



# Programmatic General Permit 10

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

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## MINIMAL IMPACT ACTIVITIES AUTHORIZED IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE STATE OF UTAH'S STREAM ALTERATION PROGRAM

**EFFECTIVE:** February 22, 2016

**EXPIRES:** February 22, 2021

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The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Sacramento District (District), is issuing Programmatic General Permit 10 (PGP 10) for certain activities in waters of the United States (waters) that have been authorized under the State of Utah's Stream Alteration Program. An activity is verified under PGP 10 when the Utah State Engineer issues a Stream Alteration Permit in compliance with state law and the Corps has determined it meets the terms and conditions of this general permit.

**ISSUING OFFICE:** U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Sacramento District

**ACTION ID:** SPK-2002-50464

**AUTHORITIES:** This permit covers activities under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (Section 404) and Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (Section 10). Under Section 404, the Corps authorizes the discharge of dredged or fill material into waters of the U.S. Work or structures in or affecting navigable waters are permitted by the Corps under Section 10.

**Purpose:** This permit is designed to eliminate duplication and expedite authorization of the activities that fall under the Corps' Regulatory Program that have been authorized through a Stream Alteration Permit.

The Stream Alteration Program was implemented by the State of Utah in 1972 to protect the natural resource value of the State's streams and protect the water rights and recreational opportunities associated with them. Section 73-3-29 of the Utah Code requires any person, governmental agency, or other organizations proposing to alter the bed or banks of a natural stream to obtain written authorization from the State Engineer prior to beginning work.

This permit applies to perennial, intermittent and ephemeral streams that are considered to be part of the surface tributary system over which the Utah State Engineer has regulatory authority under the Stream Alteration Program. Limits of the State of Utah's jurisdiction are defined in Administrative Rule R655-13.

**Activities:** The types of activities covered under this permit are those that have a minimal impact, individually and cumulatively, on the aquatic environment and those that have been authorized by the Utah State Engineer through a Stream Alteration Permit. These activities include, but are not limited to, culvert installation and extension, bridges, low water crossings, utility crossings, bank stabilization, linear transportation projects, diversion structures, outfall structures, boat ramps, docks, commercial and residential construction, flood control facilities and maintenance of previously permitted activities that are located in waters subject to jurisdiction under Section 10 or are not exempt under Section 404. Stream restoration activities located in riffle/pool complexes are authorized under this general permit.

**Exclusions:** This permit does not authorize discharges of dredged or fill material into special aquatic sites such as wetlands, springs, fens and riffle/pool complexes. Activities involving discharges of dredged or fill material in special aquatic sites would require an alternate form of Department of Army (DA) authorization. Exceptions to this prohibition are identified above under Activities. Applicants should contact the Corps for additional information.

This permit does not authorize the relocation of streams, including channelization and realignment of natural channels.

This permit does not authorize any activities in waters of the U.S. undertaken on tribal lands or activities conducted under emergency situations. These activities require an alternate form of Department of Army (DA) authorization, such as a Nationwide or other General Permit.

**Terms:** This permit authorizes minimal impact activities that have been authorized by the Utah State Engineer through a Stream Alteration Permit with the following provisions:

a) For activities in perennial and intermittent waters, no more than 300 linear feet may be impacted. If the activity involves the use of a bioengineering method, no more than 500 linear feet may be impacted. The Corps will determine what constitutes bioengineering methods on a case-by-case basis.

b) For activities in ephemeral waters that are under the purview of the State of Utah, no more than 500 linear feet may be impacted. If the activity involves the use of bioengineering methods, no more than 750 feet may be impacted. The Corps will determine what constitutes bioengineering methods on a case-by-case basis.

c) For stream restoration and enhancement activities, there is no limitation on linear footage of impact. The applicant must demonstrate that the proposed work will result in an increase to the functions and services provided by the stream channel.

The activity being permitted shall be a "single and complete" project. The term "single and complete project" is defined as that portion of the total linear project proposed or accomplished by one owner/developer or partnership or other association of owners/developers that includes all crossings of a single water of the United States (i.e., a single waterbody) at a specific location. For linear projects crossing a single or multiple waterbodies several times at separate and distant locations, each crossing is considered a single and complete project for purposes

of NWP authorization. However, individual channels in a braided stream or river are not separate waterbodies, and crossings of such features cannot be considered separately.

Activities not meeting the terms and conditions of this permit may be authorized through an alternate form of Department of Army (DA) authorization, such as a Nationwide Permit. The Corps will determine, on a case-by-case basis, whether an activity has a more than minimal impact, individually or cumulatively, on the aquatic environment or may be contrary to the public interest.

**Notification Procedures:** Applicants must submit a joint application form developed by the State Engineer and the Corps when applying for a Stream Alteration Permit and verification under this general permit. Although not required, the Corps highly recommends a pre-application meeting with both agencies and the applicant. The joint application form and instructions may be obtained from either agency. To be determined completed for processing, the application must include the following:

- a. Completed Joint Permit Application Form;
- b. A vicinity map that clearly identifies the location of the proposed project site on a USGS topographic map (7.5 minute quadrangle map is recommended) with enough detail to easily locate the site and a recent aerial/satellite image of the site;
- c. Plan and cross-sectional view drawings showing all work requiring a permit, including fills, structures, borrow sites, staging areas and storage areas. The drawings must clearly demarcate the ordinary high water mark of the waters of the U.S. to be impacted and clearly illustrate where fill will be placed below the ordinary high water mark. Professional drawings are not required; however, drawings must be scaled or indicate dimensions of the work to be completed;
- d. A restoration plan for any areas temporarily disturbed during work, including re-contouring, re-vegetation with appropriate native plants;
- e. Ground photos which clearly show the area of the stream to be impacted as well as photos of the borrow sites, staging areas and storage areas along the bank of the river which show the vegetation in those areas. Photos of the bank are used to help determine the presence/absence of wetlands and other special aquatic sites adjacent to the river, as such, photos showing snow covered ground will not be accepted.
- f. If the activity involves bank stabilization or protection:
  - A description of the need for the work, including the cause of the erosion and the threat posed to structures, infrastructure, and/or public safety;
  - A narrative demonstrating the proposed activity incorporates the least damaging bank protection methods. These methods include, but are not limited to, the use of bioengineering, biotechnical design, root wads, large

woody debris and native plantings. If rock must be used due to site erosion conditions, explain how the bank stabilization structure incorporates elements beneficial to aquatic organisms;

- A planting plan which involves the use of native riparian plants, unless the applicant demonstrates it is not appropriate or not practicable.

Note: Activities which would harden and/or narrow the channel beyond what would be required for bank stabilization in natural channels are not authorized if the activity would have the potential to result in more than minimal impacts.

- g. An assessment of the likely impact the work would have on upstream, downstream and cross-stream properties. Specifically, discuss the following:
- Will the activity accelerate deposition or erosion?
  - Will the activity involve relocation, channelization or realignment of a natural stream channel?
  - Will the activity result in a shift in the main flow patterns?

The completed joint application form and the information above must be submitted to Utah State Engineer's Office.

Once a complete application has been received, the State Engineer will circulate copies to federal and states agencies as a public notice of the proposed work. Copies will be sent to the Corps, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, Utah Division of Water Quality and local agencies. The State Engineer will allow at least 20 days for review and comment. The State Engineer will notify the Corps of any application that generates considerable public interest or opposition.

The Corps will review each application to determine whether the activity complies with the terms and conditions of this permit. The Corps must also ensure compliance with related laws including Section 7 of the federal Endangered Species Act and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

For an activity to be authorized under this permit, the Corps must find the activity has no effect or, with the concurrence of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), the activity is not likely to adversely affect listed species or modify critical habitat. If USFWS requires additional conservation measures to concur that a project is not likely to adversely affect listed species or habitat, the activity may need to be authorized under another type of Corps permit. If the activity is likely to adversely affect listed species or modify critical habitat then the activity will require an alternate form of Department of Army (DA) authorization, such as a Nationwide Permit.

The Corps must ensure compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act

for each activity to be authorized under this permit. Activities that may result in adverse effects to sites listed, or sites eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places will not be authorized under this permit. Should any such impacts be identified, the Corps will request, after any necessary coordination with the State Historic Preservation Office, to suspend processing of the application while the applicant considers ways of modifying the proposal to address the identified concerns.

Should a specific activity be found to not meet the terms and conditions of this permit or have impacts that are more than minimal, the Corps will notify the State and the applicant of one of the following:

a. The activity does not qualify for authorization under PGP 10, with instruction on the procedures to seek authorization under a different type of permit; or

b. The activity might be authorized under PGP 10 with certain modifications.

**Permit Duration:** This General Permit expires 5 years from the date of issuance. The Corps may re-evaluate the terms and conditions of this permit at any time deemed necessary to protect the public interest. Activities verified by the Corps under this permit are valid until the date this General Permit expires. In the event that this General Permit expires when the project is under construction or under contract to begin construction, the applicant will have up to one year after the permit expiration to complete the work. In such case, the applicant must notify the Corps and submit sufficient evidence such as photos of work or proof of contract.

**General Conditions:**

1. Activities may not adversely affect species listed under the federal Endangered Species Act or adversely modify their critical habitat.
2. Activities may not cause a take of any migratory birds, their parts, nests, eggs, and nestlings. Destruction of riparian vegetation shall be avoided to the maximum extent practicable. Unavoidable vegetation clearing and surface disturbance shall be conducted outside critical breeding, nesting, and fledging seasons. For raptor species, locations of existing raptor nests should be identified prior to the initiation of activities. Appropriate spatial buffer zones of inactivity should be established during crucial breeding and nesting periods relative to raptor nest sites or territories. Arrival at nesting sites can occur as early as December for certain raptor species. Nesting and fledging can continue through August.
3. Activities may not result in the take, possession, sale, purchase, barter or transport of any bald or golden eagle, alive or dead, or any part, nest, or egg thereof. Destruction of riparian vegetation, especially mature cottonwoods, shall be avoided to the maximum extent practicable. Unavoidable vegetation clearing and surface disturbance shall be conducted outside critical breeding, nesting, and fledging seasons. Locations of existing bald and golden eagle nests should be identified prior to the initiation of activities. Appropriate spatial buffer zones of inactivity should be established during crucial breeding and nesting periods relative to eagle nest sites or territories. Arrival at nesting sites can occur as early as December.

Nesting and fledging can continue through August.

4. No activity may substantially disrupt the movements of those species of aquatic life indigenous to the water body, including those species that normally migrate through the area, unless the activity's primary purpose is to impound water.
5. Activities in spawning areas during spawning seasons must be avoided to the maximum extent practicable. Activities that would result in the physical destruction (e.g., through excavation, fill, or downstream smothering by substantial turbidity) of an important spawning area are not authorized.
6. Destruction of riparian or riverine vegetation, especially mature cottonwoods, shall be avoided to the maximum extent practicable and all disturbed areas must be restored to pre-disturbance levels. When work authorized by this permit causes damage to riparian vegetation that is not directly covered by a permanent feature, these scarred areas shall be replanted with a mixture of native trees, shrubs, forbs and grasses, as appropriate. At a minimum, replanting an area at a 1:1 ratio will be required. The permittee is ultimately responsible for re-vegetation success.
7. Activities may not adversely affect sites listed on, or determined eligible for listing on, the National Register of Historic Places.
8. Work must stop if any previously unknown historic properties, archaeological artifacts, or remains are identified during the completion of authorized work, and the permittee must immediately notify the Corps. The Corps will initiate the Federal and State coordination procedures required to determine if the remains or cultural resources warrant a recovery effort or if the site is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. Work may not resume until the Corps has completed the process to comply with the appropriate laws and regulations.
9. Activities must satisfy all conditions of the Section 401 water quality certification issued for this permit by the Utah Division of Water Quality.
10. Fill material must be clean and free of contaminants and noxious plants. Fresh cement or concrete is not allowed in waters unless it is placed in sealed forms. Unsuitable fill material includes vehicle bodies, farm machinery, appliances and other metal objects, asphalt, biodegradable construction debris and tires.
11. Construction equipment shall be cleaned to remove noxious weeds/seeds and petroleum products prior to moving on site. Machinery shall be fueled outside of the channel to prevent spillage into waterways. Best management practices shall be used to ensure construction related byproducts do not enter the riverine ecosystem and have negative effects on aquatic organisms.
12. No activity may occur in the proximity of a public water supply intake, except where the

activity is for the maintenance, repair or replacement of the intake structure or for adjacent bank stabilization.

13. No heavy equipment shall be used within the stream channel, except where it is demonstrated this type of action is necessary.

14. Material may not be placed in any location or manner which will impair surface water flows into or out of any adjacent wetlands.

15. Construction Best Management Practices shall be implemented to minimize sedimentation inputs to river systems resulting from stream bed disturbance by storing excavated material outside of the stream channel. Appropriate soil erosion and sediment controls must be used and maintained in effective operating condition during construction, and all exposed soil and other fills, as well as any work below the ordinary high water mark, must be permanently stabilized at the earliest practicable date.

16. Work in waters of the U.S. shall only be conducted during periods of low or no flow, unless the applicant demonstrates the proposed work during higher flows is necessary and would not result in more than minimal impacts, or that this condition is otherwise not appropriate or practicable.

17. Culverts placed in streams must be installed in a manner that maintains flows during low flow periods, and in a manner that maintains fish passage in locations where periodic flows provide stream connectivity and allow fish movement above and below the installed structure.

18. If permittee responsible compensatory mitigation to offset impacts to waters of the U.S. is required, the activity will need to be authorized under an alternate form of Department of Army (DA) authorization. When determining whether appropriate and practicable mitigation is necessary, the Corps will consider whether impacts to waters of the U.S. were avoided and minimized to the maximum extent practicable.

19. All temporary fills must be removed in their entirety within 30 days after completion of the permitted action and the affected areas returned to their pre-existing elevations.

20. Within 30 days of completion of the permitted work, the permittee must submit the following information to the Corps and State Engineer:

- a. The permittee's name, address, telephone number and email address;
- b. The Stream Alteration Permit number and Corps Action ID;
- c. A statement that the authorized work was done in accordance with the Stream Alteration Permit and PGP 10 including special conditions added to the verification; and
- d. The signature of the permittee certifying the completion of the work and mitigation.

21. Work authorized under this permit may be inspected by the Corps at any reasonable time to assure that it is being or has been completed in compliance with the terms and conditions of this permit.

22. Any activity authorized by this permit must be maintained in good condition and in conformance with the terms and conditions of this permit.

23. For activities authorized through this permit under Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899, the permittee understands and agrees that, if future operations by the United States require the removal, relocation, or other alteration, of the structure or work herein authorized, or if, in the opinion of the Secretary of the Army or his authorized representative, said structure or work shall cause unreasonable obstruction to the free navigation of the navigable waters, the permittee will be required, upon due notice from the Corps of Engineers, to remove, relocate or alter the structural work or obstructions caused thereby, without expense to the United States. No claim shall be made against the United States on account of any such removal or alteration.

**Further Information:**

1. This permit does not obviate the need to obtain any other required federal, state or local authorizations.
2. This permit does not grant any property rights or exclusive privileges nor do they authorize injury to the property or the rights of others.
3. This permit does not convey the right to interfere with any existing or future federal project.
4. In issuing authorizations under this permit, the Federal Government does not assume any liability for the following: damages to authorized projects, or uses thereof, as a result of other permitted or un-permitted activities or natural events; damages to persons or property caused by authorized activity; damages to authorized projects, or uses thereof, as a result of current or future activities undertaken by or on behalf of the United States in the public interest; design or construction deficiencies associated with the authorized work; damage claims associated with any modification, suspension or revocation of individual authorizations.
5. In issuing authorizations under this permit, the Corps must rely on information supplied by the applicant. Should it be determined that any authorization was based on false, incomplete or inaccurate data, the Corps reserves the right to re-evaluate the case and to suspend, modify or revoke the authorization. Failure to comply with the terms and conditions of an authorization is also grounds for suspension, modification or revocation, as is the discovery of relevant information not considered in the initial application review.

**CONTACTS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Sacramento District**  
1325 J Street Sacramento, CA 95814-2922

<http://www.spk.usace.army.mil/organizations/cespk-co/regulatory/index.html>



The joint application form and instructions for completing the form can be found at <http://www.waterrights.utah.gov/strmalt/>

For additional information or questions about PGP 10, please contact one of the offices below.

Utah Division of Water Rights-State Engineer  
1594 West North Temple, Suite 220  
P.O. Box 146300  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-6300  
(801) 538-7240

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Sacramento District  
Utah Regulatory Office  
533 West 2600 South, Suite 150  
Bountiful, Utah 84010-7744  
(801) 295-8380

This permit becomes effective when the federal official, designated to act for the Secretary of the Army has signed below.



Michael S. Jewell  
Chief, Regulatory Division

19 February 2016  
Date