

Kristine Hilt

From: Dawson,Bradley <bradley.dawson@idfg.idaho.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, August 17, 2022 1:33 PM
To: Griffith, Christen CIV USARMY CENWW (USA)
Cc: Peterson, Mike; Kristine Hilt; White, Craig
Subject: RE: USACE Request for Comment, NWW-2022-00294, Pale Gem LLC, Big Wood River Restoration Project.

Hello Marve,

IDFG appreciates the opportunity to comment on the application for bank stabilization (NWW-2022-00294) along the Big Wood River near Bellevue, ID. According to IDFG's Fisheries Management Plan, a top management priority within the Big Wood River watershed is to "preserve quality stream habitats, and improve degraded stream habitats" (Idaho Department of Fish and Game 2019, p.279). Several aspects of this project (including the addition of woody structures, the use of willows for stabilization, and replanting with a native seed mix) are anticipated to preserve or improve stream habitat along the Big Wood River. Please see IDFG's additional recommendations below:

- IDFG appreciates that the proponent plans an alternative to "standard rip rapping of the existing bank face" (JAP Block 17). We note that the application includes the discharge of 383 cubic yards of stone and 23 cubic yards of alluvium below the ordinary high water mark; generally, IDFG encourages rip rap be used for stabilization only as a last resort. Rip rap is one of several factors that have historically limited riverine forest and riparian quality within the Wood River Valley (Idaho Department of Fish and Game 2017, p.376); please minimize the amount and scope of rip rap to the extent possible.
- The JAP proposes to install up to 9 cubic yards of large woody debris (LWD) into the river reach. IDFG recognizes the value of LWD within the Big Wood River system, but also recognizes that untreated wood can be a vector for spreading insects that pose a threat of ecological or agricultural damage. Local sources of LWD should be prioritized to avoid introducing new invasive/undesirable species to the project area.
- IDFG appreciates the applicant's proposals of willow cuttings, and specifications that erosion and sediment controls will be implemented (Design Plans; Grading & Erosion Control Notes). Please describe these controls in JAP Block 26b; furthermore, please incorporate mandatory work stoppages to implement corrective measures if a significant construction-caused turbidity plume is observed (contacting IDEQ is suggested for details regarding turbidity standards and monitoring procedures).
- The estimated work dates of Oct. 17-Nov. 11, 2022 are appropriate for minimizing impacts to spring-spawning fish. If the proposed work schedule is modified, please avoid instream work during the following period to protect spring spawning trout:
 - Non-work period start = 15 March.
 - Non-work period end = 14 July.

As this project develops, IDFG would be interested in accompanying USACE or other agency personnel on scheduled site tours. For coordinating a site tour, or for any other additional questions, please contact Bradley Dawson (Environmental Staff Biologist; 208-644-6310).

References

Idaho Department of Fish and Game. 2017. Idaho State Wildlife Action Plan, 2015. Idaho Department of Fish and Game.
Idaho Department of Fish and Game. 2019. Fisheries Management Plan 2019-2024. Idaho Department of Fish and Game.

From: Griffith, Christen CIV USARMY CENWW (USA) <Christen.M.Griffith@usace.army.mil>

Sent: Wednesday, August 10, 2022 4:27 PM

To: Dawson,Bradley <bradley.dawson@idfg.idaho.gov>

Subject: USACE Request for Comment, NWW-2022-00294, Pale Gem LLC, Big Wood River Restoration Project.

For your comment,

The Corps has received an application to stabilize and restore approximately 660 linear feet of bank which was eroded during high flows 2017. The property lost approximately 200 linear feet during that event, and the proposal entails to stabilize the existing alignment through bio-engineering techniques to include willow plantings, deflector jams, and rock toe installation. Live Siltation plantings will also be installed in the gravel bar adjacent to the bank. The project is located within Blain County, near Lat 43.447, and Long -114.258.

As the project may impact an identified fish bearing stream, we are notifying the Idaho Department of Fish and Game should you wish to provide comments regarding this project. The application we received and drawings are attached to this e-mail for your review.

Please provide your comments or intent to comment by August 25th, 2022.

Please don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions.

Thank you,
Marve Griffith

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