



US Army Corps
of Engineers®
Portland District

PUBLIC NOTICE

DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

CASPIAN TERN NESTING ISLAND CONSTRUCTION PROJECT SUMMER LAKE LAKE COUNTY, OREGON CENWP-PM-E-08-06

Issue Date: May 22, 2008

Expiration Date: June 12, 2008

20 Day Notice

Interested parties are hereby notified that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Portland District proposes construction of three islands, each approximately 0.5 acres in size, for Caspian tern nesting habitat in the Summer Lake Wildlife Area of south central Oregon. Once constructed, social attraction measures will be used at each island to attract migrating Caspian terns to the Summer Lake Wildlife Area. The proposed action at Summer Lake represents the third implementation action for the preferred action as identified in the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for Caspian Tern Management to Reduce Predation of Juvenile Salmonids in the Columbia River Estuary (USFWS et al. 2005). Alternatives consideration was completed during the development of the FEIS. The proposed action is intended to reduce the predation related loss from Caspian terns of juvenile salmonids in the Columbia River Estuary.

In accord with the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) regulations [Federal Register, 40 C.F.R. 1508.9(a)], a draft EA is prepared by a federal agency when a proposed action is not covered by a categorical exclusion or otherwise exempt from NEPA. Federal agencies use the EA to determine whether the proposed action has the potential to cause significant environmental effects.

This draft Summer Lake EA has been prepared to ensure that NEPA compliance measures not covered in the 2005 programmatic FEIS are addressed. Completion of this EA will involve consideration of all public comments. Upon completion of the EA, the Corps will make a determination of significance, concluding the NEPA process.

Environmental Documents: The draft EA addressing the impacts associated with the activity can be viewed on the web at https://www.nwp.usace.army.mil/pm/e/en_plan_avian.asp. The PN and draft EA

are located under the Summer Lake subsection. The FEIS, Record of Decision and other public documents pertaining to Avian Predation actions can also be located at this address.

State Water Quality Certification: The proposed action is in compliance with Section 404 (b) (1) of the Clean Water Act Evaluation under Nationwide Permits No. 3 which addresses repair of existing infrastructure and No. 27 which authorizes the construction of small nesting islands. Section 401 Water Quality Certification for Nationwide Permits No. 3 and 27 is provided in a letter from the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality dated July 18, 2007.

Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972: Not applicable.

Additional Information and Comments: Questions or comments regarding the enclosed document can be directed to Geoff Dorsey, Environmental Resources Branch, (503) 808-4769, or via e-mail at geoffrey.l.dorsey@usace.army.mil or at the address below. Mailed comments on this notice 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/Geoff Dorsey
P.O. Box 2946
Portland, Oregon 97208-2946

In your response, please refer to the above public notice number, title and date.

Should no response be received postmarked by the above closing date, a “no comment” response will be assumed.