



TO: Mike Usen

FROM: Dan Roscoe

CC:

DATE: September 28, 2006

RE: Review of the Natural Resource Requirements for the Gorge Management Plan

The purpose of this memo is to document the requirements of the National Scenic Area Management Plan (Management Plan) for Natural Resources. Chapter 3 of the Management Plan outlines provisions for wetlands, streams, ponds, lakes, riparian areas, wildlife habitat, rare plants, and natural areas. Preliminary surveys of the Broughton Landing project site have identified one wetland, and several wildlife species managed under the Priority Habitats and Species (PHS) program administered by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW). No streams, ponds, or lakes were identified within the project area and therefore these Management Plan issues are not addressed in this memo. Additionally, a botanical survey of the project area (Thie, 2006) did not identify any rare plant species or habitats and therefore no Management Plan requirements for botanical resources are addressed here. There are no sites within the Broughton Landing project site that qualify as a Natural Area. Therefore, no Management Plan requirements for natural areas are addressed here.

WETLANDS

A preliminary site reconnaissance was performed on October 10, 2005 to review the project area for wetland presence. During this review, one wetland was identified towards the western end of the proposed Redevelopment Area. The wetland is confined by the railroad embankment to the north and State Route 14 to the south. Vegetation surrounding this wetland consists of small trees and shrubs. According to the Management Plan, the wetland buffer is defined by the dominant vegetation community within the buffer zone. As the community is a mix of forest and shrubs, the maximum buffer would be 100 feet in all directions. Under the Broughton Landing proposal, no development would occur within 150 feet of the wetland and therefore no intrusion into the wetland and its associated buffer is anticipated to result from project implementation.

STREAMS

No streams were identified on the site during the reconnaissance visit. As the project occurs along the Columbia River mainstem, applicable permits associated within the Skamania County Shoreline Management Program would be required. These include, but are not limited to, Shoreline Substantial Development, or a Conditional Use permit. These permits would be obtained through Skamania County and are subject to review and approval by the Washington Department of Ecology. As there is no part of the proposal that involves work within the water, permits

from the Army Corps of Engineers (Section 10) or the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (Hydraulic Project Approval) are not needed at this time. If elements of the proposal are proposed to occur below the Ordinary High Water Mark of the Columbia River, Coordination with the agencies would be required.

The proposed wastewater discharge will require a permit from the Washington Department of Ecology. An individual permit is required for facilities that have a maximum production capacity of less than 50,000 gallons per day. Construction of the wastewater outfall will require a Section 10 permit from the Corps of Engineers and a Hydraulic Project Approval permit from WDFW for the new discharge pipe and outfall structure to be placed within the Columbia River.

WILDLIFE HABITAT

A review of the WDFW PHS data indicated the potential occurrence of Larch Mountain salamander, a Federal Species of Concern and State Sensitive, within the project site. Additionally, a bald eagle nest was observed during a site visit in April 2006. Two priority habitats, Larch Mountain salamander and cliffs/bluffs, were also identified during this review. According to the Plan, proposed uses within 1,000 feet of a sensitive wildlife area are subject to review and approval by WDFW. Under the current proposal, development activities occur within 1,000 feet of the eagle nest and salamander habitat. Therefore, the proposal would need to be reviewed and approved by WDFW, requiring review of site plans prepared at a minimum scale of 1:1200.

A field survey for sensitive wildlife areas is required since the proposal includes recreational facilities with parking areas for 10 or more cars. The survey needs to be completed by a professional wildlife biologist and a survey report is to be submitted to WDFW with the site plans. If WDFW determines the proposal would adversely affect sensitive wildlife, a Wildlife Management Plan would be required. If the local government (Skamania County) determines that minor impacts to wildlife could be mitigated, the applicant will be informed of any mitigation measures and given the opportunity to accept the recommended changes. These changes can include site plan revisions, timing of proposed uses, or mitigation measures to incorporate into the development review.

Preliminary discussions with the WDFW Area Habitat Biologist have identified the need for several wildlife surveys within the Broughton Redevelopment Area.. The preliminary list of species to survey for includes Larch Mountain Salamander, Bald Eagle, Western Grey Squirrel, and breeding bird surveys.