



Public Notice

US Army Corps
of Engineers

Sacramento District
1325 J Street
Sacramento, CA 95814-2922

Public Notice Number: 200175121

Date: April 18, 2001

Comments Due: May 18, 2001

In reply, please refer to the Public Notice Number

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

SUBJECT: Application for a Department of the Army permit under authority of Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (CWA) and for water quality certification under Section 401 of the CWA to place rock structures in the Yampa River, as shown in the attached drawings.

APPLICANT: City of Steamboat Springs
Post Office Box 775088
Steamboat Springs, CO 80477
Attention: Mr. Chris Wilson

APPLICANT'S AGENT: Basin Hydrology, Incorporated
Post Office Box 3786
Park City, UT 84060
Attention: Mr. Mark Oliver or Mr. Mark Sweeney
(435) 649-1252

LOCATION: The project site is located within 2,500 linear feet of the Yampa River on the west end of the City of Steamboat Springs from the 13th Street bridge downstream to the Stock bridge. The legal description is within the E 1/2 of Section 7 and the SW 1/4 of Section 8, Township 6 North, Range 84 West, Routt County, Colorado.

PURPOSE: To improve recreational uses, including fisheries, on the Yampa River through town.

BACKGROUND: The consulting hydrologist, Basin Hydrology, prepared a report for the City of Steamboat Springs entitled Yampa River Evaluation & Modification Study, 13th Street to Multi-Modal Center dated January 18, 2001. This report presents findings of basic river morphology through this reach and summarizes meetings with various river users (tubers, boaters, and fishers). It recommends measures (i.e., rock vanes and boulder clusters) to constrict low flows and increase bed and bank diversity for recreational uses. The kayaking-boating community is very interested in the construction of a feature that will create a large play area. As a result of this report, four phases of work were proposed. Phase I was submitted to the Corps of Engineers and received approval (assigned permit number 200175090) to install up to 7 rock

vanes and one ingress-egress access structure along a 900-foot section of river at the downstream end of the project area from the Multi-Modal Center up to Stock bridge. The remaining phases, II, III, and IV, are the subject of this permit application.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: This project (Phases II, III and IV) proposes river features including the construction of 23 rock vanes and J hooks, three areas of scattered boulders and boulder clusters, a river ingress-egress structure, and the creation of a kayak feature. Approximately 748 large rocks (3-5 feet in diameter) will be used to construct these features for a total of 296 cubic yards of rock below the ordinary high water mark. A few of the existing rock structures within this reach will be dismantled and reconstructed so they angle upstream. Channel bed material removed for the placement of footer rocks will be placed around the finished structures to provide a smooth transition from channel bed to rock feature. The proposed kayak feature (located on the upstream end) may change slightly from that shown based on additional hydraulic analysis and inspection of other similar existing structures in Salida and Vail but the structure is not intended to raise the ordinary low water surface elevations by more than two feet. Construction will proceed in phases. Limited construction for Phase I (Corps permit number 200175090) is targeted to begin this spring prior to the onset of high flows. Construction for the remaining phases will commence again in late June or early July with completion scheduled for mid to late September 2001. Basin Hydrology will stake the location and elevation of each structure and assist with quality control during project construction.

ALTERNATIVES: The applicant did not identify any other project alternatives. One possible alternative within this reach is the construction of less structures. Another alternative is the no action alternative that would maintain existing conditions yet leave additional recreation demands unmet.

AREA DESCRIPTION: This reach of the Yampa River is located on the west end of Steamboat Springs flowing westerly as it lies between State Highway 40 to the north and the railroad to the south. At this site, the river is at an elevation of around 6,675 feet msl and drains a basin of over 600 square miles. The U.S. Geological Survey has a stream gage located upstream near the 5th Street bridge (with over 90 years of data) that indicates an average annual bankfull discharge of approximately 3,200 cubic feet per second (cfs). The high flow of record occurred on June 14, 1921, measuring 6,820 cfs.

The project reach is a straight section 2,500 linear feet long (3,400 feet with the inclusion of Phase I). The surrounding area includes the City library, entry park, and trailer home park on the north side and the steep railroad grade on the south. A thin band of riparian vegetation lines both riverbanks. Several random river structures were placed by the City of Steamboat Springs through this reach and will be reworked with this project.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: The applicant has requested water quality certification from the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, Water Quality Control Division in accordance with Section 401 of the Clean Water Act. Written comments on water quality certification should be submitted to Mr. Phil Hegeman, Planning and Standards Section, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, Water Quality Control Division, 4300 Cherry Creek Drive South, Denver, Colorado, 80222-1530, on or before **May 18, 2001**. The

Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, Water Quality Control Division also reviews each project with respect to the anti-degradation provision in state regulations. For further information regarding anti-degradation provision, please contact Mr. Hegeman at the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, Water Quality Control Division, telephone (303) 692-3518.

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. No further cultural resources review is warranted.

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 **May 18, 2001**. 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.

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.

For activities involving 404 discharges, a permit will be denied if the discharge does not comply with the Environmental Protection Agency's Section 404(b) (1) guidelines. Subject to the preceding sentence and any other applicable guidelines or criteria, a permit will be granted unless the District Engineer determines it would be contrary to the public interest.

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.

Written comments on this permit application should be submitted to the District Engineer at the address listed above. Please furnish a copy of your written comments to the attention of Susan Bachini Nall, Western Colorado Regulatory Office, U.S. Army Engineer District, Sacramento, 402 Rood Avenue, Room 142, Grand Junction, Colorado 81501-2563. For further information, please contact Susan Bachini Nall, at telephone number (970) 243-1199, extension 16, or email snall@spk.usace.army.mil. The applicant's agent, Basin Hydrology, may also be contacted at the address and telephone number listed above.

Michael J. Walsh
Colonel, Corps of Engineers
District Engineer

Enclosures: 16 Drawings