



FEMA

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Teton Creek Restoration Project

Teton County

FEMA-FMA-PJ-10-ID-2011-002

Teton County applied for fiscal year 2011 funding under the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) grant program for a stream restoration project in eastern Idaho. FEMA provides FMA funds to assist States and communities with implementing measures that reduce or eliminate the long-term risk of flood damage to buildings, manufactured homes, and other structures insured under the NFIP. The proposed mitigation project involves restoring 1.2 miles of Teton Creek in east-central Teton County near the City of Driggs. This project is part of a broader Teton Creek restoration initiative, designed to be implemented in four phases. The first phase of the project, completed in 2009, replaced the Cemetery Road Bridge at the downstream end of the proposed project, to accommodate up to the 100-year flood. Work also included rechannelizing 500 feet of the stream, stabilizing over 2,000 feet of eroding stream banks, stabilizing a portion of the channel with two grade-control structures, and revegetating stream banks with native species. The second phase of the project, completed in 2010, stabilized approximately 2,000 feet of stream banks and revegetated stream banks.

The Proposed Action, consisting of phase three and four, would stabilize 1.2 miles of Teton Creek with bio-engineering techniques such that it conveys the 100-year flood, reduces flood risks, and improves wildlife habitat. Approximately 4,200 linear feet of stream channel corridor will be reshaped to create inset floodplains, stabilize stream banks, and revegetate riparian buffers. About 4.3 acres would be cleared and grubbed including several staging and access points, with stumps stockpiled for later use. Approximate cut and fill amounts for the project are 18,825 cubic yards and 9,265 cubic yards, respectively. To stabilize the streambed, approximately 37 hardened riffles would be placed intermittently across the low-flow channel. One cross vane would be placed at the site of the new Cemetery Road Bridge. The pools between riffles would vary in size and location and consist of lateral and mid-channel scour pools. The floodplain benches would be designed to slow velocities, capture sediment, and propagate native vegetation. A temporary irrigation system would be placed above ground in the project area to provide sufficient moisture to ensure native plant re-establishment. The following types of heavy equipment would be used during project construction: dozers, excavators, haul trucks, backhoes, and loaders. The project would take place over a 2-year time frame, with approximately half of the project being completed each year. The project construction windows are from July 15 through November 15. All work would occur when the channel is dry. Annual maintenance of replanted vegetation would be conducted by the County.

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 and FEMA's implementing regulations, FEMA prepared a Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) to identify and evaluate potential environmental effects resulting from the alternatives presented in the EA and to determine whether to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) or a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI). Alternatives evaluated in the EA include: 1) No Action, and 2) the Proposed Action to stabilize the stream channel. Other alternatives were considered and determined not to meet the stated purpose and need. These were not carried forth for analysis and are described in the EA. The Draft EA was made available for a 30-day public review and comment period on March 15, 2011; no substantive comments were received. The Proposed Action is the preferred alternative because the No Action alternative would not address the stated purpose and need and there are no other practical alternatives. Thus, the proposed action is selected.

FINDINGS

Based upon the FMA grant application, final project design, EA, and Attachment A and in accordance with 1) FEMA's regulations in 44 CFR Part 10 for environmental consideration, including Executive Orders (EOs) addressing floodplains (EO 11988), wetlands (EO 11990), and environmental justice (EO 12898); and 2) the Council of Environmental Quality's regulations in 40 CFR Chapter 5 for implementing NEPA, FEMA determined the proposed project will not significantly affect the quality of the natural and human environment. As a result of this FONSI, an EIS will not be prepared (44 CFR Part 10.8) and the project, as described in the grant application and attached EA, may proceed.

APPROVAL



Mark G. Eberlein
Regional Environmental Officer
FEMA Region 10

4-25-12

Date

Attachment A:

PERMITTING, PROJECT CONDITIONS, AND MITIGATION MEASURES

The County will be required to comply with the following project conditions and mitigation measures, as part of the grant award:

- The County shall obtain all required local, State, and Federal permits and approvals prior to implementing the Proposed Action Alternative and comply with all conditions imposed. These include, but are not limited to, the following:
 - a. Nationwide Permit NWP 27, USACE
 - b. Permit to Alter a Stream Channel, IDWR
 - c. Permit to Develop in a Floodplain Area, Teton County
- All construction shall be completed in accordance with descriptions and methods on the IDWR and USACE applications and attachments unless otherwise specified.
- The County is responsible for selecting, implementing, monitoring, and maintaining Best Management Practices to control erosion and sedimentation, reduce spills and pollution, and provide habitat protection.
- All work will be done when the channel is dewatered.
- Excess excavated material shall be hauled offsite and disposed of in an upland area where it will not reenter a “water of the United States” as defined by EPA and the USACE. Excess material shall not be stockpiled below the ordinary high water mark (OHWM) or floodplain, unless part of the project’s design.
- The embankment above rock or log structures shall be planted with native shrubs to provide additional bank stability and to help maintain riparian habitat functions.
- Existing tree and shrub species that currently exist along the riverbank shall be preserved to the maximum extent to help provide additional bank stability and maintain riparian habitat functions.
- Vegetation removal should occur in late summer and early fall, outside of the typical migratory bird-nesting season, which ranges from March through August. If removal activities must take place during the nesting season, a qualified professional will conduct a breeding bird survey before removal activities begin to avoid or minimize disturbance.
- The applicant shall develop and implement a sustained, long-term weed management plan to manage the establishment of undesirable plants in the project area. The Grantee will confirm at final inspection that the plan was developed and is being implemented.
- Disturbed soils shall be reseeded and protected from erosion until the site has stabilized. Reseeding and erosion protection shall be accomplished upon completion of project construction.
- Rock used shall be clean, angular, and of sufficient size and weight to withstand expected erosive energy, to prevent erosion and sedimentation.

- In-stream structures shall be keyed into the streambed and bank to prevent the structures from being undermined.
 - The upstream and downstream ends of rock bank treatments shall be trenched into the bank to prevent stream energy from unraveling the riprap.
 - Equipment may not be stored below the OHWM overnight or for extended periods.
 - All equipment and vehicles will be inspected and thoroughly cleaned prior to being mobilized to the site to limit spread of weeds to newly disturbed areas and adjacent intact native plant communities.
 - Fuel, oil, and other hazardous materials shall be stored, and equipment refueled, repaired, and maintained, away from the stream to ensure that a spill cannot enter the waterway.
 - In the event that unanticipated cultural resources are discovered during project activities, and in compliance with State and Federal laws protecting cultural resources, including Section 106 of the NHPA, work in the immediate vicinity will cease, the area will be secured, and FEMA and the SHPO will be notified.
 - Once the project is complete, in accordance with its compliance with the National Flood Insurance Program and FEMA's October 2011 Conditional Letter of Map Revision, the County must complete the Letter of Map Revision process in a timely manner.
 - Any change to the approved scope of work will require re-evaluation for compliance with NEPA and other laws and EOs, before implementation.
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