



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
SEATTLE DISTRICT. CORPS OF ENGINEERS
P. O. BOX 3755
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON 98124-3755

CENWS-PM-PL-ER

REHABILITATION OF FLOOD CONTROL WORKS
LIGHTNING CREEK LEVEE
BONNER COUNTY, IDAHO

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

1. Background. The Seattle District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) is proposing to repair and reconstruct Lightning Creek Levee, located on Lightning Creek in Clark Fork, Idaho, in August. The levee is located on the left bank of Lightning Creek extending from US Highway 200 to high ground approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ mile upstream. The levee protects commercial structures, residential property, and adjacent infrastructure.

On 7 November 2006, a flood with a peak flow of 16,300 cubic feet per second (cfs) damaged the levee slope protection and toe. The damage was obscured until low water during the summer of 2007. The City of Clark Fork subsequently requested assistance for the rehabilitation in July of 2007. A special exemption was obtained from United States Army Corps of Engineers headquarters (HQUSACE) to allow this project to proceed as the request came well outside the 30 day assistance request window identified in Engineering Regulation 500-1-1. The severe erosion resulted in armor rock being lost and damage to the toe. The Corps is proposing the following project under the authority of Public Law 84-99 (33 USCA 701n).

2. Purpose and Need. The purpose of this project is to provide protection to the community and infrastructure from flood damage. This section of the levee sustained significant damage by erosion during a flood event in November 2006, and is in need of repair.

In the absence of repairs, the risk of levee failure during in the next substantial flood event would be unacceptably high. The results of a failure would include damages of a significant number of structures, including portions of the state highway infrastructure.

3. Project Description. The proposed project will re-grade the levee in the 1,200 foot damaged section assuming a typical cross section of: top twelve feet, slope twenty eight and 1/2 feet, and toe nine feet long by four feet thick. The work would involve excavation of the streambed to key in the toe of the riprap. The boundaries of the historic levee footprint will be maintained. The slope will be armored with class IV riprap.

4. Summary of Impacts. The primary impacts of this action will be temporary dewatering of a high flow side channel adjacent to the subject levee where bull trout use has been documented. The Corps, based on the best factual and technical information available at this time, has determined that the impacts of dewatering are likely to adversely affect ESA-threatened bull

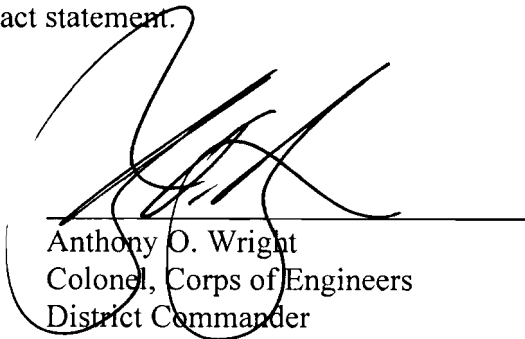
trout, are not likely to adversely affect bull trout critical habitat and not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of the bull trout. Before dewatering and if necessary, fish rescue operations will be conducted to minimize these impacts. Although ESA consultation is ongoing, consultation will not be completed prior to this emergency construction. Efforts will be taken to minimize and mitigate unexpected impacts that materialize during construction. Secondary impacts include a temporary and localized increase in noise in the construction area.

The enclosed Final Environmental Assessment provides an evaluation of the proposed levee rehabilitation project and its effects on the existing environment.

No significant adverse impacts to fish and wildlife habitat, air quality, noise, esthetics, historical resources, cultural resources, or the social or economic environment are anticipated as a result of the project.

5. Finding. For the reasons described above, I have determined that the levee rehabilitation project will not result in significant adverse environmental impacts. The project will not constitute a major Federal action with significant impacts on the human environment and, therefore, does not require an environmental impact statement.

7 Nov 08
Date



Anthony O. Wright
Colonel, Corps of Engineers
District Commander

Enclosure