



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers®**

Walla Walla District

## **LITTLE WOOD RIVER, GOODING, IDAHO**

### **DRAFT INTEGRATED LETTER REPORT AND ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**

#### **APPENDIX H, FISH AND WILDLIFE COORDINATION DOCUMENTATION**

DRAFT

CENWW-PPL-C

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD 13 September 2023

SUBJECT: U.S. Fish and Wildlife (USFWS) Coordination for Gooding Flood Control Project

1. Purpose: The purpose of this memorandum is to document Walla Walla District's attempt to complete Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (FWCA) consultation with the USFWS on the project.
2. Study Background:
  - a. The purpose of the proposed Project (rehabilitation of the Gooding Canal channel through Gooding, Idaho) is to provide localized flood risk management and, if possible, ecosystem restoration through improvement of aquatic habitat and riparian vegetation.
  - b. The main features in the recommended plan include replacing severely damaged walls in the lower reaches of the channel, and repairing the channel walls, as needed, in the upstream reach that remains in relatively good condition. Repair could include a concrete patch or reconstruction of the existing wall, depending upon the severity of the deterioration.
  - c. The existing and future without project condition of the creek includes increased risk of channel wall failure and localized flooding, high potential for ice jams and ice damming, and degradation of aquatic and riparian habitat.
  - d. Future with project condition would include a decrease in flood risk for the city of Gooding, Idaho, but result in few, if any, targeted and quantified environmental benefits or ecosystem restoration.
3. Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (FWCA) Communications:
  - a. Sent letter to USFWS requesting early coordination/comments to FWCA in early 2017. USFWS declined to enter coordination in letter dated June 12, 2017, due to funding and timing constraints.
4. Status of FWCA Consultation:
  - a. As of June 12, 2017, no further correspondence received from USFWS specific to FWCA consultation on Gooding Flood Control Project.
  - b. Given that the floodplain and aquatic habitat in the action area exist and will continue to function at a degraded level due to operation and maintenance of flood control structures, agricultural crop production, and residential housing/infrastructure, it is likely that the project would implement the type of measures that would be suggested by USFWS under the FWCA.

5. Recommendation:

- a. Due to Walla Walla District's attempt to engage USFWS in consultation with a response declining to participate, this MFR documents the completion of consultation under the FWCA.
- b. This MFR will be included in the Final Integrated Rehabilitation Letter Report and Environmental Assessment to document the District's compliance with the FWCA.

Signed:

ERICKSON.MICHAEL.S  
COTT.1151172349

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Michael Erickson  
Chief, Environmental Compliance Section  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Walla Walla District

Encl.

1. USFWS Response Letter dated 12 June 2017.



# United States Department of the Interior U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Idaho Fish and Wildlife Office

1387 S. Vinnell Way, Room 368

Boise, Idaho 83709

Telephone (208) 378-5243

<http://www.fws.gov/idaho>



Michael S. Francis  
Chief, Environmental Compliance Section  
Walla Walla District Corps of Engineers  
201 North 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue  
Walla Walla, Washington 99362-1876

JUN 12 2017

Subject: Gooding Flood Control—Gooding County, Idaho—FWCA  
In Reply Refer To: 01EIFW00-2017-CPA-0011

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) provides the following comments in regard to the coordination of the proposed Gooding Flood Control Project, Gooding, Idaho, via the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (16 U.S.C. 661 et seq.). We acknowledge the requirements of U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to ensure compliance with the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (FWCA). To facilitate the continued planning, funding, and construction for this proposed action, we offer the following FWCA response.

Our assessment of the proposed project reveals that the long term baseline habitat conditions in the action area are not expected to improve nor decline significantly as a result of the proposed construction. We do expect some short term loss of shade and minor reductions to groundwater infiltration and stream bank complexity in the immediate construction area. However we did not find these to affects rise to the level that require an additional expenditure of resources for mitigation. Therefore we have no objection with the USACE moving forward with the action as currently proposed.

During our assessment of the action area, we have determined that most of the floodplain and aquatic habitats in the action area has been and will continue to function at a degraded level, due in part to the continued operation and maintenance of the flood control structures, and as a result of conversion of floodplain and riparian habitats for the purposes of agricultural crop production and residential housing/infrastructure. Normally, the FWS would identify any potential enhancement opportunities for water resource development actions during the early planning stages for the action, and describe the reasonable enhancement opportunities in greater detail within a final FWCA report. However given the manner in which the funding and time frames were authorization for this action, early coordination was not able to occur. In order to facilitate rapidly approaching decision milestones, the Service agrees to forgo the consideration of such enhancement opportunities in regard to this proposed action.

Michael Francis, Chief  
Walla Walla District Corps of Engineers  
Gooding Flood Control

01EIFW00-2017-CPA-0011

The Service may provide documentation of such enhancement opportunities in the Gooding area at a later date, in a separate technical assistance report to the USACE, for your consideration when planning future water resource development actions or environmental enhancement projects in this general geographic area.

By this letter, the FWS concludes our coordination of the Gooding Flood Control Project via the FWCA. Please contact Bob Kibler at (208) 378-5255 or email [bob\\_kibler@fws.gov](mailto:bob_kibler@fws.gov), if you have any questions or require additional information regarding this letter.

Sincerely,

  
for Gregory M. Hughes  
State Supervisor