



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY ENGINEER DISTRICT, SACRAMENTO
CORPS OF ENGINEERS
1325 J STREET
SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA 95814-2922

July 13, 2005

Regulatory Branch (200575372)

William Linfield
Town of Silverthorne
P.O. Box 1309
Dillon, Colorado 80498

Dear Mr. Linfield:

We are responding to your consultant's, Ecological Resource Consultants, May 12, 2005 request for a Department of the Army permit for the Blue River Restoration Silverthorne project. This project involves activities, including discharges of dredged or fill material, in waters of the United States to restore and enhance 3,735 linear feet of Blue River stream channel. This approximately 7-acre site is located on the Blue River in Section 36, Township 5 SOUTH, Range 78 WEST, NMP&M, Latitude 039° 39' 22", Longitude 106° 04' 40", Summit County, Colorado.

Based on the information you provided, the proposed activity in approximately 3,735 linear feet of river channel is authorized by Nationwide Permit Number 27. Your work must comply with the general terms and conditions listed on the enclosed Nationwide Permit information sheets and the following special conditions:

1. No work shall occur until the Colorado Division of Wildlife has issued a letter approving the work. This office has received a tentative verbal acceptance of the project from the Division, subject to several changes to the proposed project including maintaining side channel flows above mean low flow, lowering of new vegetated point bars to allow inundation at 300 cfs, and protection of existing vegetation.
2. No wetland or riparian areas shall be impacted. This authorization only allows work below the ordinary mean high water mark.
3. Signage shall be placed along the restored section to further educate the public on the benefits of river protection and restoration activities. The signs should be placed in sufficient intervals to better educate the public.
4. The restored area shall be protected from domestic animal and human impacts until mature. This may be done through fencing or signage.

5. You shall monitor the project for a minimum of three years to insure that the project goals are met, and that the work does not produce any negative effects. A monitoring report shall be submitted to this office no later than October 1 of each year.

You must sign and return the enclosed Compliance Certification to this office within 30 days after completion of the work.

This verification is valid for two years from the date of this letter, or until the Nationwide Permit is modified or expires, whichever comes first. The Nationwide Permit is scheduled to expire on March 18, 2007. It is incumbent upon you to remain informed about changes to the Nationwide Permit Program.

Please refer to identification number 200575372 in correspondence concerning this project. If you have any questions, please contact me at the address below, or telephone 970-668-9676. You may also use our website: www.spk.usace.army.mil/regulatory.html.

Sincerely,



Anthony C. Curtis
Chief, Frisco Colorado
Regulatory Office
Post Office Box 607
Frisco, Colorado 80443

Enclosure(s)

Copy furnished without enclosure(s):

Dave Blauch, Ecological Resource Consultants, Incorporated, 5672 Juhls Drive, Boulder, Colorado 80301

Mr. Ron D. Velarde, Colorado Division of Wildlife, 711 Independent Avenue, Grand Junction, Colorado 81501

Mr. Allan P. Pfister, Western Colorado Supervisor, United States Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service, Ecological Services, 764 Horizon Drive, Building B, Grand Junction, Colorado 81506-3946

Summit County, Engineering Department, P.O. Box 5660, Frisco, Colorado 80443

COMPLIANCE CERTIFICATION

Permit File Number: 200575372

Permit Type: 27

Name of Permittee: Town of Silverthorne
Attn: William Linfield
P.O. Box 1309
Dillon, Colorado 80498

County Where Work was Performed: Summit

Date of Issuance: July 13, 2005

Upon completion of the activity authorized by this permit and any mitigation required by the permit, sign this certification and return it to the following address:

Colorado/Gunnison Basin Regulatory Office
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Sacramento District
Wayne N. Aspinall Federal Building
400 Rood Avenue, Room 142
Grand Junction, Colorado 81501-2563

Please note that your permitted activity is subject to a compliance inspection by a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers representative. If you fail to comply with the terms and conditions of the permit your authorization may be suspended, modified, or revoked. If you have any questions about this certification, please contact the Corps of Engineers office in Frisco, telephone number 970-668-9676.

* * * * *

I hereby certify that the work authorized by the above-referenced permit, including all the required mitigation, was completed in accordance with the terms and conditions of the permit verification.

Signature of Permittee

Date



U S Army Corps of
Engineers
Sacramento District

Nationwide Permit Summary

33 CFR Part 330; Issuance of Nationwide
Permits – January 15, 2002, including
Correction – February 13, 2002

27. Stream and Wetland Restoration Activities. Activities in waters of the US associated with the restoration of former waters, the enhancement of degraded tidal and non-tidal wetlands and riparian areas, the creation of tidal and non-tidal wetlands and riparian areas, and the restoration and enhancement of non-tidal streams and non-tidal open water areas as follows:

(a) The activity is conducted on:

(1) Non-Federal public lands and private lands, in accordance with the terms and conditions of a binding wetland enhancement, restoration, or creation agreement between the landowner and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) or the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), the National Marine Fisheries Service, the National Ocean Service, or voluntary wetland restoration, enhancement, and creation actions documented by the NRCS pursuant to NRCS regulations; or

(2) Reclaimed surface coal mine lands, in accordance with a Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act permit issued by the OSM or the applicable state agency (the future reversion does not apply to streams or wetlands created, restored, or enhanced as mitigation for the mining impacts, nor naturally due to hydrologic or topographic features, nor for a mitigation bank); or

(3) Any other public, private or tribal lands;

(b) *Notification:* For activities on any public or private land that are not described by paragraphs (a)(1) or (a)(2) above, the permittee must notify the District Engineer in accordance with General Condition 13; and

(c) Planting of only native species should occur on the site.

Activities authorized by this NWP include, to the extent that a Corps permit is required, but are not limited to: the removal of accumulated sediments; the installation, removal, and maintenance of small water control structures, dikes, and berms; the installation of current deflectors; the enhancement, restoration, or creation of riffle and pool stream structure; the placement of in-stream habitat structures; modifications of the stream bed and/or banks to restore or create stream meanders; the backfilling of artificial channels and drainage ditches; the removal of existing drainage structures; the construction of small nesting islands; the construction of open water areas; the construction of oyster habitat over unvegetated bottom in tidal waters; activities needed to reestablish vegetation, including

plowing or discing for seed bed preparation and the planting of appropriate wetland species; mechanized land clearing to remove non-native invasive, exotic or nuisance vegetation; and other related activities.

This NWP does not authorize the conversion of a stream to another aquatic use, such as the creation of an impoundment for waterfowl habitat. This NWP does not authorize stream channelization. This NWP does not authorize the conversion of natural wetlands to another aquatic use, such as creation of waterfowl impoundments where a forested wetland previously existed. However, this NWP authorizes the relocation of non-tidal waters, including non-tidal wetlands, on the project site provided there are net gains in aquatic resource functions and values. For example, this NWP may authorize the creation of an open water impoundment in a non-tidal emergent wetland, provided the non-tidal emergent wetland is replaced by creating that wetland type on the project site. This NWP does not authorize the relocation of tidal waters or the conversion of tidal waters, including tidal wetlands, to other aquatic uses, such as the conversion of tidal wetlands into open water impoundments.

Reversion. For enhancement, restoration, and creation projects conducted under paragraphs (a)(3), this NWP does not authorize any future discharge of dredged or fill material associated with the reversion of the area to its prior condition. In such cases a separate permit would be required for any reversion. For restoration, enhancement, and creation projects conducted under paragraphs (a)(1) and (a)(2), this NWP also authorizes any future discharge of dredged or fill material associated with the reversion of the area to its documented prior condition and use (i.e., prior to the restoration, enhancement, or creation activities). The reversion must occur within five years after expiration of a limited term wetland restoration or creation agreement or permit, even if the discharge occurs after this NWP expires. This NWP also authorizes the reversion of wetlands that were restored, enhanced, or created on prior-converted cropland that has not been abandoned, in accordance with a binding agreement between the landowner and NRCS or FWS (even though the restoration, enhancement, or creation activity did not require a Section 404 permit). The five-year reversion limit does not apply to agreements without time limits reached under paragraph (a)(1). The prior condition will be documented in the original agreement or permit, and the determination of return to prior conditions will be made by the Federal agency or appropriate state agency executing the agreement or permit. Before any reversion activity the permittee or the appropriate Federal or state agency must notify the District Engineer and include the documentation of the prior condition. Once an area has reverted to its prior physical condition, it will be subject to whatever the Corps Regulatory requirements will be at that future date. (Sections 10 and 404)

Note: Compensatory mitigation is not required for activities authorized by this NWP, provided the authorized work results in a net increase in aquatic resource functions and values in the project area. This NWP can be used to authorize compensatory mitigation projects, including mitigation banks, provided the permittee notifies the District Engineer in accordance with General Condition 13, and the project includes compensatory mitigation for impacts to waters of the US caused by the authorized work. However, this NWP does not authorize the reversion of an area used for a compensatory mitigation project to its prior condition. NWP 27 can be used to authorized impacts at a mitigation bank, but only in circumstances where it has been approved under the Interagency Federal Mitigation Bank Guidelines.

A. General Conditions. The following general conditions must be followed in order for any authorization by an NWP to be valid:

- 1. Navigation.** No activity may cause more than a minimal adverse effect on navigation.
- 2. Proper Maintenance.** Any structure or fill authorized shall be properly maintained, including maintenance to ensure public safety.
- 3. Soil Erosion and Sediment Controls.** Appropriate soil erosion and sediment controls must be used and maintained in effective operating condition during construction, and all exposed soil and other fills, as well as any work below the ordinary high water mark or high tide line, must be permanently stabilized at the earliest practicable date. Permittees are encouraged to perform work within waters of the United States during periods of low-flow or no-flow.
- 4. Aquatic Life Movements.** No activity may substantially disrupt the necessary life-cycle movements of those species of aquatic life indigenous to the waterbody, including those species that normally migrate through the area, unless the activity's primary purpose is to impound water. Culverts placed in streams must be installed to maintain low flow conditions.
- 5. Equipment.** Heavy equipment working in wetlands must be placed on mats, or other measures must be taken to minimize soil disturbance.
- 6. Regional and Case-By-Case Conditions.** The activity must comply with any regional conditions that may have been added by the Division Engineer (see 33 CFR 330.4(e)) and with any case specific conditions added by the Corps or by the state or tribe in its Section 401 Water Quality Certification and Coastal Zone Management Act consistency determination.
- 7. Wild and Scenic Rivers.** No activity may occur in a component of the National Wild and Scenic River System; or in a river officially designated by Congress as a "study river" for possible inclusion in the system, while the river is in an official study status; unless the appropriate Federal agency, with direct management responsibility for such river, has determined in writing that the proposed activity will not adversely affect the Wild and Scenic River designation, or study status. Information on Wild and Scenic Rivers may be obtained from the appropriate Federal land management agency in the area (e.g., National Park Service, U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service).
- 8. Tribal Rights.** No activity or its operation may impair reserved tribal rights, including, but not limited to, reserved water rights and treaty fishing and hunting rights.
- 9. Water Quality.**
 - (a) In certain states and tribal lands an individual 401 Water Quality Certification must be obtained or waived (See 33 CFR 330.4(c)).
 - (b) For NWPs 12, 14, 17, 18, 32, 39, 40, 42, 43, and 44, where the state or tribal 401 certification (either generically or individually) does not require or approve water quality management measures, the permittee must provide water quality management measures that will ensure that the authorized work does not result in more than minimal degradation of water quality (or the Corps determines that compliance with state or local standards, where applicable, will ensure no more than minimal adverse effect on water quality). An important component of water quality management includes stormwater management that minimizes degradation of the downstream aquatic system, including water quality (refer to General Condition 21 for stormwater management requirements). Another important component of water quality management is the establishment and maintenance of vegetated buffers next to open waters, including streams (refer to General Condition 19 for vegetated buffer requirements for the NWPs).

This condition is only applicable to projects that have the potential to affect water quality. While appropriate measures must be taken, in most cases it is not necessary to conduct detailed studies to identify such measures or to require monitoring.
- 10. Coastal Zone Management.** In certain states, an individual state coastal zone management consistency concurrence must be obtained or waived (see 33 CFR 330.4(d)).

11. Endangered Species.

(a) No activity is authorized under any NWP which is likely to jeopardize the continued existence of a threatened or endangered species or a species proposed for such designation, as identified under the Federal Endangered Species Act (ESA), or which will destroy or adversely modify the critical habitat of such species. Non-federal permittees shall notify the District Engineer if any listed species or designated critical habitat might be affected or is in the vicinity of the project, or is located in the designated critical habitat and shall not begin work on the activity until notified by the District Engineer that the requirements of the ESA have been satisfied and that the activity is authorized. For activities that may affect Federally-listed endangered or threatened species or designated critical habitat, the notification must include the name(s) of the endangered or threatened species that may be affected by the proposed work or that utilize the designated critical habitat that may be affected by the proposed work. As a result of formal or informal consultation with the FWS or NMFS the District Engineer may add species-specific regional endangered species conditions to the NWPs.

(b) Authorization of an activity by a NWP does not authorize the "take" of a threatened or endangered species as defined under the ESA. In the absence of separate authorization (e.g., an ESA Section 10 Permit, a Biological Opinion with "incidental take" provisions, etc.) from the USFWS or the NMFS, both lethal and non-lethal "takes" of protected species are in violation of the ESA. Information on the location of threatened and endangered species and their critical habitat can be obtained directly from the offices of the USFWS and NMFS or their world wide web pages at <http://www.fws.gov/r9cndspp/cndspp.html> and http://www.nfms.noaa.gov/proj_res/overview/es.html respectively.

12. Historic Properties. No activity which may affect historic properties listed, or eligible for listing, in the National Register of Historic Places is authorized, until the District Engineer has complied with the provisions of 33 CFR Part 325, Appendix C. The prospective permittee must notify the District Engineer if the authorized activity may affect any historic properties listed, determined to be eligible, or which the prospective permittee has reason to believe may be eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, and shall not begin the activity until notified by the District Engineer that the requirements of the National Historic Preservation Act have been satisfied and that the activity is authorized. Information on the location and existence of historic resources can be obtained from the State Historic Preservation Office and the National Register of Historic Places (see 33 CFR 330.4(g)). For activities that may affect historic properties listed in, or eligible for listing in, the National Register of Historic Places, the notification must state which historic property may be affected by the proposed work or include a vicinity map indicating the location of the historic property.

 13. Notification.

(a) Timing; where required by the terms of the NWP, the prospective permittee must notify the District Engineer with a preconstruction notification (PCN) as early as possible. The District Engineer must determine if the notification is complete within 30 days of the date of receipt and can request additional information necessary to make the PCN complete only once. However, if the prospective permittee does not provide all of the requested information, then the District Engineer will notify the prospective permittee that the notification is still incomplete and the PCN review process will not commence until all of the requested information has been received by the District Engineer. The prospective permittee shall not begin the activity:

(1) Until notified in writing by the District Engineer that the activity may proceed under the NWP with any special conditions imposed by the District or Division Engineer; or

(2) If notified in writing by the District or Division Engineer that an Individual Permit is required; or

(3) Unless 45 days have passed from the District Engineer's receipt of the complete notification and the prospective permittee has not received written notice from the District or Division Engineer. Subsequently, the permittee's right to proceed under the NWP may be modified, suspended, or revoked only in accordance with the procedure set forth in 33 CFR 330.5(d)(2).

(b) Contents of Notification: The notification must be in writing and include the following information:

(1) Name, address and telephone numbers of the prospective permittee;

(2) Location of the proposed project;

(3) Brief description of the proposed project; the project's purpose; direct and indirect adverse environmental effects the project would cause; any other NWP(s), Regional General Permit(s), or Individual Permit(s) used or intended to be used to authorize any part of the proposed project or any related activity. Sketches should be provided when necessary to show that the activity complies with the terms of the NWP (Sketches usually clarify the project and when provided result in a quicker decision.);

(4) For NWPs 7, 12, 14, 18, 21, 34, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, and 43, the PCN must also include a delineation of affected special aquatic sites, including wetlands, vegetated shallows (e.g., submerged aquatic vegetation, seagrass beds), and riffle and pool complexes (see paragraph 13(f));

- (5) For NWP 7 (Outfall Structures and Maintenance), the PCN must include information regarding the original design capacities and configurations of those areas of the facility where maintenance dredging or excavation is proposed;
- (6) For NWP 14 (Linear Transportation Projects), The PCN must include a compensatory mitigation proposal to offset permanent losses of waters of the US and a statement describing how temporary losses of waters of the US will be minimized to the maximum extent practicable;
- (7) For NWP 21 (Surface Coal Mining Activities), the PCN must include an Office of Surface Mining (OSM) or state-approved mitigation plan, if applicable. To be authorized by this NWP, the District Engineer must determine that the activity complies with the terms and conditions of the NWP and that the adverse environmental effects are minimal both individually and cumulatively and must notify the project sponsor of this determination in writing;
- (8) For NWP 27 (Stream and Wetland Restoration Activities), the PCN must include documentation of the prior condition of the site that will be reverted by the permittee;
- (9) For NWP 29 (Single-Family Housing), the PCN must also include:
 - (i) Any past use of this NWP by the Individual Permittee and/or the permittee's spouse;
 - (ii) A statement that the single-family housing activity is for a personal residence of the permittee;
 - (iii) A description of the entire parcel, including its size, and a delineation of wetlands. For the purpose of this NWP, parcels of land measuring ¼-acre or less will not require a formal on-site delineation. However, the applicant shall provide an indication of where the wetlands are and the amount of wetlands that exists on the property. For parcels greater than ¼-acre in size, formal wetland delineation must be prepared in accordance with the current method required by the Corps. (See paragraph 13(f));
 - (iv) A written description of all land (including, if available, legal descriptions) owned by the prospective permittee and/or the prospective permittee's spouse, within a one mile radius of the parcel, in any form of ownership (including any land owned as a partner, corporation, joint tenant, co-tenant, or as a tenant-by-the-entirety) and any land on which a purchase and sale agreement or other contract for sale or purchase has been executed;
- (10) For NWP 31 (Maintenance of Existing Flood Control Facilities), the prospective permittee must either notify the District Engineer with a PCN prior to each maintenance activity or submit a five year (or less) maintenance plan. In addition, the PCN must include all of the following:
 - (i) Sufficient baseline information identifying the approved channel depths and configurations and existing facilities. Minor deviations are authorized, provided the approved flood control protection or drainage is not increased;
 - (ii) A delineation of any affected special aquatic sites, including wetlands; and,
 - (iii) Location of the dredged material disposal site;
- (11) For NWP 33 (Temporary Construction, Access, and Dewatering), the PCN must also include a restoration plan of reasonable measures to avoid and minimize adverse effects to aquatic resources;
- (12) For NWPs 39, 43 and 44, the PCN must also include a written statement to the District Engineer explaining how avoidance and minimization for losses of waters of the US were achieved on the project site;
- (13) For NWP 39 and NWP 42, the PCN must include a compensatory mitigation proposal to offset losses of waters of the US or justification explaining why compensatory mitigation should not be required. For discharges that cause the loss of greater than 300 linear feet of an intermittent stream bed, to be authorized, the District Engineer must determine that the activity complies with the other terms and conditions of the NWP, determine adverse environmental effects are minimal both individually and cumulatively, and waive the limitation on stream impacts in writing before the permittee may proceed;
- (14) For NWP 40 (Agricultural Activities), the PCN must include a compensatory mitigation proposal to offset losses of waters of the US. This NWP does not authorize the relocation of greater than 300 linear-feet of existing serviceable drainage ditches constructed in non-tidal streams unless, for drainage ditches constructed in intermittent non-tidal streams, the District Engineer waives this criterion in writing, and the District Engineer has determined that the project complies with all terms and conditions of this NWP, and that any adverse impacts of the project on the aquatic environment are minimal, both individually and cumulatively;

- (15) For NWP 43 (Stormwater Management Facilities), the PCN must include, for the construction of new stormwater management facilities, a maintenance plan (in accordance with state and local requirements, if applicable) and a compensatory mitigation proposal to offset losses of waters of the US. For discharges that cause the loss of greater than 300 linear feet of an intermittent stream bed, to be authorized, the District Engineer must determine that the activity complies with the other terms and conditions of the NWP, determine adverse environmental effects are minimal both individually and cumulatively, and waive the limitation on stream impacts in writing before the permittee may proceed;
- (16) For NWP 44 (Mining Activities), the PCN must include a description of all waters of the US adversely affected by the project, a description of measures taken to minimize adverse effects to waters of the US, a description of measures taken to comply with the criteria of the NWP, and a reclamation plan (for all aggregate mining activities in isolated waters and non-tidal wetlands adjacent to headwaters and any hard rock/mineral mining activities);
- (17) For activities that may adversely affect Federally-listed endangered or threatened species, the PCN must include the name(s) of those endangered or threatened species that may be affected by the proposed work or utilize the designated critical habitat that may be affected by the proposed work; and
- (18) For activities that may affect historic properties listed in, or eligible for listing in, the National Register of Historic Places, the PCN must state which historic property may be affected by the proposed work or include a vicinity map indicating the location of the historic property.
- (c) Form of Notification: The standard Individual Permit application form (Form ENG 4345) may be used as the notification but must clearly indicate that it is a PCN and must include all of the information required in (b) (1)-(18) of General Condition 13. A letter containing the requisite information may also be used.
- (d) District Engineer's Decision: In reviewing the PCN for the proposed activity, the District Engineer will determine whether the activity authorized by the NWP will result in more than minimal individual or cumulative adverse environmental effects or may be contrary to the public interest. The prospective permittee may submit a proposed mitigation plan with the PCN to expedite the process. The District Engineer will consider any proposed compensatory mitigation the applicant has included in the proposal in determining whether the net adverse environmental effects to the aquatic environment of the proposed work are minimal. If the District Engineer determines that the activity complies with the terms and conditions of the NWP and that the adverse effects on the aquatic environment are minimal, after considering mitigation, the District Engineer will notify the permittee and include any conditions the District Engineer deems necessary. The District Engineer must approve any compensatory mitigation proposal before the permittee commences work. If the prospective permittee is required to submit a compensatory mitigation proposal with the PCN, the proposal may be either conceptual or detailed. If the prospective permittee elects to submit a compensatory mitigation plan with the PCN, the District Engineer will expeditiously review the proposed compensatory mitigation plan. The District Engineer must review the plan within 45 days of receiving a complete PCN and determine whether the conceptual or specific proposed mitigation would ensure no more than minimal adverse effects on the aquatic environment. If the net adverse effects of the project on the aquatic environment (after consideration of the compensatory mitigation proposal) are determined by the District Engineer to be minimal, the District Engineer will provide a timely written response to the applicant. The response will state that the project can proceed under the terms and conditions of the NWP.
- If the District Engineer determines that the adverse effects of the proposed work are more than minimal, then the District Engineer will notify the applicant either:
- (1) that the project does not qualify for authorization under the NWP and instruct the applicant on the procedures to seek authorization under an Individual Permit;
 - (2) that the project is authorized under the NWP subject to the applicant's submission of a mitigation proposal that would reduce the adverse effects on the aquatic environment to the minimal level; or
 - (3) that the project is authorized under the NWP with specific modifications or conditions. Where the District Engineer determines that mitigation is required to ensure no more than minimal adverse effects occur to the aquatic environment, the activity will be authorized within the 45-day PCN period. The authorization will include the necessary conceptual or specific mitigation or a requirement that the applicant submit a mitigation proposal that would reduce the adverse effects on the aquatic environment to the minimal level. When conceptual mitigation is included, or a mitigation plan is required under item (2) above, no work in waters of the US will occur until the District Engineer has approved a specific mitigation plan.
- (e) Agency Coordination: The District Engineer will consider any comments from Federal and state agencies concerning the proposed activity's compliance with the terms and conditions of the NWPs and the need for mitigation to reduce the project's adverse environmental effects to a minimal level.

For activities requiring notification to the District Engineer that result in the loss of greater than ½-acre of waters of the US, the District Engineer will provide immediately (e.g., via facsimile transmission, overnight mail, or other expeditious manner) a copy to the appropriate Federal or state offices (USFWS, state natural resource or water quality agency, EPA, State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO), and, if appropriate, the NMFS). With the exception of NWP 37, these agencies will then have 10 calendar days from the date the material is transmitted to telephone or fax the District Engineer notice that they intend to provide substantive, site-specific comments. If so contacted by an agency, the District Engineer will wait an additional 15 calendar days before making a decision on the notification. The District Engineer will fully consider agency comments received within the specified time frame, but will provide no response to the resource agency, except as provided below. The District Engineer will indicate in the administrative record associated with each notification that the resource agencies' concerns were considered. As required by Section 305(b)(4)(B) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, the District Engineer will provide a response to NMFS within 30 days of receipt of any Essential Fish Habitat conservation recommendations. Applicants are encouraged to provide the Corps multiple copies of notifications to expedite agency notification.

(f) Wetland Delineations: Wetland delineations must be prepared in accordance with the current method required by the Corps (For NWP 29 see paragraph (b)(9)(iii) for parcels less than ¼-acre in size). The permittee may ask the Corps to delineate the special aquatic site. There may be some delay if the Corps does the delineation. Furthermore, the 45-day period will not start until the wetland delineation has been completed and submitted to the Corps, where appropriate.

14. Compliance Certification. Every permittee who has received NWP verification from the Corps will submit a signed certification regarding the completed work and any required mitigation. The certification will be forwarded by the Corps with the authorization letter and will include:

(a) A statement that the authorized work was done in accordance with the Corps authorization, including any general or specific conditions;

(b) A statement that any required mitigation was completed in accordance with the permit conditions; and (c) The signature of the permittee certifying the completion of the work and mitigation.

15. Use of Multiple Nationwide Permits. The use of more than one NWP for a single and complete project is prohibited, except when the acreage loss of waters of the US authorized by the NWPs does not exceed the acreage limit of the NWP with the highest specified acreage limit (e.g. if a road crossing over tidal waters is constructed under NWP 14, with associated bank stabilization authorized by NWP 13, the maximum acreage loss of waters of the US for the total project cannot exceed 1/3-acre).

16. Water Supply Intakes. No activity, including structures and work in navigable waters of the US or discharges of dredged or fill material, may occur in the proximity of a public water supply intake except where the activity is for repair of the public water supply intake structures or adjacent bank stabilization.

17. Shellfish Beds. No activity, including structures and work in navigable waters of the US or discharges of dredged or fill material, may occur in areas of concentrated shellfish populations, unless the activity is directly related to a shellfish harvesting activity authorized by NWP 4.

18. Suitable Material. No activity, including structures and work in navigable waters of the US or discharges of dredged or fill material, may consist of unsuitable material (e.g., trash, debris, car bodies, asphalt, etc.) and material used for construction or discharged must be free from toxic pollutants in toxic amounts (see Section 307 of the CWA).

19. Mitigation. The District Engineer will consider the factors discussed below when determining the acceptability of appropriate and practicable mitigation necessary to offset adverse effects on the aquatic environment that are more than minimal.

(a) The project must be designed and constructed to avoid and minimize adverse effects to waters of the US to the maximum extent practicable at the project site (i.e., on site).

(b) Mitigation in all its forms (avoiding, minimizing, rectifying, reducing or compensating) will be required to the extent necessary to ensure that the adverse effects to the aquatic environment are minimal.

(c) Compensatory mitigation at a minimum one-for-one ratio will be required for all wetland impacts requiring a PCN, unless the District Engineer determines in writing that some other form of mitigation would be more environmentally appropriate and provides a project-specific waiver of this requirement. Consistent with National policy, the District Engineer will establish a preference for restoration of wetlands as compensatory mitigation, with preservation used only in exceptional circumstances.

(d) Compensatory mitigation (i.e., replacement or substitution of aquatic resources for those impacted) will not be used to increase the acreage losses allowed by the acreage limits of some of the NWP. For example, ¼-acre of wetlands cannot be created to change a ¼-acre loss of wetlands to a ½-acre loss associated with NWP 39 verification. However, ½-acre of created wetlands can be used to reduce the impacts of a ½-acre loss of wetlands to the minimum impact level in order to meet the minimal impact requirement associated with NWPs.

(e) To be practicable, the mitigation must be available and capable of being done considering costs, existing technology, and logistics in light of the overall project purposes. Examples of mitigation that may be appropriate and practicable include, but are not limited to: reducing the size of the project; establishing and maintaining wetland or upland vegetated buffers to protect open waters such as streams; and replacing losses of aquatic resource functions and values by creating, restoring, enhancing, or preserving similar functions and values, preferably in the same watershed.

(f) Compensatory mitigation plans for projects in or near streams or other open waters will normally include a requirement for the establishment, maintenance, and legal protection (e.g., easements, deed restrictions) of vegetated buffers to open waters. In many cases, vegetated buffers will be the only compensatory mitigation required. Vegetated buffers should consist of native species. The width of the vegetated buffers required will address documented water quality or aquatic habitat loss concerns. Normally, the vegetated buffer will be 25 to 50 feet wide on each side of the stream, but the District Engineers may require slightly wider vegetated buffers to address documented water quality or habitat loss concerns. Where both wetlands and open waters exist on the project site, the Corps will determine the appropriate compensatory mitigation (e.g., stream buffers or wetlands compensation) based on what is best for the aquatic environment on a watershed basis. In cases where vegetated buffers are determined to be the most appropriate form of compensatory mitigation, the District Engineer may waive or reduce the requirement to provide wetland compensatory mitigation for wetland impacts.

(g) Compensatory mitigation proposals submitted with the "notification" may be either conceptual or detailed. If conceptual plans are approved under the verification, then the Corps will condition the verification to require detailed plans be submitted and approved by the Corps prior to construction of the authorized activity in waters of the US.

(h) Permittees may propose the use of mitigation banks, in-lieu fee arrangements or separate activity-specific compensatory mitigation. In all cases that require compensatory mitigation, the mitigation provisions will specify the party responsible for accomplishing and/or complying with the mitigation plan.

20. Spawning Areas. Activities, including structures and work in navigable waters of the US or discharges of dredged or fill material, in spawning areas during spawning seasons must be avoided to the maximum extent practicable. Activities that result in the physical destruction (e.g., excavate, fill, or smother downstream by substantial turbidity) of an important spawning area are not authorized.

21. Management of Water Flows. To the maximum extent practicable, the activity must be designed to maintain preconstruction downstream flow conditions (e.g., location, capacity, and flow rates). Furthermore, the activity must not permanently restrict or impede the passage of normal or expected high flows (unless the primary purpose of the fill is to impound waters) and the structure or discharge of dredged or fill material must withstand expected high flows. The activity must, to the maximum extent practicable, provide for retaining excess flows from the site, provide for maintaining surface flow rates from the site similar to preconstruction conditions, and provide for not increasing water flows from the project site, relocating water, or redirecting water flow beyond preconstruction conditions. Stream channelizing will be reduced to the minimal amount necessary, and the activity must, to the maximum extent practicable, reduce adverse effects such as flooding or erosion downstream and upstream of the project site, unless the activity is part of a larger system designed to manage water flows. In most cases, it will not be a requirement to conduct detailed studies and monitoring of water flow.

This condition is only applicable to projects that have the potential to affect waterflows. While appropriate measures must be taken, it is not necessary to conduct detailed studies to identify such measures or require monitoring to ensure their effectiveness. Normally, the Corps will defer to state and local authorities regarding management of water flow.

22 Adverse Effects From Impoundments. If the activity creates an impoundment of water, adverse effects to the aquatic system due to the acceleration of the passage of water, and/or the restricting its flow shall be minimized to the maximum extent practicable. This includes structures and work in navigable waters of the US, or discharges of dredged or fill material.

23. Waterfowl Breeding Areas. Activities, including structures and work in navigable waters of the US or discharges of dredged or fill material, into breeding areas for migratory waterfowl must be avoided to the maximum extent practicable.

24. Removal of Temporary Fills. Any temporary fills must be removed in their entirety and the affected areas returned to their preexisting elevation.

25. Designated Critical Resource Waters. Critical resource waters include, NOAA-designated marine sanctuaries, National Estuarine Research Reserves, National Wild and Scenic Rivers, critical habitat for Federally listed threatened and endangered species, coral reefs, state natural heritage sites, and outstanding national resource waters or other waters officially designated by a state as having particular environmental or ecological significance and identified by the District Engineer after notice and opportunity for public comment. The District Engineer may also designate additional critical resource waters after notice and opportunity for comment.

(a) Except as noted below, discharges of dredged or fill material into waters of the US are not authorized by NWP's 7, 12, 14, 16, 17, 21, 29, 31, 35, 39, 40, 42, 43, and 44 for any activity within, or directly affecting, critical resource waters, including wetlands adjacent to such waters. Discharges of dredged or fill materials into waters of the US may be authorized by the above NWP's in National Wild and Scenic Rivers if the activity complies with General Condition 7. Further, such discharges may be authorized in designated critical habitat for Federally listed threatened or endangered species if the activity complies with General Condition 11 and the USFWS or the NMFS has concurred in a determination of compliance with this condition.

(b) For NWP's 3, 8, 10, 13, 15, 18, 19, 22, 23, 25, 27, 28, 30, 33, 34, 36, 37, and 38, notification is required in accordance with General Condition 13, for any activity proposed in the designated critical resource waters including wetlands adjacent to those waters. The District Engineer may authorize activities under these NWP's only after it is determined that the impacts to the critical resource waters will be no more than minimal.

26 Fills Within 100-Year Floodplains. For purposes of this General Condition, 100-year floodplains will be identified through the existing Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Flood Insurance Rate Maps or FEMA-approved local floodplain maps.

(a) **Discharges in Floodplain; Below Headwaters.** Discharges of dredged or fill material into waters of the US within the mapped 100-year floodplain, below headwaters (i.e. five cfs), resulting in permanent above-grade fills, are not authorized by NWP's 39, 40, 42, 43, and 44.

(b) **Discharges in Floodway; Above Headwaters.** Discharges of dredged or fill material into waters of the US within the FEMA or locally mapped floodway, resulting in permanent above-grade fills, are not authorized by NWP's 39, 40, 42, and 44.

(c) The permittee must comply with any applicable FEMA-approved state or local floodplain management requirements.

27. Construction Period. For activities that have not been verified by the Corps and the project was commenced or under contract to commence by the expiration date of the NWP (or modification or revocation date), the work must be completed within 12-months after such date (including any modification that affects the project).

For activities that have been verified and the project was commenced or under contract to commence within the verification period, the work must be completed by the date determined by the Corps.

For projects that have been verified by the Corps, an extension of a Corps approved completion date may be requested. This request must be submitted at least one month before the previously approved completion date.

B. Further Information

1. District Engineers have authority to determine if an activity complies with the terms and conditions of an NWP.
2. NWP's do not obviate the need to obtain other Federal, state, or local permits, approvals, or authorizations required by law.
3. NWP's do not grant any property rights or exclusive privileges.
4. NWP's do not authorize any injury to the property or rights of others.
5. NWP's do not authorize interference with any existing or proposed Federal project.

C. Regional Conditions for Nationwide Permits – Sacramento District

1. Regional Conditions to be applied across the entire Sacramento District:

1. Nationwide Permits 14, 29, 39, 40, 41, 42, and 44 are withdrawn from used in histosols, including fens. For the used of all other nationwide permits in fens, project proponents are required to notify the Corps using the notification or PCN procedures of the nationwide permit program (General Condition 13). This will be a "Corps only" notification.

2. For all activities using any existing and proposed nationwide permits, mitigation that is required by special condition must be completed before or concurrent with project construction. Where project mitigation involves the use of a mitigation bank or in-lieu fee, payment must be made to the bank or fee-in-lieu program before commencing construction of the permitted activity.

3. For all nationwide permits requiring notification, except 27, the applicant must provide a written statement to the district engineer explaining how avoidance and minimization of losses of waters of the United States were achieved on the project site.

- II. Regional conditions to be applied in California and Nevada.

All existing and proposed nationwide permits are suspended in the Lake Tahoe basin in favor of using General Permit 16.

III. Regional conditions to be applied in Utah

For use of any nationwide permit with the following attributes, notification of the Corps of Engineers' Utah Regulatory Office, using the "Notification" procedures of the Nationwide Permit Program (General Condition 13), is required, except where certain nationwide permits are restricted and can not be used as indicated in each category. This will be a "Corps only" notification.

1. All activities that will affect waters of the U.S. below the elevation 4217 feet msl adjacent to the Great Salt Lake and below 4500 feet msl adjacent to Utah Lake.

2. Bank stabilization in a perennial stream that would affect more than 100 feet of stream length as measured from the upstream portion of the affected bank to the downstream section, narrow the cross-section of the stream, substantially reduce the riparian vegetation, or increase velocities.

3. All activities that will affect springs. A spring is an aquatic feature caused by ground water being discharged to the surface, creating wetland and/or stream characteristics. Nationwide Permits 14, 16, 18, 29, 33, 36, 40, 42, 43, and 44 can not be used in spring areas.

IV. Regional conditions to be applied in Colorado

1. The following are statewide regional conditions (a. through f.)

a. Nationwide Permit No. 13 Bank Stabilization. In Colorado, bank stabilization activities necessary for erosion prevention in streams that average less than 20 feet in width (measured between the ordinary high water marks) are limited to the placement of no more than 1/4 cubic yard of material per running foot below the plane of the ordinary high water mark. Activities greater than 1/4 cubic yard may be authorized if the permittee notifies the District Engineer in accordance with General Condition No. 13 (Notification) and the Corps determines the adverse environmental effects are minimal.

b. Nationwide Permit No. 27 Stream and Wetland Restoration Activities. (1) For activities which include a fishery enhancement component, notification will include a letter from the Colorado Division of Wildlife concurring that the project will benefit the fishery; and (2) for projects in streams classified as "Gold Metal Waters", Nationwide Permit No. 27 may not be used. For such projects, the applicant can apply for the existing Colorado Regional General Permit No. CO-00-16900 (Stream Habitat Improvement Structures) or a standard individual permit.

Regional Conditions Applicable to All Nationwide Permits Within Colorado.

c. Removal of Temporary Fills. General Condition No. 24 (Removal of Temporary Fills) is amended by adding the following: When temporary fills are placed in wetlands in

Colorado, a horizontal marker (i.e. fabric, certifies weed-free straw, etc.) must be used to delineate the existing ground elevation of wetlands that will be temporarily filled during construction.

d. Important Spawning Areas. General Condition No. 20 (Spawning Areas) is amended by adding the following: In Colorado, activities which; (1) would destroy important spawning areas; (2) would be conducted in these waters during spawning seasons for trout and Kokanee salmon (spawning season for rainbow and cutthroat trout is March 15 through July 15, and for brown and brook trout and Kokanee salmon is September 15 through March 15); or (3) would have greater than minimal release of sediments during these spawning seasons are not authorized by any nationwide permit. Bio-engineering techniques, such as native riparian shrub plantings are required for all bank protection activities that exceed 50 linear feet in important spawning areas. Important spawning areas are identified in the attached list of critical resource waters in Colorado.

Regional Conditions for Revocations Specific to Certain Geographic Areas

c. Fens: In Colorado, nationwide permits No. 1, 2, 4, 6-11, 13-19, 21-25, 28-31, 33-36, and 39-44 are revoked for activities in these regionally important aquatic resources. Fens are defined as wetlands which are characterized by water logged spongy ground and contain (in all

or part) soils classified as histosols* or mineral soils with a histic epipedon*. To determine whether this provision applies, the entire wetland must be examined for the presence of histosols or histic epipedons.

*Histosols have 40 centimeters (16 inches) or more of the upper 80 centimeters (32 inches) an organic soil material (or less over bedrock). Organic soil material has an organic carbon content (by weight) of 12 to 18 percent, or more, depending on the clay content of the soil. Histic epipedons have a 20 to 60 centimeter-thick (8-24 inches) organic soil horizon that is at or near the surface of a mineral soil. Histosols and histic epipedons are widely recognized as organic soils formed by slow accumulation of plant debris in waterlogged situations where it cannot decompose. (More information on histosols can be obtained from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service publications on Keys to Soil Taxonomy and Field Indicators of Hydric Soils in the United States.

f. Springs: Within the State of Colorado, all nationwide permits are revoked within 100 feet of the water source of natural springs. A spring source is defined as any location where ground water emanates from a point in the ground. For purposes of this regional condition, springs do not include seeps or other discharges that do not have a defined channel.

Critical Resource Waters in Colorado

(See Enclosure 1)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

2. The following provides additional information regarding minimization of impacts and compliance with existing general Conditions:

a. Permittees are reminded of the existing General Condition No. 18 which prohibits the use of unsuitable material. Organic debris, building waste, asphalt, car bodies, and junk materials are not suitable material. Also, General Condition No. 3 requires appropriate erosion and sediment controls (i.e. all fills must be properly stabilized to prevent erosion and siltation into waters and wetlands). Streambed material or other small aggregate material placed alone for bank stabilization will not meet General Condition No. 3.

b. Permittees are encouraged to mitigate project impacts prior to or concurrent with project construction. This issue continues to be a concern and the Corps prefers at this time to request that nationwide permit notification submittals explicitly address prior to or concurrent mitigation or the reasons why mitigation cannot occur prior to or concurrent with project construction.

CRITICAL RESOURCE WATERS IN COLORADO

In accordance with General Condition No. 25 (Designated Critical Resource Waters) the following waters within the State of Colorado are designated as critical resource waters:

a. Outstanding Natural Resource Waters:

Cache la Poudre Basin: All tributaries to the cache La Poudre River system, including all lakes and reservoirs, which are within Rock Mountain National Park;

Laramie River: All tributaries to the Laramie River system, including all lakes and reservoirs which are in the Rawah Wilderness Area;

North Fork Gunnison River: All tributaries to North Fork Gunnison River system, including lakes, reservoirs and wetlands within the West Elk and Raggeds Wilderness Area;

North Platte River: All tributaries to the North Platte River and Encampment Rivers, including all lakes and reservoirs, which are in the Mount Zirkle Wilderness Area;

San Miguel River: All tributaries, lakes, reservoirs, and wetlands within the boundaries of the Lizard Head and Mt. Sneffels Wilderness Area;

Roaring Fork River: All tributaries to the Roaring Fork River system, including lakes, reservoirs and wetlands within the Maroon Bells/Snowmass Wilderness Area;

Uncompahgre River: All tributaries to the Uncompahgre River system, including lakes, reservoirs, and wetlands within the Mt. Sneffels and Big Blue Wilderness Areas;

Upper Arkansas River Basin: All streams, wetlands, lakes, and reservoirs within the Mount Massive and Collegiate Peaks Wilderness Areas;

Upper Colorado River: Mainstem of the Colorado River system including tributaries, lakes, reservoirs, and wetlands within Rocky Mountain National Park;

Upper Gunnison River Basin: All tributaries, lakes, reservoirs, and wetlands in the La Garita Wilderness Area. All tributaries to the Gunnison River system, including lakes, reservoirs, and wetlands within West Elk, Collegiate Peaks, Maroon Bells, Raggeds, Fossil Ridge, Oh-Be-Joyful and Big Blue Wilderness Areas;

White River: Trapper's Lake and tributaries to Trapper's Lake;

Yampa River: All tributaries to the Yampa River, including lakes, reservoirs and wetlands within Zirkle Wilderness Area.

b. Important Spawning areas: In Colorado, important spawning areas are defined as "Gold Metal Waters" as identified by the State of Colorado. Gold Metal Waters are defined in the Colorado Fishing Season Information brochure, on the Colorado Division of Wildlife website www.dnr.state.co.us, or can be obtained at any Corps office in Colorado.