



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers**®  
Walla Walla District

# News Release

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## **Corps issues final permit to ITD for Sand Creek Byway Decision balances needs of community, environment**

**WALLA WALLA, Wash.** – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) Walla Walla District issued a final permit, today, to the Idaho Transportation Department (ITD) to conduct work in Sand Creek and adjacent wetlands necessary to construct the Sand Creek Byway Project.

A draft permit with conditions to minimize impacts to Sand Creek and mitigate wetlands proposed to be filled for construction of the project was sent to ITD on Sept. 21 for their review and signature. They signed and returned the permit agreeing to the terms and conditions of the permit on Sept. 28. The Corps is now issuing the permit – the final step in the Corps permit process.

During the extensive review and comment period for this permit application, the Corps received substantial public comments supporting the project and also comments raising concerns, issues and objections. The Corps' permit decision balances the needs of the public and community with protection of the aquatic resources of Sand Creek and its adjacent wetlands, according to Corps Regulatory Division officials.

The project involves construction of a new section of US 95 starting at the north end of the Long Bridge and instead of curving to the left to enter Sandpoint, the new highway will continue straight across Sand Creek on a new bridge. It will then follow the railroad tracks along the east side of Sand Creek to a point where it will reconnect with the existing US 95/US 2 just north of the existing bridge over Sand Creek north of Sandpoint.

This project is part of a four-phase effort to improve US 95 between Sagle and the Kootenai Cut-Off Road. This phase of the project is designed to reduce traffic congestion and increase public safety by eliminating through traffic, especially truck traffic, from the streets of downtown Sandpoint.

The permit will authorize construction of a new bridge near the mouth of Sand Creek, as well as a pedestrian/bicycle pathway along the eastern edge of Sand Creek.

The Corps issues or denies permits for the discharge of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States under authority of Section 404 of the Clean Water Act and for work in or affecting navigable waters of the U.S. under Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899.

For more information on any public notice under consideration by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, please visit the Current Public Notices section on the Walla Walla District's website at [www.nww.usace.army.mil/html/offices/op/rf/rfhome.htm](http://www.nww.usace.army.mil/html/offices/op/rf/rfhome.htm).

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