



State of Washington

Department of Fish and Wildlife

*South Central Region – Ellensburg District Office, 201 North Pearl, Ellensburg, WA 98926
Phone: (509) 925-1013, Fax (509) 925-4702*

September 6, 2011

John Marvin
Yakama Nation Fisheries
P.O. Box 151
Toppenish, WA 98948

Subject: Nichols Teanaway River Streambank Stabilization – SEPA Review Comments

Dear Mr. Marvin:

I am writing regarding your August 29th Memo to Phil Rigdon about the Olin Nichols project on the Teanaway River and our subsequent discussion of the project. The construction of the project will be consistent with your specific recommendations, including the 100-ft riparian planting, except with regards to importing rock fill and the relocation of the gravel berm material as noted below.

The project design includes 4 large rock vanes which must be constructed from very large, angular riprap which is not available on site. The material from the existing emergency bank barbs will be used in the construction of the vanes, but additional riprap material will need to be purchased and brought to the site to complete the structures per the engineered design. From our discussions I understand this additional fill material to be acceptable within the context of the overall project and its mitigation elements.

The gravel berm on the west side of the channel was not constructed of imported fill material, but rather material excavated from the secondary channel on the point bar in an effort to divert floodwater away from the eroding bank. Using this material in the construction of the floodplain bench and re-spreading any excess back on the point bar would help restore more natural-like floodplain conditions. From our discussions I understand this to be acceptable use of the gravel berm material.

We regret that YN-Fisheries has not been adequately informed and involved on this project. The USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service has been the lead agency for this project, disseminated the information, determined the agenda, design and schedule. Communication and coordination has been remarkably poor on this project and a source of frustration for WDFW as well as YN-Fisheries. Regardless, WDFW and YN-Fisheries can ensure better collaboration on

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project design and review. I will work with you over the coming months to establish more effective communications between our offices.

Thank you for your review.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light yellow background. The signature is cursive and appears to read "Brent D. Renfrow".

Brent D. Renfrow
District Habitat Biologist

Cc: Bob Zeigler, WDFW SEPA Coordinator
Perry Harvester, WDFW Regional Habitat Program Manager