



Public Notice

US Army Corps
of Engineers
Sacramento District
1325 J Street
Sacramento, CA 95814-2922

Number: 200675549
Date: January 10, 2007
Comments Due: February 9, 2007

SUBJECT: The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Sacramento District, (Corps) is evaluating a permit application to construct the Glenwood Springs-Whitewater Park project, which would result in impacts to approximately 0.33 acre of waters below the ordinary highwater mark of the Colorado River. This notice is to inform interested parties of the proposed activity and to solicit comments. This notice may also be viewed at the Corps web site at <http://www.spk.usace.army.mil/regulatory.html>.

AUTHORITY: This application is being evaluated under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act for the discharge of dredged or fill material in waters of the United States.

APPLICANT: Mr. Andrew McGregor
City of Glenwood Springs, Colorado
101 West 8th Street
Glenwood Springs, Colorado 81601

AGENT: Mr. Jason Cary
RiverRestoration.org, LLC
Post Office Box 2123
Glenwood Springs, Colorado 81602

LOCATION: The project site is located in west Glenwood Springs within Section 6, Township 6 South, Range 89 West, Garfield County, Colorado, and can be seen on the Glenwood Springs USGS Topographic Quadrangle.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The applicant is proposing to construct one (1) grade control structure across the Colorado River directly upstream of the Midland Avenue Bridge. Based on the available information, the overall project purpose is to develop a whitewater recreation park. The applicant states the project purpose is to enhance a currently degraded river reach for the benefit of recreation and the river system while the need for this project has been identified by the residents of Glenwood Springs for almost 20 years.

The project is further summarized under the following description of impacts:

Bank Terracing. The applicant is proposing to re-work existing bank rip-rap both downstream of the bridge on the north bank and upstream of the bridge on the north and south banks. Existing concrete and debris would be replaced with natural boulders. The bank terracing is proposed on the south side of the channel between stations 14+00 to 15+00 and again at the north side of the channel between stations 12+50 to 16+00.

Approximately 273 cubic yards of the bank terrace fill material would be below the ordinary high water mark (OHWM) and comprised of natural boulders with gravel and filter fabric bedding. This is approximately 0.06 acre of fill below the OHWM.

Grade Control Structure. A grade control structure is proposed to be constructed between stations 14+22 to 15+15 in the main channel. There would be the discharge of approximately 1,364 cubic yards of material during the construction of the boulder grade control structure. The material would consist of native boulder and cobble material as well as new imported boulders. The applicant states that approximately 273 cubic yards of grout is necessary for structural stability. Grout would be placed at least 1-foot or greater sub-grade to maintain interstitial spaces near the final surface of the grade control structure. Approximately 200 cubic yards of native cobble would be backfilled. The extent of the fill area would approximately 11,600 square feet or 0.26 acre within the main channel.

Wave Feature. The wave feature would total 272 cubic yards of fill material and would be integrated into the grade control structure. The wave feature would be a pre-cast, concrete vault with reinforcing rebar material and backfilled with ready mix. No wet concrete would be directly placed into flowing water. All areas constructed with cement shall be isolated from any flowing waters and materials shall be contained and properly cured or disposed. The wave feature would be placed on cross-section 14+80.

Random Boulders. Random boulders are proposed for placement along both shorelines downstream of the grade control structure to create near bank eddies for upstream navigation of small water craft. Approximately 40 cubic yards of natural boulders would be randomly placed.

The applicant has not disclosed any frazil ice issues anticipated with the proposed low flows and winter-time ice accumulation issues associated with construction flow diversions and flow control issues or during the lifetime of the structure.

The total length of the river bank affected is approximately 300-linear feet on the north side of the river and 120-linear feet on the south side of the river. The applicant states that the extent of the banks have been formerly disturbed by utilities installation, rip-rap, invasive vegetation and channelization. The total volume of fill material proposed below OHWM is approximately 2,425 cubic yards of native and imported boulders, concrete grout, pre-cast concrete and cobble over an area of approximately 0.33 acre. The attached drawings provide additional project details.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Environmental Setting. The area proposed for the above mentioned activities is characterized by prior impacts associated with the construction of the Midland Avenue bridge, Interstate 70 river channelization, rip-rap for bank protection, and utility crossings. No wetland soils have been identified at the project site however, some dense stands of coyote willow are established along the south bank of the river. A riparian fringe area, located above the OHWM and consisting of tamarisk and scattered willows, junipers and elms, exist outside of the rip-rap disturbance areas. The applicant has identified the following functions existing at this section of the Colorado River and riparian corridor as; sediment transportation, fish habitat, pollution dilution, flood dissipation and wildlife corridor.

The OHWM was delineated by hydraulic modeling of the 1.5 year return flood. The 1.5 year return flood was determined using a Log-Pearson Type III probability analysis of peak flows recorded between 1967 and 2004 at USGS 09085100 Colorado River below Glenwood Springs, CO. The 1.5 year return flood was calculated at 12,100 cubic feet/second (cfs).

Alternatives. The applicant has provided information concerning three (3) project alternatives. Additional information concerning project alternatives may be available from the applicant or their agent. Other alternatives may develop during the review process for this permit application. All reasonable project alternatives, in particular those which may be less damaging to the aquatic environment, will be considered. The attached Appendix B (3 pages) provides the applicant's submitted alternative analysis.

Mitigation. The Corps requires that applicants consider and use all reasonable and practical measures to avoid and minimize impacts to aquatic resources. If the applicant is unable to avoid or minimize all impacts, the Corps may require compensatory mitigation. The applicant has proposed to restore impacted willow or native vegetation disturbed to an equivalent vegetative coverage at a 1:1

replacement ratio. Approximately 0.01 acre of dense willows would be impacted between stations 14+70 and 15+20 on the south bank and restored between stations 15+50 and 15+50 on the north bank. Tamarisk area impacts would equal approximately 0.18 acre of river bank and would be restored with willow and other native woody riparian species.

Maintenance. The applicant has not disclosed any on-going or necessary maintenance practices or safety related issues associated with this project. However, the applicant states that use of the pre-cast structure construction method allows for design of a more stable structure to be constructed in the river than can be constructed with native or imported boulders. It is anticipated that the pre-cast structures would greatly reduce the potential for structure failure and associated maintenance.

Cumulative Impacts. The applicant states that no significant fluvial geomorphic changes are expected due to the proposed fill activities. The structure would not increase flow velocities in the vicinity of the existing bridge abutments. Flow velocities would only see localized changes, which are dissipated in the hydraulic jumps and which do not extend as far downstream as the abutments. The structure is designed to work at low flow and at moderate and high flows the structure is designed to be submerged and have minimal effect on channel hydraulics. The structure is designed to permit all sediment transport as it is naturally occurring on the reach.

Additionally, the applicant states that no permanent nor significant negative impacts to aquatic life are anticipated as a result of the project. No permanent increased siltation is expected within the reach nor downstream. The applicant expects overall improvements in aesthetics with river bank terracing are expected. The functions of the reach are insignificantly changed with respect to velocity breaks, back waters, and sediment transport. The project area aquatic functions have been previously degraded by the bridge construction, water quality and channel morphology and there is no significant change to these functions created by the proposed project.

Fishery. The proposed pools downstream of the structures may improve rearing, holding and overwinter habitat for brown trout. Fishing opportunities may be improved via bank access and terraced bank platforms. Float fishing would be accommodated by the structure and the structure has designated boat passage for crafts which currently use the river and navigate the downstream South Canyon wave. Portions of the structure would be submerged at all flows and would not be a barrier to fish movement.

OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AUTHORIZATIONS: Water quality certification or a waiver, as required under Section 401 of the Clean Water Act from the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, Water Quality Control Division is required for this project. The applicant has not indicated they have applied for certification.

HISTORIC PROPERTIES: Based on the available information, cultural resources are not within the project's area of potential effect.

ENDANGERED SPECIES: The project will not affect any Federally-listed threatened or endangered species or their critical habitat that are protected by the Endangered Species Act.

The above determinations are based on information provided by the applicant and our preliminary review.

EVALUATION FACTORS: The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impacts, including cumulative impacts, of the described 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 described activity, must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the described activity will be considered, including the cumulative effects thereof; among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, historic properties, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, floodplain 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 activity's impact on the public interest will include application of the Section 404(b)(1) guidelines promulgated by the Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency (40 CFR Part 230).

The Corps 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 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 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.

SUBMITTING COMMENTS: Written comments, referencing Public Notice 200675549, must be submitted to the office listed below on or before February 9, 2007:

Mark Gilfillan, Project Manager
US Army Corps of Engineers, Sacramento District
Colorado/Gunnison Basin Regulatory Office
400 Rood Avenue, Room 142
Grand Junction, Colorado 81501-2563
Email: Mark.A.Gilfillan@usace.army.mil

The Corps is particularly interested in receiving comments related to the proposal's probable impacts on the affected aquatic environment and the secondary and cumulative effects. Anyone may request, in writing, that a public hearing be held to consider this application. Requests shall specifically state, with particularity, the reason(s) for holding a public hearing.

If the Corps determines that the information received in response to this notice is inadequate for thorough evaluation, a public hearing may be warranted. If a public hearing is warranted, interested parties will be notified of the time, date, and location. Please note that all comment letters received are subject to release to the public through the Freedom of Information Act. If you have questions or need additional information please contact the applicant or the Corps' project manager Mark Gilfillan, 970-243-1199, extension 15, Mark.A.Gilfillan@usace.army.mil.

Attachments: 7 drawings and Appendix B