



US Army Corps  
of Engineers

Sacramento District  
1325 J Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814-2922

# Public Notice

Public Notice Number: 200150003

Date: September 12, 2002

Comments Due: October 12, 2002

In reply, please refer to the Public Notice Number

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## TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

**SUBJECT:** Application for a Department of the Army permit under authority of Section 404 of the Clean Water Act and water quality certification under Section 401 to impact 1.2 acres of wetlands adjacent to the Logan River to build a 2.4 mile long recreation trail, footbridges at three river crossings and boardwalk in seven other areas and stabilize 1200 feet of river bank, as shown in the attached drawings.

**APPLICANT:** Russ Akina  
Logan Parks and Recreation  
195 South 100 West  
Logan, UT 84321

**LOCATION:** The proposed trail project is located along the Logan River bank between 1000 West and 600 South in Logan, Cache County, Utah. Sections 6, 7, 8, Township 11 North, Range 1 East, UTM Zone 12, 4617500 North, 428500 East. (see figure 1)

**PURPOSE:** Locating the trail next to the Logan River would offer the community a chance to become more familiar with the local riparian and river resources and would provide recreation for the citizens of the Cache valley.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** The project is to construct a 2.4 mile, hard-surfaced, crushed aggregate, non-motorized recreation trail along the Logan River between 1000 West and 600 South. (see Figures 2 & 4.) The width of the trail would be 10 feet. As needed, the actual width of the fill may extend to about 13 feet in certain areas. In addition, footbridges will be placed at three river crossings and boardwalk will be placed at seven unavoidable overflow areas or small tributaries.

Total acreage currently requiring mitigation for impacts associated with the trail project includes 0.5 acre of palustrine emergent and 0.7 acre of palustrine forest and scrub-shrub wetlands. The applicant proposes to enhance approximately 3.6 acres of existing wetlands as mitigation. This acreage includes 1.5 acres of palustrine emergent wetlands and 2.1 acres of palustrine forested scrub-shrub wetlands.

**ALTERNATIVES:** Logan City could build the trail further away from the river but then the City would have to purchase more easements which would increase the cost of the trail. The trail could parallel city roads but that would place trail users in danger of fast moving traffic.

**AREA DESCRIPTION:** The project area encompasses both riparian upland and wetland associated with the floodplain of the Logan River. Upland areas include agriculture croplands and pasture. Wetland areas include seasonally flooded palustrine forest, palustrine scrub-shrub, and palustrine emergent communities. The plant communities include short grazed pasture grasses and willow shrubs. The area also contains willows and cottonwood as the dominant trees of the area. Most of the wetlands occur on private pasture lands. (see figures 3 & 4)

**PROPOSED MITIGATION:** The applicant proposes to mitigate unavoidable wetland impacts through on-site and in-kind enhancement of at least 3.6 acres of riparian wetlands along the proposed trail corridor and stabilization of about 1,200 feet of river bank (see attached sample plans). Exact site and types of bank stabilization have not been decided however the City will use techniques that mimic natural conditions. The city anticipates that about 26 acres of degraded wetlands are available along the trail corridor. This acreage includes approximately 8 acres of palustrine emergent wetlands and 18 acres of palustrine forest and scrub-shrub. Actual mitigation sites will be chosen at a later date following coordination with property owners, the Corps, and other agencies. Ultimately structure and form of the degraded riparian wetlands will be restored, and functional value for water quality enhancement, wildlife habitat, recreation, and heritage will be improved. Plans for enhancement include planting, removal of grazing, and soft bank stabilization measures.

Current functions of the wetlands are low. The proposed mitigation is to enhance existing wetlands in the area. Currently, cattle roam freely into and out of the wetland areas, thereby trampling soils and vegetation, grazing both woody and herbaceous vegetation, polluting the river with manure and urine, and damaging the structural integrity of the river banks. The river banks are eroding and undercutting where shrubs have been removed by either cattle or the land owners in order to increase the open acreage on their pasture land. The assessment of wetland condition (figure 8) is from the Logan City Wetland Development Projects Environmental Assessment, May 2002.

The City expects cattle pressure on wetlands along the river to increase. Growth of suburban, urban and commercial development continues onto prior agricultural lands and grazing areas in Cache Valley. Increasingly, it appears that land available for grazing and agricultural activities will become more centered around the wetter, riparian areas in the Cache Valley which are less desirable.

#### **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

The location of the proposed trail route is limited, in part, by cooperation of private land owners who have agreed to property easements. Where the availability of easements has been indicated, the trail route is positioned along a corridor that provides the least amount of wetland impacts and to the greatest extent practicable avoids the most seasonally flooded areas. Boardwalks are proposed in seven locations. Details on proposed bridge structures are on figures 7-1, 7-2 and 7-3.

The latest published version of the National Register of Historic Places and its monthly supplements have been reviewed and there are no places either listed or recommended as eligible which would be affected.

This activity would not affect any threatened or endangered species or their critical habitat. The District Engineer has made this determination based on information provided by the applicant and on the Corps' preliminary investigation.

Interested parties are invited to submit written comments on or before **October 12, 2002**. Personal information in comment letters is subject to release to the public through the Freedom of Information Act. Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice that a public

hearing be held to consider this application. Requests for public hearings shall state, with particularity, the reasons for holding a public hearing.

Certification that the proposed work, if permitted, will not violate applicable water quality standards have been requested from the Utah Division of Water Quality. The Utah Division of Water Quality intends to issue certification, provided that the proposed work will not violate applicable water quality standards. Projects are usually certified where the project may create diffuse sources (nonpoint sources) of wastes which will occur only during the actual construction activity and where best management practices will be employed to minimize pollution effects. Written comments on water quality certification should be submitted to Mr. William O. Moellmer, Utah Division of Water Quality, 288 North 1460 West, PO Box 144870, Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-4870, on or before **October 12, 2002**.

The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact including cumulative impacts of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered including the cumulative effects thereof; among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, cultural values, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, flood plain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, consideration of property ownership, and in general, the needs and welfare of the people.

The Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, state, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps of Engineers to determine whether to issue, modify, condition or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

If additional information is required, please contact Mr. Russ Akina, Logan Parks and Recreation, at 435-750-9877, or Mr. James Thomas at the Utah Regulatory Office, telephone 801-295-8380, extension 18, or email [Jim.Thomas@usace.army.mil](mailto:Jim.Thomas@usace.army.mil). Written comments should reference Public Notice Number 200150003 and should be mailed to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Utah Regulatory Office, ATTN: Mr. James Thomas, 533 West 2600 South, Suite 150, Bountiful, Utah 84010. Comments are due **October 12, 2002**.

Michael J. Conrad, Jr.  
Colonel, Corps of Engineers  
District Engineer

Enclosures: Drawings (1-9)