

## RGP-8 2023 – Attachment A:

Regional General Permit 8 authorizes the discharge of fill associated with eleven restoration activity categories in waters of the U.S. designed to maintain, enhance, and restore watershed functions that affect aquatic species. Activities, occurring waterward of the line of ordinary high water (OHW), eligible for authorization under this modified RGP are described below:

- 1. Fish Passage Restoration** includes the following: total removal of culverts or bridges, or replacing culverts or bridges with properly sized culverts and bridges, replacing a damaged culvert or bridge, and resetting an existing culvert that was improperly installed or damaged; stabilizing and providing passage over headcuts; removing, constructing (including relocations), repairing, or maintaining fish ladders; and replacing, relocating, or constructing fish screens and irrigation diversions. Such projects would take place where fish passage has been partially or completely eliminated through road construction, stream degradation, establishment of small dams and weirs, and irrigation diversions. Equipment such as excavators, bull dozers, dump trucks, front-end loaders, and similar equipment may be used to implement projects.
- 2. Large Wood (LW), Boulder, and Gravel Placement** includes LW and boulder placement, Engineered Log Jams (ELJs), porous boulder structures and vanes, gravel placement, and tree removal for LW projects. Such activities would occur in areas where channel structure is lacking due to past stream cleaning (LW removal), riparian timber harvest, and in areas where natural gravel supplies are low due to anthropogenic disruptions. These projects would occur in stream channels and adjacent floodplains to increase channel stability, rearing habitat, pool formation, spawning gravel deposition, channel complexity, hiding cover, low velocity areas, and floodplain function. Equipment such as helicopters, excavators, dump trucks, front-end loaders, full-suspension yarders, and similar equipment may be used to implement projects.
- 3. Dam, Tidegate and Legacy Structure Removal** includes removal of dams, tidegates, channel-spanning weirs, legacy habitat structures, earthen embankments, subsurface drainage features, spillway systems, outfalls, pipes, instream flow redirection structures (e.g., drop structure, gabion, groin), or similar devices used to control, discharge, or maintain water levels. Projects would be implemented to reconnect stream corridors, floodplains, and estuaries, reestablish wetlands, improve aquatic organism passage, and restore more natural channel and flow conditions. Any instream water control structures that impound substantial amounts of contaminated sediment are not proposed. Equipment such as excavators, bull dozers, dump trucks, front-end loaders, and similar equipment may be used to implement projects.

- 4. Channel Reconstruction/Relocation** projects include reconstruction of existing stream channels through excavation and structure placement (LW and boulders) or relocation (rerouting of flow) into historic or newly constructed channels that are typically more sinuous and complex. This proposed action applies to stream systems that have been straightened, channelized, dredged, or otherwise modified for the purpose of flood control, increasing arable land, realignment, or other land use management goals or for streams that are incised or otherwise disconnected from their floodplains resulting from watershed disturbances. This activity type would be implemented to improve aquatic and riparian habitat diversity and complexity, reconnect stream channels to floodplains, reduce bed and bank erosion, increase hyporheic exchange, provide long-term nutrient storage, provide substrate for macroinvertebrates, moderate flow disturbance, increase retention of organic material, and provide refuge for fish and other aquatic species. Equipment such as excavators, bull dozers, dump trucks, front-end loaders, and similar equipment may be used to implement projects.
- 5. Off- and Side-Channel Habitat Restoration** projects would be implemented to reconnect historic side-channels with floodplains by removing off-channel fill and plugs. Furthermore, new side-channels and alcoves can be constructed in geomorphic settings that would accommodate such features. This activity category typically applies to areas where side channels, alcoves, and other backwater habitats have been filled or blocked from the main channel, disconnecting them from most if not all flow events. These project types would increase habitat diversity and complexity, improve flow heterogeneity, provide long-term nutrient storage and substrate for aquatic macroinvertebrates, moderate flow disturbances, increase retention of leaf litter, and provide refuge for fish during high flows. Equipment such as excavators, bull dozers, dump trucks, front-end loaders, and similar equipment may be used to implement projects.
- 6. Streambank Restoration** would be implemented through bank shaping and installation of coir logs or other soil reinforcements as necessary to support riparian vegetation; planting or installing LW, trees, shrubs, and herbaceous cover as necessary to restore ecological function in riparian and floodplain habitats; or a combination of the above methods. Such actions are intended to restore banks that have been altered through road construction, improper grazing, invasive plants, and more. Benefits include increased amounts of riparian vegetation and associated shading, bank stability, and reduced sedimentation into stream channels and spawning gravels. Full bioengineering for bank stabilization that incorporates soft elements of upland and riparian plantings of trees, shrubs and herbaceous cover, installation of large wood and native rock/boulders, and results in the restoration and ecological lift of streambanks also falls under this category of authorized activities. Equipment such as excavators, bull dozers, dump trucks, front-end loaders, and similar equipment may be used to implement projects.

- 7. Set-back or Removal of Existing Berms, Dikes, and Levees** would be conducted to reconnect historic fresh-water deltas to inundation, stream channels with floodplains, and historic estuaries to tidal influence as a means to increase habitat diversity and complexity, moderate flow disturbances, and provide refuge for fish during high flows. Other restored ecological functions include overland flow during flood events, dissipation of flood energy, increased water storage to augment low flows, sediment and debris deposition, growth of riparian vegetation, nutrient cycling, and development of side channels and alcoves. Such projects would take place where estuaries and floodplains have been disconnected from adjacent rivers through drain pipes and anthropogenic fill. Equipment such as excavators, bull dozers, dump trucks, front-end loaders, and similar equipment may be used to implement projects.
- 8. Reduction/Relocation of Recreation Impacts** is intended to close, better control, or relocate recreation infrastructure and use along streams and within riparian areas. This includes removal, improvement, or relocation of infrastructure associated with designated campgrounds, dispersed camp sites, day-use sites, foot trails, and off-road vehicle roads/trails in riparian areas. The primary purpose is to eliminate or reduce recreational impacts to restore riparian areas and vegetation, improve bank stability, and reduce sedimentation into adjacent streams. Equipment such as excavators, bull dozers, dump trucks, front-end loaders, and similar equipment may be used to implement projects.
- 9. Livestock Fencing, Stream Crossings and Off-Channel Livestock Watering Facilities** projects would be implemented by constructing fences to exclude riparian, providing controlled access for walkways that livestock use to transit across streams and through riparian areas, and reducing livestock use in riparian areas and stream channels by providing upslope water facilities. Such projects promote a balanced approach to livestock use in riparian areas, reducing livestock impacts to riparian soils and vegetation, streambanks, channel substrates, and water quality. Equipment such as excavators, bull dozers, dump trucks, front-end loaders, and similar equipment may be used to implement projects.
- 10. Road and Trail Erosion Control and Decommissioning** includes hydrologically closing or decommissioning roads and trails, including culvert removal in perennial and intermittent streams; removing, installing or upgrading cross-drainage culverts; upgrading culverts on non-fish-bearing streams; constructing water bars and dips; reshaping road prisms; vegetating fill and cut slopes; removing and stabilizing of side cast materials; grading or resurfacing roads that have been improved for aquatic restoration with gravel, bark chips, or other permeable materials; contour shaping of the road or trail base; removing road fill to native soils; soil stabilization and tilling compacted surfaces to reestablish native vegetation. Roads closed under USFS, and BLM/BIA-equivalent Travel and Access Management Plans would be subject to these PDC and may be addressed under this BO. Actions would target

priority roads that contribute sediment to streams, block fish passage, or disrupt floodplain and riparian functions. Equipment such as excavators, bull dozers, dump trucks, front-end loaders, and similar equipment may be used to implement projects.

**11. Juniper Tree Removal** includes felling juniper trees occurring in riparian areas and placing stem into the stream channel and floodplain to provide aquatic benefits.