

Chapter 5 – Environmental Commitments

In addition to the actions described as part of the alternatives, the following commitments are made by Reclamation.

Soil

- As much as possible, perform road construction and bank stabilization during dry periods and when flow is absent from the channel.
- As much as possible, restrict the use of the access road to Reclamation, its agents, successors, and assigns during dry conditions.
- Use foot traffic within the acquired right-of-way should a need arise to access the wasteway during non-dry periods.
- Should a rare instance require immediate vehicular access for emergency stabilization repairs during a wet period, Reclamation would also repair the access road as necessary.
- Use best management practices, as described in the construction contract specifications, to minimize environmental consequences caused by stabilizing activities or constructing the access road.
- Take standard and reasonable precautions to reduce erosion and limit sediment-laden runoff from leaving the construction site.
- Preserve the natural landscape and prevent unnecessary destruction, scarring, or defacing of the natural surroundings.
- Use hand labor when possible for bioengineering techniques to reduce or eliminate motorized or heavy equipment use and vehicular disturbance of existing soils.
- Arrange standard engineering technique clearing schedules to minimize the exposure of soils.
- At standard engineering sites, stockpile or deposit excavated materials away from streambanks, wetlands, or other watercourse perimeters where they could be washed away by storm runoff.

- Reseed areas of construction, including culvert installation sites, to prevent future erosion.
- As soon as a site is no longer needed for construction or access, initiate final erosion control and site restoration measures; such as restoring to original contours and making impassable to vehicular traffic when no longer needed.

Water

- Obtain and follow all conditions of the appropriate State of Oregon and Corps permits.
- Use best management practices, as described in the construction contract specifications, to minimize environmental consequences caused by stabilizing activities or constructing the access road.
- Take standard and reasonable precautions to reduce erosion and limit sediment-laden runoff from leaving the construction site.
- Incorporate site-specific erosion and sediment control measures to reduce sediment delivery into drainages.
- Protect water quality by avoiding construction activities as much as possible during wet periods or when flow is in the wasteway.
- Take standard mitigation measures during construction to prevent the entrance or accidental spillage of contaminants or other objectionable pollutants into surface waters.
- Use bioengineering techniques as much as possible to help reduce summer water temperatures.
- Reseed areas of construction, including culvert installation sites, to prevent future erosion.

Vegetation

- Continue working with landowners on suitable native vegetation species.
- Arrange work areas to preserve trees and vegetation to the maximum practicable extent.
- Preserve and protect all trees, shrubs, and other vegetation from construction equipment except where clearing operations are required for standard engineering structures or the access road.

- Limit vegetation removal to those plants that:
 - are causing erosion because of their location in relation to the flow,
 - are about to fall into the flow channel, or
 - are located where standard engineering structures would be placed to reduce bank erosion.
- Use hand labor when possible for bioengineering techniques to reduce the effects construction could have on vegetation.
- Use live cuttings of local native plant species to maximize the potential to restore revegetated areas to high quality habitat beneficial to wildlife.
- Acquire untreated wooden logs rather than cut live trees to build stabilizing structures.
- Reduce the amount of cleared, unvegetated soils by reseeding and revegetating with local native plant species.
- Lay trees cut for construction of the access road along the side of the access road for the landowner's use.
- Burn, chip, or bury onsite slash or debris created during construction of the access road but not used for wasteway bank stabilization.
- Protect and preserve wetlands.
- Mitigate wetland losses as directed by the CWA 404 permit.

Fish and Wildlife

- As much as possible, perform road construction and bank stabilization during dry periods and when flow is absent from the channel. Reclamation will consult with ODFW regarding in-water work periods.
- Time construction to avoid degradation of downstream fish spawning and rearing habitat caused by the release of sediment or increased turbidity.
- Coordinate closely with fish and wildlife agencies to ensure potential impacts are either avoided or minimized.
- Work in concert with other efforts to preserve and protect local fish and wildlife species.
- Plan properly to produce efficiency and timely completion of construction activities with the least amount of people and heavy equipment working at any given time.
- Keep construction debris and rubble out of the channel to minimize construction impacts to the downstream fishery.

- To reduce the temporary effects construction could have on wildlife, use hand labor when possible for bioengineering techniques to reduce or eliminate motorized or heavy equipment use.
- Incorporate site-specific erosion and sediment control measures to reduce sediment delivery into drainages.
- Revegetate wasteway streambanks to provide shade and habitat for aquatic species and near-shore wildlife.

Historic Properties

- Minimize impacts to site deposits within the access road corridor.
- Align the access road route across 35-JA-493 at the west side of the right-of-way.
- Align the access road route across 35-JA-494 at the east side of the right-of-way.
- Monitor initial soil excavation at site 35-JA-493 to ensure immediate detection in the unlikely event of discovery of potentially significant subsurface deposits that were not revealed during test excavations.
- Comply with National Historic Preservation Act concerning discovery situations. Halt construction work immediately in the area of any historically significant find and notify a Reclamation archeologist. Make an initial assessment of the discovery and, if warranted, notify the SHPO and interested tribes and reinstate site evaluation actions.
- Comply with requirements of State of Oregon burial laws if human remains are encountered.
- Have a monitor at necessary sites during initial construction.

Indian Sacred Sites

- Should any areas on Federal land be identified as needing stabilization, notify tribes and ask if they have any issues.

Cascade Siskiyou National Monument

- Contact and coordinate with BLM on wasteway matters within the boundaries of the Cascade Siskiyou National Monument and other BLM managed lands.