
North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

June 19, 2012

Mr. Dan Gale
USFWS – Conservation Partnerships Program
1655 Heindon Road
Arcata, CA 95519

Dear Mr. Gale:

Subject: Notice of Applicability for Coverage under the State Water Resources Control Board General 401 Water Quality Certification Order for Small Habitat Restoration Projects

File: USFWS – Timmons Ranch, Lower Lindsay Creek Instream Habitat Restoration Project (WDID No. 1B12089WNHU)

On May 10, 2012, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received your Notice of Intent (NOI) to comply with the terms of *General Water Quality Certification Order for Small Habitat Restoration Projects* (General 401 Certification Order) for the USFWS - Timmons Ranch, Lower Lindsay Creek Instream Habitat Restoration Project (Project). The Project is located on Lindsay Creek approximately 1.5 miles upstream from the Mad River.

The primary purpose of the Project is to improve instream habitat complexity, stabilize eroding streambanks, and remove exotic vegetation at two sites on Lower Lindsay Creek. Each Project site encompasses approximately 100 linear feet of stream channel. The Project will address rearing limitations existing in this Lower Mad River tributary by increasing the amount and quality of habitats available to rearing salmonids. Restoration activities will also address chronic streambank erosion at both sites. Additionally, extensive patches of exotic reed canary grass will be removed from the point bars at both sites to improve the hydrologic and geomorphic function and floodplain connectivity through the project reach.

The USFWS will use heavy equipment to construct three complex wood jams (CWJs) within each of the two Project sites. A total of 60 pieces of large wood will be utilized. Key wood pieces will be driven into the streambed and used to interlock the entire CWJ

to allow it to function as a single structure without the use of artificial anchoring. Given the upstream site's immediate proximity to the road, two-ton rock will be incorporated into the CWJ to increase the structures stability and resilience during high flows. Willow posts and transplants will be incorporated into the CWJs and the adjoining streambanks to accelerate revegetation of the streambanks. USFWS will also remove approximately 0.1 acre of reed canary grass from the point bars across from each CWJ structure.

Regional Water Board staff has determined that the Project, as described in the NOI, is categorically exempt from CEQA review (section 15333 - Small Habitat Restoration Projects) and meets the eligibility requirements for coverage under the General 401 Certification Order.

Receiving Water: Lindsay Creek in the Blue Lake Hydrologic Area No. 109.10

Filled or Excavated Area: Area Temporarily Impacted: 0.1 acre of streambank
Area Permanently Impacted: None

Total Linear Impacts: Length Temporarily Impacted: 200 linear feet of streambank
Length Permanently Impacted: None

Dredge Volume: None

Latitude/Longitude: Upstream End : 40.92490 N/124.03543 W
Downstream End: 40.91958 N/124.03337 W

Regional Water Board staff has determined that the proposed activities may proceed under the General 401 Certification Order. Please be advised that coverage under the General 401 Certification Order requires implementation of the *Restoration Monitoring Plan* submitted with the NOI. Monitoring reports shall be submitted at least annually to document the achievement of performance standards and project goals. In addition, you must submit a Notice of Completion (NOC) no later than 30 days after project completion. Included with the NOC shall be a site map (map format requirements are listed in General 401 Certification Order) of the project location, including final boundaries of the restoration area(s), and post-project photographs. Each photograph shall include a descriptive title, date taken, photographic site, and photographic orientation. Please include the Regional Water Board's file name and WDID number with all future inquiries and document submittals.

If you have any questions or comments, please call Dean Prat at (707) 576-2801.

Matthais St. John
Executive Officer

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cc: Mr. Jim Timmons, 1800 Timmons Road, McKinleyville, CA 95519

Electronic

Copies to: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, District Engineer, 601 Startare Drive,
Box 14, Eureka, CA 95501
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Regulatory Functions, 1455 Market Street,
San Francisco, CA 94103-1398