From: Peoples, Marty D (DFW)
To: SEPADesk2 (DFW); kris10betty@gmail.com
Cc: Matson, Craig D (DFW); Kuykendall, Kristen (DFW)
Subject: Wenner Lake SEPA Response
Date: Monday, November 30, 2015 10:04:48 AM

Thank-you Nelson and Kristen for your comments regarding the Wenner Lakes Dam Proposal (DNS 15-058). I am responding for WDFW as the project permitting biologist. Please be assured WDFW engineering and biological staff have carefully considered options involved in dealing with the 2014 storm damage to Wenner Lakes #3 and #5 dams. The options we have chosen represent what we consider the best path forward in protecting Wenner Lake #3 and associated recreational uses, as well as downstream properties. Listed below are some of the specific concerns you mentioned.

1.Habitat Destruction and Mitigation: As you know Wenner Lake #5 was drained due to dam failure resulting from a large rainfall event in 2014. This lake has been drained for over one year. During this year WDFW has been looking at options, especially concerning what would be required to bring this dam into compliance with current Ecology DSO (Dam Safety Office) specifications. It became apparent that it would take a large effort to bring this dam into compliance with current specifications. WDFW determined there was not sufficient justification to fund this effort due to high cost, but also because of habitat concerns.

Wenner Lake is as you stated, is a relatively shallow lake and therefore provides limited value for recreational uses or fish habitat. The dam also served as a impassable barrier for fish movement, restricting available habitat for brown trout spawning that you noted occurs in Wenner Creek. Removal of this dam will open up a much greater length of stream for spawning and rearing habitat benefiting fish resources . Allow the dam to remain breeched will also re-establish riparian and wetland areas along the stream that will greatly improve the value of this property as wildlife habitat. Mitigation is planned for the now drained lakebed which includes noxious weed control and planting this area with native plants species adapted to wet soil conditions. These plantings will help protect water quality in Wenner Creek as well as re-establish valuable habitat for fish and wildlife species.

2. Sediment Transport: Restoring and protecting the long-term viability Wenner Lake #3 Dam will greatly reduce sediment transport and is the critical factor in dealing with sediment in this system. Wenner Lake #5 is much smaller and also downstream of Wenner Lake #3, which greatly lessens it role in serving to trap sediment within this system. The mitigation plantings that are scheduled to occur in the former lakebed of Wenner Lake #5 will also serve to trap sediment during high flows when sediment transport is most likely to occur.

3. Drivable Dip Failure (Ford): In your letter you said “the hydraulic design for the drivable appears adequate to withstand an expected storm event”. It seems you meant “inadequate” here, but regardless of your intent, the stream channel width at this site is being restored (made larger) and is expected to pass waters during maximum flow events without endangering the bank material on either side of the creek. Any disturbed earth surfaces will be planted with a native seed mix to

control erosion and promote vegetation of the bank. We agree that access across the ford will be restricted during high flow events, but foot access is available at all times to allow adjustments to the Wenner #3 Lake flow control valve. Heavy equipment such as a dozer would also have access from other routes year round. It is anticipated however that repairs requiring heavy equipment would be performed during low flow periods and would have use of this ford.

4. Fill Material in Lakebed/Wetland: Fill material will not be placed in wetlands or below the Ordinary High Water Line. The dump site will be in an area where there is no potential for sediment to re-enter state waters. This dump site will be isolated with a silt fence and fill material will be planted with a native seed mix. The site indicated in the drawings will be moved more upland if necessary to achieve these protections.

5. Construction Hauling: Repair of Wenner Lake #3 Dam is critical to providing protection to properties downstream and use of legal easements across private roads is necessary to perform this task. WDFW is attempting to perform this repair before winter conditions persists to prevent damage to roads.

Thank-you again for helping to bring forward issues that may require special attention during this project. WDFW will continue to be observant of your concerns and work to protect adjacent properties.

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