WASHINGTON STATE Recreation and Conservation Office

Project Review Comments

PROJECT: 21-1139 P, Ervest Tide Gate Project

Sponsor: Wahkiakum Conservation Dist Program: SALMON ST PROJ Status: Application Resubmitted

MEETING: Initial Review

Shared: 4/2/2021

Review Status: Needs more information

Considerations: Scope concern, Other

Topics	Comments
Review Status - Initial	
	Planning may be dependent on the status of 2 other tidegates. 1 on WDFW property may be feasible, 1 on private property may not be.
Review Panel Comments - Initial	
Questions (response required)	
	Need clarity on fish metrics between miles used by fish versus non-fish miles. The proposal appear to claim non-fish bearing miles as part of fish benefit.
	Reply: The resource technician mapping the project included both fish and non-fish channel designation recognized by DNR. DNR maps provided the best depiction of potential channels. The assumption being that the areas above the tide gates is flat and if a channel exists it is likely to provide some habitat gain for fish when alllowed into the system. The concept map was updated to include illustration of these channels.
	What is the habitat condition and fish use above the tidegate? how might this be altered for good or bad if the tidegate is changed?
	Reply: The habitat condition is actually very nice. The opportunity is simply getting fish into the system. The landowner has reported that he has been seeing juvenile fish above the tide gate. These seems to be a result of the broken gate. The opening would allow fish in and out during periods of slack tide.
	Is one of the options at this site to remove the tidegate completely?
	Reply: Yes, there is a range of alternatives that will be assessed. This includes the range of fish friendly structures, to simply removing the gate, to full removal of crossing in favor of a bridge span.
	Will the other two tidegates under Oneida Rd in this area be evaluated in relation to the Ervest tide gate?
	Reply: The interrelationship between the three tide gates in the area will require evaluation of all tide gates. Discussions are already underway with WDFW regarding concerns they have with the boat launch and more importantly the parking/camping area near the launch.
	Will some level of geologic or geotechnical survey be completed at the site?
	Reply: Yes, we are planning to conduct a geotechnical investigation near the existing structure to ascertain conditions for footing of any proposed structure.

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General Comments (response not required)	
	It appears that this area has been a priority for restoration for quite sometime. Kudos to Wahkiakum CD for establishing a relationship with the landowners that may lead to much needed improvements and access to important habitats in the Deep River.
	Reply: Thank you, we believe this could be the beginning of many more restoration projects.

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MEETING: LE Review

Shared: 4/16/2021

Topics	Comments
Lead Entity Comments	
Questions For Applicant	
	Part of the tide gate is broken/missing, so is one of the options just to completely remove the tide gate?
	Reply: There are several alternatives to consider ranging from simply removing the flap gate to full removal of the crossing (bridge).
	Is there any concern about structure impacts from flooding upstream of the tide gate? Full restoration of this tidal area would require removing all three tide gates on Oneida Road.
	Reply: There are no known occupied structures upstream of the tidegate. WDFW has expressed concern for their boat launch/parking/camping area. This may require some form of dike system to maintain useability. Design discussion will identify all issues and considerations. There are three tide gates that are interrelated. The information from this preliminary design is intended to inform the other two ownerships design. We will work with WDFW and CLT with tide gate opportunities at their sites to achieve full restoration.
	Will water level monitoring be used to support hydrologic modeling? This is not shown as a line item in budget spreadsheet, but it is recommend.
	Reply: Yes, water surface monitoring is planned. WDFW has conducted surface monitoring in the past, we plan to build upon that body of data. The budget item is in the second line labelled assessment – water surface modelling.
	What is the data source and quantification method for the fish vs non-fish miles listed in the PRISM application metrics? Add shoreline lengths for fish vs non-fish habitat to the project map in PRISM to match the reported 1.67 miles of habitat.
	Reply: My resource technician looked at streamstats to obtain a watershed boundary. Stream length was obtained by using the DNR map layer. The map layer includes fish (F), non-fish (N), and untyped waters. The assumption being that the basin is very flat, and any channel can hold fish. Therefore, we planned to include both F (.53 miles) and N (.41 miles) waters in our metrics. I have no idea where 1.67 miles came from. There is an additional 1.16 miles of untyped channel in the Ervest basin. An updated project map has been included in PRISM to illustrate the channels. PRISM metrics have been updated too.
	The WDFW and Columbia Land Trust have multiple years of water surface modeling in the mainstem of Deep River as well as at the three tide gates. Consider revising the budget given existing data can support this design project.
	Reply: We intend to utilize WDFW and Columbia Land Trust water surface data if available. We have retained the water surface monitoring budget line to allow us to monitor in case we have difficulty obtaining WDFW and CLT data and two to rerun model efforts to potential assess change given the broken tide gate. We believe that the landowner just began observing fish because of the broken tide gate. We believe passage is obtained during portions of the flood tide and at slack tides. We want to retain the ability to obtain the information necessary to fully inform the design.

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	Sponsor must coordinate with WDFW and other property owners in the project area during the design process to address potential impacts to adjoining properties. Project is potentially fatally flawed unless the scope of this application incorporates the complexities of working with surrounding landowners on possible project impacts.
	Reply: We could not agree more. The district fully plans and stated so, that we will convene all stakeholder during the design phase. We have discussed the project with WDFW and let CLT know of our proposal. WDFW has already expressed concern with the boat launch/parking area/camping area on their ownership. A key element of the design process is to determine the potential effect on water surface elevation and impact to facilities. The Ervest family has concerns for eventual harvest of timber on their ownership. Harvest is planned primarily for the property on the hillside. Water surface changes could influence tree growth and access depending on change. There is one addition non-industrial private ownership further down Oneida road that will need to be brought into the discussion. We are fully aware of the complexities of working with government agencies, non-governmental agencies, non-industrial private landowners, and industry landowners.