

Joint Public Notice



Extension of Comment Period for Proposed Chetco River Gravel Mining Permits

Issue Date: December 16, 2008

Corps of Engineers Action ID: NWP-2008-71

On November 26, 2008, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) and the Oregon Department of State Lands (DSL) issued a joint public notice requesting comments on a proposal to develop a regional general permit (RGP) and general permit (GP), respectively, for commercial gravel mining on the Chetco River. This notice described proposed mining locations and potential extraction methods. As indicated in the public notice, the US Geological Survey is in the process of conducting sediment transport studies specific to the RGP/GP project area, which is the lower 11 miles of the Chetco River. Studies are expected to be completed in January 2009 with a final report released to the public in May 2009.

Because the sediment studies are a key component of the final RGP/GP decision, the Corps and DSL have decided to extend the comment period until a public meeting can be held to present the USGS preliminary findings. It is anticipated this meeting will be held in March 2009 in the vicinity of Brookings. Comments would then be requested within two weeks of the date of the public meeting. Details of the public meeting (date, location, etc.) will be made available as soon as possible.

Both the Corps and DSL appreciate the comments that have been received to date as they will allow us to begin to evaluate and refine the proposal as presented in the November 26 public notice. For the same reason, those that have yet to comment are encouraged to provide any preliminary comments before the official comment period closes.

Questions or comments on the proposed RGP/GP or the comment period extension may be directed to Ms. Judy Linton at 503-808-4382 (<u>judy.l.linton@usace.army.mil</u>) or Mr. Robert Lobdell at 503-986-5282 (<u>Robert.lobdell@dsl.state.or.us</u>).