



AGENDA

- Welcome
- Confluence TEIS Development Plan
 - Background: Lower Snake River Projects Sediment Management
 - Typical Confluence Sediment Deposition Areas
 - Purpose and Need
 - PSMP EIS & Confluence TEIS Measures Crosswalk
 - Alternative Development
 - Resources Evaluated & Applicable Federal Laws
 - Tentative NEPA Outline
 - Schedule
- Next Steps
- Questions

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Since construction of its first dam on the lower Snake River, the Corps has recognized that sediment management would be an ongoing maintenance issue within the reservoirs. Historically, USACE has used dredging as the primary means of managing sediment and dredging actions have been conducted on a case-by-case basis. USACE determined it would be more effective to evaluate sediment management within the lower Snake River on a watershed scale.

Sediment Management: An EIS review process for the Lower Snake River Programmatic Sediment Management Plan (PSMP) was completed and a Record of Decision signed in 2014. The goal of the PSMP is the long-term, comprehensive Programmatic Sediment Management Plan for managing sediment accumulation that interferes with existing authorized purposes of USACE's four lower Snake River dam and reservoir projects as defined in the Study Area. The Local Sediment Management Group played an important role in the implementation of Corps long-term sediment management activities but has since been replaced by an information exchange forum. The sediment forum was established to address regional sediment issues, discuss scientific methods, and forecast emerging sediment management needs and problems. **PSMP EIS Study Area:** The PSMP EIS study area extends from the mouth of the Snake River upstream to the communities of Lewiston, Idaho, and Clarkston, Washington. It also includes the lower 2 miles of the Clearwater River, from its confluence with the Snake River in Lewiston upstream to the U.S. Highway 12 Bridge. All tributaries that significantly contribute sediment to the lower Snake River have been included in the study. Site-specific locations were not addressed in the PSMP EIS, however, the coordination and environmental review steps required to accomplish subsequent site-specific actions were presented.

Local Sediment Management Group (LSMG): The LSMG, originally formed in 2000, provides agency and stakeholder input to USACE on sediment management within the lower Snake River drainage area. The LSMG plays an important role in the implementation of USACE's sediment management activities and is a forum to address regional sediment issues. LSMG members include tribes plus state and federal agency representatives. Public ports within the study area also participate, as do other entities with an interest in sediment management such as land management agencies, environmental groups, and transportation interests.

While the LSMG originally focused primarily on dredged material management, its purpose has been expanded. The LSMG now assists with the identification of sediment sources in all tributary watersheds to the lower Snake River reservoirs and with informing the group of recent studies, projects, and techniques related to sediment management in the region. This group's formation and direction is consistent with the guidance on formation of local planning groups provided by the National Dredging Team (NDT). The LSMG will continue to develop in accordance with policies and procedures for the EPA's <u>Regional Dredging Team (RDT)</u>, as referred in the April 26, 2002, policy letter jointly signed by Brigadier General David A. Fastabend (Corps of Engineers, Northwestern Division Commander) and L. John Iani (EPA, Region 10, Administrator). The LSMG charter defines the roles and responsibilities of the LSMG members and set up the group structure.

Sediment forum: USACE and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Region 10, have established the Lower Snake River Sediment Management Forum (Forum), which was first held in October 2018. The purpose of the Forum is to provide a periodic setting for key agencies and stakeholders in the lower Snake River watershed to share information regarding sediment science and monitoring, and the long-term management of sediment. By collaboratively addressing sediment management for the lower

Snake River and contributing drainage areas, this effort would improve our understanding of the nature, sources, and movement of sediment in the watershed; and help identify opportunities to address sediment issues over the near- and long-term. This effort furthers USACE's commitment in the Lower Snake River PSMP to coordinate with stakeholders on opportunities for long-term and adaptive sediment management."

Related Links

- •PSMP RODs Package Corrected4
- •PSMP FEIS Exec. Summary
- PSMP Final EIS
- Appx A PSMP
- Appx B Sediment Source/Yield
- •Appx C Upland Erosion
- Appx D Sediment Delivery
- <u>Appx E Agricultural Sediment</u>
- Appx F Hydrology
- Appx G Public Involvement
- •Appx I Water Qual./Sediment Rpts.
- •Appx J Immed. Need Monitoring Plan
- •Appx K ESA Consultation
- •Appx L CWA Sect.404(b)(1) Eval.
- •Appx M Sediment Transport
- •Appx N Fingerprinting Sediment Sources
- •<u>Study Area Map</u>
- •LSMG Charter
- Notice of Intent



This TEIS will focus sediment management for commercial navigation within the Snake/Clearwater confluence area.

The action trigger for long-term navigation channel maintenance has been met.

While recreation at some boat basins is impacted, the timeframe trigger (occurring more frequently than once every five years) has not been met. There does not seem to be a current issue with flow conveyance.

This slide shows typical sediment deposition areas (in red) near the Confluence that can impact commercial navigation. The approximate navigation channel, which is subject to change, is shown by the dashed polygon.



PURPOSE AND NEED

Purpose:

Develop long-term (50-year) sediment management solution at Confluence

Need:

Address PSMP trigger being met regarding *Future Forecast Need Actions for Navigation*



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The 2014 record of decision (ROD) selected the Comprehensive (Full System and Sediment Management Measures) Alternative that provides a suite of all potentially available dredging, system management, and structural sediment management measures for use to address sediments that interfere with the existing authorized project purposes of the Lower Snake River Projects. Due to the broad nature of the PSMP FEIS analysis, it was expected that any *Future Forecast Need Actions for Navigation* triggered by certain criteria would require project-specific environmental reviews, including preparation of appropriate NEPA documents "tiered off" from the programmatic PSMP FEIS.

While there are recurring sediment deposition problems at other locations in the lower Snake River, sediment deposition at the Confluence has satisfied the PSMP's definition of a Future Forecast Need Actions for Navigation (i.e., occurring more frequently than once every five (5) years), which warrants the initiation of a tiered NEPA analysis of a long-term (future forecast action) sediment management solution/plan at this location. USACE intends to use a 50-year management period for evaluation of long-term sediment management options at the Confluence.

This slide shows the Confluence area, upstream of Lower Granite Dam, near Clarkston, Washington and Lewiston, Idaho.

US. ARMY US Army Corps of Engineers. BSMP EIS & CONFLUENCE TEIS MEASURES CROSSWALK			
	PSMP EIS	TEIS	
	1. Dredging	 1. Dredging and disposal 	
	2. Disposal		
	3. Bendway weirs	2. In-water training structures (<u>bendway</u> weirs, dikes/dike fields)	
	4. Dikes/Dike fields		
	5. Sediment traps	3. Sediment traps	
	6. Reservoir drawdown to flush sediment	4. Reservoir drawdown to flush sediment	
	7. Reconfigure affected (federal) facilities	5. Reconfigure/Relocate affected (federal) facilities	
	8. Relocate affected (federal) facilities		

There were eight (8) sediment management measures selected in the 2014 PSMP ROD for potential future use in problem sediment areas affecting the <u>navigation project</u> purpose as identified in the first column of the table. Upon further consideration, some measures were combined and there are five (5) measures that will be used to formulate alternatives: dredging and disposal were combined into Measure 1 because they are interdependent on each other, bendway weirs and dikes/dike fields were combined into Measure 2 because they would serve a similar purpose, and reconfigure affected (federal) facilities and relocate affected (federal) facilities were combined into Measure 5 because they would serve a similar purpose.



Conceptual example of altering flow with in-water training structures. Flow velocities could be altered by installing weirs that could move sediment away from problem areas. This concept is one measure being considered in the TEIS and will be analyzed further.



Possible in-water training structures at the Port of Clarkston. This slide shows the relationship between the 2023 navigation channel alignment and potential in-water training structures that could be constructed to move sediment past the Port of Clarkston.



Potential sediment trap area on the Snake River upstream of the Confluence. This area is out of the commercial navigation channel and could trap sediment before entering the navigation channel. Future dredging may be necessary to maintain the sediment trap.



Potential submerged weir would need to be constructed across the Snake River at the downstream end of the sediment trap. This weir would be constructed tall enough to trap sediment, but low enough to allow boats to pass over the structure.



ALTERNATIVE DEVELOPMENT

<u>Must</u>

• Provide a complete long-term sediment management solution/plan for the federal channel at the Confluence

Must Not:

- Increase the need for removing problem sediment (navigation or flow conveyance).
- Decrease flow conveyance at or near the Confluence during flood/high water events.
- Eliminate or unreasonably affect other project purposes (e.g., recreation).

Measures

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- 1. Dredging and Disposal
- 2. In-water Training Structures
- 3. Sediment Trap
- 4. Reservoir Drawdown to Flush Sediment
- 5. Relocate or Reconfigure Affected Federal Facilities

Alternatives formulated from the five (5) navigation-specific measures identified above, must (either alone or in combination) provide a complete long-term sediment management solution/plan for the federal channel at the Confluence consistent with the framework of the PSMP FEIS. Also, alternatives considered must not:

- Increase the need for removing problem sediment (navigation or flow conveyance).
- Decrease flow conveyance at or near the Confluence during flood/high water events.
- Eliminate or unreasonably affect other project purposes (e.g., recreation).



The TEIS will analyze a full range of reasonable alternatives formulated from the five (5) measures. Analyses will identify the reasonably foreseeable direct, indirect and cumulative effects to resources that may be affected by the alternatives including aquatic and terrestrial resources; recreation; cultural resources; socioeconomics and environmental justice; water quality and sediment quality; hydrology and sediment; hazardous, toxic, and radioactive waste; air quality and greenhouse gas emissions; noise; and aesthetics.

Anticipated permits and authorizations will depend on the specific alternative selected. Applicable federal laws include the Endangered Species Act, National Historic Preservation Act, Clean Water Act, and Rivers and Harbors Act. USACE will consult with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service to ensure that the selected alternative complies with the Endangered Species Act. USACE will also consult with the State Historic Preservation Officer and Native American Tribes to ensure compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act. USACE will coordinate with the Washington State Department of Ecology and the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality to meet the compliance requirements associated with Section 401 of the Clean Water Act.

US Army Corps of Engineers.

TENTATIVE NEPA OUTLINE (subject to change)

Introduction

- · Project Details
- · Purpose and Need
- Sediment Management History
- Triggers for a Long-Term Analysis and Tiering from the Programmatic Sediment Management Plan
- Federal Standard
- · Beneficial Use of Dredged Material
- Alternative Development
 - Measures
 - Modeling Summary
 - Alternatives
 - Alternative 1: No Action Alternative (NAA)
 - Action Alternatives: ALT 2 through ALT ?
 - Alternative Cost Comparison Summary
 - Alternative Screening

- Alternative Development (cont.)
 - · Alternatives Carried Forward
 - Preferred Alternative
 - · Alternatives Removed from Consideration
- Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences
 Resource

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- Affected Environment
- Environmental Consequences
 ALT 1: NAA
- ALT 2 through ALT ?
- Compliance with Applicable Treaties, Environmental Laws,

Regulations, and Executive Orders

- Consultation, Coordination, and Public Involvement
- References
- Appendices



NOI – Pending NWD Signature Draft TEIS for public review – August 2025 Final TEIS – February 2026 ROD – March 2026 14

