



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

**CHIEF JOSEPH DAM AND RUFUS WOODS LAKE BANK PROTECTION FOR
BUCKLEY BAR PROJECT, DOUGLAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON
FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**

1. Background. The Seattle District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) is proposing to provide additional bank protection in July 2005 to the Buckley Bar, located on the Columbia River near Nespelam, Washington. Buckley Bar is an island in Rufus Woods Lake (Chief Joseph Dam reservoir) at RM 587 and about 42 miles upstream of Chief Joseph Dam (CJD) and 9 miles downstream from Grand Coulee Dam which is operated by the Bureau of Reclamation. The proposed bank protection project will protect a Native American cemetery site (archaeological site 45-DO-285).

Archaeological site 45-DO-285 is located on Buckley Bar. This site was first recorded in 1976. Archaeological test excavations in 1977 showed that the site was a contributing member of the Rufus Woods Lake Archaeological District which was determined eligible for the National Register of Historic Places in 1978. In 1981, the CJD pool was raised 10 feet. After the pool raise in 1981, erosion occurred at the site, exposing cultural materials including human remains and damaging the wildlife habitat. In 1996, the sandy silt banks had eroded so much that they were nearly vertical. At the request of the Colville Confederated Tribes (CCT), a repair was undertaken to correct the mass wasting by constructing a spall rock revetment on the bar. This repair is still intact, however, there is an approximately 60-foot segment where some settling has occurred. This stretch is along an overflow channel that crosses the cultural site. If the settling continues and the back slope is not protected, there will be a low point on the bank that could be overtopped during high flows. The flows could then scour the bar and potentially damage cultural remains. The CCT continues to support efforts to protect these cultural sites and tribal representatives have been and continue to be involved in the project.

2. Purpose and Need. The purpose of this project is to provide protection for the cemetery site on the CJD Project, Douglas County, Washington, as soon as possible to prevent degradation of the cultural resources located at the site.

3. Action. The Corps proposes to add spall rock to the landward side of the bank at the overflow channel. Filter fabric and spall rock will be hand placed by CCT members on the back slope of the bank in order to prevent flows from scouring out material. The rock will reinforce the narrow bank protection currently in place and dissipate flows when overtopping does occur. The filter fabric and rock will be placed on a 60-linear foot by 20-foot section of the bank.

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SUBJECT: Chief Joseph Dam and Rufus Woods Lake Bank Protection for Buckley Bar Project, Douglas County, Washington Finding of No Significant Impact

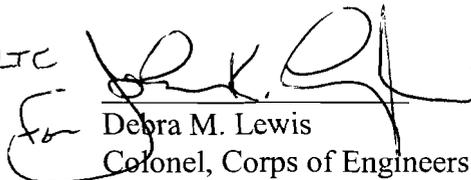
4. Summary of Impacts. The primary impacts of this action will be the temporary and localized increase in noise in the construction area. No in-water work will be conducted and no effects to listed species are anticipated to occur.

The attached final environmental assessment provides an evaluation of the proposed bank protection 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 bank protection project will not result in significant adverse environmental impacts. The project will not constitute a major Federal action with significant impacts on the environment and, therefore, does not require an environmental impact statement.

21 July 05
Date

LTC  DDC
For Debra M. Lewis
Colonel, Corps of Engineers
District Engineer