direct management responsibility for such river has determined in writing that the proposed activity will not adversely affect the Wild and Scenic River designation or study status.

(b) If a proposed NWP activity will occur in a component of the National Wild and Scenic River System, or in a river officially designated by Congress as a “study river” for possible inclusion in the system while the river is in an official study status, the permittee must submit a pre-construction notification (see general condition 32). The district engineer will coordinate the PCN with the Federal agency with direct management responsibility for that river. Permittees shall not begin the NWP activity until notified by the district engineer that the Federal agency with direct management responsibility for that river has determined in writing that the proposed NWP activity will not adversely affect the Wild and Scenic River designation or study status.

(c) Information on Wild and Scenic Rivers may be obtained from the appropriate Federal land management agency responsible for the designated Wild and Scenic River or study river (e.g., National Park Service, U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service). Information on these rivers is also available at: <http://www.rivers.gov/>.

17. *Tribal Rights.* No activity or its operation may impair reserved tribal rights, including, but not limited to, reserved water rights and treaty fishing and hunting rights.

18. *Endangered Species.* (a) No activity is authorized under any NWP which is likely to directly or indirectly jeopardize the continued existence of a threatened or endangered species or a species proposed for such designation, as identified under the federal

Endangered Species Act (ESA), or which will directly or indirectly destroy or adversely modify designated critical habitat or critical habitat proposed for such designation. No activity is authorized under any NWP which "may affect" a listed species or critical habitat, unless ESA section 7 consultation addressing the consequences of the proposed activity on listed species or critical habitat has been completed. See 50 CFR 402.02 for the definition of "effects of the action" for the purposes of ESA section 7 consultation.

(b) Federal agencies should follow their own procedures for complying with the requirements of the ESA (see 33 CFR 330.4(f)(1)). If pre-construction notification is required for the proposed activity, the federal permittee must provide the district engineer with the appropriate documentation to demonstrate compliance with those requirements. The district engineer will verify that the appropriate documentation has been submitted. If the appropriate documentation has not been submitted, additional ESA section 7 consultation may be necessary for the activity and the respective federal agency would be responsible for fulfilling its obligation under section 7 of the ESA.

(c) Non-federal permittees must submit a pre-construction notification to the district engineer if any listed species (or species proposed for listing) or designated critical habitat (or critical habitat proposed such designation) might be affected or is in the vicinity of the activity, or if the activity is located in designated critical habitat or critical habitat proposed for such designation, and shall not begin work on the activity until notified by the district engineer that the requirements of the ESA have been satisfied and that the activity is authorized. For activities that might affect federally-listed endangered or threatened species (or species proposed for listing) or designated critical habitat (or critical habitat proposed for such designation), the pre-construction notification must include the name(s) of the endangered or threatened species (or species proposed for listing) that might be affected by the proposed activity or that utilize the designated critical habitat (or critical habitat proposed for such designation) that might be affected by the proposed activity. The district engineer will determine whether the proposed activity "may affect" or will have "no effect" to listed species and designated critical habitat and will notify the non-federal applicant of the Corps' determination within 45 days of receipt of a complete pre-construction notification. For activities where the non-federal applicant has identified listed species (or species proposed for listing) or designated critical habitat (or critical habitat proposed for such designation) that might be affected or is in the vicinity of the activity, and has so notified the Corps, the applicant shall not begin work until the Corps has provided notification that the proposed activity will have "no effect" on listed species (or species proposed for listing or designated critical habitat (or critical habitat proposed for such designation), or until ESA section 7 consultation or conference has been completed. If the non-federal applicant has not heard back from the Corps within 45 days, the applicant must still wait for notification from the Corps.

(d) As a result of formal or informal consultation or conference with the FWS or NMFS the district engineer may add species-specific permit conditions to the NWPs.

(e) Authorization of an activity by an NWP does not authorize the “take” of a threatened or endangered species as defined under the ESA. In the absence of separate authorization (e.g., an ESA Section 10 Permit, a Biological Opinion with “incidental take” provisions, etc.) from the FWS or the NMFS, the Endangered Species Act prohibits any person subject to the jurisdiction of the United States to take a listed species, where “take” means to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect, or to attempt to engage in any such conduct. The word “harm” in the definition of “take” means an act which actually kills or injures wildlife. Such an act may include significant habitat modification or degradation where it actually kills or injures wildlife by significantly impairing essential behavioral patterns, including breeding, feeding or sheltering.

(f) If the non-federal permittee has a valid ESA section 10(a)(1)(B) incidental take permit with an approved Habitat Conservation Plan for a project or a group of projects that includes the proposed NWP activity, the non-federal permittee should provide a copy of that ESA section 10(a)(1)(B) permit with the PCN required by paragraph (c) of this general condition. The district engineer will coordinate with the agency that issued the ESA section 10(a)(1)(B) permit to determine whether the proposed NWP activity and the associated incidental take were considered in the internal ESA section 7 consultation conducted for the ESA section 10(a)(1)(B) permit. If that coordination results in concurrence from the agency that the proposed NWP activity and the associated incidental take were considered in the internal ESA section 7 consultation for the ESA section 10(a)(1)(B) permit, the district engineer does not need to conduct a separate ESA section 7 consultation for the proposed NWP activity. The district engineer will notify the non-federal applicant within 45 days of receipt of a complete pre-construction notification whether the ESA section 10(a)(1)(B) permit covers the proposed NWP activity or whether additional ESA section 7 consultation is required.

(g) Information on the location of threatened and endangered species and their critical habitat can be obtained directly from the offices of the FWS and NMFS or their web pages at <http://www.fws.gov/> or <http://www.fws.gov/ipac> and <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/species/esa/> respectively.

19. *Migratory Birds and Bald and Golden Eagles.* The permittee is responsible for ensuring that an action authorized by an NWP complies with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act. The permittee is responsible for contacting the appropriate local office of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to determine what measures, if any, are necessary or appropriate to reduce adverse effects to migratory birds or eagles, including whether “incidental take” permits are necessary and available under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act or Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act for a particular activity.

20. *Historic Properties.* (a) No activity is authorized under any NWP which may have the potential to cause effects on properties listed, or eligible for listing, in the National Register of Historic Places until the requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) have been satisfied.

(b) Federal permittees should follow their own procedures for complying with the requirements of section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (see 33 CFR 330.4(g)(1)). If pre-construction notification is required for the proposed NWP activity, the federal permittee must provide the district engineer with the appropriate documentation to demonstrate compliance with those requirements. The district engineer will verify that the appropriate documentation has been submitted. If the appropriate documentation is not submitted, then additional consultation under section 106 may be necessary. The respective federal agency is responsible for fulfilling its obligation to comply with section 106.

(c) Non-federal permittees must submit a pre-construction notification to the district engineer if the NWP activity might have the potential to cause effects on any historic properties listed on, determined to be eligible for listing on, or potentially eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, including previously unidentified properties. For such activities, the preconstruction notification must state which historic properties might have the potential to be affected by the proposed NWP activity or include a vicinity map indicating the location of the historic properties or the potential for the presence of historic properties. Assistance regarding information on the location of, or potential for, the presence of historic properties can be sought from the State Historic Preservation Officer, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, or designated tribal representative, as appropriate, and the National Register of Historic Places (see 33 CFR 330.4(g)). When reviewing pre-construction notifications, district engineers will comply with the current procedures for addressing the requirements of section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. The district engineer shall make a reasonable and good faith effort to carry out appropriate identification efforts commensurate with potential impacts, which may include background research, consultation, oral history interviews, sample field investigation, and/or field survey. Based on the information submitted in the PCN and these identification efforts, the district engineer shall determine whether the proposed NWP activity has the potential to cause effects on historic properties. Section 106 consultation is not required when the district engineer determines that the activity does not have the potential to cause effects on historic properties (see 36 CFR 800.3(a)). Section 106 consultation is required when the district engineer determines that the activity has the potential to cause effects on historic properties. The district engineer will conduct consultation with consulting parties identified under 36 CFR 800.2(c) when he or she makes any of the following effect determinations for the purposes of section 106 of the NHPA: no historic properties affected, no adverse effect, or adverse effect.

(d) Where the non-federal applicant has identified historic properties on which the proposed NWP activity might have the potential to cause effects and has so notified the Corps, the nonfederal applicant shall not begin the activity until notified by the district engineer either that the activity has no potential to cause effects on historic properties or that NHPA section 106 consultation has been completed. For non-federal permittees, the district engineer will notify the prospective permittee within 45 days of receipt of a complete pre-construction notification whether NHPA section 106 consultation is

required. If NHPA section 106 consultation is required, the district engineer will notify the non-federal applicant that he or she cannot begin the activity until section 106 consultation is completed. If the nonfederal applicant has not heard back from the Corps within 45 days, the applicant must still wait for notification from the Corps.

(e) Prospective permittees should be aware that section 110k of the NHPA (54 U.S.C. 306113) prevents the Corps from granting a permit or other assistance to an applicant who, with intent to avoid the requirements of section 106 of the NHPA, has intentionally significantly adversely affected a historic property to which the permit would relate, or having legal power to prevent it, allowed such significant adverse effect to occur, unless the Corps, after consultation with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP), determines that circumstances justify granting such assistance despite the adverse effect created or permitted by the applicant. If circumstances justify granting the assistance, the Corps is required to notify the ACHP and provide documentation specifying the circumstances, the degree of damage to the integrity of any historic properties affected, and proposed mitigation. This documentation must include any views obtained from the applicant, SHPO/THPO, appropriate Indian tribes if the undertaking occurs on or affects historic properties on tribal lands or affects properties of interest to those tribes, and other parties known to have a legitimate interest in the impacts to the permitted activity on historic properties.

21. Discovery of Previously Unknown Remains and Artifacts. Permittees that discover any previously unknown historic, cultural or archeological remains and artifacts while accomplishing the activities authorized by NWPs, must immediately notify the district engineer of what they have found, and to the maximum extent practicable, avoid construction activities that may affect the remains and artifacts until the required coordination has been completed. The district engineer will initiate the federal, tribal, and state coordination required to determine if the items or remains warrant a recovery effort or if the site is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

22. Designated Critical Resource Waters. Critical resource waters include, NOAA-managed marine sanctuaries and marine monuments, and National Estuarine Research Reserves. The district engineer may designate, after notice and opportunity for public comment, additional waters officially designated by a state as having particular environmental or ecological significance, such as outstanding national resource waters or state natural heritage sites. The district engineer may also designate additional critical resource waters after notice and opportunity for public comment.

(a) Discharges of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States are not authorized by NWPs 7, 12, 14, 16, 17, 21, 29, 31, 35, 39, 40, 42, 43, 44, 49, 50, 51, 52, 57 and 58 for any activity within, or directly affecting, critical resource waters, including wetlands adjacent to such waters.

(b) For NWPs 3, 8, 10, 13, 15, 18, 19, 22, 23, 25, 27, 28, 30, 33, 34, 36, 37, 38, and 54, notification is required in accordance with general condition 32, for any activity proposed by permittees in the designated critical resource waters including wetlands adjacent to

those waters. The district engineer may authorize activities under these NWP's only after she or he determines that the impacts to the critical resource waters will be no more than minimal.

23. *Mitigation*. The district engineer will consider the following factors when determining appropriate and practicable mitigation necessary to ensure that the individual and cumulative adverse environmental effects are no more than minimal:

(a) The activity must be designed and constructed to avoid and minimize adverse effects, both temporary and permanent, to waters of the United States to the maximum extent practicable at the project site (i.e., on site).

(b) Mitigation in all its forms (avoiding, minimizing, rectifying, reducing, or compensating for resource losses) will be required to the extent necessary to ensure that the individual and cumulative adverse environmental effects are no more than minimal.

(c) Compensatory mitigation at a minimum one-for-one ratio will be required for all wetland losses that exceed 1/10-acre and require preconstruction notification, unless the district engineer determines in writing that either some other form of mitigation would be more environmentally appropriate or the adverse environmental effects of the proposed activity are no more than minimal, and provides an activity-specific waiver of this requirement. For wetland losses of 1/10-acre or less that require preconstruction notification, the district engineer may determine on a case-by-case basis that compensatory mitigation is required to ensure that the activity results in only minimal adverse environmental effects.

(d) Compensatory mitigation at a minimum one-for-one ratio will be required for all losses of stream bed that exceed 3/100-acre and require preconstruction notification, unless the district engineer determines in writing that either some other form of mitigation would be more environmentally appropriate or the adverse environmental effects of the proposed activity are no more than minimal, and provides an activity-specific waiver of this requirement. This compensatory mitigation requirement may be satisfied through the restoration or enhancement of riparian areas next to streams in accordance with paragraph (e) of this general condition. For losses of stream bed of 3/100-acre or less that require preconstruction notification, the district engineer may determine on a case-by-case basis that compensatory mitigation is required to ensure that the activity results in only minimal adverse environmental effects. Compensatory mitigation for losses of streams should be provided, if practicable, through stream rehabilitation, enhancement, or preservation, because streams are difficult-to-replace resources (see 33 CFR 332.3(e)(3)).

(e) Compensatory mitigation plans for NWP activities in or near streams or other open waters will normally include a requirement for the restoration or enhancement, maintenance, and legal protection (e.g., conservation easements) of riparian areas next to open waters. In some cases, the restoration or maintenance/protection of riparian areas may be the only compensatory mitigation required. If restoring riparian areas

involves planting vegetation, only native species should be planted. The width of the required riparian area will address documented water quality or aquatic habitat loss concerns. Normally, the riparian area will be 25 to 50 feet wide on each side of the stream, but the district engineer may require slightly wider riparian areas to address documented water quality or habitat loss concerns. If it is not possible to restore or maintain/protect a riparian area on both sides of a stream, or if the waterbody is a lake or coastal waters, then restoring or maintaining/protecting a riparian area along a single bank or shoreline may be sufficient. Where both wetlands and open waters exist on the project site, the district engineer will determine the appropriate compensatory mitigation (e.g., riparian areas and/or wetlands compensation) based on what is best for the aquatic environment on a watershed basis. In cases where riparian areas are determined to be the most appropriate form of minimization or compensatory mitigation, the district engineer may waive or reduce the requirement to provide wetland compensatory mitigation for wetland losses.

(f) Compensatory mitigation projects provided to offset losses of aquatic resources must comply with the applicable provisions of 33 CFR part 332.

(1) The prospective permittee is responsible for proposing an appropriate compensatory mitigation option if compensatory mitigation is necessary to ensure that the activity results in no more than minimal adverse environmental effects. For the NWP, the preferred mechanism for providing compensatory mitigation is mitigation bank credits or in-lieu fee program credits (see 33 CFR 332.3(b)(2) and (3)). However, if an appropriate number and type of mitigation bank or in-lieu credits are not available at the time the PCN is submitted to the district engineer, the district engineer may approve the use of permittee-responsible mitigation.

(2) The amount of compensatory mitigation required by the district engineer must be sufficient to ensure that the authorized activity results in no more than minimal individual and cumulative adverse environmental effects (see 33 CFR 330.1(e)(3)). (See also 33 CFR 332.3(f).)

(3) Since the likelihood of success is greater and the impacts to potentially valuable uplands are reduced, aquatic resource restoration should be the first compensatory mitigation option considered for permittee-responsible mitigation.

(4) If permittee-responsible mitigation is the proposed option, the prospective permittee is responsible for submitting a mitigation plan. A conceptual or detailed mitigation plan may be used by the district engineer to make the decision on the NWP verification request, but a final mitigation plan that addresses the applicable requirements of 33 CFR 332.4(c)(2) through (14) must be approved by the district engineer before the permittee begins work in waters of the United States, unless the district engineer determines that prior approval of the final mitigation plan is not practicable or not necessary to ensure timely completion of the required compensatory mitigation (see 33 CFR 332.3(k)(3)). If permittee-responsible mitigation is the proposed option, and the proposed compensatory mitigation site is located on land in which another federal

agency holds an easement, the district engineer will coordinate with that federal agency to determine if proposed compensatory mitigation project is compatible with the terms of the easement.

(5) If mitigation bank or in-lieu fee program credits are the proposed option, the mitigation plan needs to address only the baseline conditions at the impact site and the number of credits to be provided (see 33 CFR 332.4(c)(1)(ii)).

(6) Compensatory mitigation requirements (e.g., resource type and amount to be provided as compensatory mitigation, site protection, ecological performance standards, monitoring requirements) may be addressed through conditions added to the NWP authorization, instead of components of a compensatory mitigation plan (see 33 CFR 332.4(c)(1)(ii)).

(g) Compensatory mitigation will not be used to increase the acreage losses allowed by the acreage limits of the NWPs. For example, if an NWP has an acreage limit of 1/2-acre, it cannot be used to authorize any NWP activity resulting in the loss of greater than 1/2-acre of waters of the United States, even if compensatory mitigation is provided that replaces or restores some of the lost waters. However, compensatory mitigation can and should be used, as necessary, to ensure that an NWP activity already meeting the established acreage limits also satisfies the no more than minimal impact requirement for the NWPs.

(h) Permittees may propose the use of mitigation banks, in-lieu fee programs, or permittee-responsible mitigation. When developing a compensatory mitigation proposal, the permittee must consider appropriate and practicable options consistent with the framework at 33 CFR 332.3(b). For activities resulting in the loss of marine or estuarine resources, permittee-responsible mitigation may be environmentally preferable if there are no mitigation banks or in-lieu fee programs in the area that have marine or estuarine credits available for sale or transfer to the permittee. For permittee-responsible mitigation, the special conditions of the NWP verification must clearly indicate the party or parties responsible for the implementation and performance of the compensatory mitigation project, and, if required, its long-term management.

(i) Where certain functions and services of waters of the United States are permanently adversely affected by a regulated activity, such as discharges of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States that will convert a forested or scrub-shrub wetland to a herbaceous wetland in a permanently maintained utility line right-of-way, mitigation may be required to reduce the adverse environmental effects of the activity to the no more than minimal level.

24. *Safety of Impoundment Structures.* To ensure that all impoundment structures are safely designed, the district engineer may require non-federal applicants to demonstrate that the structures comply with established state or federal, dam safety criteria or have been designed by qualified persons. The district engineer may also require

documentation that the design has been independently reviewed by similarly qualified persons, and appropriate modifications made to ensure safety.

25. *Water Quality.* (a) Where the certifying authority (state, authorized tribe, or EPA, as appropriate) has not previously certified compliance of an NWP with CWA section 401, a CWA section 401 water quality certification for the proposed activity which may result in any discharge from a point source into waters of the United States must be obtained or waived (see 33 CFR 330.4(c)). If the permittee cannot comply with all of the conditions of a water quality certification previously issued by the certifying authority for the issuance of the NWP, then the permittee must obtain a water quality certification or waiver for the proposed activity which may result in any discharge from a point source into waters of the United States in order for the activity to be authorized by an NWP.

(b) If the NWP activity requires preconstruction notification and the certifying authority has not previously certified compliance of an NWP with CWA section 401, the proposed activity which may result in any discharge from a point source into waters of the United States is not authorized by an NWP until water quality certification is obtained or waived. If the certifying authority issues a water quality certification for the proposed discharge into waters of the United States, the permittee must submit a copy of the certification to the district engineer. The discharge into waters of the United States is not authorized by an NWP until the district engineer has notified the permittee that the water quality certification requirement has been satisfied (i.e., by the issuance of a water quality certification or a waiver and completion of the Section 401(a)(2) process).

(c) The district engineer or certifying authority may require additional water quality management measures to ensure that the authorized activity does not result in more than minimal degradation of water quality.

26. *Coastal Zone Management.* In coastal states where an NWP has not previously received a state coastal zone management consistency concurrence, an individual state coastal zone management consistency concurrence must be obtained, or a presumption of concurrence must occur (see 33 CFR 330.4(d)). If the permittee cannot comply with all of the conditions of a coastal zone management consistency concurrence previously issued by the state, then the permittee must obtain an individual coastal zone management consistency concurrence or presumption of concurrence in order for the activity to be authorized by an NWP. The district engineer or a state may require additional measures to ensure that the authorized activity is consistent with state coastal zone management requirements.

27. *Regional and Case-By-Case Conditions.* The activity must comply with any regional conditions that may have been added by the division engineer (see 33 CFR 330.4(e)) and with any case specific conditions added by the Corps or by the state, Indian Tribe, or U.S. EPA in its CWA section 401 Water Quality Certification, or by the state in its Coastal Zone Management Act consistency determination.

28. *Use of Multiple Nationwide Permits.* The use of more than one NWP for a single and complete project is authorized, subject to the following restrictions:

(a) The total acreage loss of waters of the United States for a single and complete project cannot exceed the acreage limit of the NWP with the highest specified acreage limit when multiple NWPs are used to authorize an activity.

(b) If only one of the NWPs used to authorize the single and complete project has a specified acreage limit, the acreage loss of waters of the United States for that single and complete project cannot exceed that specified acreage limit. For example, if a road crossing over tidal waters is constructed under NWP 14 (which has an acreage limit of 1/3 acre in tidal waters), with associated bank stabilization authorized by NWP 13 (which does not have a specified acreage limit), the maximum acreage loss of waters of the United States for the total project cannot exceed 1/3-acre.

(c) If two or more of the NWPs used to authorize the single and complete project have specified acreage limits, the acreage loss of waters of the United States authorized by each of those NWPs cannot exceed the specified acreage limits of each of those NWPs. For example, if a commercial development is constructed under NWP 39 (which has a 1/2-acre limit), and the single and complete project includes the filling of a ditch authorized by NWP 46 (which has a 1-acre limit), the maximum acreage loss of waters of the United States for the construction of the commercial development under NWP 39 cannot exceed 1/2-acre, and the total acreage loss of waters of United States caused by the combination of the NWP 39 and NWP 46 activities cannot exceed 1 acre.

29. *Transfer of Nationwide Permit Verifications.* If the permittee sells the property associated with a nationwide permit verification, the permittee may transfer the nationwide permit verification to the new owner by submitting a letter to the appropriate Corps district office to validate the transfer. A copy of the nationwide permit verification must be attached to the letter, and the letter must contain the following statement and signature:

“When the structures or work authorized by this nationwide permit are still in existence at the time the property is transferred, the terms and conditions of this nationwide permit, including any special conditions, will continue to be binding on the new owner(s) of the property. To validate the transfer of this nationwide permit and the associated liabilities associated with compliance with its terms and conditions, have the transferee sign and date below.”

(Transferee)

(Date)

30. *Compliance Certification.* Each permittee who receives an NWP verification letter from the Corps must provide a signed certification documenting completion of the authorized activity and implementation of any required compensatory mitigation. The successful completion of any required permittee-responsible mitigation, including the achievement of ecological performance standards, will be addressed separately by the district engineer. The Corps will provide the permittee the certification document with the NWP verification letter. The certification document will include:

- (a) A statement that the authorized activity was done in accordance with the NWP authorization, including any general, regional, or activity-specific conditions;
- (b) A statement that the implementation of any required compensatory mitigation was completed in accordance with the permit conditions. If credits from a mitigation bank or in-lieu fee program are used to satisfy the compensatory mitigation requirements, the certification must include the documentation required by 33 CFR 332.3(l)(3) to confirm that the permittee secured the appropriate number and resource type of credits; and
- (c) The signature of the permittee certifying the completion of the activity and mitigation.

The completed certification document must be submitted to the district engineer within 30 days of completion of the authorized activity or the implementation of any required compensatory mitigation, whichever occurs later.

31. *Activities Affecting Structures or Works Built by the United States.* If an NWP activity also requires review by, or permission from, the Corps pursuant to 33 U.S.C. 408 because it will alter or temporarily or permanently occupy or use a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) federally authorized Civil Works project (a "USACE project"), the prospective permittee must submit a pre-construction notification. See paragraph (b)(10) of general condition 32. An activity that requires section 408 permission and/or review is not authorized by an NWP until the appropriate Corps office issues the section 408 permission or completes its review to alter, occupy, or use the USACE project, and the district engineer issues a written NWP verification.

32. *Pre-Construction Notification.* (a) *Timing.* Where required by the terms of the NWP, the prospective permittee must notify the district engineer by submitting a pre-construction notification (PCN) as early as possible. The district engineer must determine if the PCN is complete within 30 calendar days of the date of receipt and, if the PCN is determined to be incomplete, notify the prospective permittee within that 30 day period to request the additional information necessary to make the PCN complete. The request must specify the information needed to make the PCN complete. As a general rule, district engineers will request additional information necessary to make the PCN complete only once. However, if the prospective permittee does not provide all of the requested information, then the district engineer will notify the prospective permittee that the PCN is still incomplete and the PCN review process will not commence until all of the requested information has been received by the district engineer. The prospective permittee shall not begin the activity until either:

(1) He or she is notified in writing by the district engineer that the activity may proceed under the NWP with any special conditions imposed by the district or division engineer; or

(2) 45 calendar days have passed from the district engineer's receipt of the complete PCN and the prospective permittee has not received written notice from the district or division engineer. However, if the permittee was required to notify the Corps pursuant to general condition 18 that listed species (or species proposed for listing) or designated critical habitat (or critical habitat proposed for such designation) might be affected or are in the vicinity of the activity, or to notify the Corps pursuant to general condition 20 that the activity might have the potential to cause effects to historic properties, the permittee cannot begin the activity until receiving written notification from the Corps that there is "no effect" on listed species or "no potential to cause effects" on historic properties, or that any consultation required under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (see 33 CFR 330.4(f)) and/or section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (see 33 CFR 330.4(g)) has been completed. If the proposed activity requires a written waiver to exceed specified limits of an NWP, the permittee may not begin the activity until the district engineer issues the waiver. If the district or division engineer notifies the permittee in writing that an individual permit is required within 45 calendar days of receipt of a complete PCN, the permittee cannot begin the activity until an individual permit has been obtained. Subsequently, the permittee's right to proceed under the NWP may be modified, suspended, or revoked only in accordance with the procedure set forth in 33 CFR 330.5(d)(2).

(b) *Contents of Pre-Construction Notification:* The PCN must be in writing and include the following information:

(1) Name, address and telephone numbers of the prospective permittee;

(2) Location of the proposed activity;

(3) Identify the specific NWP or NWP(s) the prospective permittee wants to use to authorize the proposed activity;

(4) (i) A description of the proposed activity; the activity's purpose; direct and indirect adverse environmental effects the activity would cause, including the anticipated amount of loss of wetlands, other special aquatic sites, and other waters expected to result from the NWP activity, in acres, linear feet, or other appropriate unit of measure; a description of any proposed mitigation measures intended to reduce the adverse environmental effects caused by the proposed activity; and any other NWP(s), regional general permit(s), or individual permit(s) used or intended to be used to authorize any part of the proposed project or any related activity, including other separate and distant crossings for linear projects that require Department of the Army authorization but do not require pre-construction notification. The description of the proposed activity and any proposed mitigation measures should be sufficiently detailed to allow the district

engineer to determine that the adverse environmental effects of the activity will be no more than minimal and to determine the need for compensatory mitigation or other mitigation measures.

(ii) For linear projects where one or more single and complete crossings require pre-construction notification, the PCN must include the quantity of anticipated losses of wetlands, other special aquatic sites, and other waters for each single and complete crossing of those wetlands, other special aquatic sites, and other waters (including those single and complete crossings authorized by an NWP but do not require PCNs). This information will be used by the district engineer to evaluate the cumulative adverse environmental effects of the proposed linear project, and does not change those non-PCN NWP activities into NWP PCNs.

(iii) Sketches should be provided when necessary to show that the activity complies with the terms of the NWP. (Sketches usually clarify the activity and when provided results in a quicker decision. Sketches should contain sufficient detail to provide an illustrative description of the proposed activity (e.g., a conceptual plan), but do not need to be detailed engineering plans);

(5) The PCN must include a delineation of waters, wetlands, and other special aquatic sites on the project site. Wetland delineations must be prepared in accordance with the current method required by the Corps. The permittee may ask the Corps to delineate the special aquatic sites and other waters on the project site, but there may be a delay if the Corps does the delineation, especially if the project site is large or contains many wetlands, other special aquatic sites, and other waters. Furthermore, the 45-day period will not start until the delineation has been submitted to or completed by the Corps, as appropriate. For NWP 27 activities that require PCNs because of other general conditions or regional conditions imposed by division engineers, see Note 2 of that NWP;

(6) If the proposed activity will result in the loss of greater than 1/10-acre of wetlands or 3/100-acre of stream bed and a PCN is required, the prospective permittee must submit a statement describing how the compensatory mitigation requirement will be satisfied, or explaining why the adverse environmental effects are no more than minimal and why compensatory mitigation should not be required. As an alternative, the prospective permittee may submit a conceptual or detailed mitigation plan.

(7) For non-federal permittees, if any listed species (or species proposed for listing) or designated critical habitat (or critical habitat proposed for such designation) might be affected or is in the vicinity of the activity, or if the activity is located in designated critical habitat (or critical habitat proposed for such designation), the PCN must include the name(s) of those endangered or threatened species (or species proposed for listing) that might be affected by the proposed activity or utilize the designated critical habitat (or critical habitat proposed for such designation) that might be affected by the proposed activity. For NWP activities that require pre-construction notification, federal permittees

must provide documentation demonstrating compliance with the Endangered Species Act;

(8) For non-federal permittees, if the NWP activity might have the potential to cause effects to a historic property listed on, determined to be eligible for listing on, or potentially eligible for listing on, the National Register of Historic Places, the PCN must state which historic property might have the potential to be affected by the proposed activity or include a vicinity map indicating the location of the historic property. For NWP activities that require pre-construction notification, federal permittees must provide documentation demonstrating compliance with section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act;

(9) For an activity that will occur in a component of the National Wild and Scenic River System, or in a river officially designated by Congress as a “study river” for possible inclusion in the system while the river is in an official study status, the PCN must identify the Wild and Scenic River or the “study river” (see general condition 16); and

(10) For an NWP activity that requires permission from, or review by, the Corps pursuant to 33 U.S.C. 408 because it will alter or temporarily or permanently occupy or use a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers federally authorized civil works project, the pre-construction notification must include a statement confirming that the project proponent has submitted a written request for section 408 permission from, or review by, the Corps office having jurisdiction over that USACE project.

(c) *Form of Pre-Construction Notification:* The nationwide permit pre-construction notification form (Form ENG 6082) should be used for NWP PCNs. A letter containing the required information may also be used. Applicants may provide electronic files of PCNs and supporting materials if the district engineer has established tools and procedures for electronic submittals.

(d) *Agency Coordination:* (1) The district engineer will consider any comments from federal and state agencies concerning the proposed activity’s compliance with the terms and conditions of the NWPs and the need for mitigation to reduce the activity’s adverse environmental effects so that they are no more than minimal.

(2) Agency coordination is required for: (i) all NWP activities that require pre-construction notification and result in the loss of greater than 1/2-acre of waters of the United States; (ii) NWP 13 activities in excess of 500 linear feet, fills greater than one cubic yard per running foot, or involve discharges of dredged or fill material into special aquatic sites; and (iii) NWP 54 activities in excess of 500 linear feet, or that extend into the waterbody more than 30 feet from the mean low water line in tidal waters or the ordinary high water mark in the Great Lakes.

(3) When agency coordination is required, the district engineer will immediately provide (e.g., via email, facsimile transmission, overnight mail, or other expeditious manner) a copy of the complete PCN to the appropriate federal or state offices (FWS, state natural

resource or water quality agency, EPA, and, if appropriate, the NMFS). With the exception of NWP 37, these agencies will have 10 calendar days from the date the material is transmitted to notify the district engineer via telephone, facsimile transmission, or email that they intend to provide substantive, site-specific comments. The comments must explain why the agency believes the adverse environmental effects will be more than minimal. If so contacted by an agency, the district engineer will wait an additional 15 calendar days before making a decision on the preconstruction notification. The district engineer will fully consider agency comments received within the specified time frame concerning the proposed activity's compliance with the terms and conditions of the NWPs, including the need for mitigation to ensure that the net adverse environmental effects of the proposed activity are no more than minimal. The district engineer will provide no response to the resource agency, except as provided below. The district engineer will indicate in the administrative record associated with each pre-construction notification that the resource agencies' concerns were considered. For NWP 37, the emergency watershed protection and rehabilitation activity may proceed immediately in cases where there is an unacceptable hazard to life or a significant loss of property or economic hardship will occur. The district engineer will consider any comments received to decide whether the NWP 37 authorization should be modified, suspended, or revoked in accordance with the procedures at 33 CFR 330.5.

(4) In cases where the prospective permittee is not a federal agency, the district engineer will provide a response to NMFS within 30 calendar days of receipt of any Essential Fish Habitat conservation recommendations, as required by section 305(b)(4)(B) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act.

(5) Applicants are encouraged to provide the Corps with either electronic files or multiple copies of preconstruction notifications to expedite agency coordination.

C. District Engineer's Decision

1. In reviewing the PCN for the proposed activity, the district engineer will determine whether the activity authorized by the NWP will result in more than minimal individual or cumulative adverse environmental effects or may be contrary to the public interest. If a project proponent requests authorization by a specific NWP, the district engineer should issue the NWP verification for that activity if it meets the terms and conditions of that NWP, unless he or she determines, after considering mitigation, that the proposed activity will result in more than minimal individual and cumulative adverse effects on the aquatic environment and other aspects of the public interest and exercises discretionary authority to require an individual permit for the proposed activity. For a linear project, this determination will include an evaluation of the single and complete crossings of waters of the United States that require PCNs to determine whether they individually satisfy the terms and conditions of the NWP(s), as well as the cumulative effects caused by all of the crossings of waters of the United States authorized by an NWP. If an applicant requests a waiver of an applicable limit, as provided for in NWPs 13, 36, or 54, the district engineer will only grant the waiver upon a written determination that the

NWP activity will result in only minimal individual and cumulative adverse environmental effects.

2. When making minimal adverse environmental effects determinations the district engineer will consider the direct and indirect effects caused by the NWP activity. He or she will also consider the cumulative adverse environmental effects caused by activities authorized by an NWP and whether those cumulative adverse environmental effects are no more than minimal. The district engineer will also consider site specific factors, such as the environmental setting in the vicinity of the NWP activity, the type of resource that will be affected by the NWP activity, the functions provided by the aquatic resources that will be affected by the NWP activity, the degree or magnitude to which the aquatic resources perform those functions, the extent that aquatic resource functions will be lost as a result of the NWP activity (e.g., partial or complete loss), the duration of the adverse effects (temporary or permanent), the importance of the aquatic resource functions to the region (e.g., watershed or ecoregion), and mitigation required by the district engineer. If an appropriate functional or condition assessment method is available and practicable to use, that assessment method may be used by the district engineer to assist in the minimal adverse environmental effects determination. The district engineer may add activity-specific conditions to the NWP authorization to address site-specific environmental concerns.

3. If the proposed NWP activity requires a PCN and will result in a loss of greater than 1/10-acre of wetlands or 3/100-acre of stream bed, the prospective permittee should submit a mitigation proposal with the PCN. Applicants may also propose compensatory mitigation for NWP activities with smaller impacts, or for impacts to other types of waters. However, compensatory mitigation shall not be required for activities authorized by NWP 27 because those activities must result in net increases in aquatic resource functions and services (see the text of NWP 27). The district engineer will consider any proposed compensatory mitigation or other mitigation measures the applicant has included in the proposal when determining whether the net adverse environmental effects of the proposed NWP activity are no more than minimal. The compensatory mitigation proposal may be either conceptual or detailed. If the district engineer determines that the proposed activity complies with the terms and conditions of the NWP and that the adverse environmental effects are no more than minimal, after considering mitigation, the district engineer will notify the permittee and include any activity-specific conditions in the NWP verification the district engineer deems necessary. Conditions for compensatory mitigation requirements must comply with the appropriate provisions at 33 CFR 332.3(k). The district engineer must approve the final mitigation plan before the permittee commences work in waters of the United States, unless the district engineer determines that prior approval of the final mitigation plan is not practicable or not necessary to ensure timely completion of the required compensatory mitigation. If the prospective permittee elects to submit a compensatory mitigation plan with the PCN, the district engineer will expeditiously review the proposed compensatory mitigation plan. The district engineer must review the proposed compensatory mitigation plan within 45 calendar days of receiving a complete PCN and determine whether the proposed mitigation would ensure that the NWP activity results

in no more than minimal adverse environmental effects. If the net adverse environmental effects of the NWP activity (after consideration of the mitigation proposal) are determined by the district engineer to be no more than minimal, the district engineer will provide a timely written response to the applicant. The response will state that the NWP activity can proceed under the terms and conditions of the NWP, including any activity-specific conditions added to the NWP authorization by the district engineer.

4. If the district engineer determines that the adverse environmental effects of the proposed NWP activity are more than minimal, then the district engineer will notify the applicant either: (a) that the activity does not qualify for authorization under the NWP and instruct the applicant on the procedures to seek authorization under an individual permit; (b) that the activity is authorized under the NWP subject to the applicant's submission of a mitigation plan that would reduce the adverse environmental effects so that they are no more than minimal; or (c) that the activity is authorized under the NWP with specific modifications or conditions. Where the district engineer determines that mitigation is required to ensure no more than minimal adverse environmental effects, the activity will be authorized within the 45-day PCN review period (unless additional time is required to comply with general conditions 16, 18, 20, and/or 31), with activity-specific conditions that state the mitigation requirements. The authorization will include the necessary conceptual or detailed mitigation plan or a requirement that the applicant submit a mitigation plan that would reduce the adverse environmental effects so that they are no more than minimal. When compensatory mitigation is required, no work in waters of the United States may occur until the district engineer has approved a specific mitigation plan or has determined that prior approval of a final mitigation plan is not practicable or not necessary to ensure timely completion of the required compensatory mitigation.

D. Further Information

1. District engineers have authority to determine if an activity complies with the terms and conditions of an NWP.
2. NWPs do not obviate the need to obtain other federal, state, or local permits, approvals, or authorizations required by law.
3. NWPs do not grant any property rights or exclusive privileges.
4. NWPs do not authorize any injury to the property or rights of others.
5. NWPs do not authorize interference with any existing or proposed Federal project (see general condition 31).

E. Nationwide Permit Definitions

Best management practices (BMPs): Policies, practices, procedures, or structures implemented to mitigate the adverse environmental effects on surface water quality resulting from development. BMPs are categorized as structural or non-structural.

Compensatory mitigation: The restoration (re-establishment or rehabilitation), establishment (creation), enhancement, and/or in certain circumstances preservation of aquatic resources for the purposes of offsetting unavoidable adverse impacts which

remain after all appropriate and practicable avoidance and minimization has been achieved.

Currently serviceable: Useable as is or with some maintenance, but not so degraded as to essentially require reconstruction.

Direct effects: Effects that are caused by the activity and occur at the same time and place.

Discharge: The term “discharge” means any discharge of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States.

Ecological reference: A model used to plan and design an aquatic ecosystem restoration, enhancement, or establishment activity under NWP 27. An ecological reference may be based on: (1) the structure, functions, and dynamics of an aquatic ecosystem type or a riparian area type that currently exists in the region; (2) the structure, functions, and dynamics of an aquatic ecosystem type or riparian area type that existed in the region in the past; and/or (3) indigenous and local ecological knowledge that apply to the aquatic ecosystem type or riparian area type (i.e., a cultural ecosystem). Cultural ecosystems are ecosystems that have developed under the joint influence of natural processes and human management activities (e.g., fire stewardship). An ecological reference takes into account the range of variation of the aquatic habitat type or riparian area type in the region.

Enhancement: The manipulation of the physical, chemical, or biological characteristics of an aquatic resource to heighten, intensify, or improve a specific aquatic resource function(s). Enhancement results in the gain of selected aquatic resource function(s), but may also lead to a decline in other aquatic resource function(s). Enhancement does not result in a gain in aquatic resource area.

Establishment (creation): The manipulation of the physical, chemical, or biological characteristics present to develop an aquatic resource that did not previously exist at an upland site. Establishment results in a gain in aquatic resource area.

High Tide Line: The line of intersection of the land with the water's surface at the maximum height reached by a rising tide. The high tide line may be determined, in the absence of actual data, by a line of oil or scum along shore objects, a more or less continuous deposit of fine shell or debris on the foreshore or berm, other physical markings or characteristics, vegetation lines, tidal gages, or other suitable means that delineate the general height reached by a rising tide. The line encompasses spring high tides and other high tides that occur with periodic frequency but does not include storm surges in which there is a departure from the normal or predicted reach of the tide due to the piling up of water against a coast by strong winds such as those accompanying a hurricane or other intense storm.

Historic Property: Any prehistoric or historic district, site (including archaeological site), building, structure, or other object included in, or eligible for inclusion in, the National Register of Historic Places maintained by the Secretary of the Interior. This term includes artifacts, records, and remains that are related to and located within such properties. The term includes properties of traditional religious and cultural importance to an Indian tribe or Native Hawaiian organization and that meet the National Register criteria (36 CFR part 60).

Independent utility: A test to determine what constitutes a single and complete non-linear project in the Corps Regulatory Program. A project is considered to have independent utility if it would be constructed absent the construction of other projects in the project area. Portions of a multi-phase project that depend upon other phases of the project do not have independent utility. Phases of a project that would be constructed even if the other phases were not built can be considered as separate single and complete projects with independent utility.

Indirect effects: Effects that are caused by the activity and are later in time or farther removed in distance, but are still reasonably foreseeable.

Loss of waters of the United States: Waters of the United States that are permanently adversely affected by filling, flooding, excavation, or drainage because of the regulated activity. The loss of stream bed includes the acres of stream bed that are permanently adversely affected by filling or excavation because of the regulated activity. Permanent adverse effects include permanent discharges of dredged or fill material that change an aquatic area to dry land, increase the bottom elevation of a waterbody, or change the use of a waterbody. The acreage of loss of waters of the United States is a threshold measurement of the impact to jurisdictional waters or wetlands for determining whether a project may qualify for an NWP; it is not a net threshold that is calculated after considering compensatory mitigation that may be used to offset losses of aquatic functions and services. Waters of the United States temporarily filled, flooded, excavated, or drained, but restored to pre-construction contours and elevations after construction, are not included in the measurement of loss of waters of the United States. Impacts resulting from activities that do not require Department of the Army authorization, such as activities eligible for exemptions under section 404(f) of the Clean Water Act, are not considered when calculating the loss of waters of the United States.

Nature-based solutions: Actions to protect, sustainably manage, and restore natural or modified ecosystems, that address societal challenges effectively and adaptively, simultaneously providing human well-being and biodiversity benefits.

Navigable waters: Waters subject to section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899. These waters are defined at 33 CFR part 329.

Non-tidal wetland: A non-tidal wetland is a wetland that is not subject to the ebb and flow of tidal waters. Nontidal wetlands contiguous to tidal waters are located landward of the high tide line (i.e., spring high tide line).

Open water: For purposes of the NWP's, an open water is any area that in a year with normal patterns of precipitation has water flowing or standing above ground to the extent that an ordinary high water mark can be determined. Aquatic vegetation within the area of flowing or standing water is either non-emergent, sparse, or absent. Vegetated shallows are considered to be open waters. Examples of "open waters" include rivers, streams, lakes, and ponds.

Ordinary High Water Mark: The term ordinary high water mark means that line on the shore established by the fluctuations of water and indicated by physical characteristics such as a clear, natural line impressed on the bank, shelving, changes in the character of soil, destruction of terrestrial vegetation, the presence of litter and debris, or other appropriate means that consider the characteristics of the surrounding areas.

Perennial stream: A perennial stream has surface water flowing continuously year-round during a typical year.

Practicable: Available and capable of being done after taking into consideration cost, existing technology, and logistics in light of overall project purposes.

Pre-construction notification: A request submitted by the project proponent to the Corps for confirmation that a particular activity is authorized by nationwide permit. The request may be a permit application, letter, or similar document that includes information about the proposed work and its anticipated environmental effects. Preconstruction notification may be required by the terms and conditions of a nationwide permit, or by regional conditions. A pre-construction notification may be voluntarily submitted in cases where preconstruction notification is not required and the project proponent wants confirmation that the activity is authorized by nationwide permit.

Preservation: The removal of a threat to, or preventing the decline of, aquatic resources by an action in or near those aquatic resources. This term includes activities commonly associated with the protection and maintenance of aquatic resources through the implementation of appropriate legal and physical mechanisms. Preservation does not result in a gain of aquatic resource area or functions.

Re-establishment: The manipulation of the physical, chemical, or biological characteristics of a site with the goal of returning natural/historic functions to a former aquatic resource. Reestablishment results in rebuilding a former aquatic resource and results in a gain in aquatic resource area and functions.

Rehabilitation: The manipulation of the physical, chemical, or biological characteristics of a site with the goal of repairing natural/historic functions to a degraded aquatic resource. Rehabilitation results in a gain in aquatic resource function, but does not result in a gain in aquatic resource area.

Restoration: The manipulation of the physical, chemical, or biological characteristics of a site with the goal of returning natural/historic functions to a former or degraded aquatic resource. For the purpose of tracking net gains in aquatic resource area, restoration is divided into two categories: re-establishment and rehabilitation.

Riffle and pool complex: Riffle and pool complexes are special aquatic sites under the 404(b)(1) Guidelines. Riffle and pool complexes sometimes characterize steep gradient sections of streams. Such stream sections are recognizable by their hydraulic characteristics. The rapid movement of water over a coarse substrate in riffles results in a rough flow, a turbulent surface, and high dissolved oxygen levels in the water. Pools are deeper areas associated with riffles. A slower stream velocity, a streaming flow, a smooth surface, and a finer substrate characterize pools.

Riparian areas: Riparian areas are lands next to streams, lakes, and estuarine-marine shorelines. Riparian areas are transitional between terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems, through which surface and subsurface hydrology connects riverine, lacustrine, estuarine, and marine waters with their adjacent wetlands, non-wetland waters, or uplands. Riparian areas provide a variety of ecological functions and services and help improve or maintain local water quality. (See general condition 23.)

Shellfish seeding: The placement of shellfish seed and/or suitable substrate to increase shellfish production. Shellfish seed consists of immature individual shellfish or individual shellfish attached to shells or shell fragments (i.e., spat on shell). Suitable substrate may consist of shellfish shells, shell fragments, or other appropriate materials placed into waters for shellfish habitat.

Single and complete linear project: A linear project is a project constructed for the purpose of getting people, goods, or services from a point of origin to a terminal point, which often involves multiple crossings of one or more waterbodies at separate and distant locations. The term “single and complete project” is defined as that portion of the total linear project proposed or accomplished by one owner/developer or partnership or other association of owners/developers that includes all crossings of a single water of the United States (i.e., a single waterbody) at a specific location. For linear projects crossing a single or multiple waterbodies several times at separate and distant locations, each crossing is considered a single and complete project for purposes of NWP authorization. However, individual channels in a braided stream or river, or individual arms of a large, irregularly shaped wetland or lake, etc., are not separate waterbodies, and crossings of such features cannot be considered separately.

Single and complete non-linear project: For non-linear projects, the term “single and complete project” is defined at 33 CFR 330.2(i) as the total project proposed or accomplished by one owner/developer or partnership or other association of owners/developers. A single and complete non-linear project must have independent utility (see definition of “independent utility”). Single and complete non-linear projects may not be “piecemealed” to avoid the limits in an NWP authorization.

Stormwater management: Stormwater management is the mechanism for controlling stormwater runoff for the purposes of reducing downstream erosion, water quality degradation, and flooding and mitigating the adverse effects of changes in land use on the aquatic environment.

Stormwater management facilities: Stormwater management facilities are those facilities, including but not limited to, stormwater retention and detention ponds and best management practices, which retain water for a period of time to control runoff and/or improve the quality (i.e., by reducing the concentration of nutrients, sediments, hazardous substances and other pollutants) of stormwater runoff.

Stream bed: The substrate of the stream channel between the ordinary high water marks. The substrate may be bedrock or inorganic particles that range in size from clay to boulders. The substrate may also be comprised, in part, of organic matter, such as large or small wood fragments, leaves, algae, and other organic materials. Wetlands contiguous to the stream bed, but outside of the ordinary high water marks, are not considered part of the stream bed.

Stream channelization: The manipulation of a stream's course, condition, capacity, or location that causes more than minimal interruption of normal stream processes. A channelized jurisdictional stream remains a water of the United States.

Structure: An object that is arranged in a definite pattern of organization. Examples of structures include, without limitation, any pier, boat dock, boat ramp, wharf, dolphin, weir, boom, breakwater, bulkhead, revetment, riprap, jetty, artificial island, artificial reef, permanent mooring structure, power transmission line, permanently moored floating vessel, piling, aid to navigation, or any other manmade obstacle or obstruction.

Tidal wetland: A tidal wetland is a jurisdictional wetland that is inundated by tidal waters. Tidal waters rise and fall in a predictable and measurable rhythm or cycle due to the gravitational pulls of the moon and sun. Tidal waters end where the rise and fall of the water surface can no longer be practically measured in a predictable rhythm due to masking by other waters, wind, or other effects. Tidal wetlands are located channelward of the high tide line.

Tribal lands: Any lands title to which is either: (1) held in trust by the United States for the benefit of any Indian tribe or individual; or (2) held by any Indian tribe or individual subject to restrictions by the United States against alienation.

Tribal rights: Those rights legally accruing to a tribe or tribes by virtue of inherent sovereign authority, unextinguished aboriginal title, treaty, statute, judicial decisions, executive order or agreement, and that give rise to legally enforceable remedies.

Vegetated shallows: Vegetated shallows are special aquatic sites under the 404(b)(1) Guidelines. They are areas that are permanently inundated and under normal

circumstances have rooted aquatic vegetation, such as seagrasses in marine and estuarine systems and a variety of vascular rooted plants in freshwater systems.

Waterbody: For purposes of the NWP, a waterbody is a “water of the United States.” If a wetland is adjacent to a waterbody determined to be a water of the United States, that waterbody and any adjacent wetlands are considered together as a single aquatic unit (see 33 CFR 328.4(c)(2)).

F. Portland District Regional Conditions

1. *Notification:* For permittees that received written NWP verification, upon starting the authorized activities, you shall notify the Corps, Portland District, Regulatory Branch that the work has started. Notification shall be provided by e-mail to cenwp.notify@usace.army.mil and the email subject line shall include the Corps project number and the name of the county where the project is located.

2. *Aquatic Resources of Special Concern:* Pre-construction notification to the district engineer is required for all activities proposed in waters of the United States within, or directly affecting, an aquatic resource of special concern. Aquatic resources of special concern are resources that are difficult to replace, unique, and/or have high ecological function. For the purpose of this regional condition, aquatic resources of special concern are native eel grass (*Zostera marina*) beds, mature forested wetlands, bogs, fens, vernal pools, alkali wetlands, wetlands in dunal systems along the Oregon coast, estuarine wetlands, Willamette Valley wet prairie wetlands, kelp beds, and rocky substrate in tidal waters.

In addition to the content requirements of NWP General Condition 32, the pre-construction notification must include a statement explaining why the effects of the proposed activity are no more than minimal. Written approval from the district engineer must be obtained prior to commencing work.

3. *Cultural Resources and Human Burials-Inadvertent Discovery Plan:* Permittees that discover any previously unknown historic, cultural or archeological remains, artifacts, or burial sites while accomplishing the activity authorized by an NWP shall implement the procedures in the *Inadvertent Discovery Plan* available on the Portland District Regulatory website (<https://www.nwp.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory/Apply/>).

Also see NWP General Condition 20. Notify the Portland district engineer as soon as possible following discovery but in no case later than 24 hours. Notification may be sent electronically (cenwp.notify@usace.army.mil) and shall identify the Corps project number and clearly specify the purpose is to report an inadvertent discovery. The permittee shall also notify the Corps representative (by email and telephone) identified in the NWP verification letter.

4. *Essential Fish Habitat:* Activities which may adversely affect essential fish habitat, as defined under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA), are not authorized by NWP until essential fish habitat requirements have been

met by the applicant and the Corps. Non-federal permittees must submit a pre-construction notification to the district engineer if essential fish habitat may be affected by, or is in the vicinity of, a proposed activity and shall not begin work until notified by the district engineer in writing that the requirements of the essential fish habitat provisions of the MSA have been satisfied and the activity is authorized. The notification must identify the type(s) of essential fish habitat (e.g., Pacific coast salmon, Pacific coast groundfish, and/or Coastal-pelagic species) managed by a Fishery Management Plan that may be affected. Information about essential fish habitat is available on NOAA Fisheries' website (<http://www.westcoast.fisheries.noaa.gov/>).

5. *Bank Stabilization*: Permittee shall include the use of nature-based solutions and natural materials in the project design to the maximum extent practicable and shall minimize the use of rock. Nature-based solutions for bank stabilization include those that increase the strength and structure of soils with a combination of biological and mechanical elements (e.g., vegetation, root wads and woody debris, rock structures). Riparian plantings shall be included in all project designs unless the permittee can demonstrate that such plantings are not practicable.

6. *Work Area Isolation and Dewatering*: Appropriate practices shall be implemented to prevent erosion and to prevent sediments from entering waters of the United States.

- a. All in-water work shall be isolated from the active channel or conducted during low seasonal stream flows to the maximum extent practicable;
- b. Cofferdams shall be constructed of non-erosive material, such as concrete blocks, sand and/or gravel bags, or water bladders. Constructing a cofferdam by pushing material from the streambed or sloughing material from the streambanks is not authorized;
- c. Cofferdams shall be lined with a plastic liner or geotextile fabric to reduce permeability and prevent sediments and/or construction materials from entering waters of the United States;
- d. Upstream and downstream flows shall be maintained by routing flows around the construction site;
- e. When dewatering is necessary for construction, a sediment basin, or other applicable method, shall be used to settle sediments prior to releasing the water back into the waterbody. Settled water shall be returned to the waterbody in such a manner as to avoid erosion. Sediment basins shall be placed in uplands; and
- f. Fish and other aquatic species must be salvaged (i.e., safely captured and relocated away from the project or development site) prior to dewatering. Contact the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife for additional information regarding fish salvage.

Note: See Regional Condition 10 regarding timeframes for temporary fills and temporary activities.

7. *Sediment Suitability*: For activities that involve dredging or excavating of sediment from waters of the United States and/or the discharge of dredged material into waters of the United States, the permittee shall ensure that any necessary sediment characterization regarding size, composition, and potential contaminants is completed prior to conducting the activity. Sediment characterization must be conducted per the *Sediment Evaluation Framework for the Pacific Northwest* available on the Portland District website (<https://www.nwp.usace.army.mil/Missions/Environmental-Stewardship/DMM/>).

Note: Dredged material means material that is excavated or dredged from waters of the United States. The return water from a contained disposal area is defined as a discharge of dredged material at 33 CFR § 323.2 and requires separate authorization from the district engineer (e.g., by NWP 16).

8. *Mechanized Equipment*: In addition to the requirements in NWP General Condition 11, permittee shall implement the following practices to prevent or minimize impacts to the aquatic environment from mechanized equipment:

- a. Operate equipment from above the ordinary high water mark or high tide line, unless specifically authorized by the district engineer; and
- b. Spill prevention and containment materials shall be maintained and be readily accessible at vehicle staging areas. The amount of spill response materials (such as straw matting/bales, geotextiles, booms, diapers, and other absorbent materials, shovels, brooms, and containment bags) maintained on-site must be appropriate for the size of the authorized activity.

9. *Erosion Control*: During construction and until the site is stabilized, the permittee shall ensure all practicable measures are implemented and maintained to prevent erosion and runoff. Temporary stockpiles of excavated or dredged material shall be stabilized to prevent erosion. Once soils or slopes have been stabilized, permittee shall completely remove all non-biodegradable components of installed control measures.

10. *Temporary Fills and Temporary Activities*: To ensure no more than minimal adverse environmental effects from temporary fills and temporary activities to waters of the United States:

- a. Temporary fills and/or activities in waters of the United States shall not exceed six months unless otherwise approved by the district engineer;
- b. Temporary fills or activities in waters of the United States shall not exceed ½-acre unless otherwise approved by the district engineer;

- c. Native soils and/or sediments removed from waters of the United States for project construction shall be stockpiled and used for site restoration to the maximum extent practicable; and
- d. Waters of the United States affected by temporary fills or temporary activities shall be restored to pre-construction contours and elevations after construction. The permittee shall appropriately revegetate temporarily filled or impacted areas with native, noninvasive herbs, shrubs, and/or tree species sufficient in number, spacing, and diversity to replace affected aquatic functions.

Note: The Corps will determine compensatory mitigation requirements for temporary fills and impacts on a case-by-case basis depending on the duration and nature of the temporary fill or impact and the type of aquatic resource affected.

11. *Water Quality.* For activities where the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Region 10 has previously certified compliance of the NWP with Section 401 of the Clean Water Act, the permittee must comply with the certification general conditions and any NWP-specific certification conditions. The list of NWPs where EPA Region 10 has provided Section 401 certification and the respective conditions are available on the Portland District Regulatory website (<https://www.nwp.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory/Apply/>). See NWP General Condition 25 for additional information.

12. *Coastal Zone Management.* For activities in the coastal zone of Oregon where the Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD) has previously provided state coastal zone management consistency concurrence for the NWP, the permittee must comply with DLCD's coastal zone conditions and any NWP-specific coastal zone conditions. The list of NWPs where DLCD has provided coastal zone management consistency concurrence and the respective conditions, including any exclusions, are available on the Portland District Regulatory website (<https://www.nwp.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory/Apply/>). See NWP General Condition 26 for additional information.

13. *Contractor Notification of Permit Requirements:* The permittee shall provide a copy of the NWP verification letter (when written approval obtained), all conditions, and the permit drawings to all contractors and any other parties performing the authorized work, prior to the commencement of any work in waters of the United States.

14. *Inspection of the Project Site:* The permittee shall allow representatives of the district engineer to inspect the authorized activity to confirm compliance with nationwide permit terms and conditions. A request for access to the site will normally be made sufficiently in advance to allow a property owner or representative the option to be on site during the inspection.

G. Portland District Nationwide Permit-Specific Regional Conditions

NWP 33: The permittee must submit a pre-construction notification to the district engineer prior to commencing the activity in waters of the United States and shall not begin the activity until notified by the district engineer in writing that the activity is authorized.

H. Portland District Regional Conditions Definitions

a. *Alkali Wetlands*: Alkali wetlands are wetlands as defined in 33 CFR § 328.3(c)(1) that occur in arid regions east of the Cascade Range and have saline or alkaline conditions where evaporation tends to concentrate salts in soils and water. Vegetation consists of plants adapted to saline or alkaline conditions.

b. *Bogs*: Bogs are wetlands as defined in 33 CFR § 328.3(c)(1) with acidic organic soils (pH of <5.5) with no significant inflow or outflow of surface or ground water and generally receive water from direct precipitation. Bogs are characterized by vegetation able to grow in acidic conditions and are often covered by mosses, sedges, and evergreen shrubs and may also have an over story of evergreen trees.

c. *Estuarine Wetlands*: Estuaries are areas where rivers or streams meet the ocean and freshwater and saltwater mix. Estuarine wetlands are wetlands as defined in 33 CFR § 328.3(c)(1) where ocean derived salts measure greater than 0.5 parts per thousand during the period of average annual flow.

d. *Fens*: Fens are wetlands as defined in 33 CFR § 328.3(c)(1) that have organic soils that generally receive drainage from surrounding mineral soils and may include a surface water inlet and outlet. Soils in fens are generally less acidic (pH of >5.5) than bogs and receive waters rich in dissolved minerals. Vegetation in fens typically consists of grasses, sedges evergreen shrubs and may have an over story of evergreen trees.

e. *Kelp Beds*: Kelp beds form on rocky substrate located in shallow subtidal areas, typically in waters between 5 and 25 meters. Kelp stalks are anchored to rocks by a holdfast, which is connected by a flexible stem-like feature to the blades. Gas-filled bladders keep the blades close to the surface where the blades fan out forming a canopy cover. Kelp beds occur when the kelp covers 30% or more of the substrate.

f. *Mature Forested Wetlands*: Mature forested wetlands are wetlands as defined in 33 CFR § 328.3(c)(1) that consist of trees with an aerial cover of 30% or more of the wetland where the average age of trees is 80 years or older or have an average diameter of 18 inches or greater diameter at breast height.

g. *Native Eelgrass (Zostera marina) Beds*: *Zostera marina* is a species of submerged aquatic vegetation that grows on substrates in intertidal and shallow subtidal marine waters. *Z. marina* is a rhizomatous, perennial flowering plant and exhibits both vegetative growth and reproduction by seed germination. *Z. marina* may form beds that are continuous, semi-continuous to patchy. A *Z. marina* eelgrass bed is defined as a minimum of 3 shoots per 0.25 square meter (1/4 square meter) within 1 meter of any

adjacent shoots. To identify the bed boundary, proceed in a linear direction and find the last shoot that is within 1 meter of an adjacent shoot along that transect. The bed boundary (edge) is defined as the point 0.5 meters past that last shoot, in recognition of the average length of the roots and rhizomes extending from an individual shoot¹.

h. *Rocky substrate in tidal waters*: Areas of rocky substrates consist of stones, boulders or bedrock that cover 75% or greater of an area where vegetation and/or macro algae cover less than 30% of the area. Rocky substrates may occur in both intertidal and subtidal marine waters.

i. *Vernal Pools*: Vernal pools are seasonally inundated depressions underlain by an impermeable claypan or hardpan layer. A vernal pool is usually a closed depression without a naturally-occurring inlet or outlet that ponds water in the cool, low evaporation periods of winter and spring in regions with cool moist winters, and dries out during the hot dry summers.

j. *Wetlands in dunal systems along the Oregon coast*: Dunes are ridges and hills of sand formed by the influence of wind and water. Dunal systems along the Oregon coast consist of a complex assembly of beaches, foredunes, hummocks, deflation plains, and transvers, oblique and parabolic dunes located between the Pacific Ocean and the foothills of the Coast Range. Wetlands in the dunal system along the Oregon coast are wetlands as defined in 33 CFR § 328.3(c)(1) that may occur in the deflation plains, depressions, swales or low areas.

k. *Willamette Valley wet prairie wetlands*: Wet prairie wetlands are wetlands as defined in 33 CFR § 328.3(c)(1) that are a type of wetland located in the Willamette Valley characterized by a seasonally high water table or perched water table on clay-rich soils. Wet prairie wetlands are dominated primarily by graminoids, including tufted hairgrass (*Deschampsia caespitosa*), camas (*Camassia quamash*), dense sedge (*Carex densa*), and lateral sedge (*Carex unilateralis*).

¹ Washington Department of Natural Resources. 2012. Technical Memorandum: Operational Definition for Determining Edge of Eelgrass (*Zostera marina*) Presence. A Summary of Workgroup Discussion and Related Analysis. November 2012.
https://www.dnr.wa.gov/Publications/aqr_hcp_2014_app_j_defn_eelgrass_beds.pdf



US Army Corps
of Engineers®
Portland District

Nationwide Permit 53

Terms and Conditions

Effective Date: March 15, 2026

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- A. Description of Activities Authorized by Nationwide Permit 53
 - B. Nationwide Permit General Conditions
 - C. District Engineer's Decision
 - D. Further Information
 - E. Nationwide Permit Definitions
 - F. Portland District Regional Conditions
 - G. Portland District Nationwide Permit-Specific Regional Conditions
 - H. Portland District Regional Conditions Definitions
-

In addition to any special conditions that may be required on a case-by-case basis by the District Engineer, the following terms and conditions must be met, as applicable, for a Nationwide Permit authorization to be valid in Oregon.

A. Description of Activities Authorized by Nationwide Permit (NWP) 53

53. Removal of Low-Head Dams. Structures and work in navigable waters of the United States and discharges of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States associated with the removal of low-head dams.

For the purposes of this NWP, the term “low-head dam” is generally defined as a dam or weir built across a stream to pass flows from upstream over all, or nearly all, of the width of the dam crest and does not have a separate spillway or spillway gates, but it may have an uncontrolled spillway. The dam crest is the top of the dam from left abutment to right abutment. A low-head dam may have been built for a range of purposes (e.g., check dam, mill dam, irrigation, water supply, recreation, hydroelectric, or cooling pond), but in all cases, it provides little or no storage function.

The removed low-head dam structure must be deposited and retained in an area that has no waters of the United States unless otherwise specifically approved by the district engineer under separate authorization.

Because the removal of the low-head dam will result in a net increase in ecological functions and services provided by the stream, as a general rule compensatory mitigation is not required for activities authorized by this NWP. However, the district engineer may determine for a particular low-head dam removal activity that compensatory mitigation is necessary to ensure that the authorized activity results in no more than minimal adverse environmental effects.

Notification: The permittee must submit a pre-construction notification to the district engineer prior to commencing the activity. (See general condition 32.) (Authorities:

Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act)

Note: This NWP does not authorize discharges of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States or structures or work in navigable waters to restore the stream in the vicinity of the low-head dam, including the former impoundment area. Nationwide permit 27 or other Department of the Army permits may authorize such activities. This NWP does not authorize discharges of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States or structures or work in navigable waters to stabilize stream banks. Bank stabilization activities may be authorized by NWP 13 or other Department of the Army permits.

B. Nationwide Permit General Conditions

Note: To qualify for NWP authorization, the prospective permittee must comply with the following general conditions, as applicable, in addition to any regional or case-specific conditions imposed by the division engineer or district engineer. Prospective permittees should contact the appropriate Corps district office to determine if regional conditions have been imposed on an NWP. Prospective permittees should also contact the appropriate Corps district office to determine the status of Clean Water Act Section 401 water quality certification and/or Coastal Zone Management Act consistency for an NWP. Every person who may wish to obtain permit authorization under one or more NWPs, or who is currently relying on an existing or prior permit authorization under one or more NWPs, has been and is on notice that all of the provisions of 33 CFR 330.1 through 330.6 apply to every NWP authorization. Note especially 33 CFR 330.5 relating to the modification, suspension, or revocation of any NWP authorization.

1. *Navigation.* (a) No activity may cause more than a minimal adverse effect on navigation.

(b) Any safety lights and signals prescribed by the U.S. Coast Guard, through regulations or otherwise, must be installed and maintained at the permittee's expense on authorized facilities in navigable waters of the United States.

(c) The permittee understands and agrees that, if future operations by the United States require the removal, relocation, or other alteration, of the structure or work herein authorized, or if, in the opinion of the Secretary of the Army or his or her authorized representative, said structure or work shall cause unreasonable obstruction to the free navigation of the navigable waters, the permittee will be required, upon due notice from the Corps of Engineers, to remove, relocate, or alter the structural work or obstructions caused thereby, without expense to the United States. No claim shall be made against the United States on account of any such removal or alteration.

2. *Aquatic Life Movements.* No activity may substantially disrupt the necessary life cycle movements of those species of aquatic life indigenous to the waterbody, including those species that normally migrate through the area, unless the activity's primary purpose is to impound water. All permanent and temporary crossings of waterbodies shall be

suitably culverted, bridged, or otherwise designed and constructed to maintain low flows to sustain the movement of those aquatic species. If a bottomless culvert cannot be used, then the crossing should be designed and constructed to minimize adverse effects to aquatic life movements.

3. *Spawning Areas*. Activities in spawning areas during spawning seasons must be avoided to the maximum extent practicable. Activities that result in the physical destruction (e.g., through excavation, fill, or downstream smothering by substantial turbidity) of an important spawning area are not authorized.

4. *Migratory Bird Breeding Areas*. Activities in waters of the United States that serve as breeding areas for migratory birds must be avoided to the maximum extent practicable.

5. *Shellfish Beds*. No activity may occur in areas of concentrated shellfish populations, unless the activity is directly related to a shellfish harvesting activity authorized by NWP 4 and 48, or is a shellfish seeding or habitat restoration activity authorized by NWP 27.

6. *Suitable Material*. No activity may use unsuitable material (e.g., trash, debris, car bodies, asphalt, etc.). Material used for construction or discharged must be free from toxic pollutants in toxic amounts (see section 307 of the Clean Water Act).

7. *Water Supply Intakes*. No activity may occur in the proximity of a public water supply intake, except where the activity is for the repair or improvement of public water supply intake structures or adjacent bank stabilization.

8. *Adverse Effects from Impoundments*. If the activity creates an impoundment of water, adverse effects to the aquatic system due to accelerating the passage of water, and/or restricting its flow must be minimized to the maximum extent practicable.

9. *Management of Water Flows*. To the maximum extent practicable, the preconstruction course, condition, capacity, and location of open waters must be maintained for each activity, including stream channelization, storm water management activities, and temporary and permanent road crossings, except as provided below. The activity must be constructed to withstand expected high flows, including tidal flows. The activity must not restrict or impede the passage of normal or high flows, including tidal flows, unless the primary purpose of the activity is to impound water or manage high flows. The activity may alter the pre-construction course, condition, capacity, and location of open waters if it benefits the aquatic environment (e.g., stream restoration or relocation activities).

10. *Fills Within 100-Year Floodplains*. The activity must comply with applicable FEMA-approved state or local floodplain management requirements.

11. *Equipment*. Heavy equipment working in wetlands or mudflats must be placed on mats, or other measures must be taken to minimize soil disturbance. If mats are used

to minimize soil disturbance, the affected areas must be returned to preconstruction elevations, and revegetated as appropriate. In circumstances where the use of mats has caused significant soil compaction, efforts using techniques (e.g., soil reaeration techniques) to break up the compaction should be employed to return the soil to a pre-construction state prior to returning to pre-construction elevations.

12. *Soil Erosion and Sediment Controls.* Appropriate soil erosion and sediment controls must be used and maintained in effective operating condition during construction, and all exposed soil and other fills, as well as any work below the ordinary high water mark or high tide line, must be permanently stabilized at the earliest practicable date.

Permittees are encouraged to perform work within waters of the United States during periods of low-flow or no-flow, or during low tides.

13. *Removal of Temporary Structures and Fills.* Temporary structures must be removed, to the maximum extent practicable, after their use has been discontinued. Temporary fills must be removed in their entirety and the affected areas returned to preconstruction elevations. The affected areas must be revegetated, as appropriate.

14. *Proper Maintenance.* Any authorized structure or fill shall be properly maintained, including maintenance to ensure public safety and compliance with applicable NWP general conditions, as well as any activity-specific conditions added by the district engineer to an NWP authorization.

15. *Single and Complete Project.* The activity must be a single and complete project. The same NWP cannot be used more than once for the same single and complete project.

16. *Wild and Scenic Rivers.* (a) No NWP activity may occur in a component of the National Wild and Scenic River System, or in a river officially designated by Congress as a “study river” for possible inclusion in the system while the river is in an official study status, unless the appropriate Federal agency with direct management responsibility for such river has determined in writing that the proposed activity will not adversely affect the Wild and Scenic River designation or study status.

(b) If a proposed NWP activity will occur in a component of the National Wild and Scenic River System, or in a river officially designated by Congress as a “study river” for possible inclusion in the system while the river is in an official study status, the permittee must submit a pre-construction notification (see general condition 32). The district engineer will coordinate the PCN with the Federal agency with direct management responsibility for that river. Permittees shall not begin the NWP activity until notified by the district engineer that the Federal agency with direct management responsibility for that river has determined in writing that the proposed NWP activity will not adversely affect the Wild and Scenic River designation or study status.

(c) Information on Wild and Scenic Rivers may be obtained from the appropriate Federal land management agency responsible for the designated Wild and Scenic River

or study river (e.g., National Park Service, U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service). Information on these rivers is also available at: <http://www.rivers.gov/>.

17. *Tribal Rights*. No activity or its operation may impair reserved tribal rights, including, but not limited to, reserved water rights and treaty fishing and hunting rights.

18. *Endangered Species*. (a) No activity is authorized under any NWP which is likely to directly or indirectly jeopardize the continued existence of a threatened or endangered species or a species proposed for such designation, as identified under the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA), or which will directly or indirectly destroy or adversely modify designated critical habitat or critical habitat proposed for such designation. No activity is authorized under any NWP which "may affect" a listed species or critical habitat, unless ESA section 7 consultation addressing the consequences of the proposed activity on listed species or critical habitat has been completed. See 50 CFR 402.02 for the definition of "effects of the action" for the purposes of ESA section 7 consultation.

(b) Federal agencies should follow their own procedures for complying with the requirements of the ESA (see 33 CFR 330.4(f)(1)). If pre-construction notification is required for the proposed activity, the federal permittee must provide the district engineer with the appropriate documentation to demonstrate compliance with those requirements. The district engineer will verify that the appropriate documentation has been submitted. If the appropriate documentation has not been submitted, additional ESA section 7 consultation may be necessary for the activity and the respective federal agency would be responsible for fulfilling its obligation under section 7 of the ESA.

(c) Non-federal permittees must submit a pre-construction notification to the district engineer if any listed species (or species proposed for listing) or designated critical habitat (or critical habitat proposed such designation) might be affected or is in the vicinity of the activity, or if the activity is located in designated critical habitat or critical habitat proposed for such designation, and shall not begin work on the activity until notified by the district engineer that the requirements of the ESA have been satisfied and that the activity is authorized. For activities that might affect federally-listed endangered or threatened species (or species proposed for listing) or designated critical habitat (or critical habitat proposed for such designation), the pre-construction notification must include the name(s) of the endangered or threatened species (or species proposed for listing) that might be affected by the proposed activity or that utilize the designated critical habitat (or critical habitat proposed for such designation) that might be affected by the proposed activity. The district engineer will determine whether the proposed activity "may affect" or will have "no effect" to listed species and designated critical habitat and will notify the non-federal applicant of the Corps' determination within 45 days of receipt of a complete pre-construction notification. For activities where the non-federal applicant has identified listed species (or species proposed for listing) or designated critical habitat (or critical habitat proposed for such designation) that might be affected or is in the vicinity of the activity, and has so notified

the Corps, the applicant shall not begin work until the Corps has provided notification that the proposed activity will have “no effect” on listed species (or species proposed for listing or designated critical habitat (or critical habitat proposed for such designation), or until ESA section 7 consultation or conference has been completed. If the non-federal applicant has not heard back from the Corps within 45 days, the applicant must still wait for notification from the Corps.

(d) As a result of formal or informal consultation or conference with the FWS or NMFS the district engineer may add species-specific permit conditions to the NWP.

(e) Authorization of an activity by an NWP does not authorize the “take” of a threatened or endangered species as defined under the ESA. In the absence of separate authorization (e.g., an ESA Section 10 Permit, a Biological Opinion with “incidental take” provisions, etc.) from the FWS or the NMFS, the Endangered Species Act prohibits any person subject to the jurisdiction of the United States to take a listed species, where “take” means to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect, or to attempt to engage in any such conduct. The word “harm” in the definition of “take” means an act which actually kills or injures wildlife. Such an act may include significant habitat modification or degradation where it actually kills or injures wildlife by significantly impairing essential behavioral patterns, including breeding, feeding or sheltering.

(f) If the non-federal permittee has a valid ESA section 10(a)(1)(B) incidental take permit with an approved Habitat Conservation Plan for a project or a group of projects that includes the proposed NWP activity, the non-federal permittee should provide a copy of that ESA section 10(a)(1)(B) permit with the PCN required by paragraph (c) of this general condition. The district engineer will coordinate with the agency that issued the ESA section 10(a)(1)(B) permit to determine whether the proposed NWP activity and the associated incidental take were considered in the internal ESA section 7 consultation conducted for the ESA section 10(a)(1)(B) permit. If that coordination results in concurrence from the agency that the proposed NWP activity and the associated incidental take were considered in the internal ESA section 7 consultation for the ESA section 10(a)(1)(B) permit, the district engineer does not need to conduct a separate ESA section 7 consultation for the proposed NWP activity. The district engineer will notify the non-federal applicant within 45 days of receipt of a complete pre-construction notification whether the ESA section 10(a)(1)(B) permit covers the proposed NWP activity or whether additional ESA section 7 consultation is required.

(g) Information on the location of threatened and endangered species and their critical habitat can be obtained directly from the offices of the FWS and NMFS or their web pages at <http://www.fws.gov/> or <http://www.fws.gov/ipac> and <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/species/esa/> respectively.

19. *Migratory Birds and Bald and Golden Eagles.* The permittee is responsible for ensuring that an action authorized by an NWP complies with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act. The permittee is responsible for

contacting the appropriate local office of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to determine what measures, if any, are necessary or appropriate to reduce adverse effects to migratory birds or eagles, including whether “incidental take” permits are necessary and available under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act or Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act for a particular activity.

20. *Historic Properties.* (a) No activity is authorized under any NWP which may have the potential to cause effects on properties listed, or eligible for listing, in the National Register of Historic Places until the requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) have been satisfied.

(b) Federal permittees should follow their own procedures for complying with the requirements of section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (see 33 CFR 330.4(g)(1)). If pre-construction notification is required for the proposed NWP activity, the federal permittee must provide the district engineer with the appropriate documentation to demonstrate compliance with those requirements. The district engineer will verify that the appropriate documentation has been submitted. If the appropriate documentation is not submitted, then additional consultation under section 106 may be necessary. The respective federal agency is responsible for fulfilling its obligation to comply with section 106.

(c) Non-federal permittees must submit a pre-construction notification to the district engineer if the NWP activity might have the potential to cause effects on any historic properties listed on, determined to be eligible for listing on, or potentially eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, including previously unidentified properties. For such activities, the preconstruction notification must state which historic properties might have the potential to be affected by the proposed NWP activity or include a vicinity map indicating the location of the historic properties or the potential for the presence of historic properties. Assistance regarding information on the location of, or potential for, the presence of historic properties can be sought from the State Historic Preservation Officer, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, or designated tribal representative, as appropriate, and the National Register of Historic Places (see 33 CFR 330.4(g)). When reviewing pre-construction notifications, district engineers will comply with the current procedures for addressing the requirements of section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. The district engineer shall make a reasonable and good faith effort to carry out appropriate identification efforts commensurate with potential impacts, which may include background research, consultation, oral history interviews, sample field investigation, and/or field survey. Based on the information submitted in the PCN and these identification efforts, the district engineer shall determine whether the proposed NWP activity has the potential to cause effects on historic properties. Section 106 consultation is not required when the district engineer determines that the activity does not have the potential to cause effects on historic properties (see 36 CFR 800.3(a)). Section 106 consultation is required when the district engineer determines that the activity has the potential to cause effects on historic properties. The district engineer will conduct consultation with consulting parties identified under 36 CFR 800.2(c) when he or she makes any of the following effect

determinations for the purposes of section 106 of the NHPA: no historic properties affected, no adverse effect, or adverse effect.

(d) Where the non-federal applicant has identified historic properties on which the proposed NWP activity might have the potential to cause effects and has so notified the Corps, the nonfederal applicant shall not begin the activity until notified by the district engineer either that the activity has no potential to cause effects on historic properties or that NHPA section 106 consultation has been completed. For non-federal permittees, the district engineer will notify the prospective permittee within 45 days of receipt of a complete pre-construction notification whether NHPA section 106 consultation is required. If NHPA section 106 consultation is required, the district engineer will notify the non-federal applicant that he or she cannot begin the activity until section 106 consultation is completed. If the nonfederal applicant has not heard back from the Corps within 45 days, the applicant must still wait for notification from the Corps.

(e) Prospective permittees should be aware that section 110k of the NHPA (54 U.S.C. 306113) prevents the Corps from granting a permit or other assistance to an applicant who, with intent to avoid the requirements of section 106 of the NHPA, has intentionally significantly adversely affected a historic property to which the permit would relate, or having legal power to prevent it, allowed such significant adverse effect to occur, unless the Corps, after consultation with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP), determines that circumstances justify granting such assistance despite the adverse effect created or permitted by the applicant. If circumstances justify granting the assistance, the Corps is required to notify the ACHP and provide documentation specifying the circumstances, the degree of damage to the integrity of any historic properties affected, and proposed mitigation. This documentation must include any views obtained from the applicant, SHPO/THPO, appropriate Indian tribes if the undertaking occurs on or affects historic properties on tribal lands or affects properties of interest to those tribes, and other parties known to have a legitimate interest in the impacts to the permitted activity on historic properties.

21. Discovery of Previously Unknown Remains and Artifacts. Permittees that discover any previously unknown historic, cultural or archeological remains and artifacts while accomplishing the activities authorized by NWPs, must immediately notify the district engineer of what they have found, and to the maximum extent practicable, avoid construction activities that may affect the remains and artifacts until the required coordination has been completed. The district engineer will initiate the federal, tribal, and state coordination required to determine if the items or remains warrant a recovery effort or if the site is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

22. Designated Critical Resource Waters. Critical resource waters include, NOAA-managed marine sanctuaries and marine monuments, and National Estuarine Research Reserves. The district engineer may designate, after notice and opportunity for public comment, additional waters officially designated by a state as having particular environmental or ecological significance, such as outstanding national resource waters

or state natural heritage sites. The district engineer may also designate additional critical resource waters after notice and opportunity for public comment.

(a) Discharges of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States are not authorized by NWPs 7, 12, 14, 16, 17, 21, 29, 31, 35, 39, 40, 42, 43, 44, 49, 50, 51, 52, 57 and 58 for any activity within, or directly affecting, critical resource waters, including wetlands adjacent to such waters.

(b) For NWPs 3, 8, 10, 13, 15, 18, 19, 22, 23, 25, 27, 28, 30, 33, 34, 36, 37, 38, and 54, notification is required in accordance with general condition 32, for any activity proposed by permittees in the designated critical resource waters including wetlands adjacent to those waters. The district engineer may authorize activities under these NWPs only after she or he determines that the impacts to the critical resource waters will be no more than minimal.

23. *Mitigation.* The district engineer will consider the following factors when determining appropriate and practicable mitigation necessary to ensure that the individual and cumulative adverse environmental effects are no more than minimal:

(a) The activity must be designed and constructed to avoid and minimize adverse effects, both temporary and permanent, to waters of the United States to the maximum extent practicable at the project site (i.e., on site).

(b) Mitigation in all its forms (avoiding, minimizing, rectifying, reducing, or compensating for resource losses) will be required to the extent necessary to ensure that the individual and cumulative adverse environmental effects are no more than minimal.

(c) Compensatory mitigation at a minimum one-for-one ratio will be required for all wetland losses that exceed 1/10-acre and require preconstruction notification, unless the district engineer determines in writing that either some other form of mitigation would be more environmentally appropriate or the adverse environmental effects of the proposed activity are no more than minimal, and provides an activity-specific waiver of this requirement. For wetland losses of 1/10-acre or less that require preconstruction notification, the district engineer may determine on a case-by-case basis that compensatory mitigation is required to ensure that the activity results in only minimal adverse environmental effects.

(d) Compensatory mitigation at a minimum one-for-one ratio will be required for all losses of stream bed that exceed 3/100-acre and require preconstruction notification, unless the district engineer determines in writing that either some other form of mitigation would be more environmentally appropriate or the adverse environmental effects of the proposed activity are no more than minimal, and provides an activity-specific waiver of this requirement. This compensatory mitigation requirement may be satisfied through the restoration or enhancement of riparian areas next to streams in accordance with paragraph (e) of this general condition. For losses of stream bed of 3/100-acre or less that require preconstruction notification, the district engineer may

determine on a case-by-case basis that compensatory mitigation is required to ensure that the activity results in only minimal adverse environmental effects. Compensatory mitigation for losses of streams should be provided, if practicable, through stream rehabilitation, enhancement, or preservation, because streams are difficult-to-replace resources (see 33 CFR 332.3(e)(3)).

(e) Compensatory mitigation plans for NWP activities in or near streams or other open waters will normally include a requirement for the restoration or enhancement, maintenance, and legal protection (e.g., conservation easements) of riparian areas next to open waters. In some cases, the restoration or maintenance/protection of riparian areas may be the only compensatory mitigation required. If restoring riparian areas involves planting vegetation, only native species should be planted. The width of the required riparian area will address documented water quality or aquatic habitat loss concerns. Normally, the riparian area will be 25 to 50 feet wide on each side of the stream, but the district engineer may require slightly wider riparian areas to address documented water quality or habitat loss concerns. If it is not possible to restore or maintain/protect a riparian area on both sides of a stream, or if the waterbody is a lake or coastal waters, then restoring or maintaining/protecting a riparian area along a single bank or shoreline may be sufficient. Where both wetlands and open waters exist on the project site, the district engineer will determine the appropriate compensatory mitigation (e.g., riparian areas and/or wetlands compensation) based on what is best for the aquatic environment on a watershed basis. In cases where riparian areas are determined to be the most appropriate form of minimization or compensatory mitigation, the district engineer may waive or reduce the requirement to provide wetland compensatory mitigation for wetland losses.

(f) Compensatory mitigation projects provided to offset losses of aquatic resources must comply with the applicable provisions of 33 CFR part 332.

(1) The prospective permittee is responsible for proposing an appropriate compensatory mitigation option if compensatory mitigation is necessary to ensure that the activity results in no more than minimal adverse environmental effects. For the NWPs, the preferred mechanism for providing compensatory mitigation is mitigation bank credits or in-lieu fee program credits (see 33 CFR 332.3(b)(2) and (3)). However, if an appropriate number and type of mitigation bank or in-lieu credits are not available at the time the PCN is submitted to the district engineer, the district engineer may approve the use of permittee-responsible mitigation.

(2) The amount of compensatory mitigation required by the district engineer must be sufficient to ensure that the authorized activity results in no more than minimal individual and cumulative adverse environmental effects (see 33 CFR 330.1(e)(3)). (See also 33 CFR 332.3(f).)

(3) Since the likelihood of success is greater and the impacts to potentially valuable uplands are reduced, aquatic resource restoration should be the first compensatory mitigation option considered for permittee-responsible mitigation.

(4) If permittee-responsible mitigation is the proposed option, the prospective permittee is responsible for submitting a mitigation plan. A conceptual or detailed mitigation plan may be used by the district engineer to make the decision on the NWP verification request, but a final mitigation plan that addresses the applicable requirements of 33 CFR 332.4(c)(2) through (14) must be approved by the district engineer before the permittee begins work in waters of the United States, unless the district engineer determines that prior approval of the final mitigation plan is not practicable or not necessary to ensure timely completion of the required compensatory mitigation (see 33 CFR 332.3(k)(3)). If permittee-responsible mitigation is the proposed option, and the proposed compensatory mitigation site is located on land in which another federal agency holds an easement, the district engineer will coordinate with that federal agency to determine if proposed compensatory mitigation project is compatible with the terms of the easement.

(5) If mitigation bank or in-lieu fee program credits are the proposed option, the mitigation plan needs to address only the baseline conditions at the impact site and the number of credits to be provided (see 33 CFR 332.4(c)(1)(ii)).

(6) Compensatory mitigation requirements (e.g., resource type and amount to be provided as compensatory mitigation, site protection, ecological performance standards, monitoring requirements) may be addressed through conditions added to the NWP authorization, instead of components of a compensatory mitigation plan (see 33 CFR 332.4(c)(1)(ii)).

(g) Compensatory mitigation will not be used to increase the acreage losses allowed by the acreage limits of the NWPs. For example, if an NWP has an acreage limit of 1/2-acre, it cannot be used to authorize any NWP activity resulting in the loss of greater than 1/2-acre of waters of the United States, even if compensatory mitigation is provided that replaces or restores some of the lost waters. However, compensatory mitigation can and should be used, as necessary, to ensure that an NWP activity already meeting the established acreage limits also satisfies the no more than minimal impact requirement for the NWPs.

(h) Permittees may propose the use of mitigation banks, in-lieu fee programs, or permittee-responsible mitigation. When developing a compensatory mitigation proposal, the permittee must consider appropriate and practicable options consistent with the framework at 33 CFR 332.3(b). For activities resulting in the loss of marine or estuarine resources, permittee-responsible mitigation may be environmentally preferable if there are no mitigation banks or in-lieu fee programs in the area that have marine or estuarine credits available for sale or transfer to the permittee. For permittee-responsible mitigation, the special conditions of the NWP verification must clearly indicate the party or parties responsible for the implementation and performance of the compensatory mitigation project, and, if required, its long-term management.

(i) Where certain functions and services of waters of the United States are permanently adversely affected by a regulated activity, such as discharges of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States that will convert a forested or scrub-shrub wetland to a herbaceous wetland in a permanently maintained utility line right-of-way, mitigation may be required to reduce the adverse environmental effects of the activity to the no more than minimal level.

24. *Safety of Impoundment Structures.* To ensure that all impoundment structures are safely designed, the district engineer may require non-federal applicants to demonstrate that the structures comply with established state or federal, dam safety criteria or have been designed by qualified persons. The district engineer may also require documentation that the design has been independently reviewed by similarly qualified persons, and appropriate modifications made to ensure safety.

25. *Water Quality.* (a) Where the certifying authority (state, authorized tribe, or EPA, as appropriate) has not previously certified compliance of an NWP with CWA section 401, a CWA section 401 water quality certification for the proposed activity which may result in any discharge from a point source into waters of the United States must be obtained or waived (see 33 CFR 330.4(c)). If the permittee cannot comply with all of the conditions of a water quality certification previously issued by the certifying authority for the issuance of the NWP, then the permittee must obtain a water quality certification or waiver for the proposed activity which may result in any discharge from a point source into waters of the United States in order for the activity to be authorized by an NWP.

(b) If the NWP activity requires preconstruction notification and the certifying authority has not previously certified compliance of an NWP with CWA section 401, the proposed activity which may result in any discharge from a point source into waters of the United States is not authorized by an NWP until water quality certification is obtained or waived. If the certifying authority issues a water quality certification for the proposed discharge into waters of the United States, the permittee must submit a copy of the certification to the district engineer. The discharge into waters of the United States is not authorized by an NWP until the district engineer has notified the permittee that the water quality certification requirement has been satisfied (i.e., by the issuance of a water quality certification or a waiver and completion of the Section 401(a)(2) process).

(c) The district engineer or certifying authority may require additional water quality management measures to ensure that the authorized activity does not result in more than minimal degradation of water quality.

26. *Coastal Zone Management.* In coastal states where an NWP has not previously received a state coastal zone management consistency concurrence, an individual state coastal zone management consistency concurrence must be obtained, or a presumption of concurrence must occur (see 33 CFR 330.4(d)). If the permittee cannot comply with all of the conditions of a coastal zone management consistency concurrence previously issued by the state, then the permittee must obtain an individual coastal zone management consistency concurrence or presumption of concurrence in

order for the activity to be authorized by an NWP. The district engineer or a state may require additional measures to ensure that the authorized activity is consistent with state coastal zone management requirements.

27. Regional and Case-By-Case Conditions. The activity must comply with any regional conditions that may have been added by the division engineer (see 33 CFR 330.4(e)) and with any case specific conditions added by the Corps or by the state, Indian Tribe, or U.S. EPA in its CWA section 401 Water Quality Certification, or by the state in its Coastal Zone Management Act consistency determination.

28. Use of Multiple Nationwide Permits. The use of more than one NWP for a single and complete project is authorized, subject to the following restrictions:

(a) The total acreage loss of waters of the United States for a single and complete project cannot exceed the acreage limit of the NWP with the highest specified acreage limit when multiple NWPs are used to authorize an activity.

(b) If only one of the NWPs used to authorize the single and complete project has a specified acreage limit, the acreage loss of waters of the United States for that single and complete project cannot exceed that specified acreage limit. For example, if a road crossing over tidal waters is constructed under NWP 14 (which has an acreage limit of 1/3 acre in tidal waters), with associated bank stabilization authorized by NWP 13 (which does not have a specified acreage limit), the maximum acreage loss of waters of the United States for the total project cannot exceed 1/3-acre.

(c) If two or more of the NWPs used to authorize the single and complete project have specified acreage limits, the acreage loss of waters of the United States authorized by each of those NWPs cannot exceed the specified acreage limits of each of those NWPs. For example, if a commercial development is constructed under NWP 39 (which has a 1/2-acre limit), and the single and complete project includes the filling of a ditch authorized by NWP 46 (which has a 1-acre limit), the maximum acreage loss of waters of the United States for the construction of the commercial development under NWP 39 cannot exceed 1/2-acre, and the total acreage loss of waters of United States caused by the combination of the NWP 39 and NWP 46 activities cannot exceed 1 acre.

29. Transfer of Nationwide Permit Verifications. If the permittee sells the property associated with a nationwide permit verification, the permittee may transfer the nationwide permit verification to the new owner by submitting a letter to the appropriate Corps district office to validate the transfer. A copy of the nationwide permit verification must be attached to the letter, and the letter must contain the following statement and signature:

“When the structures or work authorized by this nationwide permit are still in existence at the time the property is transferred, the terms and conditions of this nationwide permit, including any special conditions, will continue to be binding on the new owner(s) of the property. To validate the transfer of this nationwide permit and the associated

liabilities associated with compliance with its terms and conditions, have the transferee sign and date below.”

(Transferee)

(Date)

30. *Compliance Certification.* Each permittee who receives an NWP verification letter from the Corps must provide a signed certification documenting completion of the authorized activity and implementation of any required compensatory mitigation. The successful completion of any required permittee-responsible mitigation, including the achievement of ecological performance standards, will be addressed separately by the district engineer. The Corps will provide the permittee the certification document with the NWP verification letter. The certification document will include:

- (a) A statement that the authorized activity was done in accordance with the NWP authorization, including any general, regional, or activity-specific conditions;
- (b) A statement that the implementation of any required compensatory mitigation was completed in accordance with the permit conditions. If credits from a mitigation bank or in-lieu fee program are used to satisfy the compensatory mitigation requirements, the certification must include the documentation required by 33 CFR 332.3(l)(3) to confirm that the permittee secured the appropriate number and resource type of credits; and
- (c) The signature of the permittee certifying the completion of the activity and mitigation.

The completed certification document must be submitted to the district engineer within 30 days of completion of the authorized activity or the implementation of any required compensatory mitigation, whichever occurs later.

31. *Activities Affecting Structures or Works Built by the United States.* If an NWP activity also requires review by, or permission from, the Corps pursuant to 33 U.S.C. 408 because it will alter or temporarily or permanently occupy or use a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) federally authorized Civil Works project (a “USACE project”), the prospective permittee must submit a pre-construction notification. See paragraph (b)(10) of general condition 32. An activity that requires section 408 permission and/or review is not authorized by an NWP until the appropriate Corps office issues the section 408 permission or completes its review to alter, occupy, or use the USACE project, and the district engineer issues a written NWP verification.

32. *Pre-Construction Notification.* (a) *Timing.* Where required by the terms of the NWP, the prospective permittee must notify the district engineer by submitting a pre-construction notification (PCN) as early as possible. The district engineer must determine if the PCN is complete within 30 calendar days of the date of receipt and, if

the PCN is determined to be incomplete, notify the prospective permittee within that 30 day period to request the additional information necessary to make the PCN complete. The request must specify the information needed to make the PCN complete. As a general rule, district engineers will request additional information necessary to make the PCN complete only once. However, if the prospective permittee does not provide all of the requested information, then the district engineer will notify the prospective permittee that the PCN is still incomplete and the PCN review process will not commence until all of the requested information has been received by the district engineer. The prospective permittee shall not begin the activity until either:

(1) He or she is notified in writing by the district engineer that the activity may proceed under the NWP with any special conditions imposed by the district or division engineer; or

(2) 45 calendar days have passed from the district engineer's receipt of the complete PCN and the prospective permittee has not received written notice from the district or division engineer. However, if the permittee was required to notify the Corps pursuant to general condition 18 that listed species (or species proposed for listing) or designated critical habitat (or critical habitat proposed for such designation) might be affected or are in the vicinity of the activity, or to notify the Corps pursuant to general condition 20 that the activity might have the potential to cause effects to historic properties, the permittee cannot begin the activity until receiving written notification from the Corps that there is "no effect" on listed species or "no potential to cause effects" on historic properties, or that any consultation required under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (see 33 CFR 330.4(f)) and/or section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (see 33 CFR 330.4(g)) has been completed. If the proposed activity requires a written waiver to exceed specified limits of an NWP, the permittee may not begin the activity until the district engineer issues the waiver. If the district or division engineer notifies the permittee in writing that an individual permit is required within 45 calendar days of receipt of a complete PCN, the permittee cannot begin the activity until an individual permit has been obtained. Subsequently, the permittee's right to proceed under the NWP may be modified, suspended, or revoked only in accordance with the procedure set forth in 33 CFR 330.5(d)(2).

(b) *Contents of Pre-Construction Notification:* The PCN must be in writing and include the following information:

(1) Name, address and telephone numbers of the prospective permittee;

(2) Location of the proposed activity;

(3) Identify the specific NWP or NWP(s) the prospective permittee wants to use to authorize the proposed activity;

(4) (i) A description of the proposed activity; the activity's purpose; direct and indirect adverse environmental effects the activity would cause, including the anticipated

amount of loss of wetlands, other special aquatic sites, and other waters expected to result from the NWP activity, in acres, linear feet, or other appropriate unit of measure; a description of any proposed mitigation measures intended to reduce the adverse environmental effects caused by the proposed activity; and any other NWP(s), regional general permit(s), or individual permit(s) used or intended to be used to authorize any part of the proposed project or any related activity, including other separate and distant crossings for linear projects that require Department of the Army authorization but do not require pre-construction notification. The description of the proposed activity and any proposed mitigation measures should be sufficiently detailed to allow the district engineer to determine that the adverse environmental effects of the activity will be no more than minimal and to determine the need for compensatory mitigation or other mitigation measures.

(ii) For linear projects where one or more single and complete crossings require pre-construction notification, the PCN must include the quantity of anticipated losses of wetlands, other special aquatic sites, and other waters for each single and complete crossing of those wetlands, other special aquatic sites, and other waters (including those single and complete crossings authorized by an NWP but do not require PCNs). This information will be used by the district engineer to evaluate the cumulative adverse environmental effects of the proposed linear project, and does not change those non-PCN NWP activities into NWP PCNs.

(iii) Sketches should be provided when necessary to show that the activity complies with the terms of the NWP. (Sketches usually clarify the activity and when provided results in a quicker decision. Sketches should contain sufficient detail to provide an illustrative description of the proposed activity (e.g., a conceptual plan), but do not need to be detailed engineering plans);

(5) The PCN must include a delineation of waters, wetlands, and other special aquatic sites on the project site. Wetland delineations must be prepared in accordance with the current method required by the Corps. The permittee may ask the Corps to delineate the special aquatic sites and other waters on the project site, but there may be a delay if the Corps does the delineation, especially if the project site is large or contains many wetlands, other special aquatic sites, and other waters. Furthermore, the 45-day period will not start until the delineation has been submitted to or completed by the Corps, as appropriate. For NWP 27 activities that require PCNs because of other general conditions or regional conditions imposed by division engineers, see Note 2 of that NWP;

(6) If the proposed activity will result in the loss of greater than 1/10-acre of wetlands or 3/100-acre of stream bed and a PCN is required, the prospective permittee must submit a statement describing how the compensatory mitigation requirement will be satisfied, or explaining why the adverse environmental effects are no more than minimal and why compensatory mitigation should not be required. As an alternative, the prospective permittee may submit a conceptual or detailed mitigation plan.

(7) For non-federal permittees, if any listed species (or species proposed for listing) or designated critical habitat (or critical habitat proposed for such designation) might be affected or is in the vicinity of the activity, or if the activity is located in designated critical habitat (or critical habitat proposed for such designation), the PCN must include the name(s) of those endangered or threatened species (or species proposed for listing) that might be affected by the proposed activity or utilize the designated critical habitat (or critical habitat proposed for such designation) that might be affected by the proposed activity. For NWP activities that require pre-construction notification, federal permittees must provide documentation demonstrating compliance with the Endangered Species Act;

(8) For non-federal permittees, if the NWP activity might have the potential to cause effects to a historic property listed on, determined to be eligible for listing on, or potentially eligible for listing on, the National Register of Historic Places, the PCN must state which historic property might have the potential to be affected by the proposed activity or include a vicinity map indicating the location of the historic property. For NWP activities that require pre-construction notification, federal permittees must provide documentation demonstrating compliance with section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act;

(9) For an activity that will occur in a component of the National Wild and Scenic River System, or in a river officially designated by Congress as a “study river” for possible inclusion in the system while the river is in an official study status, the PCN must identify the Wild and Scenic River or the “study river” (see general condition 16); and

(10) For an NWP activity that requires permission from, or review by, the Corps pursuant to 33 U.S.C. 408 because it will alter or temporarily or permanently occupy or use a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers federally authorized civil works project, the pre-construction notification must include a statement confirming that the project proponent has submitted a written request for section 408 permission from, or review by, the Corps office having jurisdiction over that USACE project.

(c) *Form of Pre-Construction Notification:* The nationwide permit pre-construction notification form (Form ENG 6082) should be used for NWP PCNs. A letter containing the required information may also be used. Applicants may provide electronic files of PCNs and supporting materials if the district engineer has established tools and procedures for electronic submittals.

(d) *Agency Coordination:* (1) The district engineer will consider any comments from federal and state agencies concerning the proposed activity’s compliance with the terms and conditions of the NWPs and the need for mitigation to reduce the activity’s adverse environmental effects so that they are no more than minimal.

(2) Agency coordination is required for: (i) all NWP activities that require pre-construction notification and result in the loss of greater than 1/2-acre of waters of the United States; (ii) NWP 13 activities in excess of 500 linear feet, fills greater than one

cubic yard per running foot, or involve discharges of dredged or fill material into special aquatic sites; and (iii) NWP 54 activities in excess of 500 linear feet, or that extend into the waterbody more than 30 feet from the mean low water line in tidal waters or the ordinary high water mark in the Great Lakes.

(3) When agency coordination is required, the district engineer will immediately provide (e.g., via email, facsimile transmission, overnight mail, or other expeditious manner) a copy of the complete PCN to the appropriate federal or state offices (FWS, state natural resource or water quality agency, EPA, and, if appropriate, the NMFS). With the exception of NWP 37, these agencies will have 10 calendar days from the date the material is transmitted to notify the district engineer via telephone, facsimile transmission, or email that they intend to provide substantive, site-specific comments. The comments must explain why the agency believes the adverse environmental effects will be more than minimal. If so contacted by an agency, the district engineer will wait an additional 15 calendar days before making a decision on the preconstruction notification. The district engineer will fully consider agency comments received within the specified time frame concerning the proposed activity's compliance with the terms and conditions of the NWPs, including the need for mitigation to ensure that the net adverse environmental effects of the proposed activity are no more than minimal. The district engineer will provide no response to the resource agency, except as provided below. The district engineer will indicate in the administrative record associated with each pre-construction notification that the resource agencies' concerns were considered. For NWP 37, the emergency watershed protection and rehabilitation activity may proceed immediately in cases where there is an unacceptable hazard to life or a significant loss of property or economic hardship will occur. The district engineer will consider any comments received to decide whether the NWP 37 authorization should be modified, suspended, or revoked in accordance with the procedures at 33 CFR 330.5.

(4) In cases where the prospective permittee is not a federal agency, the district engineer will provide a response to NMFS within 30 calendar days of receipt of any Essential Fish Habitat conservation recommendations, as required by section 305(b)(4)(B) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act.

(5) Applicants are encouraged to provide the Corps with either electronic files or multiple copies of preconstruction notifications to expedite agency coordination.

C. District Engineer's Decision

1. In reviewing the PCN for the proposed activity, the district engineer will determine whether the activity authorized by the NWP will result in more than minimal individual or cumulative adverse environmental effects or may be contrary to the public interest. If a project proponent requests authorization by a specific NWP, the district engineer should issue the NWP verification for that activity if it meets the terms and conditions of that NWP, unless he or she determines, after considering mitigation, that the proposed activity will result in more than minimal individual and cumulative adverse effects on the aquatic environment and other aspects of the public interest and exercises discretionary

authority to require an individual permit for the proposed activity. For a linear project, this determination will include an evaluation of the single and complete crossings of waters of the United States that require PCNs to determine whether they individually satisfy the terms and conditions of the NWP(s), as well as the cumulative effects caused by all of the crossings of waters of the United States authorized by an NWP. If an applicant requests a waiver of an applicable limit, as provided for in NWPs 13, 36, or 54, the district engineer will only grant the waiver upon a written determination that the NWP activity will result in only minimal individual and cumulative adverse environmental effects.

2. When making minimal adverse environmental effects determinations the district engineer will consider the direct and indirect effects caused by the NWP activity. He or she will also consider the cumulative adverse environmental effects caused by activities authorized by an NWP and whether those cumulative adverse environmental effects are no more than minimal. The district engineer will also consider site specific factors, such as the environmental setting in the vicinity of the NWP activity, the type of resource that will be affected by the NWP activity, the functions provided by the aquatic resources that will be affected by the NWP activity, the degree or magnitude to which the aquatic resources perform those functions, the extent that aquatic resource functions will be lost as a result of the NWP activity (e.g., partial or complete loss), the duration of the adverse effects (temporary or permanent), the importance of the aquatic resource functions to the region (e.g., watershed or ecoregion), and mitigation required by the district engineer. If an appropriate functional or condition assessment method is available and practicable to use, that assessment method may be used by the district engineer to assist in the minimal adverse environmental effects determination. The district engineer may add activity-specific conditions to the NWP authorization to address site-specific environmental concerns.

3. If the proposed NWP activity requires a PCN and will result in a loss of greater than 1/10-acre of wetlands or 3/100-acre of stream bed, the prospective permittee should submit a mitigation proposal with the PCN. Applicants may also propose compensatory mitigation for NWP activities with smaller impacts, or for impacts to other types of waters. However, compensatory mitigation shall not be required for activities authorized by NWP 27 because those activities must result in net increases in aquatic resource functions and services (see the text of NWP 27). The district engineer will consider any proposed compensatory mitigation or other mitigation measures the applicant has included in the proposal when determining whether the net adverse environmental effects of the proposed NWP activity are no more than minimal. The compensatory mitigation proposal may be either conceptual or detailed. If the district engineer determines that the proposed activity complies with the terms and conditions of the NWP and that the adverse environmental effects are no more than minimal, after considering mitigation, the district engineer will notify the permittee and include any activity-specific conditions in the NWP verification the district engineer deems necessary. Conditions for compensatory mitigation requirements must comply with the appropriate provisions at 33 CFR 332.3(k). The district engineer must approve the final mitigation plan before the permittee commences work in waters of the United States,

unless the district engineer determines that prior approval of the final mitigation plan is not practicable or not necessary to ensure timely completion of the required compensatory mitigation. If the prospective permittee elects to submit a compensatory mitigation plan with the PCN, the district engineer will expeditiously review the proposed compensatory mitigation plan. The district engineer must review the proposed compensatory mitigation plan within 45 calendar days of receiving a complete PCN and determine whether the proposed mitigation would ensure that the NWP activity results in no more than minimal adverse environmental effects. If the net adverse environmental effects of the NWP activity (after consideration of the mitigation proposal) are determined by the district engineer to be no more than minimal, the district engineer will provide a timely written response to the applicant. The response will state that the NWP activity can proceed under the terms and conditions of the NWP, including any activity-specific conditions added to the NWP authorization by the district engineer.

4. If the district engineer determines that the adverse environmental effects of the proposed NWP activity are more than minimal, then the district engineer will notify the applicant either: (a) that the activity does not qualify for authorization under the NWP and instruct the applicant on the procedures to seek authorization under an individual permit; (b) that the activity is authorized under the NWP subject to the applicant's submission of a mitigation plan that would reduce the adverse environmental effects so that they are no more than minimal; or (c) that the activity is authorized under the NWP with specific modifications or conditions. Where the district engineer determines that mitigation is required to ensure no more than minimal adverse environmental effects, the activity will be authorized within the 45-day PCN review period (unless additional time is required to comply with general conditions 16, 18, 20, and/or 31), with activity-specific conditions that state the mitigation requirements. The authorization will include the necessary conceptual or detailed mitigation plan or a requirement that the applicant submit a mitigation plan that would reduce the adverse environmental effects so that they are no more than minimal. When compensatory mitigation is required, no work in waters of the United States may occur until the district engineer has approved a specific mitigation plan or has determined that prior approval of a final mitigation plan is not practicable or not necessary to ensure timely completion of the required compensatory mitigation.

D. Further Information

1. District engineers have authority to determine if an activity complies with the terms and conditions of an NWP.
2. NWPs do not obviate the need to obtain other federal, state, or local permits, approvals, or authorizations required by law.
3. NWPs do not grant any property rights or exclusive privileges.
4. NWPs do not authorize any injury to the property or rights of others.
5. NWPs do not authorize interference with any existing or proposed Federal project (see general condition 31).

E. Nationwide Permit Definitions

Best management practices (BMPs): Policies, practices, procedures, or structures implemented to mitigate the adverse environmental effects on surface water quality resulting from development. BMPs are categorized as structural or non-structural.

Compensatory mitigation: The restoration (re-establishment or rehabilitation), establishment (creation), enhancement, and/or in certain circumstances preservation of aquatic resources for the purposes of offsetting unavoidable adverse impacts which remain after all appropriate and practicable avoidance and minimization has been achieved.

Currently serviceable: Useable as is or with some maintenance, but not so degraded as to essentially require reconstruction.

Direct effects: Effects that are caused by the activity and occur at the same time and place.

Discharge: The term “discharge” means any discharge of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States.

Ecological reference: A model used to plan and design an aquatic ecosystem restoration, enhancement, or establishment activity under NWP 27. An ecological reference may be based on: (1) the structure, functions, and dynamics of an aquatic ecosystem type or a riparian area type that currently exists in the region; (2) the structure, functions, and dynamics of an aquatic ecosystem type or riparian area type that existed in the region in the past; and/or (3) indigenous and local ecological knowledge that apply to the aquatic ecosystem type or riparian area type (i.e., a cultural ecosystem). Cultural ecosystems are ecosystems that have developed under the joint influence of natural processes and human management activities (e.g., fire stewardship). An ecological reference takes into account the range of variation of the aquatic habitat type or riparian area type in the region.

Enhancement: The manipulation of the physical, chemical, or biological characteristics of an aquatic resource to heighten, intensify, or improve a specific aquatic resource function(s). Enhancement results in the gain of selected aquatic resource function(s), but may also lead to a decline in other aquatic resource function(s). Enhancement does not result in a gain in aquatic resource area.

Establishment (creation): The manipulation of the physical, chemical, or biological characteristics present to develop an aquatic resource that did not previously exist at an upland site. Establishment results in a gain in aquatic resource area.

High Tide Line: The line of intersection of the land with the water’s surface at the maximum height reached by a rising tide. The high tide line may be determined, in the absence of actual data, by a line of oil or scum along shore objects, a more or less continuous deposit of fine shell or debris on the foreshore or berm, other physical

markings or characteristics, vegetation lines, tidal gages, or other suitable means that delineate the general height reached by a rising tide. The line encompasses spring high tides and other high tides that occur with periodic frequency but does not include storm surges in which there is a departure from the normal or predicted reach of the tide due to the piling up of water against a coast by strong winds such as those accompanying a hurricane or other intense storm.

Historic Property: Any prehistoric or historic district, site (including archaeological site), building, structure, or other object included in, or eligible for inclusion in, the National Register of Historic Places maintained by the Secretary of the Interior. This term includes artifacts, records, and remains that are related to and located within such properties. The term includes properties of traditional religious and cultural importance to an Indian tribe or Native Hawaiian organization and that meet the National Register criteria (36 CFR part 60).

Independent utility: A test to determine what constitutes a single and complete non-linear project in the Corps Regulatory Program. A project is considered to have independent utility if it would be constructed absent the construction of other projects in the project area. Portions of a multi-phase project that depend upon other phases of the project do not have independent utility. Phases of a project that would be constructed even if the other phases were not built can be considered as separate single and complete projects with independent utility.

Indirect effects: Effects that are caused by the activity and are later in time or farther removed in distance, but are still reasonably foreseeable.

Loss of waters of the United States: Waters of the United States that are permanently adversely affected by filling, flooding, excavation, or drainage because of the regulated activity. The loss of stream bed includes the acres of stream bed that are permanently adversely affected by filling or excavation because of the regulated activity. Permanent adverse effects include permanent discharges of dredged or fill material that change an aquatic area to dry land, increase the bottom elevation of a waterbody, or change the use of a waterbody. The acreage of loss of waters of the United States is a threshold measurement of the impact to jurisdictional waters or wetlands for determining whether a project may qualify for an NWP; it is not a net threshold that is calculated after considering compensatory mitigation that may be used to offset losses of aquatic functions and services. Waters of the United States temporarily filled, flooded, excavated, or drained, but restored to pre-construction contours and elevations after construction, are not included in the measurement of loss of waters of the United States. Impacts resulting from activities that do not require Department of the Army authorization, such as activities eligible for exemptions under section 404(f) of the Clean Water Act, are not considered when calculating the loss of waters of the United States.

Nature-based solutions: Actions to protect, sustainably manage, and restore natural or modified ecosystems, that address societal challenges effectively and adaptively, simultaneously providing human well-being and biodiversity benefits.

Navigable waters: Waters subject to section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899. These waters are defined at 33 CFR part 329.

Non-tidal wetland: A non-tidal wetland is a wetland that is not subject to the ebb and flow of tidal waters. Nontidal wetlands contiguous to tidal waters are located landward of the high tide line (i.e., spring high tide line).

Open water: For purposes of the NWP's, an open water is any area that in a year with normal patterns of precipitation has water flowing or standing above ground to the extent that an ordinary high water mark can be determined. Aquatic vegetation within the area of flowing or standing water is either non-emergent, sparse, or absent. Vegetated shallows are considered to be open waters. Examples of "open waters" include rivers, streams, lakes, and ponds.

Ordinary High Water Mark: The term ordinary high water mark means that line on the shore established by the fluctuations of water and indicated by physical characteristics such as a clear, natural line impressed on the bank, shelving, changes in the character of soil, destruction of terrestrial vegetation, the presence of litter and debris, or other appropriate means that consider the characteristics of the surrounding areas.

Perennial stream: A perennial stream has surface water flowing continuously year-round during a typical year.

Practicable: Available and capable of being done after taking into consideration cost, existing technology, and logistics in light of overall project purposes.

Pre-construction notification: A request submitted by the project proponent to the Corps for confirmation that a particular activity is authorized by nationwide permit. The request may be a permit application, letter, or similar document that includes information about the proposed work and its anticipated environmental effects. Preconstruction notification may be required by the terms and conditions of a nationwide permit, or by regional conditions. A pre-construction notification may be voluntarily submitted in cases where preconstruction notification is not required and the project proponent wants confirmation that the activity is authorized by nationwide permit.

Preservation: The removal of a threat to, or preventing the decline of, aquatic resources by an action in or near those aquatic resources. This term includes activities commonly associated with the protection and maintenance of aquatic resources through the implementation of appropriate legal and physical mechanisms. Preservation does not result in a gain of aquatic resource area or functions.

Re-establishment: The manipulation of the physical, chemical, or biological characteristics of a site with the goal of returning natural/historic functions to a former aquatic resource. Reestablishment results in rebuilding a former aquatic resource and results in a gain in aquatic resource area and functions.

Rehabilitation: The manipulation of the physical, chemical, or biological characteristics of a site with the goal of repairing natural/historic functions to a degraded aquatic resource. Rehabilitation results in a gain in aquatic resource function, but does not result in a gain in aquatic resource area.

Restoration: The manipulation of the physical, chemical, or biological characteristics of a site with the goal of returning natural/historic functions to a former or degraded aquatic resource. For the purpose of tracking net gains in aquatic resource area, restoration is divided into two categories: re-establishment and rehabilitation.

Riffle and pool complex: Riffle and pool complexes are special aquatic sites under the 404(b)(1) Guidelines. Riffle and pool complexes sometimes characterize steep gradient sections of streams. Such stream sections are recognizable by their hydraulic characteristics. The rapid movement of water over a coarse substrate in riffles results in a rough flow, a turbulent surface, and high dissolved oxygen levels in the water. Pools are deeper areas associated with riffles. A slower stream velocity, a streaming flow, a smooth surface, and a finer substrate characterize pools.

Riparian areas: Riparian areas are lands next to streams, lakes, and estuarine-marine shorelines. Riparian areas are transitional between terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems, through which surface and subsurface hydrology connects riverine, lacustrine, estuarine, and marine waters with their adjacent wetlands, non-wetland waters, or uplands. Riparian areas provide a variety of ecological functions and services and help improve or maintain local water quality. (See general condition 23.)

Shellfish seeding: The placement of shellfish seed and/or suitable substrate to increase shellfish production. Shellfish seed consists of immature individual shellfish or individual shellfish attached to shells or shell fragments (i.e., spat on shell). Suitable substrate may consist of shellfish shells, shell fragments, or other appropriate materials placed into waters for shellfish habitat.

Single and complete linear project: A linear project is a project constructed for the purpose of getting people, goods, or services from a point of origin to a terminal point, which often involves multiple crossings of one or more waterbodies at separate and distant locations. The term "single and complete project" is defined as that portion of the total linear project proposed or accomplished by one owner/developer or partnership or other association of owners/developers that includes all crossings of a single water of the United States (i.e., a single waterbody) at a specific location. For linear projects crossing a single or multiple waterbodies several times at separate and distant locations, each crossing is considered a single and complete project for purposes of NWP authorization. However, individual channels in a braided stream or river, or individual arms of a large, irregularly shaped wetland or lake, etc., are not separate waterbodies, and crossings of such features cannot be considered separately.

Single and complete non-linear project: For non-linear projects, the term “single and complete project” is defined at 33 CFR 330.2(i) as the total project proposed or accomplished by one owner/developer or partnership or other association of owners/developers. A single and complete non-linear project must have independent utility (see definition of “independent utility”). Single and complete non-linear projects may not be “piecemealed” to avoid the limits in an NWP authorization.

Stormwater management: Stormwater management is the mechanism for controlling stormwater runoff for the purposes of reducing downstream erosion, water quality degradation, and flooding and mitigating the adverse effects of changes in land use on the aquatic environment.

Stormwater management facilities: Stormwater management facilities are those facilities, including but not limited to, stormwater retention and detention ponds and best management practices, which retain water for a period of time to control runoff and/or improve the quality (i.e., by reducing the concentration of nutrients, sediments, hazardous substances and other pollutants) of stormwater runoff.

Stream bed: The substrate of the stream channel between the ordinary high water marks. The substrate may be bedrock or inorganic particles that range in size from clay to boulders. The substrate may also be comprised, in part, of organic matter, such as large or small wood fragments, leaves, algae, and other organic materials. Wetlands contiguous to the stream bed, but outside of the ordinary high water marks, are not considered part of the stream bed.

Stream channelization: The manipulation of a stream’s course, condition, capacity, or location that causes more than minimal interruption of normal stream processes. A channelized jurisdictional stream remains a water of the United States.

Structure: An object that is arranged in a definite pattern of organization. Examples of structures include, without limitation, any pier, boat dock, boat ramp, wharf, dolphin, weir, boom, breakwater, bulkhead, revetment, riprap, jetty, artificial island, artificial reef, permanent mooring structure, power transmission line, permanently moored floating vessel, piling, aid to navigation, or any other manmade obstacle or obstruction.

Tidal wetland: A tidal wetland is a jurisdictional wetland that is inundated by tidal waters. Tidal waters rise and fall in a predictable and measurable rhythm or cycle due to the gravitational pulls of the moon and sun. Tidal waters end where the rise and fall of the water surface can no longer be practically measured in a predictable rhythm due to masking by other waters, wind, or other effects. Tidal wetlands are located channelward of the high tide line.

Tribal lands: Any lands title to which is either: (1) held in trust by the United States for the benefit of any Indian tribe or individual; or (2) held by any Indian tribe or individual subject to restrictions by the United States against alienation.

Tribal rights: Those rights legally accruing to a tribe or tribes by virtue of inherent sovereign authority, unextinguished aboriginal title, treaty, statute, judicial decisions, executive order or agreement, and that give rise to legally enforceable remedies.

Vegetated shallows: Vegetated shallows are special aquatic sites under the 404(b)(1) Guidelines. They are areas that are permanently inundated and under normal circumstances have rooted aquatic vegetation, such as seagrasses in marine and estuarine systems and a variety of vascular rooted plants in freshwater systems.

Waterbody: For purposes of the NWP, a waterbody is a “water of the United States.” If a wetland is adjacent to a waterbody determined to be a water of the United States, that waterbody and any adjacent wetlands are considered together as a single aquatic unit (see 33 CFR 328.4(c)(2)).

F. Portland District Regional Conditions

1. *Notification:* For permittees that received written NWP verification, upon starting the authorized activities, you shall notify the Corps, Portland District, Regulatory Branch that the work has started. Notification shall be provided by e-mail to cenwp.notify@usace.army.mil and the email subject line shall include the Corps project number and the name of the county where the project is located.

2. *Aquatic Resources of Special Concern:* Pre-construction notification to the district engineer is required for all activities proposed in waters of the United States within, or directly affecting, an aquatic resource of special concern. Aquatic resources of special concern are resources that are difficult to replace, unique, and/or have high ecological function. For the purpose of this regional condition, aquatic resources of special concern are native eel grass (*Zostera marina*) beds, mature forested wetlands, bogs, fens, vernal pools, alkali wetlands, wetlands in dunal systems along the Oregon coast, estuarine wetlands, Willamette Valley wet prairie wetlands, kelp beds, and rocky substrate in tidal waters.

In addition to the content requirements of NWP General Condition 32, the pre-construction notification must include a statement explaining why the effects of the proposed activity are no more than minimal. Written approval from the district engineer must be obtained prior to commencing work.

3. *Cultural Resources and Human Burials-Inadvertent Discovery Plan:* Permittees that discover any previously unknown historic, cultural or archeological remains, artifacts, or burial sites while accomplishing the activity authorized by an NWP shall implement the procedures in the *Inadvertent Discovery Plan* available on the Portland District Regulatory website (<https://www.nwp.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory/Apply/>).

Also see NWP General Condition 20. Notify the Portland district engineer as soon as possible following discovery but in no case later than 24 hours. Notification may be sent electronically (cenwp.notify@usace.army.mil) and shall identify the Corps project number and clearly specify the purpose is to report an inadvertent discovery. The

permittee shall also notify the Corps representative (by email and telephone) identified in the NWP verification letter.

4. *Essential Fish Habitat*: Activities which may adversely affect essential fish habitat, as defined under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA), are not authorized by NWP until essential fish habitat requirements have been met by the applicant and the Corps. Non-federal permittees must submit a pre-construction notification to the district engineer if essential fish habitat may be affected by, or is in the vicinity of, a proposed activity and shall not begin work until notified by the district engineer in writing that the requirements of the essential fish habitat provisions of the MSA have been satisfied and the activity is authorized. The notification must identify the type(s) of essential fish habitat (e.g., Pacific coast salmon, Pacific coast groundfish, and/or Coastal-pelagic species) managed by a Fishery Management Plan that may be affected. Information about essential fish habitat is available on NOAA Fisheries' website (<http://www.westcoast.fisheries.noaa.gov/>).

5. *Bank Stabilization*: Permittee shall include the use of nature-based solutions and natural materials in the project design to the maximum extent practicable and shall minimize the use of rock. Nature-based solutions for bank stabilization include those that increase the strength and structure of soils with a combination of biological and mechanical elements (e.g., vegetation, root wads and woody debris, rock structures). Riparian plantings shall be included in all project designs unless the permittee can demonstrate that such plantings are not practicable.

6. *Work Area Isolation and Dewatering*: Appropriate practices shall be implemented to prevent erosion and to prevent sediments from entering waters of the United States.

- a. All in-water work shall be isolated from the active channel or conducted during low seasonal stream flows to the maximum extent practicable;
- b. Cofferdams shall be constructed of non-erosive material, such as concrete blocks, sand and/or gravel bags, or water bladders. Constructing a cofferdam by pushing material from the streambed or sloughing material from the streambanks is not authorized;
- c. Cofferdams shall be lined with a plastic liner or geotextile fabric to reduce permeability and prevent sediments and/or construction materials from entering waters of the United States;
- d. Upstream and downstream flows shall be maintained by routing flows around the construction site;
- e. When dewatering is necessary for construction, a sediment basin, or other applicable method, shall be used to settle sediments prior to releasing the water back into the waterbody. Settled water shall be returned to the waterbody in such a manner as to avoid erosion. Sediment basins shall be placed in uplands;

and

- f. Fish and other aquatic species must be salvaged (i.e., safely captured and relocated away from the project or development site) prior to dewatering. Contact the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife for additional information regarding fish salvage.

Note: See Regional Condition 10 regarding timeframes for temporary fills and temporary activities.

7. *Sediment Suitability:* For activities that involve dredging or excavating of sediment from waters of the United States and/or the discharge of dredged material into waters of the United States, the permittee shall ensure that any necessary sediment characterization regarding size, composition, and potential contaminants is completed prior to conducting the activity. Sediment characterization must be conducted per the *Sediment Evaluation Framework for the Pacific Northwest* available on the Portland District website (<https://www.nwp.usace.army.mil/Missions/Environmental-Stewardship/DMM/>).

Note: Dredged material means material that is excavated or dredged from waters of the United States. The return water from a contained disposal area is defined as a discharge of dredged material at 33 CFR § 323.2 and requires separate authorization from the district engineer (e.g., by NWP 16).

8. *Mechanized Equipment:* In addition to the requirements in NWP General Condition 11, permittee shall implement the following practices to prevent or minimize impacts to the aquatic environment from mechanized equipment:

- a. Operate equipment from above the ordinary high water mark or high tide line, unless specifically authorized by the district engineer; and
- b. Spill prevention and containment materials shall be maintained and be readily accessible at vehicle staging areas. The amount of spill response materials (such as straw matting/bales, geotextiles, booms, diapers, and other absorbent materials, shovels, brooms, and containment bags) maintained on-site must be appropriate for the size of the authorized activity.

9. *Erosion Control:* During construction and until the site is stabilized, the permittee shall ensure all practicable measures are implemented and maintained to prevent erosion and runoff. Temporary stockpiles of excavated or dredged material shall be stabilized to prevent erosion. Once soils or slopes have been stabilized, permittee shall completely remove all non-biodegradable components of installed control measures.

10. *Temporary Fills and Temporary Activities:* To ensure no more than minimal adverse environmental effects from temporary fills and temporary activities to waters of the United States:

- a. Temporary fills and/or activities in waters of the United States shall not exceed six months unless otherwise approved by the district engineer;
- b. Temporary fills or activities in waters of the United States shall not exceed ½-acre unless otherwise approved by the district engineer;
- c. Native soils and/or sediments removed from waters of the United States for project construction shall be stockpiled and used for site restoration to the maximum extent practicable; and
- d. Waters of the United States affected by temporary fills or temporary activities shall be restored to pre-construction contours and elevations after construction. The permittee shall appropriately revegetate temporarily filled or impacted areas with native, noninvasive herbs, shrubs, and/or tree species sufficient in number, spacing, and diversity to replace affected aquatic functions.

Note: The Corps will determine compensatory mitigation requirements for temporary fills and impacts on a case-by-case basis depending on the duration and nature of the temporary fill or impact and the type of aquatic resource affected.

11. *Water Quality.* For activities where the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Region 10 has previously certified compliance of the NWP with Section 401 of the Clean Water Act, the permittee must comply with the certification general conditions and any NWP-specific certification conditions. The list of NWPs where EPA Region 10 has provided Section 401 certification and the respective conditions are available on the Portland District Regulatory website (<https://www.nwp.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory/Apply/>). See NWP General Condition 25 for additional information.

12. *Coastal Zone Management.* For activities in the coastal zone of Oregon where the Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD) has previously provided state coastal zone management consistency concurrence for the NWP, the permittee must comply with DLCD's coastal zone conditions and any NWP-specific coastal zone conditions. The list of NWPs where DLCD has provided coastal zone management consistency concurrence and the respective conditions, including any exclusions, are available on the Portland District Regulatory website (<https://www.nwp.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory/Apply/>). See NWP General Condition 26 for additional information.

13. *Contractor Notification of Permit Requirements:* The permittee shall provide a copy of the NWP verification letter (when written approval obtained), all conditions, and the permit drawings to all contractors and any other parties performing the authorized work, prior to the commencement of any work in waters of the United States.

14. *Inspection of the Project Site*: The permittee shall allow representatives of the district engineer to inspect the authorized activity to confirm compliance with nationwide permit terms and conditions. A request for access to the site will normally be made sufficiently in advance to allow a property owner or representative the option to be on site during the inspection.

G. Portland District Nationwide Permit-Specific Regional Conditions

None.

H. Portland District Regional Conditions Definitions

a. *Alkali Wetlands*: Alkali wetlands are wetlands as defined in 33 CFR § 328.3(c)(1) that occur in arid regions east of the Cascade Range and have saline or alkaline conditions where evaporation tends to concentrate salts in soils and water. Vegetation consists of plants adapted to saline or alkaline conditions.

b. *Bogs*: Bogs are wetlands as defined in 33 CFR § 328.3(c)(1) with acidic organic soils (pH of <5.5) with no significant inflow or outflow of surface or ground water and generally receive water from direct precipitation. Bogs are characterized by vegetation able to grow in acidic conditions and are often covered by mosses, sedges, and evergreen shrubs and may also have an over story of evergreen trees.

c. *Estuarine Wetlands*: Estuaries are areas where rivers or streams meet the ocean and freshwater and saltwater mix. Estuarine wetlands are wetlands as defined in 33 CFR § 328.3(c)(1) where ocean derived salts measure greater than 0.5 parts per thousand during the period of average annual flow.

d. *Fens*: Fens are wetlands as defined in 33 CFR § 328.3(c)(1) that have organic soils that generally receive drainage from surrounding mineral soils and may include a surface water inlet and outlet. Soils in fens are generally less acidic (pH of >5.5) than bogs and receive waters rich in dissolved minerals. Vegetation in fens typically consists of grasses, sedges evergreen shrubs and may have an over story of evergreen trees.

e. *Kelp Beds*: Kelp beds form on rocky substrate located in shallow subtidal areas, typically in waters between 5 and 25 meters. Kelp stalks are anchored to rocks by a holdfast, which is connected by a flexible stem-like feature to the blades. Gas-filled bladders keep the blades close to the surface where the blades fan out forming a canopy cover. Kelp beds occur when the kelp covers 30% or more of the substrate.

f. *Mature Forested Wetlands*: Mature forested wetlands are wetlands as defined in 33 CFR § 328.3(c)(1) that consist of trees with an aerial cover of 30% or more of the wetland where the average age of trees is 80 years or older or have an average diameter of 18 inches or greater diameter at breast height.

g. *Native Eelgrass (Zostera marina) Beds*: *Zostera marina* is a species of submerged aquatic vegetation that grows on substrates in intertidal and shallow subtidal marine waters. *Z. marina* is a rhizomatous, perennial flowering plant and exhibits both

vegetative growth and reproduction by seed germination. *Z. marina* may form beds that are continuous, semi-continuous to patchy. A *Z. marina* eelgrass bed is defined as a minimum of 3 shoots per 0.25 square meter (1/4 square meter) within 1 meter of any adjacent shoots. To identify the bed boundary, proceed in a linear direction and find the last shoot that is within 1 meter of an adjacent shoot along that transect. The bed boundary (edge) is defined as the point 0.5 meters past that last shoot, in recognition of the average length of the roots and rhizomes extending from an individual shoot¹.

h. *Rocky substrate in tidal waters*: Areas of rocky substrates consist of stones, boulders or bedrock that cover 75% or greater of an area where vegetation and/or macro algae cover less than 30% of the area. Rocky substrates may occur in both intertidal and subtidal marine waters.

i. *Vernal Pools*: Vernal pools are seasonally inundated depressions underlain by an impermeable claypan or hardpan layer. A vernal pool is usually a closed depression without a naturally-occurring inlet or outlet that ponds water in the cool, low evaporation periods of winter and spring in regions with cool moist winters, and dries out during the hot dry summers.

j. *Wetlands in dunal systems along the Oregon coast*: Dunes are ridges and hills of sand formed by the influence of wind and water. Dunal systems along the Oregon coast consist of a complex assembly of beaches, foredunes, hummocks, deflation plains, and transverses, oblique and parabolic dunes located between the Pacific Ocean and the foothills of the Coast Range. Wetlands in the dunal system along the Oregon coast are wetlands as defined in 33 CFR § 328.3(c)(1) that may occur in the deflation plains, depressions, swales or low areas.

k. *Willamette Valley wet prairie wetlands*: Wet prairie wetlands are wetlands as defined in 33 CFR § 328.3(c)(1) that are a type of wetland located in the Willamette Valley characterized by a seasonally high water table or perched water table on clay-rich soils. Wet prairie wetlands are dominated primarily by graminoids, including tufted hairgrass (*Deschampsia caespitosa*), camas (*Camassia quamash*), dense sedge (*Carex densa*), and lateral sedge (*Carex unilateralis*).

¹ Washington Department of Natural Resources. 2012. Technical Memorandum: Operational Definition for Determining Edge of Eelgrass (*Zostera marina*) Presence. A Summary of Workgroup Discussion and Related Analysis. November 2012.
https://www.dnr.wa.gov/Publications/aqr_hcp_2014_app_j_defn_eelgrass_beds.pdf



Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor

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April 14, 2026

Stanley Petrowski
South Umpqua Rural Community Partnership (SURCP)
34620 Tiller-Trail Hwy
Tiller, OR 97484

RE: 401 Water Quality Certification Approval for Project 2025-102, Highland Ditch Dam Removal and Irrigation Efficiency Project

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) has determined that your project will be authorized under Nationwide Permit (NWP) category #33 and #53. As described in the application package received and reviewed by the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), the project qualifies for the expedited 401 Water Quality Certification (WQC), subject to the conditions outlined below. If you cannot meet all conditions of this 401 WQC, you may apply for a standard 401 WQC. A standard 401 WQC will require additional information, a public notice that includes a comment period, and a higher review fee.

Certification Decision: Based on information provided by the USACE and the Applicant, DEQ has determined that implementation of eligible activities under the proposed NWP will be consistent with water quality requirements, including applicable provisions of Sections 301, 302, 303, 306, and 307 of the federal Clean Water Act, state water quality standards set forth in Oregon Administrative Rules (OAR) Chapter 340 Division 41, and other appropriate requirements of state law, provided the following conditions are incorporated into the federal permit and strictly adhered to by the Applicant.

Duration of Certification: This 401 WQC for impacts to waters, including dredge and fill activities, is valid for the duration of the USACE permit.

In addition to all USACE national and regional permit conditions, the following 401 WQC conditions apply to all NWP categories that qualify for the expedited 401 WQC.

401 General Certification Conditions

- 1) **Responsible Parties:** This 401 WQC applies to the Applicant. The Applicant is responsible for the work of its contractors and subcontractors, as well as any other entity that performs work related to this 401 WQC.

Authority: OAR 340-048-0015

Justification: DEQ must be aware of responsible parties to ensure compliance.

- 2) **Work Authorized:** Work authorized by this 401 WQC is limited to the work described in the federal permit application and additional application materials (hereafter "the permit application materials"), unless otherwise authorized by DEQ. If the project is operated in a manner that is

not consistent with the project description contained in the permit application materials, the Applicant is not in compliance with this 401 WQC and may be subject to enforcement.

Authority: OAR 340-048-0015

Justification: To ensure the project will comply with water quality standards, DEQ must understand all work involved in the construction and operation of the project.

- 3) **401 WQC On-Site:** A copy of this 401 WQC must be kept on the job site and readily available for reference by the Applicant and its contractors and subcontractors, as well as by DEQ, USACE, National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), and other state and local government inspectors.

Authority: OAR 340-012

Justification: All parties must be aware of and comply with the 401 WQC, including on-site contractors.

- 4) **Revocation:** DEQ may modify or revoke this 401 WQC, in accordance with OAR 340-048-0050, if the project changes, if the project changes or project activities are having an adverse impact state water quality or beneficial uses, or if the Applicant is otherwise in violation of the conditions of this certification. This condition also fully applies to applicable on-site/off-site mitigation plans.

Authority: OAR 340-048-0050

Justification: To ensure the project will comply with water quality standards, DEQ must understand all work involved in the construction and operation of the project.

- 5) **Land Use Compatibility Statement:** In accordance with OAR 340-048-0020(2) (i), each Applicant must submit findings prepared by the local land use jurisdiction that demonstrates the activity's compliance with the local comprehensive plan. Such findings can be submitted using Section 11 of the Joint Permit Application and must be signed by the appropriate local planning official indicating:

- a. "This project is consistent with the comprehensive plan and land use regulations;" or,
- b. "This project will be consistent with the comprehensive plan and land use regulations when the following ... local approvals are obtained," accompanied by the obtained local approvals.
- c. Rarely, "This project is not regulated by the comprehensive plan and land use regulations" will be acceptable.

In lieu of submitting Section 11 of the Joint Permit Application, the Applicant may use DEQ's Land Use Compatibility Statement form found at: [DEQ Land Use Compatibility Form](#)

Authority: OAR 340-048-0020(2) (i), OAR 340-018

Justification: DEQ must ensure compliance with water quality land use laws at the local level.

- 6) **Access:** The Applicant and its contractors must allow DEQ access, with or without prior notice, to the project site, including staging areas and mitigation sites, to monitor compliance with these 401 WQC conditions, including:
- a. Access to any records, logs, and reports that must be kept under the conditions of this 401 WQC;
 - b. To inspect best management practices (BMPs), monitoring, equipment, or methods; and
 - c. To collect samples or monitor any discharge of pollutants.

Authority: OAR 340-048

Justification: DEQ must inspect facilities for compliance with all state rules and laws.

- 7) **Enforcement:** Failure to comply with this order may result in enforcement, including the issuance of civil penalties or other actions. The Applicant is liable for any violations of this Order caused by the work of its contractors and subcontractors, as well as any other entity that performs work related to this 401 WQC.

Authority: OAR 340-012, OAR 340-048

Justification: If the project is not being constructed or operated as proposed, it may not be consistent with water quality requirements.

For Projects That Propose Construction, The Following General Conditions Apply

- 8) **Erosion and Sediment Control:** During construction, erosion control measures must be implemented to prevent soil from entering waters of the state. The Applicant is required to develop and implement an effective erosion and sediment control plan. Refer to DEQ's Oregon Sediment Erosion Control Manual, February 2021 at:
<https://www.oregon.gov/deq/wq/Documents/wqpBMPManual.pdf>
- a. A project that disturbs more than one acre may be required to obtain a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) 1200-C construction stormwater general permit. Contact the DEQ Stormwater Program for more information at:
<https://www.oregon.gov/deq/wq/wqpermits/Pages/Stormwater-Construction.aspx>
 - b. Unless otherwise authorized by DEQ in writing, the Applicant must:
 - i. Maintain an adequate supply of materials necessary to control erosion at the construction site.
 - ii. Prohibit erosion of stockpiles. Deploy compost berms, impervious materials, or other effective methods during rain events or when stockpiles are not moved or reshaped for more than 48 hours.
 - iii. Inspect erosion control measures daily and maintain erosion control measures as often necessary to ensure the continued effectiveness of measures. Erosion control measures must remain in place until all exposed soil is stabilized.
 - 1. If monitoring or inspection shows that the erosion and sediment controls are ineffective, the Applicant must act immediately to make repairs, install replacements, or install additional controls as necessary.
 - 2. If sediment has reached one-third of the exposed height of a sediment or erosion control, the Applicant must remove the sediment to its original contour.
 - iv. Use removable pads or mats to prevent soil compaction at all construction access points through, and staging areas in, riparian or wetland areas to prevent soil compaction, unless otherwise authorized by DEQ. Tire mats, creosote-treated wood, and other deleterious waste materials are prohibited.

- v. Flag or fence off wetlands not specifically authorized to be impacted to protect them from disturbance and/or erosion.
- vi. Place dredged or other excavated material on upland areas (outside of the ordinary high-water mark or wetland boundary) with stable slopes to prevent materials from eroding back into waterways or wetlands.
- vii. Place clean aggregate at all construction entrances and utilize other BMPs, including, but not limited to, truck or wheel washes, when earth-moving equipment is leaving the site and traveling on paved surfaces. Vehicles are prohibited from tracking sediment off site.
- viii. Upon completion of construction activities, stormwater facilities must be inspected and adequately prepared for post-construction stormwater treatment.
- ix. Upon completion of construction activities, stormwater facilities must be tested to ensure they are working and adequately prepared for post-construction stormwater treatment.

Authority: OAR 340-041-0007(8), ORS 468B.025, ORS 468B.050, OAR 340-045

Justification: DEQ must ensure that pollution does not enter waterways.

- 9) **Deleterious Waste Materials:** The Applicant is prohibited from placing biologically deleterious materials and construction debris where it could enter waters of the state, including wetlands (wetlands are waters of the state). This includes but is not limited to petroleum products, chemicals, cement cured less than 24 hours, welding slag and grindings, concrete saw cutting by-products, sandblasted materials, chipped paint, tires, wire, steel posts, asphalt, and waste concrete.

The Applicant must:

- a. Cure concrete, cement, or grout for at least 24 hours before any contact with waters of the state;
- b. Use only clean fill, free of waste and polluted substances;
- c. Employ all practicable controls to prevent discharges of spills of deleterious materials to surface or groundwater;
- d. Maintain at the project construction site, and deploy as necessary, an adequate supply of materials needed to contain deleterious materials during a weather event;
- e. Remove all foreign materials, refuse, and waste from the project area; and
- f. Employ general good housekeeping practices at all times.

Authority: OAR 340-041-0007(8), ORS 468B 0.25, ORS 468B.050

Justification: DEQ must ensure that pollution does not enter waterways.

- 10) **Spill Prevention:** The Applicant must have a spill prevention and control plan. The Applicant must fuel, operate, maintain, and store vehicles, equipment, and construction materials in

areas that will not disturb habitat directly or have the potential to result in discharges. In general, reasonable precautions and controls must be used to prevent any discharges of petroleum products or other harmful or toxic materials from entering the water due to any in-water activities. In addition, the following specific requirements apply:

- a. Vehicle and motorized equipment staging, cleaning, maintenance, refueling, and fuel storage must take place in a vehicle staging area 150 feet or more from any waters of the state, including wetlands (wetlands are waters of the state). DEQ may approve in writing exceptions to this distance if all practical prevention measures are employed and this distance is not possible because of any of the following site conditions:
 - i. Physical constraints that make this distance not feasible (e.g., steep slopes, rock outcroppings);
 - ii. Natural resource features would be degraded as a result of this setback; or
 - iii. Equal or greater spill containment and effect avoidance is provided even if the staging area is less than 150 feet away from waters of the state, including wetlands (wetlands are waters of the state).
- b. If the staging areas are within 150 feet of any waters of the state, as allowed under subsection (a)(iii) of this condition, full containment of potential contaminants must be provided to prevent soil and water contamination, as appropriate.
- c. All vehicles operated within 150 feet of any waters of the state must be inspected daily for fluid leaks before leaving the vehicle staging area. Any leaks detected in the vehicle-staging area must be repaired before the vehicle resumes operation.
- d. Before operations begin and as often as necessary during operation, equipment must be steam cleaned (or undergo an approved equivalent cleaning) until all visible oil, grease, mud, and other visible contaminants are removed if the equipment will be used below the bank of a waterbody.
- e. All stationary power equipment (e.g., generators, cranes, stationary drilling equipment) operated within 150 feet of any waters of the state must be covered by an absorbent mat to prevent leaks, unless other suitable containment is provided to prevent potential spills from entering any waters of the state.
- f. An adequate supply of materials (such as straw matting/bales, geotextiles, booms, diapers, and other absorbent materials) needed to contain spills must be maintained at the project construction site and deployed as necessary.
- g. All equipment operated in state waters must use bio-degradable hydraulic fluid.
- h. A maintenance log documenting equipment maintenance inspections and actions must be kept on-site and available upon request.

Authority: ORS 466.645(1); ORS 468B.025, OAR 340-142-0030(1)(b)(B), OAR 340-041

Justification: DEQ must ensure that pollution does not enter waterways and must be protective of beneficial uses, including fish.

11) Spill and Incident Reporting:

- a. In the event that petroleum products, chemicals, or any other deleterious materials are discharged into state waters or onto land with a potential to enter state waters, the Applicant must report the discharge to the Oregon Emergency Response Service (OERS, 1-800-452-0311) within 24 hours. The Applicant must immediately begin containment and complete cleanup as soon as possible.
- b. If the project operations cause a water quality problem that results in distressed or dying fish, the operator must immediately cease operations, take appropriate corrective measures to prevent further environmental damage, collect fish specimens and water samples, and notify DEQ, ODFW, and other appropriate regulatory agencies.

Authority: ORS 466.645(1), ORS 468B.025, OAR 340-142-0030(1)(b)(B), OAR 340-041

Justification: DEQ must ensure that pollution does not enter waterways and must be protective of beneficial uses, including fish.

12) Vegetation Protection and Site Restoration:

- a. The Applicant must protect riparian, wetland, and shoreline vegetation not proposed for impact in the authorized project area (as defined in the permit application materials) from disturbance through one or more of the following:
 - i. Minimization of project and impact footprint;
 - ii. Designation of staging areas and access points in open, upland areas;
 - iii. Fencing and other barriers demarking construction areas; and
 - iv. Use of alternative equipment (e.g., spider hoe or crane).
- b. If authorized work results in vegetative disturbance and the disturbance has not been accounted for in planned mitigation actions, the Applicant must successfully reestablish vegetation to a degree of function equivalent to or better than before the disturbance. The standard for success is 80 percent cover for native plant species. The vegetation must be reestablished by the completion of authorized work and include:
 - i. Restoring damaged streambanks to a natural slope, pattern, and profile suitable for establishment of permanent woody vegetation, unless precluded by pre-project conditions (e.g., a natural rock wall);
 - ii. Replanting or reseeding each area requiring revegetation before the end of the first planting season following construction;
 - iii. Planting disturbed areas with native plants and trees in all cases except where the use of non-native plant materials may be essential for erosion control; and
 - iv. The use of invasive species to reestablish vegetation is prohibited.
- c. Pesticides (including herbicides) and fertilizers must be applied per manufacturer's instructions by a professionally licensed applicator. If chemical treatment is necessary,

the Applicant is responsible for ensuring that pesticide application laws, including with the NPDES System 2300-A general permit, are met. Please review the information on the following website for more information: [Pesticide Applications into Surface Waters](#)

- i. For pesticide application within stormwater treatment facilities or within 150 feet of waters of the state, the Applicant must adopt an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) plan that describes pest prevention, monitoring, and control techniques with a focus on prevention of inputs to waters of the state, or coverage under an NPDES permit, if required.
 - ii. Pesticides must only be applied during the dry season and direct water application must be avoided.
 - iii. Unless otherwise approved in writing by DEQ, applying surface fertilizer within stormwater treatment facilities or within 50 feet of any stream channel is prohibited.
 - iv. Install wildlife-friendly fencing as necessary to prevent access to revegetated sites by livestock or unauthorized persons.
- d. Minimize soil compaction, especially in areas that are designated for replanting. If soils are compacted, decompact staging areas and work construction areas prior to replanting. Leave topsoil when possible. Chip materials from clear and grub operation and spread on soil surface, unless cleared areas contained invasive species.

Authority: OAR 340-041, OAR 340-048, ORS 468B.025

Justification: Riparian, wetland, and shoreline vegetation help ensure excess sediment does not enter a waterway and help offset potential temperature impacts. DEQ must ensure that pollution does not enter waterways.

- 13) **Post-Construction Buffers:** The Applicant must provide an undisturbed buffer to all remaining waters of the state on site that averages 50-feet from the delineated boundary, unless a smaller buffer is proposed, necessary, and approved as part of the project. If a local jurisdiction has a more stringent buffer requirement, that requirement will take the place of this certification requirement.

Authority: OAR 340-041, ORS 468B.025

Justification: Riparian, wetland, and shoreline buffers help ensure excess sediment does not enter a waterway and help offset potential temperature impacts. DEQ must ensure that pollution does not enter waterways.

- 14) **Previously Contaminated Soil and Groundwater:** If any contaminated soil or groundwater is encountered, it must be handled and disposed of in accordance with the soil and groundwater management plan for the site, as well as local, state and federal regulations. The Applicant must notify the Environmental Cleanup Section of DEQ at 1-800-452-4011.

Authority: OAR 340-041, ORS 468B.025, OAR 340-122, OAR 340-040

Justification: DEQ must ensure that pollution does not enter waterways. As sediments are disturbed, pollutants could become redistributed.

FOR PROJECTS THAT PROPOSE IN-WATER WORK

- 15) **Fish Protection and ODFW Timing:** The Applicant must perform in-water work only within the ODFW preferred time window as specified in the *Oregon Guidelines for Timing of In-Water Work to Protect Fish and Wildlife Resources* ([ODFW In-Water Work Timing Guidance](#)) or as authorized otherwise under a Department of State Lands (DSL) removal/fill permit. Exceptions

to the timing window must be recommended by ODFW or the NMFS as appropriate and approved by DSL when applicable.

Authority: OAR 340-041-0011

Justification: DEQ must be protective of all water quality standards, including beneficial uses such as fish.

- 16) **Aquatic Life Movements:** Any activity that may disrupt the life cycle movements of aquatic life in the waterbody, including those species that normally migrate through the area, is prohibited. The Applicant must provide unobstructed fish passage at all times during any authorized activity, unless otherwise approved authorized as part of the approved application or authorized by DEQ.

Authority: OAR 340-041-0016; OAR 340-041-0028

Justification: DEQ must be protective of all water quality standards, including beneficial uses such as fish.

- 17) **Isolation of In-Water Work Areas:** The Applicant must isolate in-water work areas from the active flowing stream before in-water work begins, unless otherwise authorized as part of the approved application or authorized by DEQ.

Authority: OAR 340-041, OAR 340-045

Justification: DEQ must ensure that pollution does not enter waterways.

- 18) **Cessation of Work:** The Applicant must cease project operations under high-flow conditions that will result in inundation of the project area. Only efforts to avoid or minimize turbidity or other resource damage as a result of inundation of the exposed project area are allowed during high-flow conditions.

Authority: OAR 340-041

Justification: DEQ must ensure that pollution does not enter waterways.

- 19) **Turbidity:** The Applicant must implement BMPs to minimize turbidity during in-water work. Any activity that causes turbidity to exceed 10 percent above natural stream turbidities is prohibited, except as specifically provided below:

- a. **Monitoring:** Turbidity monitoring must be conducted and recorded as described below. Monitoring must occur at two-hour intervals each day when in-water work is being conducted, including while dewatering or work area isolation measures are in place. Monitoring shall begin at the start of all in-water work activities and continue at two-hour intervals thereafter. A properly calibrated turbidimeter is required **unless another monitoring method is proposed and authorized by DEQ in writing.**
 - i. **Representative Background Point:** The Applicant must take and record a turbidity measurement every two hours during in-water work at an undisturbed area approximately 100 feet up-current from the in-water disturbance unless otherwise authorized by DEQ. The background turbidity, location, date, tidal stage (if applicable), and time must be recorded immediately prior to monitoring down-current at the compliance point described below.
 - ii. **Compliance Point:** The Applicant must monitor every two hours approximately 100 feet directly down-current from the disturbance, at approximately mid-depth of the waterbody, *and within any visible plume*. The turbidity, location, date, tidal stage (if applicable), and time must be recorded for each measurement.

- b. **Compliance:** The Applicant must compare turbidity monitoring results from the compliance points to the representative background levels taken during each two-hour monitoring interval. Pursuant to OAR 340-041-0036, short term exceedances are allowed as follows:

MONITORING WITH A TURBIDIMETER EVERY 2 HOURS	
<i>TURBIDITY LEVEL</i>	<i>RESTRICTIONS TO DURATION OF ACTIVITY</i>
0 to 4.99 NTU above background	No restrictions
5 to 29.99 NTU above background	Work may continue maximum of 4 hours. If turbidity remains 5-29.99 NTU above background, stop work and modify BMPs. Work may resume when NTU is 0-4.99 above background.
30 to 49.99 NTU above background	Work may continue maximum of 2 hours. If turbidity remains 30-49.99 NTU above background, stop work and modify BMPs. Work may resume when NTU is 0-4.99 above background.
50 NTU or more above background	Stop work immediately and inform DEQ

The activity must stop immediately and remain stopped for the remainder of that 24-hour work period if an exceedance reaches 50 NTU or more above background, 30 NTU above background for two hours, or 5NTU above background for four hours.

c. **Reporting:**

- i. Record all turbidity monitoring required by subsections (a) and (b) above in daily logs, which must include calibration documentation; background NTUs; compliance point NTUs; comparison of the background and compliance points in NTUs; and the location, date, time, and tidal stage (if applicable) for each reading.
- ii. Keep records on file for the duration of the permit cycle.
- iii. Prepare a narrative discussing all exceedances with subsequent monitoring, actions taken, and the effectiveness of the actions. The Applicant must make available copies of daily logs for turbidity monitoring to regulatory agencies including DEQ, USACE, NMFS, USFWS, and ODFW upon request. An example turbidity log is attached to this certification.

If turbidity monitoring cannot be conducted due to dry conditions, the Applicant must provide photo documentation with a date and time stamp.

- d. **BMPs to Minimize In-stream Turbidity:** The Applicant must implement the following BMPs, unless authorized in writing by DEQ:
- i. Sequence and phasing of work: The Applicant must schedule work activities to minimize in-water disturbance and duration of in-water disturbances.

- ii. Bucket control: All in-stream digging passes by excavation machinery and placement of fill in-stream using a bucket must be conducted in a manner that will minimize turbidity. All practicable techniques such as employing an experienced equipment operator, not dumping partial or full buckets of material back into the wetted stream, adjusting the volume speed or both of the load, or using a closed-lipped environmental bucket must be implemented.
- iii. The Applicant must limit the number and location of stream-crossing events. The Applicant must establish temporary crossing sites as necessary in the least sensitive areas and amend these crossing sites with clean gravel or other temporary methods as appropriate to prevent the discharge of sediments in the waterbody.
- iv. Machinery may not be driven into the flowing channel unless authorized in writing by DEQ.
- v. Excavated material must be placed so that it is isolated from the water edge or wetlands. Excavated materials may not be placed where it could re-enter waters of the state in an uncontrolled manner.
- vi. Containment measures such as silt curtains, geotextile fabric, and silt fences must be in place and properly maintained in order to minimize in-stream sediment suspension and resulting turbidity.

Authority: OAR 340-041-0036, OAR 340-041

Justification: DEQ must ensure that pollution does not enter waterways.

Specific Conditions for Post-Construction Stormwater Management

- 20) **Post-Construction Stormwater Management:** For projects that propose new impervious surfaces or the redevelopment of existing surfaces, the Applicant must submit a post-construction stormwater management plan to DEQ. The plan must be reviewed and approved prior to construction to ensure compliance with water quality standards. The Applicant must implement BMPs as proposed in the stormwater management plan, including construction, operation, and maintenance. If proposed stormwater facilities change due to site conditions, the Applicant must notify DEQ in writing.

In lieu of a complete stormwater management plan, the Applicant may submit documentation of acceptance of the stormwater into a DEQ-permitted NPDES Phase I Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4).

Authority: ORS 468B.025, ORS 468B.050, OAR 340-045, OAR 340-041

Justification: DEQ must ensure that pollution does not enter waterways.

- 21) **Stormwater Management and System Maintenance:** The Applicant is required to implement effective operation and maintenance practices for the lifetime of the proposed facility. These include but are not limited to:
- a. Protecting stormwater treatment facilities from degradation during construction.

- b. Monitoring facilities for signs of groundwater interception and reconstructing the facilities as needed to prevent interception of sub-surface flow.
- c. Maintenance techniques and frequency for each system component must follow appropriate recommendations in accepted manuals.
- d. Long-term operation and maintenance of stormwater treatment facilities will be the responsibility of entity listed in the post-construction stormwater management plan unless and until an agreement transferring that responsibility to another entity is submitted to DEQ.

Maintenance of stormwater treatment facilities subject to an MS4 permit is regulated by the permit.

Authority: ORS 468B.025, ORS 468B.050, OAR 340-045, OAR 340-041

Justification: DEQ must ensure that pollution does not enter waterways.

- 22) **Corrective Action May Be Required:** DEQ retains the authority to require corrective action in the event the stormwater management facilities are not built or performing as described in the plan.

Authority: ORS 468B.025, OAR 340-041, OAR 340-048

Justification: DEQ must ensure that pollution does not enter waterways.

Category-Specific Conditions

In addition to all national and regional conditions of the USACE permit and the 401 WQC general conditions above, the following conditions apply to the noted specific categories of authorized activities.

NWP 7 – Outfall Structures and Associated Intake Structures:

- 7.1) The following actions are denied expedited 401 WQC:

- a. Discharge outfalls that are not subject to an NPDES permit; and
- b. Outfalls that do not demonstrate pollutant removal to meet water quality standards prior to discharge to waters of the state.

Authority: OAR 340-041, OAR 340-012, OAR 340-048, OAR 340-045

Justification: DEQ must ensure that pollution does not enter waterways. Untreated stormwater is considered pollution.

- 7.2) If an Applicant cannot obtain an NPDES permit or submit a post-construction stormwater management plan that meets DEQ's Guidelines found at: <http://www.oregon.gov/deq/FilterDocs/401wqcertPostCon.pdf>, the Applicant must submit complete project information and a water quality impacts analysis to DEQ in order to undergo a standard 401 WQC evaluation, which includes public participation requirements.

Authority: OAR 340-041, OAR 340-012, OAR 340-048, OAR 340-045

Justification: DEQ must ensure that pollution does not enter waterways. Untreated stormwater is considered pollution.

NWP 13 – Bank Stabilization:

- 13.1) Projects that do not include bioengineering are denied an expedited 401 WQC, unless a registered professional engineer provides a written statement that non-bioengineered solutions are the *only* way to protect an *existing* structure.

Authority: OAR 340-041, OAR 340-012, OAR 340-048

Justification: DEQ must ensure that pollution does not enter waterways. Hard armoring can increase erosion upstream and downstream of the structure.

- 13.2) To apply for certification for a project without bioengineering, the Applicant must submit complete project information and a water quality impacts analysis to DEQ in order to undergo a standard 401 WQC evaluation, which includes public participation requirements.

Authority: OAR 340-041-0059

Justification: DEQ must ensure that pollution does not enter waterways. Hard armoring can increase erosion upstream and downstream of the structure.

NWP 14 – Linear Transportation Projects:

- 14.1) For projects that include bank stabilization, bioengineering must be a component of the project, unless a registered professional engineer provides a written statement that non-bioengineered solutions are the *only* means of protection.

Authority: OAR 340-041, OAR 340-012, OAR 340-048

Justification: DEQ must ensure that pollution does not enter waterways. Hard armoring can increase erosion upstream and downstream of the structure.

NWP 16 – Return Water from Upland Contained Disposal Areas: Water quality criteria and guidance values for toxics, per OAR 340-041-0033, are available in Tables 30, 31, and 40 at: [OAR 340-041 Water Quality Standards](#).

- 16.1) A Modified Elutriate Test (MET) is required for return water in areas with known sediments with contaminants of concern (CoCs). Discharge of return water from contaminated dredged material that exceeds a chronic or acute toxicity water quality standard is prohibited.

Authority: OAR 340-041-0053(b)(A), OAR 340-041

Justification: DEQ must ensure that pollution does not enter waterways.

- 16.2) Water removed with contaminated dredged material that could or does exceed chronic water-quality criteria must be contained and disposed of at an appropriately sized and sealed upland facility by evaporation or infiltration.

Authority: OAR 340-041-0053(b)(A), OAR 340-041

Justification: DEQ must ensure that pollution does not enter waterways.

- 16.3) If a MET is performed for the known CoCs and CoC concentrations are below DEQ chronic water-quality criteria, return water discharge is not limited, provided that the following conditions are met:

- a. The MET must be performed before dredging.
- b. DEQ must approve the list of CoCs and analytical method prior to the Applicant performing the MET.

- c. DEQ must review the results and provide approval of discharge from return water in writing prior to dredging.

Authority: OAR 340-041, OAR 340-012, OAR 340-048

Justification: DEQ must ensure that pollution does not enter waterways.

NWP 20 – Response Operations for Oil or Hazardous Substances:

- 20.1) Coordination with DEQ’s Emergency Response Program is required. See: [DEQ Emergency Response Program](#)

Authority: OAR 340-142-0130(3), OAR 340-041

Justification: DEQ must ensure that pollution does not enter waterways.

NWP 22 – Removal of Vessels:

- 22.1) Coordination with DEQ’s Emergency Response Program is required. See: [DEQ Emergency Response Program](#).

Authority: OAR 340-041, OAR 340-012, OAR 340-048

Justification: DEQ must ensure that pollution does not enter waterways. Vessels may contain various fuels, lubricants, and other possible sources of pollution.

NWP 31 – Maintenance of Existing Flood Control Facilities:

- 31.1) Projects in streams with Temperature TMDLs which result in a net reduction of riparian shade are prohibited.

Authority: OAR 340-041-0028, OAR 340-041

Justification: DEQ must ensure that pollution does not enter waterways.

NWP 38 – Cleanup of Hazardous and Toxic Waste:

- 38.1) For removal of contaminated material from waters, dredging methods are limited to diver-assisted hydraulic suction, hydraulic suction, closed-lipped environmental bucket, or excavation in the dry, unless otherwise authorized by DEQ.

- a. Dredged material disposal must be upland or at a landfill permitted to accept hazardous waste. A DEQ Solid Waste Letter of Authorization or clean fill determination is required, which may include contaminant specific limitations.

Authority: OAR 340-041, OAR 340-012, OAR 340-048

Justification: DEQ must ensure that pollution does not enter waterways.

- 38.2) Discharge to waters of the state resulting from dewatering during dredging or release of return water from an upland facility is prohibited except as provided below:
 - a. All water removed with sediment must be contained and disposed of at an appropriately sized and sealed upland facility by evaporation or infiltration; or
 - b. A Modified Elutriate Test (MET) must be performed for the known Contaminants of Concern (CoCs), and if CoC concentrations are below DEQ chronic water-quality criteria, return water discharge is not limited, provided that the following conditions are met:

- i. The MET must be performed before dredging.
- ii. DEQ must approve the list of CoCs and analytical method prior to the Applicant performing the MET.
- iii. DEQ must review the results and provide approval of discharge from dewatering and return water in writing prior to dredging.

Authority: OAR 340-041, OAR 340-012, OAR 340-048

Justification: DEQ must ensure that pollution does not enter waterways.

- 38.3) Dredged material must be disposed of in compliance with DEQ Rules governing Hazardous Waste (see: [DEQ Hazardous Waste Program](#)) or Solid Waste (see: [DEQ Solid Waste Program](#)).

Authority: OAR 340-041, OAR 340-012, OAR 340-048

Justification: DEQ must ensure that pollution does not enter waterways.

- 38.4) The new in-water surface must be managed to prevent exposure or mobilization of contaminants.

Authority: OAR 340-041, OAR 340-012, OAR 340-048

Justification: DEQ must ensure that pollution does not enter waterways.

NWP 41 – Reshaping Existing Drainage and Irrigation Ditches:

- 41.1) To the extent practicable, the Applicant must work from only one bank in order to minimize disturbance to existing vegetation, preferably the bank with the least existing vegetation.

Authority: OAR 340-041, OAR 340-012, OAR 340-048

Justification: DEQ must ensure that pollution does not enter waterways.

- 41.2) Following authorized work, the Applicant must establish in-stream and riparian vegetation on reshaped channels and side channels using native plant species. Plantings must be targeted to address water quality improvement (e.g., provide shade to water to reduce temperature or provide bank stability through root systems to limit sediment inputs). Planting options may include clustering or vegetating only one side of a channel, preferably the side which provides maximum shade.

Authority: OAR 340-041-0004(5)(a)

Justification: Riparian, wetland, and shoreline buffers help ensure excess sediment does not enter a waterway and helps offset potential temperature impacts. DEQ must ensure that pollution does not enter waterways.

NWP 42 – Recreational Facilities:

- 42.1) For facilities that include turf maintenance actions, the Applicant must develop and implement an Integrated Pest Management Plan (IPM) that describes pest prevention, monitoring, and control techniques with a focus on prevention of chemical and nutrient inputs to waters of the state, including maintenance of adequate buffers for pesticide application near salmonid streams, or coverage under an NPDES permit, if required (information is available at: [Pesticide Applications into Surface Waters](#)).

Authority: OAR 340-041-0033, OAR 340-041

Justification: DEQ must ensure that pollution does not enter waterways, including excess pesticides and fertilizers.

NWP 43 – Stormwater Management Facilities:

43.1) Projects that propose the following elements are denied expedited certification:

- a. In-stream or wetland stormwater facilities; or,
- b. Discharge outfalls not subject to an MS4 NPDES permit.

Authority: OAR 340-041, OAR 340-012, OAR 340-048

Justification: DEQ must ensure that pollution does not enter waterways; stormwater is considered a pollutant.

43.2) To apply for certification for a project with stormwater facilities proposed in wetlands or waters without an NPDES permit or without submittal of an approvable post-construction stormwater management plan per DEQ's Guidelines (at: [DEQ Post-Construction Stormwater Management Guidance](#)), the Applicant must submit complete project information and a water quality impacts analysis to DEQ in order to undergo a standard 401 WQC evaluation, which includes public participation requirements.

Authority: OAR 340-041-0059

Justification: DEQ must ensure that pollution does not enter waterways; stormwater is considered a pollutant.

NWP 44 – Mining Activities:

44.1) Projects that do not obtain an NPDES 700-PM or Individual Permit are denied expedited certification.

Authority: OAR 340-045-0033, OAR 340-041

Justification: DEQ must ensure that pollution does not enter waterways. Excess turbidity can be considered pollution.

44.2) To apply for certification for a project without an NPDES 700-PM or Individual Permit, the Applicant must submit complete project information and a water quality impacts analysis to DEQ in order to undergo a standard 401 WQC evaluation, which includes public participation requirements.

Authority: OAR 340-041-0059

Justification: DEQ must ensure that pollution does not enter waterways.

44.3) The State of Oregon requires an In-Water Blasting Permit to be obtained per OAR 635-425-0000. The Applicant is advised to contact the nearest ODFW office for further information at: [ODFW In-water Timing / Blasting](#)

Authority: OAR 340-041-0011

Justification: DEQ must be protective of all water quality standards, including beneficial uses such as fish.

NWP 51 – Land-Based Renewable Energy Generation Facilities:

51.1) For proposals that include directionally-bored stream or wetland crossings:

- a. All drilling equipment, drill recovery and recycling pits, and any waste or spoil produced, must be completely isolated, recovered, and recycled or disposed of to prevent entry into waters of the state. Recycling using a tank instead of drill recovery/recycling pits is preferable.

- b. In the event that drilling fluids enter a water of the state, the equipment operator must stop work, immediately initiate containment measures, and report the spill to the Oregon Emergency Response System (OERS) at 1-800-452-0311.
- c. An adequate supply of materials needed to control erosion and to contain drilling fluids must be maintained at the project construction site and deployed as necessary.
- d. The Applicant must have a contingency plan in place prior to construction for the inadvertent return of drilling lubricant.

Authority: OAR 340-041, OAR 340-012, OAR 340-048

Justification: DEQ must ensure that pollution does not enter waterways

NWP 53 – Removal of Low-Head Dams:

- 53.1) Projects that do *not* go through a Portland Sediment Evaluation Team (PSET) review if sediments are being dispersed are denied expedited 401 WQC.

Authority: OAR 340-041, OAR 340-012, OAR 340-048

Justification: DEQ must ensure that pollution does not enter waterways. Sediments can be a carrier of contaminants.

- 53.2) To apply for certification for a project without a PSET review, the Applicant must submit complete project information and a water quality impacts analysis to DEQ in order to undergo a standard 401 WQC evaluation, which includes public participation requirements.

Authority: OAR 340-041-0059

Justification: DEQ must ensure that pollution does not enter waterways. Sediments can be a carrier of contaminants.

NWP 54 – Living Shorelines:

- 54.1) Projects that do not include bioengineering are denied expedited certification, unless a registered professional engineer provides a written statement that non-bioengineered solutions are the *only* means of protection.

Authority: OAR 340-041, OAR 340-012, OAR 340-048

Justification: DEQ must ensure that pollution does not enter waterways. Hard armoring can increase erosion in the system.

- 54.2) To apply for certification for a project without bioengineering, the Applicant must submit complete project information and a water quality impacts analysis to DEQ in order to undergo a standard 401 WQC evaluation, which includes public participation requirements.

Authority: OAR 340-041-0059

Justification: DEQ must ensure that pollution does not enter waterways. Hard armoring can increase erosion upstream and downstream of the structure.

NWP 57 – Electric Utility Line and Telecommunications Activities:

- 57.1) For proposals that include directionally-bored stream or wetland crossings:

- a. All drilling equipment, drill recovery and recycling pits, and any waste or spoil produced, must be completely isolated, recovered, and recycled or disposed of to prevent entry

into waters of the state. Recycling using a tank instead of drill recovery/recycling pits is preferable.

- b. In the event that drilling fluids enter a water of the state, the equipment operator must stop work, immediately initiate containment measures, and report the spill to the Oregon Emergency Response System (OERS) at 1-800-452-0311.
- c. An adequate supply of materials needed to control erosion and to contain drilling fluids must be maintained at the project construction site and deployed as necessary.
- d. The Applicant must have a contingency plan in place prior to construction for the inadvertent return of drilling lubricant.

Authority: OAR 340-142-0030, OAR 340-142-0040(1)

Justification: *Drilling equipment and fluids that enter a waterbody would likely cause contamination of that waterbody.*

- 57.2) For proposals that include utility lines through wetlands, include anti-seep collars or equivalent technology to prevent draining the wetlands.

Authority: OAR 340-041, OAR 340-012, OAR 340-048

Justification: *DEQ must ensure that pollution does not enter waterways*

NWP 58 – Utility Line Activities for Water and Other Substances:

- 58.1) For proposals that include directionally-bored stream or wetland crossings:

- a. All drilling equipment, drill recovery and recycling pits, and any waste or spoil produced, must be completely isolated, recovered, and recycled or disposed of to prevent entry into waters of the state. Recycling using a tank instead of drill recovery/recycling pits is preferable.
- b. In the event that drilling fluids enter a water of the state, the equipment operator must stop work, immediately initiate containment measures, and report the spill to the Oregon Emergency Response System (OERS) at 1-800-452-0311.
- c. An adequate supply of materials needed to control erosion and to contain drilling fluids must be maintained at the project construction site and deployed as necessary.
- d. The Applicant must have a contingency plan in place prior to construction for the inadvertent return of drilling lubricant.

Authority: OAR 340-142-0030, OAR 340-142-0040(1)

Justification: *Drilling equipment and fluids that enter a waterbody would likely cause contamination of that waterbody.*

- 58.2) For proposals that include utility lines through wetlands, include anti-seep collars or equivalent technology to prevent draining the wetlands.

- 58.3) For proposals that include new water in-take facilities and withdrawals, a thermal modeling plan must be submitted to DEQ.

Authority: OAR 340-041-0028

Project Name: Highland Ditch Dam Removal and Irrigation Efficiency Project
Project Number: 2025-102

Justification: *DEQ must protect designated temperature-sensitive, beneficial uses, including specific salmonid life cycle stages in waters of the State.*

If the Applicant is dissatisfied with the conditions contained in this certification, a hearing may be requested. Such a request must be made in writing to DEQ's Office of Compliance and Enforcement at 700 NE Multnomah Street, Suite 600, Portland, Oregon 97232 within 20 days of the mailing of this certification.

The DEQ hereby certifies that this project complies with the Clean Water Act and state rules, with the above conditions. If you have any questions, please contact 401certifications@deq.oregon.gov or at the address on this letterhead.

Sincerely,



Theresa Burcsu,
Water Quality Manager
Northwest Region

ec: Alex Holecek, USACE
Bryan Gillooly, DSL
Joey Howard, Cascade Stream Solutions LLC

401 Water Quality Certification Turbidity Monitoring Report

Project Name:	USACE Project #	DSL Project #

Name of Inspector(s): Turbiditymeter Model: Calibration Standard Type (Circle One) Formazin Solution or Gelex Calibration Standard Expiration Date:		Sampling Date:	
Calibration Values: _____ NTU (Standard) = _____ NTU (Reading) _____ NTU (Standard) = _____ NTU (Reading) _____ NTU (Standard) = _____ NTU (Reading)		*Upstream (Background) Point Location: Latitude: Longitude:	*Downstream (Compliance) Point Location: Latitude: Longitude:

In-Water Work Start Time:	In-Water Work End Time:	Description of In-Water Work:

[illegible]

401 Water Quality Certification Turbidity Monitoring Report

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** Include a figure with the turbidity sampling forms showing the sampling locations.*

Turbidity: The Applicant must implement appropriate Best Management Practices (BMPs) to minimize turbidity during in-water work. Any activity that causes turbidity to exceed 10% above natural stream turbidity is prohibited except as specifically provided below:

Monitoring: Turbidity monitoring must be conducted and recorded as described below. Monitoring must occur at two-hour intervals each day when in-water work is being conducted, including while dewatering or work area isolation measures are in place. Monitoring shall begin at the start of all in-water work activities and continue at two-hour intervals thereafter. A properly calibrated turbidimeter is required unless another monitoring method is proposed and authorized by DEQ.

Representative Background Point: The Applicant must take and record a turbidity measurement every two hours during in-water work at an undisturbed area. A background location shall be established at a representative location approximately 100 feet up-current of the in water activity unless otherwise authorized by DEQ. The background turbidity, location, date, tidal stage (if applicable), and time must be recorded immediately prior to monitoring down-current at the compliance point described below.

Compliance Point: The Applicant must monitor every two hours. A compliance location shall be established at a representative location approximately 100 feet directly down-current from the disturbance at approximately mid-depth of the waterbody and within any visible plume. The turbidity, location, date, tidal stage (if applicable), and time must be recorded for each measurement.

Compliance: The Applicant must compare turbidity monitoring results from the compliance points to the representative background levels taken during each two-hour monitoring interval. Pursuant to OAR 340-041-0036, short term exceedances of the turbidity water quality standard are allowed as shown in the monitoring table shown here.

Reporting: The Applicant must record all turbidity monitoring required by Condition #19 in daily logs that are kept on file for the duration of the permit cycle. The daily logs must include calibration documentation, background NTUs, compliance point NTUs, comparison of the points in NTUs, location, date, time, and tidal stage (if applicable) for each reading. Additionally, a narrative must be prepared discussing all exceedances with subsequent monitoring, actions taken, and the effectiveness of the actions. The Applicant must make available copies of daily logs for turbidity monitoring to DEQ, USACE, NMFS, USFWS, and ODFW upon request.

BMPs to Minimize In-stream Turbidity: The Applicant must implement the following BMPs, unless otherwise accepted by DEQ:

- Sequence/Phasing of Work – The Applicant must schedule work activities so as to minimize in-water disturbance and duration of in-water disturbances;
- Bucket control – All in-stream digging passes by excavation machinery and placement of fill in-stream using a bucket must be completed so as to minimize turbidity. All practicable techniques such as employing an experienced equipment operator, not dumping partial or full buckets of material back into the wetted stream, adjusting the volume and/or speed of the load, or using a closed-lipped environmental bucket must be implemented;
- The Applicant must limit the number and location of stream-crossing events. Establish temporary crossing sites as necessary in the least sensitive areas and amend these crossing sites with clean gravel or other temporary methods as appropriate;
- Machinery may not be driven into the flowing channel, unless authorized by DEQ; and
- Excavated material must be placed so that it is isolated from the water edge or wetlands, and not placed where it could re-enter waters of the state uncontrolled.

MONITORING WITH A TURBIDIMETER EVERY 2 HOURS	
TURBIDITY LEVEL	Restrictions to Duration of Activity
0 to 4.99 NTU above background	No Restrictions
5 to 29.99 NTU above background	Work may continue maximum of 4 hours. If turbidity remains 5-29 NTU above background, stop work and modify BMPs. Work may resume when NTU is 0-4.99 above background.
30 to 49.99 NTU above background	Work may continue maximum of 2 hours. If turbidity remains 30-49.99 NTU above background, stop work and modify BMPs. Work may resume when NTU is 0-4.99 above background.
50 NTU or more above background	Stop work immediately and inform DEQ

