



**US Army Corps
of Engineers** ®
Portland District

PUBLIC NOTICE

DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Lower Willamette River Federal Navigation Channel, Oregon Maintenance Dredging at Post Office Bar

CENWP-PM-E-10-04

30 Day Notice

Issue Date: February 22, 2010
Expiration Date: March 24, 2010

Interested parties are hereby notified that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Portland District, proposes to dredge a portion of the lower Willamette River federal navigation channel (LWR FNC) at Post Office Bar in 2010. Although the LWR FNC extends 11.6 miles from the mouth of the Willamette River to the Broadway Bridge in Portland, Oregon, the proposed dredging includes only one area of severe shoaling located on the east bank of the LWR at river mile 2.1-2.4. The shoaling has created an impediment to commercial river traffic, creating a passage too shallow in the out-bound lane for 2-way shipping traffic at that bend in the river.

The Corps is proposing to dredge approximately 75,000 cubic yards of sediment in order to restore the channel dimensions to the 42 ft depth (40 ft depth plus 2 feet of over-depth dredging allowed for advanced maintenance). It is estimated that the duration of the dredging would be 15-30 days, once it commences, and would occur during the July 1 to October 31 in-water work period to minimize impacts to ESA-listed fish species. Dredging will be done with a clamshell dredge. Material will be transported to the dredge material placement facility at West Hayden Island located in the Columbia River near river mile 105. The placement facility is a bermed area that has the capacity for placement of the all P.O. Bar material into the upland facility without any return water flowing into the Columbia River.

Because the area is part of the Portland Harbor Superfund site, the Corps is proposing placement of the dredged material in the West Hayden Island upland dredged material disposal site. This proposed dredging activity is being coordinated with the State and Federal resource agencies and the Environmental Protection Agency.

In accordance with the Council on Environmental Quality's National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) regulations [Federal Register 40 CFR 1508.9(a)], a draft Environmental Assessment (EA) has been prepared for the proposed federal action. At the end of the 30 day public comment period, the Corps will consider all comments received by the Public Notice expiration date and make a determination of the significance of impacts resulting from the proposed action.

Environmental Document: A draft Environmental Assessment addressing the impacts associated with the activity is available for public review and comment on the Corps' website
https://www.nwp.usace.army.mil/pm/e/en_plan_assess.asp.

State Water Quality Certification: Pursuant to Section 401 of the Clean Water Act, a State Water Quality Certification will be requested from the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality.

Additional Information and Comments: Questions or comments regarding the draft EA should be directed to Ms. Carolyn Schneider, (503) 808-4770, carolyn.b.schneider@usace.army.mil, or at the address below. Mailed comments must be postmarked by the above closing date and sent to:

District Engineer
U.S. Army Corps of Engineer District, Portland
Attn: CENWP-PM-E/Carolyn Schneider
P.O. Box 2946
Portland, Oregon 97208-2946

In your response, please refer to the above public notice number, title, and date.
A "no comment" response will be assumed if no response is received prior to or postmarked by the above expiration date.