

Re: Strawberry Creek Programmatic application January 31, 2013

Inbox x



Bob Pagliuco - NOAA Affiliate

9:05 AM (2 hours ago)

to me, Leslie, darci_short, Mitch, Kelley, Ann

Kristin,

Thank you for the clarifying responses. I have reviewed your application to the NOAA Restoration Center's Programmatic Biological Opinion and have determined that **the Strawberry Creek Restoration - RNSP Reach Project fits within the scope of this program** and will be covered under Section 7a2 of the ESA using your USACOE permit as the Federal nexus.

Reinitiation of formal consultation is required if:

1. New information reveals effects of the action that may affect listed species in a manner or to an extent not previously considered in this programmatic biological opinion.
2. The action is subsequently modified in a manner that causes an effect to the listed species is not considered in this opinion.
3. A new species is listed or critical habitat designated that may be affected by the action.

Kristin, please notify via email me at least 2 weeks prior to implementing this project.

Thanks,

Bob

On Tue, Jan 29, 2013 at 2:38 PM, Schmidt, Kristin <kristin_schmidt@nps.gov> wrote:

Hi Bob and Leslie,

Here are our responses to your comments on the Strawberry Creek Programmatic Application. Thanks for meeting with us to discuss.

On Wed, Jan 16, 2013 at 3:30 PM, Bob Pagliuco - NOAA Affiliate <bob.pagliuco@noaa.gov> wrote:
Hello Kristin,

I have finally gotten around to reviewing your Strawberry Creek Programmatic application and I was hoping you could provide some clarification. I do not need you to resubmit another application if you can address my concerns via response to this email.

1. The programmatic only allows projects that have less than 1000 ft of stream dewatered at the same time. Your application states "the lengths of isolated reaches would be determined by the contractor, and would be short enough to effectively maintain a water-free reach but long enough to effectively work with the excavator bucket. The entire project reach (1224 ft) would never be isolated at any given time, but every foot of the entire length of the project would at some point be isolated and water diverted." Can you ensure that no more than 1000 ft of channel will be dewatered at the same time?

No stream reaches greater than 1,000 feet in length will be isolated at any time. Substantially less areas of dewatering are likely to occur based on site conditions of the reaches.

2. Although Dave Anderson and I have not found any listed fish above the Barlow wooden bridge, our only other sample site above that is the old SOC culvert and it is possible that fish might be within the dewatered reach. Your application stated that you do not anticipate fish removal/relocation, but I think it would be a good idea to provide a "just in case" fish removal and relocation plan if anything is found during the dewatering phase. This plan should include how you will monitor for stranded fish during the dewatering phase and locate places where you would put fish if any were found.

As dewatering is occurring a monitor will be on site to observe, to the extent feasible given available access to the site, whether or not listed salmonids are present in the reach being isolated. If fish are present they will be placed in a bucket with an aerator and moved to the best available habitat within Strawberry Creek, following the "Guidelines for relocation of salmonids" outlined in the NOAA Restoration Center/ US Army Corps of Engineers biological opinion.

3. On page 6 of your application, you reference using "fish screens" for the purposes of reducing impacts to other aquatic animals such as amphibians or reptiles. Are you referring to screens on the dewatering pumps or block nets? The definition of fish screen as it pertains to this programmatic refer to self cleaning fish screens that are constructed for agricultural diversions. See this link for more details http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fish_screen. I do not think that you will be using a fish screen for this project, but I would like for you to confirm this.

For clarification, we will not be using "fish screens" as described in the NOAA Restoration Center/US Army Corps of Engineers biological opinion, despite this term being applied in the Love and Associates (2012) Basis of Design Report. Instead we will use block nets of the appropriate mesh size at each end of the dewatered reaches. Pumps will have gravel filters attached, versus screens, to prevent amphibians (and fish if present) from being sucked into the pumps.

4. On page 5 of the project description, NPS states "installation of fencing to exclude elk and beavers that would browse on, or cut, the young trees. Can you please describe the fencing that is proposed in greater detail (eg. fence clusters of trees using 6 ft tall deer fencing secured by rebar, etc.....)?

The details of the fencing have yet to be worked out, however, when the time comes we will discuss how best to keep elk and beavers out of the planted areas. Your experience with protecting trees downstream of the project area will undoubtedly help us determine the most successful method for preventing wildlife damage to trees and shrubs.

Please let me know if you want to set up a call or a meeting to discuss these comments.

Thanks,

Bob

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Bob Pagliuco
Habitat Restoration Specialist
I.M. Systems Group
NOAA Office of Habitat Conservation, Restoration Center
1655 Heindon Road
Arcata, CA 95521
[\(707\) 825-5166](tel:7078255166) Office
[\(707\) 217-7176](tel:7072177176) Cell