



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

**KOOTENAI RIVER – CITY OF BONNERS FERRY LEVEE**  
**REPAIR OF FLOOD CONTROL WORKS FOR CITY OF BONNERS FERRY SEWAGE**  
**TREATMENT PLANT**  
**BOUNDARY 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 the City of Bonners Ferry Levee, located on the Kootenai River in Bonners Ferry, Idaho in October 2007. The City of Bonners Ferry levee repair site is located approximately one mile downstream of the Highway 95 bridge on the right bank of the Kootenai River in Boundary County in the City of Bonners Ferry, Idaho. The levee protects the sewage treatment plant for the City Bonners Ferry, other public utilities, agricultural land, and private residences.

During May and June 2006, high water flows caused erosion and scouring along portions of the levee that protects the City of Bonners Ferry sewage treatment facility. The Corps has determined that the levee is in need of repair and is proposing to repair approximately a 300 lineal foot section of the levee. The Corps is proposing the following project under the Flood Control Act of 1950 (PL 81-560, Section 204), which authorized the construction and operation of Libby Dam in Montana.

**2. Purpose and Need.** The purpose of this project is to provide protection from flood damage to the community's sewage treatment plant and other associated public utilities.

There is a high potential that during the upcoming flood season, the river would further damage the levee, which may result in a release of raw sewage into the Kootenai River if no action is taken to contain the floodwaters.

**3. Action.** The proposed project would include re-sloping the over steepened bank to a more stable slope, adding armor rock, and constructing a ten foot by fifteen foot weighted toe. Approximately 300 lineal feet of levee is proposed for repair which would require using approximately 1000 cubic yards of spall material and 4000 cubic yards of class III riprap. Large woody debris (LWD) and willow plantings will be incorporated into the proposed design. LWD will number 5-8 logs with root wads attached depending on spacing. Willows will be planted in a soil lift at approximately the line of vegetation (just above ordinary high water) throughout the length of the repair.

**4. Summary of Impacts.** Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act, an Environmental Assessment (EA) has been prepared for the proposed work. This document describes the environmental consequences of the proposed work, which are briefly summarized below.

The Corps has coordinated with State and Federal resource agencies to assure careful consideration of fish and wildlife resources. No adverse impacts to threatened or endangered species are anticipated.

Impacts of construction activities on Kootenai River white sturgeon would be reduced and/or avoided through implementation of timing restrictions.

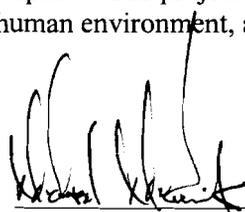
Unavoidable adverse impacts would be generally localized in nature, short in duration, and minor in scope. None of these adverse impacts would be significant either individually or cumulatively.

Constructing the project during October 2007 when river flows would be very low would minimize the likelihood of adverse construction impacts to sturgeon by allowing work when the abundance of these species is low in the construction area. As the river flows would be low, the sturgeon would likely be present in the deeper areas of the river as they prefer deep, low velocity areas with fine substrate. The proposed project may benefit sturgeon by providing substrate for eggs to attach to after spawning. Impacts to other fish species that inhabit the area including bull trout, will be minimized by the addition of willow plantings and large woody debris that will be incorporated into the design. Impacts to water quality will be minimized as construction will be completed during the time of the year with lowest flows, minimizing the amount of in-water work required for construction. Adverse impacts to all fish species inhabiting the river in the project area and impacts to water quality will be avoided by protecting the sewage treatment plant from flooding. Impacts to vegetation will be minimal as very little vegetation exists in the project area and willows are included in the repair. Additional impacts may include a temporary increase in noise and road traffic. Ambient noise levels will increase slightly while construction equipment is operating. However, these effects will be temporary and localized. As a result, impacts are anticipated to be insignificant.

The Kootenai Tribe of Idaho conducted a cultural resources inspection in the repair area and reported on their findings to FEMA as part of the Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act compliance process. A letter from the State Historic Preservation Officer concurring with the FEMA finding of No Historic Properties Affected was received dated June 25, 2007. The work encompassed by FEMA was at the same location as the Corps proposed project, therefore no historic properties are expected to be encountered.

**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 would not constitute a major Federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment, and therefore does not require an environmental impact statement.

14 September 2007  
Date

  
MICHAEL MCCORMICK  
Colonel, Corps of Engineers  
Commanding

Enclosure