

**LOWER SNAKE AND CLEARWATER RIVERS
WINTER 2004-2005 MAINTENANCE
DREDGING and DISPOSAL
Washington and Idaho**

**RECORD OF CONSULTATION AND
STATEMENT OF DECISION**

June 2004

INTRODUCTION

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) is authorized by statute to construct, operate and maintain projects for multiple purposes, including navigation, recreation, hydropower, and fish and wildlife, on the lower Snake River. This 2004 Record of Consultation and Statement of Decision (2004 ROCASOD) documents the Corps' decision to perform necessary maintenance dredging and disposal planned for areas within the Lower Granite, Little Goose, and Ice Harbor reservoirs in the lower Snake and Clearwater rivers in Washington and Idaho during the winter of 2004-2005 in order to meet the Corps responsibilities to provide for the navigation purpose. The last time the Corps dredged in the navigation channel was in the winter of 1998-1999. Our surveys show the sediment build-up continues to increase, especially in areas near the confluence of the Snake and Clearwater rivers, resulting in impairments within the navigation system. The area below Clearwater River Mile 2 is filled in to the point that it is very difficult to turn barges or ships around without dragging on the river bottom. The navigation industry and the Coast Guard have documented grounding of vessels, in this area as well as others. Economic costs to the region are rising as the navigation industry tries to adapt to the current conditions. The increasing hazards are hindering the intended use of this Federal navigation system and this one-year maintenance dredging activity is necessary to alleviate safety concerns, possible risks to life and property, and economic impacts.

The decision in this ROCASOD also is the Corps' response to the Endangered Species Act (ESA) Section 7 biological opinion entitled *National Marine Fisheries Service, Endangered Species Act Section 7 Formal Consultation Biological Opinion and Magnuson-Steven Fishery Conservation and Management Act, Essential Fish Habitat Consultation, 2004-2005 Routine Maintenance Dredging in the Lower Snake River Reservoirs, Snake River Basin, Asotin, Garfield, Walla Walla, and Whitman Counties, Washington, Nez Perce County, Idaho* (NOAA Fisheries' 2004 Dredging Biological Opinion (2004 BiOp)). The Corps has evaluated the action addressed by the 2004 BiOp and has considered the effects of those actions in regard to standards or requirements set forth in applicable laws and regulations in making the decision in this 2004 ROCASOD.

The Corps' authority to maintain the navigation channel was first established in Section 2 of the River and Harbors Act of 1945 (PUB. L. NO. 79-14) and was approved on

March 2, 1945, in accordance with House Doc. No. 704, 75th Congress. The navigation channel is described in the Flood Control Act of 1962 (PUB. L. NO. 87-874) as “. . . the depth and width of the authorized channel in the Columbia-Snake River barge navigation project shall be established as fourteen feet and two hundred and fifty feet, respectively, at minimum regulated flow.” The Water Resources Development Act of 1992, Section 109, authorizes the Secretary of the Army to maintain navigation access to, and berthing areas at, all currently operating public and private commercial dock facilities associated with or having access to the federal navigation project at a depth commensurate with the federal navigation project. PUB. L. NO. 102-580.

The proposed maintenance action anticipates dredging approximately 289,200 cubic yards of sediment in the Federal navigation channel and in the ports of Clarkston and Lewiston. The purpose of maintenance dredging is to restore the authorized depth of the Federal navigation channel and remove sediment from two public port areas, which have not been maintained since the winter of 1998-1999. Presently, the channel is as shallow as eight feet in certain areas (based on minimum operating pool (MOP)¹). This creates a substantial impact to navigation, in terms of both safety and economics. The concerns include potential grounding of vessels, possible loss of cargo into the river, potential harm to the operators of the vessels, and economic losses. For example, a typical four-barge tow is 544 feet long and tugs are up to 103 feet long, yielding a possible 647 feet long by 84 feet wide with drafts up to 13.5 feet. With the authorized channel width of 250 feet, there is little room for barges coming from opposite directions to maneuver safely past each other, particularly if there are sediment accumulations in the channel. To date, there have been two groundings in the channel and requests to the U.S. Coast Guard to establish navigation aids at eight problem areas.

The primary objective of the 2004-2005 maintenance dredging and disposal activity is to remove sediment accumulations at numerous locations within the Federal navigation channel where depths are less than the authorized 14-feet when operating at MOP, and to contribute to the maintenance of the flow capacity in the Lewiston-Clarkston area. The proposed work involves the removal of sedimentary material from the lower Snake and Clearwater rivers Federal navigation channel and related port facilities. The authorized Federal navigation channel depth is 14 feet deep, measured from the minimum operating pool (MOP) elevation in each of the Snake River reservoirs, and 250 feet wide. The channel is generally dredged to provide a depth of 15–16 feet at MOP to provide the authorized project depth as long as possible between dredging operations. At present, the channel is less than the authorized depth and width in several locations impeding navigation and creating concern about safety. Dredging will be accomplished using mechanical methods such as clamshell dredges, draglines or backhoes during the 2004-2005 in-water work window of 15 December through March 1. The work is performed within a pre-defined lower Snake River in-water work window to minimize impacts to listed salmon and steelhead.

¹ The Corps operates the lower Snake River projects between full pool and MOP to provide for multiple purposes. Operating within one foot of MOP is called for during the fish migration season in the NOAA Fisheries 2000 Biological Opinion on the operation of the Federal Columbia River Power System.

This decision adopts, incorporates, and reaffirms the following NEPA and decision documents: the Environmental Impact Statements for: *Little Goose Lock and Dam, Snake River, Washington* (October 1974); *Lower Granite Project, Snake River, Washington* (May 1975); *Lower Monumental Lock and Dam, Snake River, Washington* (February 1976); *McNary Lock and Dam, Columbia River, Washington and Oregon* (April 1976); *Ice Harbor Lock and Dam Operation and Management, Snake River, Washington* (June 1979); *Lower Granite Environmental Impact Statement Final Supplement Interim Navigation and Flood Protection Dredging* (1988); *Record of Decision Columbia River Salmon Flow Measures Options Analysis/EIS Lower Granite/Little Goose Drawdown Test* (February 14, 1992); *Record of Decision Columbia River Salmon Flow Measures Options Analysis/EIS 1992 Plan of Reservoir Regulation and Project Operations* (April 10, 1992); *Record of Decision Interim Columbia and Snake Rivers Flow Improvements Measures for Salmon Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement Plan of Reservoir Regulation and Project Operations* (June 18, 1993); *Reservoir Regulation and Project Operation, 1995 and Future Years* (March 10, 1995) (1995 ROD); *Record of Decision Columbia River System Operation Review, Selection of a System Operation Agreement*, (February 20, 1997)(SOR ROD); *Federal Columbia River Power System, Operations and System Configuration* (June 24, 1998) (1998 ROCASOD); *ROCASOD on Effects to Listed Species from Operation of the Federal Columbia River Power System issued by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on December 20, 2000 and Reinitiation of Consultation on Operation of the Federal Columbia Power System, Including the Juvenile Fish Transportation Program, and 19 Bureau of Reclamation Projects in the Columbia Basin Biological Opinion issued by National Marine Fisheries Service on December 21, 2000*; *ROD on the Lower Snake River Juvenile Salmon Migration Feasibility Study* (September 2002). In addition, the evaluations and other relevant documentation contained in the *1992 Reservoir Drawdown Test, Lower Granite and Little Goose Dams*, (December 1993); *Final Dredged Material Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement, McNary Reservoir and Lower Snake River Reservoirs, July 2002* and the *Supplemental Environmental Analysis for Purposes of 2003-2004 Dredging, Lower Snake and Clearwater Rivers, Washington and Idaho* (SEA-03/04) and *Statement of Findings* (June 2004) are incorporated. This decision is also consistent with the Corps' Environmental Operating Principles.

BACKGROUND

In July 2002, the Corps, with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as a cooperating agency, completed the *2002 Dredged Material Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement* (DMMP/EIS) for the lower Snake and Clearwater rivers pursuant to national Corps guidance provided in Engineer Circular (EC) 1165-2-200. This EC directs the development of plans spanning a twenty-year period for federal navigation projects. The DMMP/EIS addressed a proposed short-term maintenance dredging and disposal action to be completed in the winter of 2002-2003, as well as actions to occur during the course of the twenty-year period. The Corps was enjoined from performing the planned maintenance dredging and disposal activity on December 12, 2002. Subsequently, the Corps withdrew the DMMP/EIS Record of Decision in April

2003, and decided to further evaluate alternatives for channel maintenance and supplement the programmatic long-term plan.

The Corps has conducted additional environmental analyses and provided information addressing the impacts of maintenance dredging and other alternatives in a *Supplemental Environmental Analysis for Purposes of 2003-2004 Dredging, Lower Snake and Clearwater Rivers, Washington and Idaho* (SEA-03/04). In addition, the Corps is proceeding with the development of a *Programmatic Sediment Management Plan/Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement* (PSMP/SEIS) for an analysis of long-term channel maintenance and sediment management. Evaluation and analysis of a number of alternatives to address long-term sediment management and channel maintenance responsibilities will be addressed in the PSMP/SEIS. EPA is continuing as a cooperating agency in the development of the PSMP/SEIS.

RECORD OF CONSULTATION FOR THE ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT

The Corps has completed Endangered Species Act (ESA) Section 7 consultation on the winter 2004-2005 maintenance dredging and disposal activity with the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) (hereinafter referred to as NOAA Fisheries) and United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) concerning listed species that may be affected by the actions addressed in this ROCASOD. The 2004 BiOp addresses impacts to Snake River sockeye, Snake River fall (SRF) chinook, Snake River spring and summer (SRSS) chinook and Snake River (SR) Basin steelhead. The resulting 2004 BiOp states:

After reviewing the current status of the subject ESUs, and factoring affects from the environmental baseline for the action area, the effects of the proposed action, and cumulative effects in the action area, it is NOAA Fisheries' opinion that the proposed action is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of SRF chinook, SRSS chinook, or SR steelhead.

2004 BiOp, at 30.

The 2004 BiOp Incidental Take Statement focuses on minimizing take from dredging and disposal operations, monitoring, and improving the available science regarding anthropogenic sedimentation in the lower Snake River. The Corps agrees to implement the action as described in the 2004 BiOp issued on March 15, 2004 and implement the reasonable and prudent measures and terms and conditions in the Incidental Take Statement. The Corps also intends to implement, to the extent practicable, the conservation recommendations and report to NOAA Fisheries on status. The Corps plans to perform these activities during the winter in-water work window of December 15, 2004 through March 1, 2005.

The lower Snake River has been designated as critical habitat for threatened Snake River fall and spring/summer chinook salmon. NOAA Fisheries concluded that

the proposed action is not likely to destroy or adversely modify designated critical habitat of Snake River fall and Snake River spring/summer chinook, stating:

After reviewing the current condition of the critical habitat, factoring the effects on listed ESUs from the environmental baseline for the action area, the effects of the proposed action, and cumulative effects in the action area, it is NOAA Fisheries' opinion that the proposed action is not likely to destroy or adversely modify designated critical habitat of SRF chinook or SRSS chinook. The proposed action should not degrade baseline habitat functions necessary for the survival and recovery of any of the subject species. The action would cause transitory turbidity and would mobilize contaminants, but these effects would not affect long-term baseline habitat functions.

2004 BiOp, at 30.

In accordance with the 2004 BiOp, pre-dredging activities, dredging, and post-dredging monitoring will be implemented to reduce uncertainty and minimize any potential impacts to ESA-listed or candidate species. Specific monitoring actions will include pre-dredging salmon redd surveys within the navigation lock approaches, pre-dredging rearing habitat surveys at proposed work sites, water quality monitoring during activities at the dredging and disposal sites, monitoring for entrained, injured or dead ESA-listed fish during dredging and disposal activities, monitoring of the stability of the disposal site after disposal is complete, and monitoring and evaluation of habitat created and fish usage of the disposal site. The monitoring plan is available to the public on-line at http://www.nww.usace.army.mil/dmmp/maintenance_dredging/monitor.pdf.

The Corps engaged in consultation with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) on the following listed species: bull trout, bald eagle, Ute ladies' tresses, and Spalding's silene concerning the proposed maintenance dredging activities in 2001, 2002 and 2003. The Corps made a "may affect but not likely to adversely affect" determination on the bull trout and bald eagle and a "no effect" on Ute ladies' tresses and Spalding's silene. In a letter dated August 22, 2001, the USFWS concurred that "the proposed projects may effect, but are not likely to adversely affect." These concurrences were dependent upon implementation of the conservation measures outlined in the BE and adherence to all special conditions. In a letter dated June 15, 2004 the USFWS stated that "[d]ue to delays in project implementation the dredging proposed for the 2003-2004 season did not occur. Since the proposed dredging for the winter of 2004-2005 is the same as that outlined in the 2003-2004 consultation the concurrence issued by the Service remains valid." The Corps is committed to implementation of the conditions referenced by the USFWS.

The Corps has determined that these actions, taken together, will meet the Corps responsibilities under the ESA to avoid jeopardy to the listed the Snake River spring/summer chinook salmon, fall chinook salmon, steelhead, and sockeye salmon; and, not likely to destroy or adversely modify designated critical habitat of Snake River

fall and Snake River spring/summer chinook. Also, these actions may affect, but are not likely to adversely affect bull trout and bald eagles, and will have no effect on Ute ladies' tresses and Spalding's silene.

ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION

The Corps reviewed its compliance with applicable laws, executive orders, and relevant agreements. These laws include, but are not limited to: National Environmental Policy Act, Archaeological Resources Protection Act; National Historic Preservation Act; Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act; Clean Air Act; Federal Water Pollution Control Act (Clean Water Act (CWA)); Endangered Species Act; Federal Water Project Recreation Act; Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act; Pacific Northwest Electric Power Planning and Conservation Act (Northwest Power Act); Migratory Bird Conservation Act; Coastal Zone Management Act; Safe Drinking Water Act; Flood Control Act of 1944; Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act; Wild and Scenic Rivers Act; River and Harbors Acts; Executive Orders and Memorandums; Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) Regulations; other federal, state, and local plans and laws; and relevant agreements. The Corps has evaluated this maintenance dredging and disposal action and considered the effects of those actions concerning the standards or requirements set forth in these and other applicable laws and regulations. The following summarizes several of these considerations.

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA): The EISs prepared for these lock and dam projects address the operation and maintenance of these projects over their functional lifetime. Subsequent EISs further address the Corps responsibilities to provide for the navigation purpose and analyze the effects of maintenance dredging and other sediment management actions.

The Corps has evaluated and analyzed the effects of a range of alternatives, including the 2004-2005 maintenance dredging and disposal activity. Alternative approaches such as sediment reduction, drawdown/flushing, and light loading have undergone an analysis of effects. Applying criteria to ascertain near-term effectiveness of these measures included whether the measure would effectively address the navigation channel hazards, the time needed to implement the measure in order to effect a change, and the biological effects of the measure. Although, after applying such analysis, it is clear that the non-dredging approaches would not be feasible or effective as short-term remedy, they will be considered in connection with the Corps' development of the long-term plan for managing accumulated sediment, as discussed below.

The Corps has also conducted an economic analysis on the maintenance dredging action and determined it is economically justified, and in the Federal interest in order to maintain the Federal navigation channel in the near-term. The ports of Lewiston and Clarkston ship 24 million bushels of grain to downstream ports in an average year. Two-thirds of Washington's and one-fourth of Idaho's grain is shipped through the lower Snake River system. Fuel, paper and pulp, wood products, and other commodities are shipped to and from these ports. In addition, cruise ships use the ports 10 months a year.

The current condition of the channel is having a negative impact on the regional economy. Because of sediment accumulations within the authorized channel, with some spots as shallow as 8-10 feet at MOP, operators concern about safety results in operating at slower speeds, and light loading. This results in more time per tow and an associated increase in cost.

As the condition of the channel is impeding navigation, the Corps has concluded that in order to meet our responsibility for providing for navigation, the planned one-year maintenance dredging with beneficial use of dredged material is the most reasonable and practicable action available to redress the current condition. The maintenance dredging and disposal activity planned for winter 2004-2005 does not foreclose utilization of other alternatives in the longer term. The Corps, with EPA as a cooperating agency, is proceeding with the development of a *Programmatic Sediment Management Plan/Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (PSMP/SEIS)* for an analysis of long-term channel maintenance and sediment management. Evaluation and analysis of a number of alternatives to address long-term sediment management and channel maintenance responsibilities will be addressed in the PSMP/SEIS.

Federal Water Pollution Control Act (CWA): The CWA Section 404(b)(1) evaluation addresses potential water quality impacts of the proposed in-water discharge of dredged materials for dredging operations on the lower Snake River reservoirs. The 404(b)(1) evaluation is consistent with and appropriately implements policies expressed in the CWA. As referenced in Corps regulations, the Corps conducts a CWA 404 evaluation but does not issue 404 permits to itself with regard to the Corps' dredging and disposal activities under consideration. This evaluation also included the activities related to the port areas and found that the work proposed in these areas and in the Federal channel is in compliance with Section 404(b)(1).

The analysis followed the Lower Columbia River Dredged Material Evaluation Framework (DMEF) (1998), developed by the Corps, EPA, Oregon, and Washington, and the results indicated that any contaminants present in the samples gathered in the spring 2003 were at concentrations below DMEF screening levels and appropriate for unconfined in-water disposal of the dredged material. A CWA 401 water quality certification for this maintenance dredging and disposal this action was received from the State of Washington on May 5, 2004. The certification included several conditions that will be incorporated into the Corps' action. A water quality monitoring plan is complete and monitoring will be performed before, during and after the dredging. The State of Idaho granted a short-term activity exemption for this project on June 11, 2004. This exemption included several conditions, such as using best management practices, water quality monitoring, and compliance with state water quality standards. The monitoring plan is available to the public on-line at http://www.nww.usace.army.mil/dmmp/maintenance_dredging/monitor.pdf.

The National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA): Based on both the maintenance dredging and disposal actions and available information of known locations of historic properties the Corps made a "no historic properties affected" determination for the 2004-

2005 dredging in accordance with Section 106 of the NHPA. The Corps has consulted with the State Historic Preservation Offices (SHPOs) of Washington and Idaho, Native American Tribes, and other interested parties. The Washington and Idaho SHPOs concurred with the Corps' determination (letters dated April 4, 2004 and April 16, 2004). Related laws that were also considered in the preparation of this decision include, but are not limited to: the Antiquities Act of 1906; Historic Sites Act of 1935; Reservoir Salvage Act of 1960; Archeological and Historic Preservation Act of 1974; Archaeological Resources Protection Act; Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act; and, American Indian Religious Freedom Act.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

The Corps provided the opportunity for input and comment to the public on the one-year maintenance dredging activity. A Public Notice Number CENWW-PM-PD-E 03-01, December 17, 2003, asked for comments on the Water Quality Certification by January 17, 2004. These comments and responses are available at the Walla Walla District Office or on the District website at http://www.nww.usace.army.mil/dmmp/maintenance_dredging/.

An information meeting was held at the Walla Walla District Office on March 2, 2004. An update of the proposed 2004-2005 winter maintenance dredging was presented, including an overview of channel conditions, economics, water quality, endangered species, and hydrology.

The SEA-03/04 was released for public comment on July 28, 2003. The DMMP/EIS comments received on the Final EIS and the SEA-03/04 are also available on the above website, along with the Corps' responses. Over the course of the last three years, several public meetings, public notices, and comments have been published, received, and evaluated.

Additionally, to provide agency and stakeholder input on sediment management, a Local Sediment Management Group (LSMG) has been formed. Present LSMG participation includes tribes and state and federal agency representatives and an invitation to others in the area to participate in the LSMG. The LSMG provides an opportunity to exchange information, review and comment on planning documents, review and recommend future sediment management plans, such as the PSMP/SEIS, identify and prioritize beneficial uses of dredged material, and facilitate the resolution of sediment issues in the area. This group's formation and direction is consistent with the inter-agency National Dredging Team's guidance. The LSMG is intended to play an important role in the implementation of the sediment management activities.

TRIBAL/TRUST RESPONSIBILITIES

The United States government recognizes the sovereign status of Native American tribes. The development of this decision for 2004-2005 maintenance dredging and disposal has included efforts to obtain tribal views of this action, in accordance with

provisions of treaties, laws, and executive orders, as well as principles found in the United States Constitution. The Corps has communicated with designated points of contact to facilitate information exchange with the Tribes and consideration of various viewpoints. Tribal members have participated or attended meetings where dredging was discussed.

By letter in January 2004, the Corps contacted the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, Nez Perce Tribe, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, and the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Indian Nation inquiring whether there was an interest in government-to-government consultation regarding the proposed 2004-2005 maintenance dredging and disposal actions. The Nez Perce Tribe responded and a government-to-government meeting was held on March 9, 2004, followed by another government-to-government consultation on June 8, 2004. The Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation requested an information briefing, which was held April 22, 2004.

STATEMENT OF DECISION

I have taken into consideration the specific environmental consequences, the socioeconomic costs, and the biological data concerning the Winter 2004-2005 Maintenance Dredging with Beneficial Use of Dredged Material activity to address the current condition of the authorized navigation channel.

The Corps has determined that this one-year routine maintenance dredging activity is consistent with the NOAA Fisheries 2004 BiOp and Incidental Take Statement and is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of the following listed anadromous species: Snake River spring/summer chinook salmon, fall chinook salmon, steelhead, and sockeye salmon. In addition, this activity will not adversely affect designated critical habitat. The Corps agrees to implement the action as described in the 2004 BiOp issued on March 15, 2004, and implement the reasonable and prudent measures and terms and conditions in the Incidental Take Statement. The Corps also intends to implement, to the extent practicable, the conservation recommendations and report to NOAA Fisheries on status.

The Corps engaged in consultation with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) on the following listed species: bull trout, bald eagle, Ute ladies' tresses and Spalding's silene concerning the proposed maintenance dredging activities in 2001, 2002 and 2003. The Corps made a "may affect but not likely to adversely affect" determination on the bull trout and bald eagle and a "no effect" on Ute ladies' tresses and Spalding's silene. In a letter dated August 22, 2001, the USFWS concurred that "the proposed projects may effect, but are not likely to adversely affect." In a letter dated June 15, 2004 the USFWS stated that "[d]ue to delays in project implementation the dredging proposed for the 2003-2004 season did not occur. Since the proposed dredging for the winter of 2004-2005 is the same as that outlined in the 2003-2004 consultation the concurrence issued by the Service remains valid." The Corps is committed to implementation of the conditions requested by the USFWS.

The Corps will implement the conditions included in the CWA 401 Water Quality Certification for the proposed 2004-2005 Maintenance Dredging issued by the State of Washington Department of Ecology May 5, 2004 and the State of Idaho short-term exemption. The Corps has taken into account its legal obligations under the CWA.

I have taken into account the Northwest treaty Tribes' fishing rights and the trust responsibility of the United States to Native American Tribes. The actions the Corps will implement are designed to alleviate the immediate need to maintain the navigation channel and port berthing areas, as well as maintain flow conveyance. The beneficial uses associated with these actions, are intended to have positive effects on the treaty Tribes' fishery and benefits to the Northwest region as a whole.

The Corps has incorporated the best information and science available, and has updated the information and analyses of the biological, hydrologic, and economic data associated with this action to support the winter 2004-2005 maintenance dredging activities. Further, the Corps has provided this information to the public for review and comment. The comments received were considered in my decision.

As stewards of the environment, we must recognize and address environmental concerns. Input from affected agencies, regional entities, tribes, and the public is vital. The Environmental Protection Agency is a cooperating agency and their insight and expertise has been greatly appreciated in developing our most recent environmental analyses. They are continuing to assist on the development of the Programmatic Sediment Management Plan/Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (PSMP/SEIS). Other Federal agencies, including the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service, also provided essential input.

The Corps considers the routine maintenance dredging and disposal action in the winter of 2004-2005 to be of extreme importance to this region. In order to provide for safe and economic navigation in the next year, I find it is necessary to move forward with this one-year routine maintenance dredging and disposal activity. Further, I find that the referenced evaluations and documentation, including the 2004 BiOp, the USFWS concurrence, the Washington State water quality certification, the Records of Decision, and NEPA documentation and environmental analyses, support proceeding with the winter 2004-2005 maintenance dredging with beneficial use of dredged material activity to restore the authorized navigation channel and is consistent with the Corps' authority to provide for navigation.

Issued in Portland, Oregon, on June 17, 2004.

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William T. Grisoli
Brigadier General, U.S. Army
Division Engineer