

United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Coeur d'Alene Field Office
3815 Schreiber Way
Coeur d'Alene, ID 83835

DECISION RECORD

Ross Point Recreation Site Bank Stabilization
DOI-BLM-ID-0001-EA

1. Background

The public land at Ross Point was formerly an irrigation pumping station run by the Bureau of Reclamation, which later became an undeveloped recreation site (primarily for swimming). In 1994, the BLM removed the concrete pumphouse building and much of the associated piping and electrical lines. In February of 2000, the BLM hauled off additional debris (primarily broken concrete and rebar) and placed three truckloads of boulders along the shoreline to help reduce bank erosion from boat wake and flood flows impacting the site.

There is a need for additional bank stabilization to meet the objectives of protecting water quality by reducing sediment input from the site. Boat traffic and wakes have increased substantially along this part of the Spokane River since the previous stabilization work by BLM in 2000. Currently, parts of the Ross Point BLM site are chronic sources of sediment entering directly into the Spokane River, particularly from the toe of an eroding steep, sandy slope. Consequently, upland trees are being undermined and lost as the slope retreats from wave action and river flows.

Though initially effective in reducing scour and bank erosion, some of the previously placed boulders have settled since 2000, allowing waves to constantly overtop them. In contrast, other boulders that were placed with supporting logs or rocks (footer) underneath them have remained at the design elevation, effectively limiting erosion.

2. Decision

It is my decision to implement the stabilization project at Ross Point (see attached map) which includes installing additional boulders with vegetation and supporting rocks and logs at the most actively eroding areas. A tracked excavator working from dry land will be used to place materials. Design and mitigation features include:

- All work will be supervised by a qualified BLM hydrologist.
- A temporary silt fence will be used to reduce sediment during construction.
- All work will be conducted at low flow and with weather permitting. Work would last two to three days and would be suspended if the river elevation rose or for unfavorable rain or snow conditions.

- Work on the project area will be accomplished with care to ensure that no oil, diesel, gas or other harmful materials foul the soil or enter any stream.
- The BLM will monitor the project area for invasion and spread of weedy plant species such as spotted knapweed. If monitoring data indicate further action is needed, treatment will be conducted in accordance with the Field Office Weed Management Program as described in the 2008 Coeur d'Alene Field Office Programmatic Environmental Assessment (EA) for Vegetation Treatments.

3. Authority

This is a general public land decision in accordance with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 as Amended, Section 301.

4. Rationale

This project would have a beneficial impact on fisheries and aquatic resources by stabilizing the shoreline and reducing a source of sediment input to Spokane River. In the short term, there is a chance of sediment from less than ¼ acre of disturbance getting into the Spokane River during project implementation or after the water level is raised to summer pool. Currently the banks are eroding, leading to sediment input to the Spokane River. Since the project is meant to reduce erosion it is highly unlikely that the sediment input will increase. The work would be conducted at low water elevation and sediment control measures would be employed during project implementation as necessary. In the long term, the amount of erosion and sediment entering the river is expected to decrease. As described in the FONSI, there would be no significant impacts.

5. Public Involvement

Local residents who live within the project area and interested parties received written notification about the proposed action. A public comment period extended from 11/21/2014 to 1/09/2015. During the comment period the BLM received no comments.

6. Coordination and Consultation

The BLM consulted with the Coeur d'Alene Tribe through a letter sent on January 15, 2015 that described the proposed action and requested comments by February 17, 2015. The BLM received no comments. The BLM also consulted with the Army Corps of Engineers and Idaho Department of Lands regarding applicable permits.

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 (BLM Coeur d'Alene Field Office, 3815 Schreiber Way, Coeur d'Alene, ID 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/

3/10/15

Kurt Pavlat
Field Manager

Date

Attachment: Map