

FLORISSANT FOSSIL BEDS NATIONAL MONUMENT



Date Sent: 7-19-01
Time Sent: 1049 MDT
Sent By: TU

To: Terry McKee

From: Tom Ulrich

Subject: Dam Removal Project

Number of pages following this cover sheet: 5

Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument
P.O. Box 185
Florissant, Colorado 80816

Phone: 719-748-3253
Fax: 719-748-3164



IN REPLY REFER TO:

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument
P.O. Box 185
Florissant, Colorado 80816

July 19, 2001

Mr. Terry McKee
Army Corps of Engineers
Denver Regulatory Office
9307 S. Platte Canyon Rd.
Littleton, CO 80128-6901

RE: Removal of Dams on Grape Creek
Corps File No. 200080611

Dear Mr. McKee:

With this letter we are requesting that you review an amendment to the project you have in the reference file above. The amendment adds three additional dams to be removed and the presettlement hydrologic, vegetative, and geomorphologic conditions restored in the associated drainages. Pending your review, we request a letter from your office acknowledging that the project will not require a Dept. of the Army permit.

We have attached a scope of work for the project and a map showing the locations of the dams. Please note that Dam 39 has no wetlands associated with it. It is situated in an upland drainage and was apparently installed as a "gully plug" to halt erosion caused by agricultural land use. Please note also that Dam 9 has no jurisdictional wetlands associated with it. The wetlands upstream of the dam and a small area of *Juncus* below the dam are separated from the surface flow in Grape Creek below by a significant area of upland vegetation (*Bromus*, *Festuca*, *Artemisia*, etc.). We believe that at one time, the wetlands were continuous, but that the dam has interrupted the surface and subsurface flow to the point that the wetland soils and vegetation have given way to upland characters. The proposed project would restore these wetlands. Dam 14 and the dams you have already reviewed in the Boulder Creek drainage do have associated jurisdictional wetlands.

Please contact me at 719-748-3253 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Thomas A. Ulrich
Chief Ranger

Attachments (2)

All heavy equipment work shall be confined to areas specified on the construction drawings, staked at the job site, or unless otherwise allowed by the government's representative. Design maps, cross sections, and/or design information for the seven structures will be distributed to all potential contractors at the time of the pre-bid meeting.

Material to be excavated can vary from fine-grained soil material to gravel, rock, logs, and/or other debris, etc. This variation in fill material is inherent to the nature of this work.

All structures except Dam 39 lie in wide wet meadows surrounded by or close to adjacent relatively steep hillslopes. Dam 39 lies in a narrow upland drainage. The areas where embankment materials are to be disposed of are occasionally steep, with gradients of up to 100 percent. The vegetation on the embankments ranges from wetland species such as juncus to upland grass species. Soil moisture conditions in the embankment removal areas are expected to be moist to saturated at the time of work. Soil moisture conditions in the material disposal areas are expected to be mostly dry, although they may be moist at depth.

The COTR or Project Inspector shall be on-site during all equipment operations to show work boundaries, identify finished grades and cut and fill sites, and accept all work, including the following:

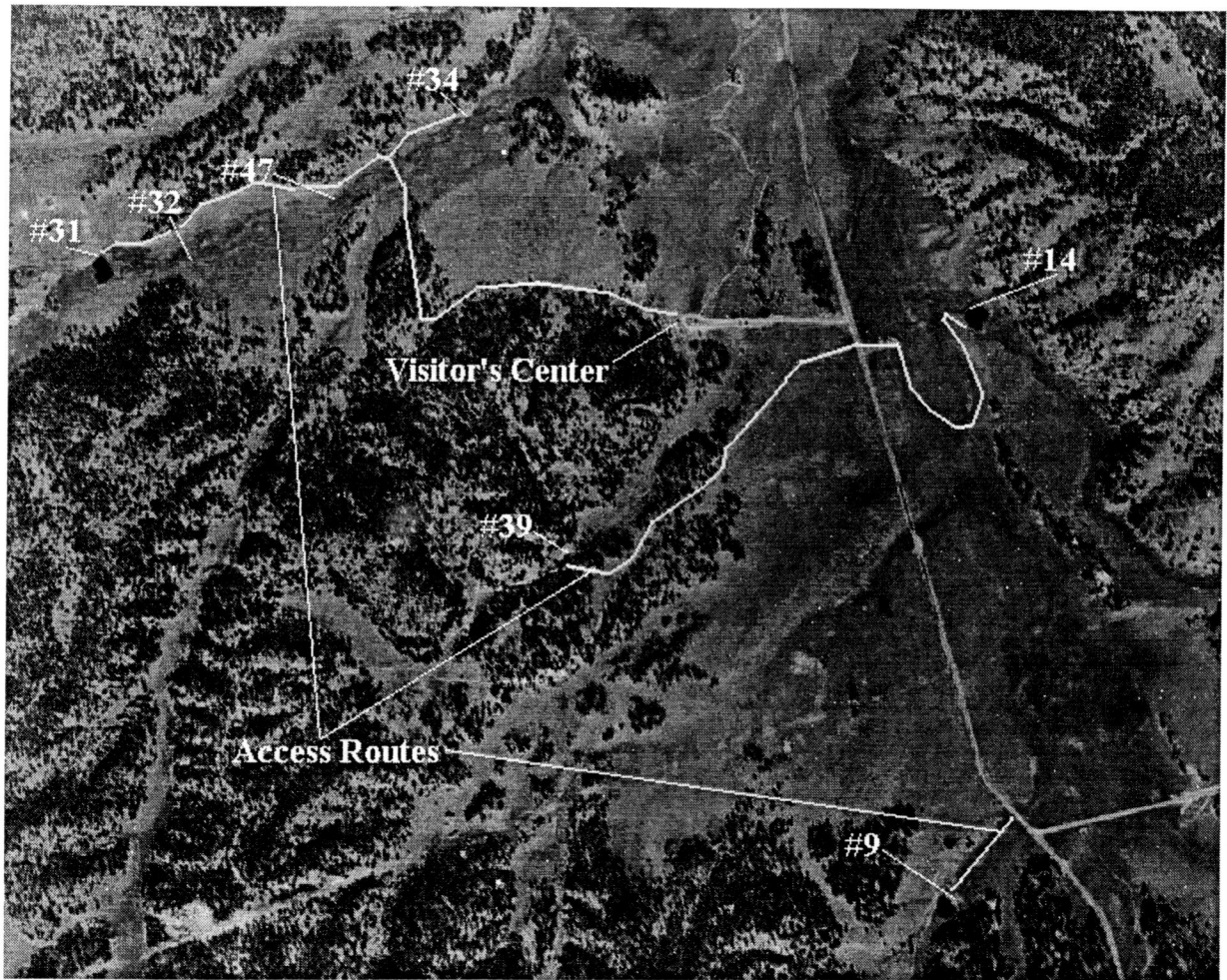
- A. Access to structures #31, #32, #47, #39 and #34 (see maps) requires passage on existing Monument roads and trails. Access to structures #9 and #14 requires passage across relatively undisturbed range land. The operator will minimize disturbance to access routes by brushing, disturbing or removing vegetation only where necessary for equipment passage. The operator will minimize the size of equipment staging areas as designated in the field by the COTR or Project Inspector. The operator will minimize travel on the access routes (see maps).
- B. Salvage the top (3 or 6) inches of surface material from each embankment, stockpile and redistribute uniformly across the disturbed site.
- C. Treatment at structures #9, #14, #31 and #32 (see map) shall be accomplished by first pumping the water out of the impoundments. Water will have to be removed as needed to eliminate standing water and to provide for safe site conditions during

embankment removal. The COTR or Project Inspector will stake the upstream disturbance limits after these impoundments have been drained. Before embankment removal activities commence on these structures, silt fence shall be placed in the valley bottom, within five feet of the downstream toe of the embankment, across the entire width of the valley bottom. The operator will remove and direct-haul the embankment and other fill materials for structures #9, #14, #31 and #32 (approximately 10095, 2610, 1680, and 1010 yd³, respectively) and place them into the upland areas they were originally borrowed from. Placement will be according to the design plans to blend in with the surrounding topography. The government's COTR or Project Inspector will indicate the cut and fill areas in the field. Any unforeseen excess material will be placed to blend inconspicuously into adjacent upland areas as designated by the COTR or Project Inspector. The borders of any areas having unforeseen material deficits will be graded to blend inconspicuously into adjacent areas as designated by the COTR or Project Inspector. All heavy equipment tracks and scars will be eliminated with the use of hand rakes.

- D. Treatment of structures #47, #34 and #39 (see map) will proceed in a similar manner to the treatment of the other structures, except that no pumping of surface water is anticipated. Embankment volumes for structures #47, #34 and #39 are approximately 59, 46, and 655 yd³, respectively.
- E. All disturbed areas will be revegetated according to the plan supplied by the Intermountain Regional office of the National Park Service.
- F. The area of work will be closed to the public.

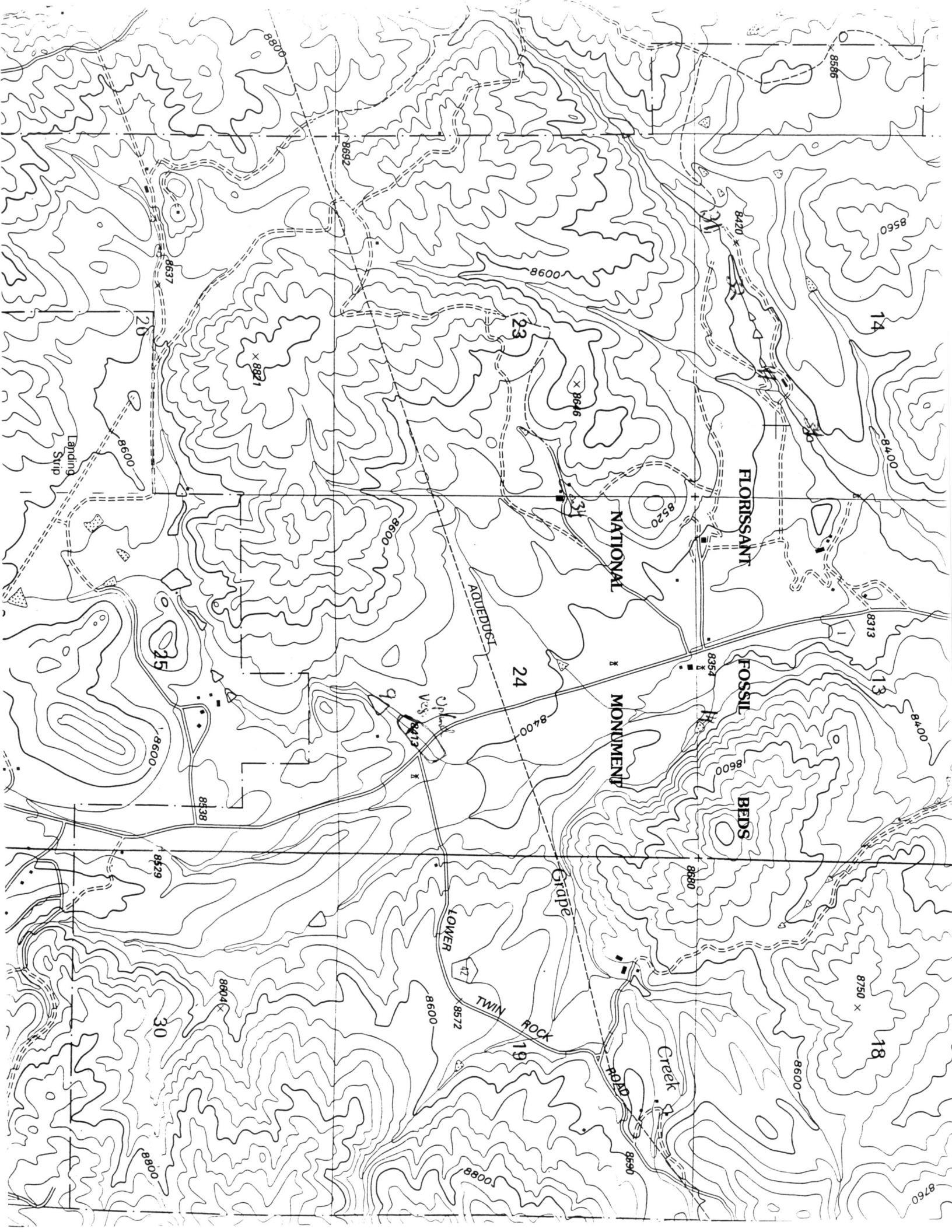
The dams are located as follows:

Dams 31, 32, 34, ⁴⁷~~35~~ - T 13S, R 71W, S ½ of Section 14
Dam 39  SW ¼ of the NW ¼ of Section 24
Dam 14  SW ¼ of the SE ¼ of Section 13
Dam 9 - SW ¼ of the SE ¼ of Section 24



0 1/2 .5Km

0 1/2 .25Mi





DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
CORPS OF ENGINEERS, OMAHA DISTRICT
DENVER REGULATORY OFFICE, 9307 S. PLATTE CANYON ROAD
LITTLETON, COLORADO 80128-6901

September 14, 2000

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

Mr. Alex Birchfield
Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument
P.O. Box 185
Florissant, CO 80816

**RE: Removal of Dams on Grape Creek
Corps File No. 200080611**

Dear Mr. Birchfield:

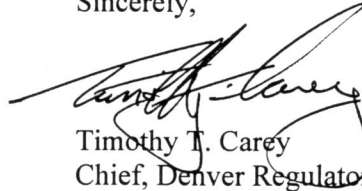
Reference is made to the above-mentioned project located in the S ½ half of Section 14, Township 13 South, Range 71 West, Teller County, Colorado.

The project has been reviewed in accordance with Section 404 of the Clean Water Act under which the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers regulates the discharge of dredged and fill material, and any excavation associated with a dredged and fill project, in waters of the United States which may include ephemeral, intermittent, and perennial streams, lakes, ponds or wetlands. Based on the plans presented, this project will not require a Department of the Army (DA) permit.

Although a DA permit will not be required for the project, this does not eliminate the requirements that other applicable federal, state, tribal, and local permits are obtained if needed.

If there are any questions concerning this matter, please call **Mr. Terry McKee** of this office at 303-979-4120 and reference **Corps File No. 200080611**.

Sincerely,



Timothy T. Carey
Chief, Denver Regulatory Office

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IN REPLY REFER TO:

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument
P.O. Box 185
Florissant, Colorado 80816

TERRY MCKEE
US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
9307 S. PLATTE CANYON ROAD
LITTLETON, COLORADO 80128

August 3, 2000

Dear Mr. McKee:

We have evaluated forty-four dams on Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument and have secured funding to remove six dams on an unnamed tributary of Grape Creek. These six dams were determined to have the greatest impacts and fewest benefits, and thus ranked the highest in removal priority. The purpose of the six dam removals is to restore native wetland vegetation and natural function, including hydrology.

As you may recall, we previously thought that one of the six dams might require the movement of sediment (fill) within the wetland/wet-meadow complex. However, based on subsequent analyses of the sediment behind this and the other dams, the Geologic Resources Division (GRD) of the National Park Service has determined that no significant sediment has accumulated and therefore no placement of fill is necessary. GRD's explanation of the lack of sediment is: (1) there is not much water to carry sediment, (2) the valley is largely subirrigated, and when it surfaces, it is only in small discontinuous channels; therefore, any sediment is filtered out by dense vegetation and the gravelly/sandy alluvium. Our restoration ecologist also believes that the water is unnaturally sediment poor due to: (1) dams upstream of the Monument's boundary capture the majority of sediment that would naturally be transported downstream, and (2) erosion control structures on side drainages have kept additional sediment out of the wetland/wet-meadow complex. Never-the-less, reclamation plans call for approximately 300 feet of silt fence to be placed around the excavation area (i.e. the embankment dam) to ensure no material is deposited in the wetland/wet-meadow and to keep the water free of silt. The silt fence is to remain in place until vegetation is establish and can perform this function naturally.

Given that this wetland restoration project, including the removal of these six dams, will not require placement of fill in wetlands, it appears that Nationwide Permit 27 should cover this entire project and that no additional permits will be necessary.

If we do not hear from you within 30 days from the date of this letter, we will assume that no addition permitting is necessary and will proceed with our wetland restoration plans.

Sincerely,


Jean H. Rodeck
Superintendent