



STATE OF IDAHO
DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

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www.deq.idaho.gov

Governor Brad Little
Director John H. Tippetts

April 1, 2019

Nathaniel Davis
115 Falcon Ridge Road
Kooskia, Idaho 83539

Subject: FINAL 401 Water Quality Certification for NWW-2019-89, Culvert Replacement Big Cedar Creek.

Dear Mr. Nathaniel Davis

Section 401 of the Clean Water Act requires that states issue certifications for activities which are authorized by a federal permit and which may result in the discharge to surface waters. In Idaho, the DEQ is responsible for reviewing these activities and evaluating whether the activity will comply with Idaho's Water Quality Standards, including any applicable water quality management plans (e.g., total maximum daily loads). A federal discharge permit cannot be issued until DEQ has provided certification or waived certification either expressively, or by taking no action.

This letter is to inform you that DEQ has evaluated the information submitted to us by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and is issuing the attached 401 certification, subject to the terms and conditions contained therein.

Please contact me at 208-799-4370 if you have any questions or further information to submit to DEQ.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John Cardwell".

John Cardwell
Regional Administrator
Lewiston Regional Office

c: Loren Moore, DEQ State Office
Duane E. Mitchell, USACE
Sujata Connell, DEQ LRO
Bill Lillibridge, Idaho SWCC



Idaho Department of Environmental Quality Final §401 Water Quality Certification

April 1, 2019

404 Permit Application Number: NWW-2019-89, Culvert Replacement Big Cedar Creek

Applicant/Authorized Agent: Nathaniel Davis

Project Location: Latitude: 46.06515, Longitude: -115.84499

Receiving Water Body: Big Cedar Creek

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

Based upon its review of the joint application for permit, received on February 20, 2019, DEQ certifies that if the permittee complies with the terms and conditions imposed by the permit along with the conditions set forth in this water quality certification, then there is reasonable assurance the activity will comply with the applicable requirements of Sections 301, 302, 303, 306, and 307 of the Clean Water Act, the Idaho Water Quality Standards (WQS) (IDAPA 58.01.02), and other appropriate water quality requirements of state law.

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

Project Description

This project will replace an undersized culvert with a 11.5 feet wide by 4.5 feet tall open bottom arch culvert for the purpose of improving fish passage and increasing flow from storm events. A total of 95 cubic yards of rock will be discharged into Big Cedar Creek. The existing road width will increase from 15 feet to 17 feet. Headwalls and wing walls will be installed upstream and downstream of culvert. Instream channel work will consist of discharging 4 to 16 inch clean riprap and 9 inch native cobble overlay. Stream channel and streambank will be stabilized downstream of the culvert by constructing stepped scour pools and riprap basins.

Antidegradation Review

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

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

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

Pollutants of Concern

The primary pollutant of concern for this project is sediment. As part of the Section 401 water quality certification, DEQ is requiring the applicant comply with various conditions to protect water quality and to meet Idaho WQS, including the water quality criteria applicable to sediment.

Receiving Water Body Level of Protection

This project is located on Big Cedar Creek within the Middle Fork Clearwater Subbasin assessment unit (AU) ID17060304CL002_02 (Clear Creek - South Fork Clear Creek to mouth). This AU has not yet been designated. DEQ presumes most waters in the state will support cold water aquatic life and contact recreation beneficial uses, undesignated waters are protected for these uses (IDAPA 58.01.02.101.01.a). In addition to these uses, all waters of the state are protected for agricultural and industrial water supply, wildlife habitat, and aesthetics (IDAPA 58.01.02.100).

According to DEQ's 2014 Integrated Report, this receiving water body AU is unassessed. A 2016 Beneficial Use Reconnaissance Program (BURP) survey (DEQ 2016) shows fish presence of successful reproduction size, indicating this AU is considered high quality for cold water aquatic life beneficial use (IDAPA 58.01.02.052.05.a). As such, DEQ will provide Tier II protection in addition to Tier I for the aquatic life use (IDAPA 58.01.02.051.02; 58.01.02.051.01). The contact recreation beneficial use is unassessed. However, the only pollutant of concern associated with this project is sediment. Sediment is not relevant to recreational beneficial uses and project activities are not expected to contribute sources of

Escherichia coli bacteria that could affect the recreation use, therefore it is unnecessary for DEQ to conduct a Tier II analysis for the contact recreation beneficial use.

Protection and Maintenance of Existing Uses (Tier I Protection)

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

During the construction phase, the applicant will implement, install, maintain, monitor, and adaptively manage best management practices (BMPs) directed toward reducing erosion and minimizing turbidity levels in receiving water bodies downstream of the project. In addition, permanent erosion and sediment controls will be implemented, which will minimize or prevent future sediment contributions from the project area. As long as the project is conducted in accordance with the provisions of the project plans, Section 404 permit, and conditions of this certification, then there is reasonable assurance the project will comply with the state's numeric and narrative criteria. These criteria are set at levels that protect and maintain designated and existing beneficial uses.

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

High-Quality Waters (Tier II Protection)

Big Cedar Creek is unassessed however a 2016 DEQ BURP survey shows fish presence of Chinook salmon, speckled dace, sculpin, and rainbow trout of successful reproduction size and therefore this AU is considered high quality for cold water aquatic life. As such, the water quality relevant to this use must be maintained and protected, unless a lowering of water quality is deemed necessary to accommodate important social or economic development.

To determine whether degradation will occur, DEQ must evaluate how the permit issuance will affect water quality for sediment, the only pollutant of concern relevant to the cold water aquatic life beneficial uses of Big Cedar Creek (IDAPA 58.01.02.052.06). Best management practices will be implemented during construction to minimize impacts on water quality including: all rock discharged will be clean and without fines, work will take place during the low flow season, equipment management shall be done to minimize disturbance to riparian areas, and all disturbed work areas will be replanted with native grasses and woody species. In the event that work cannot be completed during seasonal dry periods (July 15th – October 30th) stream flow will be diverted by cofferdam and pipe around the project site to minimize suspended sediment during construction. As such, the project complies with IDAPA 58.01.02.051.02 and IDAPA 58.01.02.052.06.

In order to maintain the ambient water quality conditions, permanent erosion and sediment controls must be implemented which will minimize or prevent future sediment contributions

from the project area. The provisions in the 404 permit, coupled with the conditions of this certification, ensure that degradation to Big Cedar Creek will not occur. Therefore, DEQ concludes that this project complies with the Tier II provisions of Idaho's WQS (IDAPA 58.01.02.051.02; 58.01.02.052.06 and 58.01.02.052.08).

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

General Conditions

1. This certification is conditioned upon the requirement that any modification (e.g., change in BMPs, work windows, etc.) of the permitted activity shall first be provided to DEQ for review to determine compliance with Idaho WQS and to provide additional certification pursuant to Section 401. Such modifications may not be implemented until DEQ has determined whether additional certification is necessary.
2. DEQ reserves the right to modify, amend, or revoke this certification if DEQ determines that, due to changes in relevant circumstances—including without limitation, changes in project activities, the characteristics of the receiving water bodies, or state WQS—there is no longer reasonable assurance of compliance with WQS or other appropriate requirements of state law.
3. If ownership of the project changes, the certification holder shall notify DEQ, in writing, upon transferring this ownership or responsibility for compliance with these conditions to another person or party. The new owner/operator shall request, in writing, the transfer of this water quality certification to his/her name.
4. Project areas shall be clearly identified in the field prior to initiating land-disturbing activities to ensure avoidance of impacts to waters of the state beyond project footprints.
5. The applicant shall provide access to the project site and all mitigation sites upon request by DEQ personnel for site inspections, monitoring, and/or to ensure that conditions of this certification are being met.
6. The applicant is responsible for all work done by contractors and must ensure the contractors are informed of and follow all the conditions described in this certification and the Section 404 permit.
7. If this project disturbs more than 1 acre and there is potential for discharge of stormwater to waters of the state, coverage under the EPA Stormwater Construction General Permit *must* be obtained. More information can be found at <https://www.epa.gov/npdes-permits/stormwater-discharges-construction-activities-region-10>.

Fill Material

1. Fill material subject to suspension shall be free of easily suspended fine material. The fill material to be placed shall be clean material only.
2. Fill material shall not be placed in a location or in a manner that impairs surface or subsurface water flow into or out of any wetland area.

3. Placement of fill material in existing vegetated wetlands shall be minimized to the greatest extent possible.
4. All temporary fills shall be removed in their entirety on or before construction completion.
5. Excavated or staged fill material must be placed so it is isolated from the water edge or wetlands and not placed where it could re-enter waters of the state uncontrolled.

Erosion and Sediment Control

1. BMPs for sediment and erosion control suitable to prevent exceedances of state WQS shall be selected and installed before starting construction at the site. One resource that may be used in evaluating appropriate BMPs is DEQ's *Catalog of Stormwater Best Management Practices for Idaho Cities and Counties*, available online at <http://www.deq.idaho.gov/media/494058-entire.pdf>. Other resources may also be used for selecting appropriate BMPs.
2. One of the first construction activities shall be placing permanent and/or temporary erosion and sediment control measures around the perimeter of the project or initial work areas to protect the project water resources.
3. Permanent erosion and sediment control measures shall be installed in a manner that will provide long-term sediment and erosion control to prevent excess sediment from entering waters of the state.
4. Top elevations of bank stabilization shall be such that adequate freeboard is provided to protect from erosion at 100-year design flood elevation.
5. Structural fill or bank protection shall consist of materials that are placed and maintained to withstand predictable high flows in the waters of the state.
6. A BMP inspection and maintenance plan must be developed and implemented. At a minimum, BMPs must be inspected and maintained daily during project implementation.
7. BMP effectiveness shall be monitored during project implementation. BMPs shall be replaced or augmented if they are not effective.
8. All construction debris shall be properly disposed of so it cannot enter waters of the state or cause water quality degradation.
9. Disturbed areas suitable for vegetation shall be seeded or revegetated to prevent subsequent soil erosion.
10. Maximum fill slopes shall be such that material is structurally stable once placed and does not slough into the stream channel during construction, during periods prior to revegetation, or after vegetation is established.
11. To the extent reasonable and cost-effective, the activity submitted for certification shall be designed to minimize subsequent maintenance.
12. Sediment from disturbed areas or able to be tracked by vehicles onto pavement must not be allowed to leave the site in amounts that would reasonably be expected to enter waters of the state. Placement of clean aggregate at all construction entrances or exits and other BMPs such as truck or wheel washes, if needed, must be used when earth-moving equipment will be leaving the site and traveling on paved surfaces.

Turbidity

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

In-water Work

1. Work in open water is to be kept at a minimum and only when necessary. Equipment shall work from an upland site to minimize disturbance of waters of the state. If this is not practicable, appropriate measures must be taken to ensure disturbance to the waters of the state is minimized.
2. Construction affecting the bed or banks shall take place only during periods of low flow.
3. Forging of the channel is not permitted. Temporary bridges or other structures shall be built if crossings are necessary.
 - a. Temporary crossings must be perpendicular to channels and located in areas with the least impact. The temporary crossings must be supplemented with clean gravel or treated with other mitigation methods at least as effective in reducing impacts. Temporary crossings must be removed as soon as possible after the project is completed or the crossing is no longer needed.
4. Heavy equipment working in wetlands shall be placed on mats or suitably designed pads to prevent damage to the wetlands.
5. Activities in spawning areas must be avoided to the maximum extent practicable.
6. Work in waters of the state shall be restricted to areas specified in the application.
7. Activities that include constructing and maintaining intake structures must include adequate fish screening devices to prevent fish entrainment or capture.
8. Stranded fish found in dewatered segments should be moved to a location (preferably downstream) with water.
9. To minimize sediment transport, stream channel or stream bank stabilization must be completed prior to returning water to a dewatered segment.

Pollutants/Toxics

1. The use of chemicals such as soil stabilizers, dust palliatives, sterilants, growth inhibitors, fertilizers, and deicing salts during construction and operation should be limited to the

best estimate of optimum application rates. All reasonable measures shall be taken to avoid excess application and introduction of chemicals into waters of the state.

Vegetation Protection and Restoration

1. Disturbance of existing wetlands and native vegetation shall be kept to a minimum.
2. To the maximum extent practical, staging areas and access points should be placed in open, upland areas.
3. Fencing and other barriers should be used to mark the construction areas.
4. If authorized work results in unavoidable vegetative disturbance, riparian and wetland vegetation shall be successfully reestablished to function for water quality benefit at pre-project levels or improved at the completion of authorized work.

Dredge Material Management

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

Management of Hazardous or Deleterious Materials

1. Petroleum products and hazardous, toxic, and/or deleterious materials shall not be stored, disposed of, or accumulated adjacent to or in the immediate vicinity of waters of the state. Adequate measures and controls must be in place to ensure that those materials will not enter waters of the state as a result of high water, precipitation runoff, wind, storage facility failure, accidents in operation, or unauthorized third-party activities.
2. Daily inspections of all fluid systems on equipment to be used in or near waters of the state shall be done to ensure no leaks or potential leaks exist prior to equipment use. A log book of these inspections shall be kept on site and provided to DEQ upon request.
3. Equipment and machinery must be removed from the vicinity of the waters of the state prior to refueling, repair, and/or maintenance.
4. Equipment and machinery shall be steam cleaned of oils and grease in an upland location or staging area with appropriate wastewater controls and treatment prior to entering a water of the state. Any wastewater or wash water must not be allowed to enter a water of the state.
5. Emergency spill procedures shall be in place and may include a spill response kit (e.g., oil absorbent booms or other equipment).
6. In accordance with IDAPA 58.01.02.850, in the event of an unauthorized release of hazardous material to state waters or to land such that there is a likelihood that it will enter state waters, the responsible persons in charge must
 - a. Make every reasonable effort to abate and stop a continuing spill.
 - b. Make every reasonable effort to contain spilled material in such a manner that it will not reach surface or ground waters of the state.
 - c. Call 911 if immediate assistance is required to control, contain, or clean up the spill. If no assistance is needed in cleaning up the spill, contact the appropriate DEQ regional office during normal working hours or Idaho State Communications Center

after normal working hours (1-800-632-8000). If the spilled volume is above federal reportable quantities, contact the National Response Center (1 800-424-8802).

- Lewiston Regional Office: 208-799-4370 / 877-541-3304
- d. Collect, remove, and dispose of the spilled material in a manner approved by DEQ.

Right to Appeal Final Certification

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

Questions or comments regarding the actions taken in this certification should be directed to Mark Sellet at (208) 799-4370.



John Cardwell
Region Administration
Lewiston Regional Office