

United States Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management  
Coeur d'Alene Field Office  
3815 Schreiber Way  
Coeur d'Alene, Idaho 83815

## **DECISION RECORD**

Clark Fork River Delta Restoration Project  
DOI-BLM-ID-C010-2013-0019-EA

### **1. Background**

The Coeur d'Alene Field Office in cooperation with the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA), Idaho Fish and Game (IDFG), and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), is proposing to restore wetland and riparian habitat and reduce erosion in an area known as the Clark Fork River delta. The Clark Fork River Delta Restoration Project (project) would involve installing shoreline erosion control measures, installing structures to redirect local water flow, raising islands, deepening channels, establishing vegetation, and controlling weeds at the Clark Fork River delta. This delta is located in Bonner County, Idaho at the confluence of the Clark Fork River and Lake Pend Oreille. The proposed action includes restoration activities on BLM-administered land. The environmental effects of this action were analyzed and described in the project's Final Environmental Assessment (EA).

### **2. Decision**

It is my decision to implement the Clark Fork River Restoration Project on BLM lands, specifically, Area 7 as described in the Final EA. The project will include protecting shorelines, redirecting local water flow, raising islands, forming channels, establishing vegetation, and controlling weeds. The project is designed to help restore delta banks that have eroded on islands and shorelines; increase upland habitat; protect native riparian and wetland vegetation; and improve the quantity and quality of fish and wildlife habitat. The project would add habitat complexity with large woody debris; promote diverse native riparian vegetation growth such as black cottonwood, dogwood, and willow; reduce nonnative invasive reed canarygrass; and control other invasive species.

Area 7 is bound on the north by the existing log sluice channel that diverts logs from the River before they can enter the lake, to the south by the Clark Fork River, and to the west by Lake Pend Oreille. Area 7 has experienced severe lakeshore erosion at the western side and active bank erosion at the southern side. Restoration activities would address shoreline erosion, bank stabilization, and habitat development. Project elements and actions in Area 7 would include:

- Constructing bank armor protection along the northern, western, and southern boundaries.
- Constructing nine rock weirs along the northern shore, extending weirs about 30 feet into the channel.

- Constructing approximately 3,000 feet of bank armor protection along the southern shore using vegetated rock riprap along with the construction of rock weirs and additional armor protection consisting of locked logs and rock between the weirs.
- Raising the ground elevation of 52.8 acres by about 3 feet, incorporating microtopography diversity, and establishing native vegetation.
- Excavating material from 55.2 acres of the submerged side of Area 7. The finished grade of the excavated area would be 2049 feet, an increased depth of 6 to 12 feet to help ensure fish passage between the lake and river.

Access to Area 7 would be via a temporary floating bridge system constructed across the log sluice channel. From the temporary floating bridge crossing, a temporary access road to be buried would be constructed with rock and geotextile materials in the drawdown zone. This access road would be incorporated wherever possible into the final permanent erosion protection features.

Environmental Design/Mitigation Measures will be included as part of the project and are described in the Final EA in Table 2-2.

This decision does not include the issuance of a free-use permit to the Idaho Fish and Game for use of mineral materials. Upon receipt of an application for the free-use permit and approval of a reclamation plan, the BLM may issue a subsequent decision.

### **3. Authority**

This decision is made in accordance with The Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 as Amended, Section 301.

### **4. Rationale**

The delta has been eroding at rates of about 10 to 22 acres per year (Martin et al., 1988; Parametrix, 1998; Ducks Unlimited, 2011). The restoration is proposed to reduce rates of erosion, reclaim wetland habitats, and improve habitat quality for fish, wildlife, and vegetation.

The proposed action, as described in the EA, is in conformance with the Coeur d'Alene Resource Management Plan (RMP), as it was approved on June 29, 2007 (BLM, 2007). The RMP's Record of Decision allows for the project based on the relevant goals, objectives, and actions listed in Table 4-2 of the Final EA. Additional information pertaining to RMP conformance is found in the Appendixes to the RMP (BLM, 2007a).

The BLM has concluded in the Clark Fork River Delta Restoration Project - Finding of No Significant Impact, that the project will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment.

The proposed action, including environmental design and monitoring features, is consistent with Federal, State, and local laws, regulations, or requirements imposed for protection of the environment. Environmental Permits Requirements for the project are listed in Table 4-1 of the Final EA and will be obtained prior implementation.

## **5. Public Involvement**

BPA coordinated public involvement effort for the project through scoping and a comment period for the Draft EA. A scoping letter was sent to interested individuals on July 15, 2013. A public scoping meeting was held in Sandpoint, Idaho on July 31, 2013. All letters, documents and received comments are posted on the BPA Planning website ([http://efw.bpa.gov/environmental\\_services/Document\\_Library/ClarkForkRiverDelta/](http://efw.bpa.gov/environmental_services/Document_Library/ClarkForkRiverDelta/)).

BPA released the Draft EA in January 2014 for public comment. BPA sent the EA, or a notification of the EA's availability, to agencies and to potentially affected or interested parties. The public comment period extended from January 29, 2014, to March 3, 2014. Please see the Final EA-Appendix A for comments received on the Draft EA and responses to those comments. Additionally, IDFG and Ducks Unlimited met with Idaho Department of Lands personnel on February 24, 2014, to provide a project design update. Refer to the Final EA Chapter 1.5.4 for revisions that have been made to the EA since the draft EA was released – the revisions are in response to public comments, reflect refinements to project design, and include additional analysis.

The BLM posted the draft Finding of No Significant Impacts for public review to the BLM ePlanning website from July 14-21, 2014 and received no comments.

## **6. Coordination and Consultation**

The BLM has been coordinating with many agencies, local governments and tribes including; Bonneville Power Administration, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Office of Water and Watersheds, U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service, U.S. Department of the Interior Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Coeur D'Alene Office, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Forest Service, Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG), Idaho Department of Lands, State of Idaho House and Senate members for Districts encompassing the project area, Idaho State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), Kalispel Tribe of Indians, Coeur d'Alene Tribe, Kootenai Tribe of Idaho, Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, Bonner County Commissioner's Office, and Idaho Association of Counties.

## **7. Protest and Appeal**

This decision constitutes my final decision. Any party that is adversely affected by it may appeal to the Interior Board of Land Appeals in accordance with the regulations contained in 43 CFR, Part 4. A notice of appeal must be filed in this office (Coeur d'Alene Field Office, 3815 Schreiber Way, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho 83815) within 30 days from receipt of this decision. The Notice of appeal must be sent certified mail. The appellant has the burden of showing that the decision is in error in a statement of reasons. If a statement of reasons for the appeal is not included with the notice, it must be filed with the Interior Board of Land Appeals (IBLA), Office of Hearings and Appeals, U.S. Department of the Interior, 801 North Quincy St., Suite 300-QC, Arlington, VA 22203 within 30 days of filing the notice of appeal with the authorized officer. Any request for stay of this decision, in accordance with 43 CFR 4.21, must be filed with your notice of appeal.

/s/  
Kurt Pavlat  
Field Manager

7/22/14  
Date