



US Army Corps  
of Engineers®  
Seattle District

# Notice of Preparation

Environmental Resources Section  
CENWS-PM-PL-ER  
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Public Notice Date: August 17, 2007  
Expiration Date: August 31, 2007  
Reference: CENWS OD-TS-NS-22

Fiscal Years 2005-2009 Maintenance Dredging  
Snohomish River Navigation Channel  
Upstream Settling Basin and Adjacent River Channel  
Everett, Washington

## SUPPLEMENT NUMBER TWO TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

The United States Army Corps of Engineers, Seattle District (Corps) in partnership with the Port of Everett intends to prepare a Supplement Number Two to the Environmental Assessment prepared in September, 2004 by the Corps entitled, “*FY2005-2009 Maintenance Dredging, Snohomish River Navigation Channel, Downstream and Upstream Settling Basins, Everett, Washington.*” That Final EA fully evaluates the environmental impacts of maintenance dredging from both the upstream and downstream settling basins and adjacent portions of the navigation channel in the lower Snohomish River. The Final EA also evaluates various options for disposal of dredged material, including disposal at the Washington Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) managed Puget Sound Dredged Disposal Analysis (PSDDA) open-water, non-dispersive disposal site at Port Gardner, and the Port of Everett Riverside Business Park site. A Supplement to the Final EA was promulgated on December 27, 2006, entitled “*FY 2007 Jetty Island Re-nourishment, Snohomish River Federal Navigation Channel*”, which evaluated an additional disposal option for renourishment of Jetty Island in Port Gardner.

Those aspects of dredging and disposal for fiscal years 2005 through 2009 that have previously been addressed in the EA and its first Supplement will not be re-evaluated. This EA Supplement Number Two will evaluate the impacts of placing maintenance dredged material from the Snohomish River channel, Everett, Washington at the Kimberley Clarke Log Yard site (now known as Parcel O, owned by the City of Everett).

As stated in the Final EA, dredging and disposal operations in this plan would be performed over a five-year time period from fiscal years 2005 to 2009. Both the downstream and upstream settling basins and adjacent upstream portions of the navigation channel would be dredged in fiscal year 2005. Dredging activities would then alternate between the downstream and upstream

basins every other year thereafter for the duration of the five-year period, i.e. the downstream basin in 2006 and 2008, the upstream basin in 2007 and 2009. Total volumes dredged between fiscal years 2005 and 2009 would not exceed the permitted maximum of 800,000 cubic yards from the upstream settling basin, 500,000 cubic yards from the downstream settling basin, and 200,000 cubic yards from the navigation channel as presented in Public Notice CENWS-OD-TS-NS-22. Without annual maintenance dredging, shoaling would lead to a shallower navigation channel and would reduce the depth of the settling basins, thus reducing the ability of large ships to enter and leave the Port of Everett safely and increasing the need for harbor dredging.

According to the Final EA, if sediments are needed for the various upland disposal sites on the lower river, including the Langus Riverfront Park Rehandling site, the Kimberly Clarke Log Yard site and the Baywood site between FY 2006 and 2009, the upstream settling basin and/or the portion of the navigation channel just upstream of that basin could be dredged by hydraulic pipeline dredge and the sediment directly placed at these upland sites. The Final EA states that an EA supplement would be prepared to evaluate the specific effects of potential use of these upland sites.

In addition to evaluating the impacts of dredged material placement at the Kimberly Clarke Log Yard site, Supplement Number Two will address potential impacts of Snohomish River Navigation Channel dredging and disposal to Puget Sound steelhead, listed as threatened on June 11, 2007, and to critical habitats for Puget Sound Chinook and coastal/Puget Sound bull trout that were designated in 2006.

The Corps has made a preliminary determination that the environmental impacts of the proposal for dredging and disposal of maintenance dredged material at the Kimberly Clarke Log Yard site, as well as the impacts of dredging and disposal on threatened steelhead species, Chinook habitat, and bull trout habitat, can all be adequately evaluated under the National Environmental Policy Act through preparation of a supplemental environmental assessment (EA). Preparation of the supplemental EA addressing potential environmental impacts associated with placement of material at the Kimberly Clarke Log Yard (Parcel O) site, and the effects analysis of dredging/disposal on newly listed species and designated critical habitat is currently underway.

The Corps invites submission of factual comment on the environmental impact of the proposed additional disposal site and new listing/designations. The Corps will consider all submissions received before the expiration date of this notice. The nature or scope of the proposal may be changed upon consideration of the comments received. The Corps will initiate an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), and afford all appropriate public participation opportunities attendant to an EIS, if significant effects on the quality of the human environment are identified and cannot be mitigated to non-significant levels.

The Supplement Number Two to the Final EA is planned for distribution in September 2007. Interested parties will receive the document through e-mail distribution and hard copies will be available upon request. It will also be available for review at our Seattle District web site.

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