

MASON:3829:JMG

NPDPL-ER (21 Apr 83) 3rd Ind
SUBJECT: Approval of Land Classification Change, Lower Granite Lock and Dam
Letter Supplement 1.1 to DM 28
DA, North Pacific Division, Corps of Engineers, P. O. Box 2870,
Portland, OR 97208 12 July 1983

TO: Commander, Walla Walla District

1. Your proposed land use classification change is approved subject to the following comments.
2. Although paragraph 5 of your basic letter discusses the use of volunteers to develop and maintain the site, please be advised that the Corps of Engineers has no statutory authority to use volunteers. OCE has informally notified this office that proposed legislation that would authorize volunteerism at Corps projects is being considered; however, no specific legislation has yet been introduced to Congress.
3. As a follow-up to this change in land use, a revision to the wildlife acreage data for the Lower Granite project should be submitted to NPD pursuant to instructions provided by previous correspondence on this matter dated 17 April 1981, subject: Acreage of Lands Managed for Wildlife Purposes, North Pacific Division.
4. A wildlife management plan for the Asotin Slough should be prepared and submitted to NPD for review and approval prior to initiating development and management activities in that area.
5. Approval provided herewith is specific to the land use classification change and does not constitute approval of Lower Granite DM 34, Part A. However, based on this approval, you are requested to delete Asotin Slough from further consideration as a debris disposal site in conjunction with the Snake River debris boom recommended in DM 34, Part A, and focus instead upon one of the alternative locations.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

SIGNED

JAMES H. HIGMAN
Colonel, Corps of Engineers
Deputy Commander

cf:

NPDEN
NPDCO
NPDRE

MFR: NPD 1st Ind withheld approval of land use change pending final disposition of Snake River debris boom discussed in Lower Granite DM 34, Part A. It further chastised NPW for submitting two divergent recommendations for the same parcel of land to NPD for concurrent review. Despite what appears to be an expected unfavorable public reaction to placement of a disposal site at Asotin Slough, NPW still proposes to classify the lands for wildlife management and also retain the area as the recommended debris disposal site. Under the circumstances, NPW is being advised to delete the site from further consideration as a disposal site.

NPWEN-DB (21 Apr 83) 2d Ind

SUBJECT: Approval of Land Classification Change, Lower Granite Lock and Dam

Letter Supplement 6.1 to DM 2.8

DA, Walla Walla District, Corps of Engineers, Bldg. 602, City-County Airport,
Walla Walla, WA 99362 5 July 1983

TO: Commander, North Pacific Division
ATTN: NPDPL-ER (Owen Mason)

1. We were somewhat surprised at the position taken in your 1st Indorsement. We had discussed this matter with your office and thought you agreed, that because of the public response to the Asotin Slough land use study, we have no other recourse other than to reclassify the Asotin Slough area from project structures to wildlife management intensive. It is requested that approval be granted for this reclassification.

2. Lower Granite DM 34, part A, being reviewed by your office, is strictly a feasibility study. Although the report did recommend the Upper Reservoir Booms alternative, it also states the plan "is contingent upon a satisfactory environmental assessment and a favorable public reaction." This stipulation will apply regardless of the official land use classification. We request that the feasibility study also be approved realizing that the environmental assessment may preclude the facility being located at the Asotin site. If so, one of the other alternatives will be examined.



ROBERT B. WILLIAMS
Colonel, Corps of Engineers
Commanding

✓ CF:
✓ Proj Mgr
✓ Ch, Planning Div

CORPS OF ENGINEERS
JUL 8 4 02 PM '83
HAWAIIAN ISLANDS

NPDPL-ER (21 Apr 83) 1st Ind

SUBJECT: Approval of Land Classification Change, Lower Granite Lock and Dam
Letter Supplement 11 to DM 28

DA, North Pacific Division, Corps of Engineers, P. O. Box 2870,
Portland, OR 97208 7 June 1983

TO: Commander, Walla Walla District

1. Approval of land classification change at subject project is being withheld at this time pending final disposition of the upper Snake River debris boom discussed in Lower Granite D.M. 34, Part A, now under review in NPD.

2. We are dismayed to find two separate pieces of correspondence from your office under concurrent review in NPD that put forth divergent recommendations for the same parcel of project land. One proposes to classify and manage the parcel for wildlife. The other recommends that the same parcel become a debris disposal site in conjunction with a proposed Snake River debris boom. The need for internal coordination to resolve this matter is essential before considering a change in the land use classification. Should the decision be made not to use the area for debris disposal, you should again submit the proposed land classification change to this office for approval.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

Incls
wd

JAMES H. HIGMAN
Colonel, Corps of Engineers
Deputy Commander



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

WALLA WALLA DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEER
BUILDING 602, CITY-COUNTY AIRPORT
WALLA WALLA, WASHINGTON 99362

ER

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

NPWEN-DB

21 April 1983

SUBJECT: Approval of Land Classification Change, Lower Granite Lock and Dam

Asotin County No. 11 to DPL 28

Commander, North Pacific Division
ATTN: NPDPL-ER (Owen Mason)

1. In July of 1982, we received an application from Asotin County for lease of an area known as Asotin Slough. The area is located on the Snake River at river mile 147 near the city of Asotin. The County's lease application was requesting the area be made available for use as an Off-Road Vehicle Park. The site is currently classified as Project Structures anticipating that Asotin Dam would one day be authorized, and this area would be needed for construction purposes.
2. Following receipt of the County's application, we began receiving numerous responses from local citizens expressing their concern for the area being used as an ORV park. The majority wanted the area retained for wildlife uses. We likewise received letters from those who supported the County's use of the area.
3. With two separate groups supporting conflicting uses, it became apparent that a decision would be required to settle the land use issue. It was concluded the decision should be based on four factors; public input, environmental assessment, input from agencies and officials, and staff recommendations. A brief summary of the findings in each of these four areas follows:
 - a. Public Input. Response from the public was gained from four different sources; letters, a public meeting, response cards distributed at the meeting, and petitions. A total of 477 responses was received. Fifty-seven responses were in favor of the area being used for ORVs and 420 were opposed to that use. Attached are two matrix charts summarizing the results of these responses.
 - b. Environmental Assessment. It was found that numerous adverse impacts such as soil compaction, reduced air quality, noise pollution, and destruction of vegetation would occur if the ORV use proposal was approved.

SUBJECT: Approval of Land Classification Change, Lower Granite Lock and Dam

c. Input from Agencies and Officials. Letters requesting input were sent to eight public agencies and officials who had involvement in the Asotin Slough area. All letters returned expressed opposition to the proposed ORV area, with the exception of one. Attached is a list of those who were queried and who responded.

d. Staff Recommendations. All NPW staff members representing the natural resource and planning disciplines for the study were against the site being used as an ORV area.

4. In a letter dated 8 October 1982, the Asotin County Commissioners were informed of the results of our study and our decision to deny their application.

5. During the above study, the value of the area for wildlife purposes was greatly reinforced. Since conclusion of the study, we have received letters from several local residents expressing their willingness to assist with planting the area and organizing work parties of volunteers to help our resource managers care for the site. We feel this public involvement would enhance the creditability of our organization as well as assist our management program.

6. Our future plans for the site are to develop it as a wildlife park such as the one at McNary Dam and at the mouth of the Yakima River. It is near a major population center, the Lewiston/Clarkston area, and currently receives substantial use from bird watchers and other outdoor enthusiasts. The site is well suited for this type of use and has the natural characteristics that attract wildlife.

7. We request approval for reclassification of 49.2 acres as shown on the attached map from project structures to wildlife management intensive.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

3 Incl
1. Matrix charts
2. List of queries & responses
3. Map

M. G. BRAMMER, P.E.
Chief, Engineering Division