

**ALBENI FALLS O&M
RILEY CREEK CAMPGROUND
ADA MODERNIZATION
ENVIRONMENTAL
ASSESSMENT**

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MARCH 19, 2003**



US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
SEATTLE DISTRICT

ALBENI FALLS DAM
IDAHO



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**
Seattle District

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1. INTRODUCTION

This Environmental Assessment (EA) evaluates the impacts of Albeni Falls Riley Creek Recreation Area ADA Modernization project. This project will involve paving roads, removing old pavement, re-striping, concrete repair, building construction, landscaping, pier construction, and beach enhancement at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers property located within the Albeni Falls Dam Project Area at Riley Creek Campground.

Comments on this draft EA maybe sent to George A. Hart, 4735 East Marginal Way South Seattle, Washington 98134-2385 or via email George.A.Hart@usace.army.mil or phone 206-764-3641. Comments must be received by April 21, 2003

1.2 Background

The area is a recreational area with campsites, boat ramp, and swimming area. The 1999 usage numbers are estimated at 32,731 or 35,469 visitor days. Riley Creek Recreation Area was initially developed in 1962 and 1963 with construction of the west camp loop (Raven Loop), day use facilities, swim beach, boat launch, etc. Construction of the east loop (Nighthawk Loop) was completed in 1966, and the basic layout and facilities of the park were much the same as they are today.

The Pend Oreille River with the exception of the area to the east borders the area. The area to the east is developed and has a highly disturbed habitat. Past a small lagoon to the north, State Highway 2 borders that portion of the recreation area.

1.3 Authority

The Albeni Falls Dam project was authorized under the Flood Control Act of 17 May 1950 (Public Law 516, 81st Congress, 2nd Session) in accordance with Senate Document 9, 81st Congress, First Session, as part of a comprehensive plan for the development of the Columbia River System. Each year to ensure the project is maintained, funds are allocated via Congress for Operation and Maintenance of the Albeni Falls Dam Project.

The 2003 omnibus bill passed by Congress and signed by the President on February 20, 2003 includes funds to renovate the camping and recreation facilities at the Riley Creek campground on the Pend Oreille River near LaCleda, Idaho.

2. PROPOSED ACTION

Since the majority of the work to be accomplished is similar, in terms of effect, to existing features and conditions, the description of the proposed project elements will be

addressed as a unit rather than individually. The work to be performed on the above mentioned camp ground and day use facilities are to modernize the sites to meet the American with Disabilities Act and to improve and modernize the facilities to improve safety and reduce maintenance cost over the life of the project.

Paving will be a significant component of the work. Much of the new pavement is overlay on existing paved surfaces that have deteriorated beyond the point where seal coating will restore a safe and smooth surface. Existing pavement will be removed in some areas where root damage has occurred or where realignment of roadways is needed. Roadways will be widened to meet two-way traffic standards, and parking areas enlarged to provide additional parking and better traffic flow.

Individual campsites will remain unpaved and surfaced with compacted crushed rock. Sites will be enlarged and re-oriented for safety and convenience of the users, and the sites “defined” with a timber edge to reduce the impact area around each site. All sites will be ADA compliant for universal accessibility. Parking spurs and impact areas abandoned as a result of the revised site plan will be restored and revegetated with native trees, shrubs, forbs and grasses.

Trails as indicated in the attached plans will be modernized to be ADA compliant. Most trails will be paved, with gravel surface limited to the north shore perimeter trail.

Utility improvements within the recreation area will include modernizations to water, electrical and irrigation systems. Water and electrical hookups will be provided at each campsite. The existing irrigation system will be extended into one un-irrigated area and automated. Sanitary sewer improvements are limited to replacement of one septic tank and drain field where the existing system is marginal and the septic tank has to be relocated to allow expansion of a camp loop restroom building.

Tree removal will occur within the campground but only as needed to facilitate the modernization effort. It is estimated that an average of 5 trees/stumps per camping site will have to be removed to facilitate the change in site size and alignment. Changes in entrance roads and trails will also require that some trees be removed, but in all cases, tree removal will be minimized. Based on preliminary design, it is estimated these trees will have an average diameter at breast height (DBH) of 14 inches. There is an average of 2 stumps to be removed per site with the DBH averaging 8 inches. Revegetation of sites and other planting areas will largely offset the tree removal over the long term.

Boat Ramp improvements include the addition of a second launch lane and associated courtesy dock. Existing ramp planks will be replaced as they are in marginal condition. The new courtesy dock will be constructed using composite recycled plastic limber.

Planting of low shrubs (*Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*, *Mahonia repens*, *Pachistima myrsinites*), large shrubs (*Sambucus racemosa*, *Symphocarpus albus*, *Acer glabrum*), medium shrubs (*Rosa nutkana*, *Rubus parviflorus*, *Spiraea betulifolia*), conifers (*Pinus contorta*, *Pinus monticola*, *Pinus ponderosa*) and various forbes will be incorporated into

the revegetation scheme to provide screening, define sites, and add visual effects to the area. Side benefits are expected for songbirds in the off-season.

This modernization effort will likely occur over a fourteen-month time frame. Work will be performed during the off-season as much as possible; however, the campground will be closed for one full season to the public. The work will adhere to recommendations provided by the resource agencies as to timing restriction. At present, the work is scheduled to start in August 2003 and end in October 2004. Monitoring of Eagles during this work period will have priority over construction of this project. If Eagles are present and within the project action area within ¼ mile, work will stop until the Eagle has moved to a different location. One of the main focus areas is to ensure the work is done when pool level is down for the winter as no in-water work is planned to occur during the first phase of construction. Best management practices will be enforced at each work site. All necessary measures to control storm water run-off will be in place at all work sites.

Building up-grades and or replacement could occur any time of year. This work would probably occur based on weather conditions. As these sites are already removed from the areas ecosystem (existing building), no additional impact is expected to occur. To ensure no additional impacts all best management practices will be in effect and monitoring of the site for listed species will occur during daily construction operations.

Retired campsites will be restored to a vegetated condition to provide for screening, aesthetic, and environmental concerns. Compacted surface conditions will be scarified and amended as needed to prepare the sites for planting. Two plant lists will be used - one for semi-shaded to dense shade conditions and one for semi-shaded to full sun conditions. All plant material will be native species and include a full range of plant sizes and layering. All plant beds will be seeded with a native seed mix that includes grasses, forbs, and shrubs and is intended to out compete weeds. Plant beds will be mulched thoroughly for moisture retention and hand watered through a minimum of two dry seasons for establishment. Barrier protection of re-vegetated areas will help to ensure successful restoration.

Although funding would have dictated the following schedule of construction events, the following is a list of events that will occur and not in any particular order:

- Pave and relocate campsites and new roads
- Modernize features/design of four restrooms. Construct 2-ADA Restroom modular additions.
- Renovate Amphitheater
- Replace existing picnic shelter and park office
- Construct storage building

- Replace existing foot bridge
- Construct volleyball court, multi-purpose play court and renovate playground
- Expand the sand beach, re-grade boat basin, and replace boat ramp, install new docks

Based on the list above and partial funding the designated work area description is as follows:

1. Campsite rehabilitation (both loops)-shifting and expanding footprint of selected campsites;
2. Re-vegetation at retired campsites and abandoned road segments;
3. Turf renovation and irrigation system;
4. Road relocation and widening – to include removal of 38 trees within new road areas;
5. Traffic signage;
6. Water system improvements and additions;
7. Electrical system improvements and additions;
8. Trails and walkways – includes paving or graveling of new trails and pathways between facilities; does not include access walkways to new picnic tables or paving or graveling of existing trails;
9. ADA picnic tables and slabs;
10. Boat ramp improvements – demolition, regarding/paving of existing ramp; addition of additional ramp lane;
11. Building Nighthawk Loop restroom addition – to be joined to existing restroom via a concrete breezeway (grading and trenching to accommodate breezeway, piers, footings, and foundation for a new ADA compliant addition).

OPTIONS

1. Building Raven Loop restroom addition – to be joined to existing restroom via a concrete breezeway (grading and trenching to accommodate breezeway pad, piers, footings, and foundation for a new ADA compliant addition);
2. Building Beach Restroom – new ground disturbance consists of installing a “plaza” of stone pavers around restroom entrance; all other work to be performed on existing building and undertaken within existing footprint;
3. Building Picnic Area Restroom – new ground disturbance consists of installing a “plaza” of stone pavers around restroom entrance; all other work to be performed on existing building and undertaken within existing footprint;
4. Combo Package – grading for new multi-sport court, volleyball court, and playground expansion;
5. Building Osprey Shelter – to include demolition of existing shelter and concrete curbing, site grading, and slab installation for a prefab shelter, including a small stone paved “plaza” on the east side;

6. Waterfront Work – boat basin grading/dredging, including boat tie-ups; beach expansion/terraces, including tie-ups;
7. Building Park Office/Gate House – grading, trenching, and footings for a new building with an entrance ramp/porch;
8. Building Storage Building – grading and trenching to accommodate piers, footings, entry door pad, and foundation for a new building;
9. Amphitheater – all improvements are to take place within existing footprint, except ADA ramp;
10. Dog Island – replace existing bridge to island with pre-fabricated unit;
11. Docks, Piers – two entirely new fishing pier/dock; one fishing pier extension with added dock; new boat ramp courtesy dock.

When option 11 is implemented the following procedures will occur:

Work under this item includes the construction of three new piers and an extension on one existing pier. Locations are as shown on the attached plan. One new pier will serve as the “courtesy dock” for the second lane of the boat launch ramp. The other two new piers and the pier extension will serve as fishing piers for the disabled.

Construction methods and materials will be similar for all of the pier construction work. Ten-inch diameter, open-end, steel piles will be driven into the lakebed to a depth of 12 feet (or refusal). Structural framing and handrails will be steel, and the decking will be composite plastic lumber. Size and configuration is as follows:

1. Pier Extension. The extension will be 30 feet long and 15 feet wide attached to an existing 48-foot long pier. Eight piles will be required for the extension. Added deck surface will be 450 square feet and the overall deck, with addition, will be 835 square feet.
2. Accessible Fishing Piers. One will be located on the riverbank to the west of the boat ramp, and the other in the Riley Creek “backwater” on the north side of the recreation area. Both will be of the same size and configuration. The “Tee” shaped piers will be 50 feet long overall with a total deck surface of 730 square feet. Each pier will require 14 steel piles for support.
3. Boat Ramp Courtesy Dock. This structure will be placed immediately to the west of the boat launch ramp. Pier is eight (8) feet wide and approximately 52-feet long with a total deck surface of 416 square feet. Eight steel piles will provide support.

Construction of the piers will require the use of a barge-mounted pile driver and crane for at least part of the construction work. The pier locations are not accessible from the uplands with heavy equipment, and the pier lengths require that piles be driven beyond the safe working radius for available pile driving equipment. The pile driving work will have to be accomplished at or near the regulated summer pool level of 2062.5 feet due to water depths in the vicinity of the sites, which will limit access by barge-mounted pile driving equipment. This pool level typically extends from mid- June to mid-September. The recommended construction period for this work would be late August through early

September. Expected duration of the work would be three to four weeks.

2.1 Alternatives

There were only two alternatives considered for this project and that was either no action or the preferred alternative. The no action alternative is briefly discussed below.

2.1.1 No Action

If no maintenance were conducted at the site listed above there would eventually be a danger to humans that use the facilities for recreation. All paved areas would deteriorate to the point of not allowing vehicular traffic, thus reducing access by humans to the recreation facilities. The recreation site would not comply with ADA standards and provide universal accessibility. The facility would not be modernized to accommodate the larger recreational vehicles and their associated utilities. The facilities would not provide the high quality experience the public is looking for. The project would be unable to operate and maintain the campground in a safe manner with their available funds.

2.1.2 Preferred Alternative

ADA Compliance and modernization of the Riley Creek Campground. This alternative consists of completing the entire modernization to ADA compliance. During this process the area will be upgraded in habitat values to provide more opportunities for avian, mammalian, and fisheries species. **Findings.** Alternative 2 was chosen as this will make the recreation area a more safe and ADA compliant campground. This alternative will also provide habitat for avian, mammalian, and fisheries species.

3. EXISTING ENVIRONMENT

3.1 Hydrology and Geology

The Pend Oreille River at Albeni Falls Dam has a watershed of about 24,200 square miles, which supplies an average stream flow of about 25, 930 cubic feet per second. The Clark Fork River is the lake's largest tributary and contributes about 86 percent of the total flow. Pend Oreille Lake is one of the deepest and largest lakes in the western United States. Conditions in Pend Oreille Lake, such as the stage of the lake and timing of the inflow, are influenced not only by the project operation but also by the operation of upstream projects and basin hydrologic factors.

Pend Oreille Lake lies in the Purcell Trench, a deep, glacially carved, U-shaped valley

separating the Cabinet, Selkirk, and Coeur d'Alene Mountain Ranges. Sheer rock slopes that continue steeply below the water surface towards the bottom bound much of the Lakes shoreline. The remainder of the perimeter is a combination of shifting river deltas, flood plain margin, and relict glacial terraces.

The section of shoreline that is exclusively glacial terrace runs from Dover northeast past Sandpoint to Kootenai. It is composed predominately of sand overlying silt and clay and is characterized by perched water tables.

3.2 Ecology.

The dominant vegetation type surrounding Pend Oreille Lake consists of coniferous forest with scattered stands of deciduous trees in the moist lowland areas adjacent to the lake. Much of the forest is second growth. Agricultural lands, particularly pastured meadows, have been developed on the once-forested flatlands. Unfortunately, large portions of these meadows have now been converted into housing developments. The entire lake has areas that are completely developed as housing areas, while other remote areas of the lakeshore still remain forested (mostly on the south side of the lake).

The lake supports a large number of birds, some of which are permanent residents. The area is a major stop for migratory waterfowl in both spring and fall. This area also contains a high population of bald eagles that not only winter over but nest in the area as well; this is because the lake does not completely freeze over during the winter.

3.3 Water Quality

Pend Oreille Lake is a cool, temperate water body with partial mixing of the water column in midwinter and spring. Surface water temperature of 50 degrees F (10 degrees C) is usually reached by April-May and maximum summer temperatures of about 75 degrees F (24 degrees C) occur in July and August. Dissolved oxygen (DO) concentrations remain at or near 100 percent saturation at all depths year round. The high DO content, low organic production in the surface waters, and low nutrient concentrations characterize Pend Oreille Lake as oligotrophic (i.e., having low nutrient supply).

The lake meets all Federal water quality goals and state standards. The State of Idaho has designated Pend Oreille Lake and certain tributaries as special resource waters, a classification that allows no reduction in water quality.

Localized turbidity due to wave erosion and sloughing of unconsolidated shoreline materials during high pool levels is evident between Sandpoint and Albeni Falls Dam. There is no apparent change in downstream water quality as a result of the operation of the dam.

3.4 Vegetation

Most of the area where the project is to occur is made up of either paved roads and parking lots or parks that have their vegetation restricted to allow users of the facilities access. There is very little understory vegetation. Riley Creek Recreation Area has a great number of conifers through out the project site. A field inspection determined that no impact to wetlands would occur.

3.5 Fish

The most important fishery in the lake is for the kokanee salmon, but the lake sustains large populations of rainbow (Kamloops) trout, Dolly Varden char, and other species of fish.

Two species of kokanee, differentiated according to time of spawning, are found in Pend Oreille Lake. Early spawning kokanee have a peak spawning period around the 20th of September and account for about 5 percent of all kokanee spawning activity. The remaining kokanee are late spawners, spawning during November-December.

All of the project will occur in the dry during the first phase of construction and will not have an adverse impact on fisheries of Pend Oreille Lake. The in-water work will occur during high pool and during the hotter months of August and September when most fisheries are located in deeper pools and not in the warmer shallow waters.

3.6 Wildlife

State and Federal agencies intensively monitor waterfowl for their importance to hunting as a recreational activity. The number of ducks can range from 47,500 to as high as 142,600.

While most of the 23 species of waterfowl recorded are migrants or winter residents, several resident species of ducks and Canada geese nest and rear their young on and around the lake. Mallards, three species of teal, widgeons, coots, and pied-billed grebes are among the many species reported to nest along the shoreline and/or in adjacent marshes.

Birds of prey such as hawks, owls, and bald eagles are associated with the Pend Oreille Lake and riparian areas. Bald eagles have been nesting in this area for as long as recorded history goes back.

Ospreys are found in the area from Mid-march through October. The osprey population of northern Idaho and northeastern Washington constitute the largest nesting

concentration in the western states and perhaps the entire country.

3.7 Threatened and Endangered Species

In accordance with Section 7(a)(2) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, federally funded, constructed, permitted, or licensed projects must take into consideration impacts to federally listed and proposed threatened or endangered species. Several species listed as either threatened or endangered are potentially found near the project areas (see Table 1.).

Table 1. Threatened and Endangered Species of the Pend Oreille Lake and Albeni Fall Dam.

Scientific Name	Common Name	Listing Status
<i>Canus lupus</i>	Gray Wolf	Endangered
<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	Bald Eagle	Threatened
<i>Spiranthes diluvialis</i>	Ute ladies'-tresses	Threatened
<i>Salvelinus confluentus</i>	Bull trout	Threatened
<i>Oncorhynchus clarki lewisi</i>	Westslope Cutthroat trout	Species of concern
<i>Lynx canadensis</i>	Lynx	Threatened
<i>Gulo gulo luscus</i>	Wolverine	Species of concern

Bald eagles, bull trout, and westslope cutthroat trout are known to occur in the vicinity of the project. The Gray wolf, Ute ladies'-tresses, wolverine, and Lynx do not have sufficient habitat to occur within the project vicinity.

Information on known occurrences of endangered and threatened species in the project vicinity, and the potential impacts of the proposed projects on these species are addressed in a separate Biological Assessment (Appendix A).

3.8 Cultural Resources and Native American Concerns

All sites that may be of concern to Native American Tribes will be surveyed by Tribal Archeologist and further researched by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers archeologist. The findings will be attached to the final Environmental Assessment.

3.9 Land Use

The land will continue to be used by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers as either an operational area or a recreational area. No public owned lands are within the project

boundaries.

3.10 Utilities and Public Service

There will be no disruption to local customers during this work. At the camping area underground utilities will be installed during the closure period of the campground. The local community should not experience any electrical disturbance from this construction activity.

3.11 Air Quality and Noise

Air quality meets the standards as set forth by the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality and will not be affected by the construction of the numerous portions of this project. Noise will be intermittent at each site and will vary at each site depending on the type of project occurring. All noise factors have been addressed for their effect on threatened and endangered species.

3.12 Transportation

All roads are within the project boundary limits that will be subjected to construction. There is access to private lands prior to entering the U.S. Army Corps of Engineer lands. There maybe some interruption to traffic flows for individuals that live along the entrance road to the campground.

3.13 Socio-Economics

The project is not located within a city limits but is a very important part of the Bonner County government and financial structure. Tourism and seasonal residents plus recreational sports (i.e., fishing, hunting, and skiing), are somewhat impacted by the daily operation of the Albeni Falls Project.

3.14 Recreation

Recreation is very important industry for the local and county community governments. With fishing, water skiing, snow skiing, hunting, camping, and bird watching are important recreational activities. This recreational site helps to provide economic support to the local community by providing camping facilities.

3.15 Aesthetics

The intent of upgrading the camping facility will add to the aesthetics of the project. Roads will be improved and camping areas will be refreshed and given a more natural appearance. Restoration planting of native species will enhance the natural setting.

4 ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS

4.4 Geology and Hydrology

All of the work will be conducted in the dry for the projects that are located near the river bank; therefore, the only effects will be from the left over sediment that has potential to move into the river at summer high water elevations. The actual in-water work will occur during high pool and stir up sediment from the placement of the support post. This sediment will disperse rapidly with the current and should pose no problem with hydrology or the geology of this location.

4.5 Water Quality

Since no in-water work will occur between August 2003 and July 2004, no significant water quality impacts are expected to result from the proposed construction activities. The following management actions would be implemented during construction activities. These conditions are included in project contraction specification documents; a Corps inspector would be on-site to ensure that contractors abide by these requirements.

1. All grading and placement work will be accomplished in the dry at least one foot above still water elevation.
2. Petroleum products and other toxic material will be stored in a staging area above summer pool elevation, and will be prevented from entering surface waters.
3. If the contractor observes distressed or dead fish, or any obvious sign of contamination such as oil sheen or odor, all work will cease and the inspector shall be notified.

For the in-water work of placement of the support post for the fishing piers the following conditions will be implemented in August and September 2004:

1. A flotation buoy or some type of absorbent material will be placed around the barge or vessel to ensure capture of any accidental spill;
2. Ensure the equipment used for placement of the post has no visible leaks of oil, gas, or hydraulic fluids prior to or during construction;
3. All work will stop immediately if any type of spill occurs or stressed and dieing fisheries are noted;
4. After all appropriate agencies are notified if a spill occurs the Environmental Resources Section will be notified.

4.6 Vegetation

Any vegetation that is destroyed will be replaced with local native vegetation. In areas that the vegetation cannot be replaced due to paving or creating additional camp sites, additional vegetation in other areas of the camp ground will be planted to replace what is lost.

4.7 Fish

Potential impacts to fishery resources were considered during the design of the proposed work, and steps have been taken to minimize construction impacts: no in-water work during this phase and controlled in-water work during pier placement and complete control of storm water run-off.

4.8 Wildlife

Several bird species inhabit the local bird population. However, these activities should not have a significant effect on the local bird population. No nesting or roosting habitat will be physically altered. Prey availability in any foraging habitat in the project area would be only temporally affected, if at all.

4.9 Threatened and Endangered Species

Potential impacts of the proposed projects on threatened and endangered species are addressed in a separate Biological Assessment (BA). This BA provides the Corps' rationale for the effect determinations briefly described below and summarized in Table 2.

Bald eagles are known to nest, winter over, and feed in the area near the project site; however, there are no known nests within one mile of the project site. They do winter over and therefore work will be monitored from October 1st through March 1st, the end of the wintering over period. Ute Ladies-tresses, gray wolf, Lynx, and wolverine are not known to inhabit the area where the projects are located and the project will have no effect on the Lynx and not likely to adversely affect the Ute Ladies-tresses, gray wolf and wolverine. There will be no in-water work with the exception of the placement of piers and that will occur during the summer months so the project will not likely adversely affect bull trout and not likely to jeopardize westslope cutthroat trout. The project will not likely to adversely affect bald eagles.

Table 2. Effect Determination Summary

Scientific Name	Common Name	Effect Determination
<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	Bald Eagle	Not likely to adversely affect
<i>Canus lupus</i>	Gray Wolf	Not likely to adversely affect
<i>Spiranthes diluvialis</i>	Ute Ladies-tresses	Not likely to adversely affect
<i>Salvelinus confluentus</i>	Bull Trout	Not likely to adversely affect
<i>Oncorhynchus clarki lewisi</i>	Cutthroat Trout	Not likely to jeopardize the continued existence
<i>Lynx canadensis</i>	Lynx	No Affect
<i>Gulo gulo luscus</i>	Wolverine	Not likely to jeopardize the continued existence

4.10 Historic Properties (“Cultural Resources”) and Indian Tribal Concerns

Federal and Indian tribal archaeologists have reviewed the proposed work and have concluded that some discrete parts of the construction have potential to affect at least one prehistoric archaeological site known to exist in the area, and part of its area has been recommended as eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. The Corps is contracting for archaeological investigations in all construction impact areas to identify areas that either are free for construction or will need avoidance or treatment to prevent adverse effects. The Corps will monitor construction near sensitive areas. As the Corps' management measures will exclude construction from areas with intact historic properties, no effects on historic properties are expected to result from the proposed construction. However, should any previously unknown historic properties or human remains inadvertently be encountered during construction, all work in the affected area will cease. The Corps promptly will notify the Idaho State Historic Preservation Officer and local Indian Tribes and will work with them to develop and coordinate a plan for treating the properties or remains.

4.11 Land Use

The construction activities will not change the land use designations in any way that the Corps intends to use the land. There should be no direct increase in local development due to the maintenance the corps is performing during these construction activities.

4.12 Utilities and Public Services

The current level of service for telephone, cable, and electric utilities would be maintained in the local community.

4.13 Air Quality and Noise

During construction, there would be a temporary and localized reduction in air quality due to emissions from equipment operation during paving, tree removal, and general construction. However, these effects would be temporary and localized, and would occur only during daylight hours. As a result, impacts would not be significant.

4.14 Transportation

Construction vehicles may interrupt local traffic only when entering or leaving the construction site. All construction sites are located on Corps lands.

4.15 Socio-Economics

Construction activities will not adversely impact the two major sectors of the local economy, tourism and recreational fisheries. The proposed project is not expected to have a significant effect on the local economy.

4.16 Recreation

During construction, recreation directly adjacent to the project may be affected. This disturbance caused by noise of construction. There should be no interruption of boating or fishing in the immediate area. However, all docking of boats will be prohibited unless an emergency exist that would require docking at the Corps facility while under construction. Funding for the project has been received and the campground will be closed for public recreation for one full season.

4.17 Aesthetics

During construction, there would be some disturbance from heavy equipment. Such disturbance is not expected to be significant. After construction is complete and the site has been restored to better than precondition conditions what disturbance has occurred will be negligible.

5 UNAVOIDABLE ADVERSE EFFECTS

Unavoidable adverse effects of the proposed projects include: 1) the disruption of local and tourist traffic by construction vehicles; and 2) disruption to local birds in the area due to noise of construction activities. For reason discussed in this document, the Corps has determined that these effects are not significant.

6 IRREVERSIBLE AND IRRETRIEVABLE COMMITMENTS OF RESOURCES

No federal resources will be irreversibly and irretrievably committed to the projects until the EA is finalized and the FONSI has been signed.

7 CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

Any cumulative impacts of these maintenance projects would be highly localized, and would not significantly affect the quality of the natural or built environments. In both cases, the inconvenience of minor short-term disruptions is outweighed by long-term benefits.

8 COORDINATION

The following agencies and entities have been involved with the environmental coordination of the proposed project:

- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)
- Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG)
- Idaho Department of Lands (IDL)
- Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (IDEQ)
- COOP

The area of concern was the timing window of construction. Based on the USFWS concern for wintering eagles monitoring will occur daily during construction prior to the start of the day for eagles that may be within ¼ mile of the project area. It was also noted that no eagle nests are within one mile of the project site.

9 ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE

9.1 National Environmental Policy Act

This Environmental Assessment, prepared March 2003, is a compilation of environmental information on the project related to Albeni Falls Dam. The BA was coordinated with state, federal, and local agencies and is attached as reference (Appendix A).

9.2 Endangered Species Act Section 7 Consultation

In accordance with Section 7(a)(2) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, federally funded, constructed, permitted, or licensed projects must take into consideration impacts to federally listed or proposed threatened or endangered species. A Biological Assessment was submitted to USFWS on November 27, 2002 and is attached as Appendix A. A letter of concurrence for no in-water work dated February 19, 2003 has been received from the USFWS and therefore, concludes the requirements under Section 7(a)(2) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 for that portion of the project. An amendment to the BA was sent on March 07, 2003 for the in-water work that will be required for the fishing piers.

9.3 Clean Water Act Compliance

A 404(b)(1) evaluation, which demonstrates compliance with the substantive requirements of the CWA, is required for work involving discharge of fill material into the waters of the United States. Since in-water work will occur and some activity and structures will become wet during full pool a 404(b)(1) evaluation was prepared for this project.

9.4 Hydraulic Permit Approval

No HPA was required.

9.5 Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act

The Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (16 USC 470) requires that wildlife conservation receive equal consideration and be coordinated with other features of water resource development projects. This goal is accomplished through Corps funding of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service habitat surveys evaluating the likely impacts of proposed actions, which provide the basis for recommendations for avoiding or minimizing such impacts. A Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act Report is not required for maintenance work.

9.6 National Historic Preservation Act

The National Historic Preservation Act (16 USC 470) requires that the effects of proposed undertakings or actions on properties (such as archaeological sites, buildings, structures, or objects) included or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places must be considered. Affected State and/or Tribal Historic Preservation Officers (HPO) and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) must be afforded an opportunity to comment on the undertaking, and the agency also must consult with

affected Indian tribes. The proposed undertaking as described in this EA was reviewed by archaeologists of both the Corps and the Kalispel Tribe's Natural Resources Department. The review findings have been taken into account to develop a program of archaeological investigations and management measures that will prevent adverse effects of construction on eligible properties. Consultation with the Idaho SHPO, affected Indian Tribes and the ACHP on the proposed program is documented in Appendix D (with Programmatic Agreement) and summarized below.

In accordance with the current Section 106 regulations (36 C.F.R. Part 800), we have determined that the listed modernization work comprises "undertakings" in accordance with Part 800.3 (a), and the Idaho State Historic Preservation Officer is the appropriate authority for consultation under Part 800.3(c). A Cultural Resources Management Cooperating Group (CG) comprising technical staff of interested tribes and other parties (Part 800.3(f) oversees historic properties management actions for reservoir operations. The CG also reviews the maintenance work that is the subject of this letter. In view of the CG's concerns for security of information about archaeological site locations, we do not plan general public involvement (Part 800.3 (e)). We have determined that while some of the proposed undertakings have no potential to affect historic properties (Part 800.3(a)(1)), other undertakings might affect such properties and will be explained in the final EA. After meeting and consulting the CG, we defined and inspected the Areas of Potential Effects of the latter work items (Part 800.4 (b)). The Corps is implementing a program for archaeological investigations to assure that construction will not affect historic properties (Part 800.4(d)(1).)

9.7 Executive Order 12898, Environmental Justice

Executive Order 12898 directs every federal agency to identify and address disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects of agency programs and activities on minority and low-income populations.

The potentially affected community does include a minority and/or low-income population. A query of the Idaho Census for 1998 indicated that Bonner County contained a population of 98% Caucasian, and less than 16% of Bonner County's population had income below the poverty level.

The project does not involve the siting of a facility that will discharge pollutants or contaminants, so no human health effects would occur. Maintenance of these facilities would not negatively affect property values in the area, or socially stigmatize local residents or businesses in any way. No interference with local Native American Nation's treaty rights would result from the proposed projects; construction activities would not physically interfere with fishing, or impact fishery resources.

Since no health and adverse effects are anticipated to result from the project, the Corps has determined that no disproportional impacts would occur.

10 CONCLUSION

Based on the above analysis, this project is not a major Federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human or natural environment, and therefore does not require preparation of an environmental impact statement.

11 REFERENCES

Idaho Department of Environmental Quality. <<http://www2.state.id.us/deq>

Idaho State Census. <<http://www.venus.census.gov/>

12 LIST OF PREPARERS

The following Corps personnel prepared and/or reviewed this EA:

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13 LIST OF APPENDICES

Appendix A Biological Assessment

Appendix B Letter of Concurrence