

DRAFT FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FONSI)

BOYER PARK MARINA DOCK REPLACEMENT PROJECT APPROVAL

Little Goose Lock and Dam

October 2019

I. Introduction and Background Information

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Walla Walla District (Corps), proposes to approve a request from the Port of Whitman County (Port) to replace, repair and realign the existing moorage in Boyer Park Marina to ensure the continued safe recreational boating support facilities. The replacement, repair and realignment of these overwater structures would ensure the continued safe use of the structures and bring the structures into compliance with the most recent Endangered Species Act (ESA) design criteria for overwater structures.

Boyer Park and Marina is located on approximately 3,500 linear feet and 56 acres of the Snake River, one and a half miles downstream from the Lower Granite Dam in Whitman County, Washington. Boyer Park and Marina consists of RV sites, a restaurant, a convenience store, a boat launch, and a marina with a fuel float and sewage pump-out. The park and marina are owned by the Corps and under a long-term lease to the Port of Whitman County.

The marina is located within a protected basin surrounded by a rock breakwater with the entrance at the downriver end. Most of the marina was originally constructed in the early 1970's. The existing docks are modular concrete with foam interiors that are deteriorating (both the floatation and concrete surfacing), steel H-piles that are beginning to loosen, and electrical and potable water systems that need updating to meet the contemporary standards. Without repair, the marina would become unsafe for public use, which would substantially reduce public access and recreational use of the river.

II. Proposed Action

Under the proposed action, the Corps would approve the Port's request to replace and modernize the docks and marina at Boyer Park. The proposed action would consist of removal of existing failing infrastructure, repair of salvageable docks, installation of a new fuel float and new personal watercraft float, construction of a new vault restroom, and other minor modifications to the park and marina.

III. Purpose and Need

The Corps proposes to approve a request from the Port to complete a series of improvements in the park and marina, including the repair, realignment, and replacement of docking facilities in the marina, as well as associated upland improvements. The purpose of the proposed action is to repair and upgrade the existing moorage and facilities in the marina to ensure continued safe recreational boating support services. The proposed action is needed because existing facilities in the marina are deteriorating and pose a risk to marina users as well as the environment. Additionally, marina facilities, including those for potable water and electricity, are approaching the end of their planned lifespan and no longer provide an acceptable level of service.

IV. Project Alternatives

The National Environmental Policy Act and 33 CFR Part 230 Procedures for Implementing NEPA require a reasonable range of alternatives be considered during the planning process. Alternatives considered under NEPA must include, at least, the Proposed Action Alternative and the “No Action” Alternative, which provides a baseline from which to compare other alternatives. It is generally acceptable to limit analysis to only these two alternatives, especially when the federal action is a response to a permit or request from a private party. The alternatives identified below were evaluated in the *Boyer Park Dock Replacement Project Approval Environmental Assessment (EA)* to determine if they satisfy the purpose and need of the proposed action:

- (1) Alternative 1: The No Action Alternative (No Change).
- (2) Alternative 2: The Proposed Action. The Corps would approve a request from the Port to replace, repair and realign the existing moorage in the marina.

Alternative 2 was selected because it meets the Purpose and Need to upgrade and maintain the moorage in the marina. The No Action Alternative does not meet the Purpose and Need but as a requirement of NEPA is used as a baseline in which to compare other alternatives.

V. Environmental Effects

The Proposed Action Alternative and the No Action Alternative were analyzed for potential effects to the following resources: aesthetics and the visual environment, aquatic resources, historic and cultural properties, recreation, socioeconomics, and water quality. This analysis is detailed in Section 3 of the EA. The analysis concluded there would be no adverse effects to any of the resources from implementation of the Proposed Action.

The Corps also considered the cumulative effects of the Proposed Action along with other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions in the proposed action

area. The Corps concluded that the proposed marina upgrades would not cause a significant cumulative effect.

VI. Public Comment/Involvement

In compliance with NEPA, the Draft FONSI and EA will be made available to the public, Tribes, and local, state, and federal agencies for a 30-day review and comment period from October 11 to November 11, 2019. Any comments received would be addressed in the final FONSI, if the Corps determines a FONSI is appropriate.

VII. Compliance with other Laws and Regulations

Potential effects to threatened and endangered species were analyzed in the *Boyer Park Marina Dock Replacement Project -Snake River Biological Assessment*. The Corps determined that this action, as proposed, may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect threatened and endangered species or critical habitat. The Biological Assessment (BA) was submitted by the Corps Seattle District Regulatory Division to the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), hereafter referred to as “the Services”, in May of 2019. Should the Services concur with the determination made by the Corps, they would send Letters of Concurrence to the Corps. Upon receipt of these letters, compliance with ESA would be considered complete.

The Corps has reviewed the potential effects of the action with regards to the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) Section 106 and determined there will be “No Historic Properties Affected”. The Corps is currently consulting with the Washington State Historic Preservation Office, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, and the Nez Perce Tribe. Compliance with the NHPA would be completed following consultation with these parties.

The Corps Seattle Regulatory District reviewed the potential effects of the action with regards to the Clean Water Act Section 404 and 401. The Corps determined that the proposed action would not involve fill placed below the Ordinary High Water Mark, nor would it involve discharge into the waters of the United States.

See Section 4 of the EA for a discussion of compliance with other laws, regulations and Executive Orders. The proposed action complies with other Federal laws, applicable regulations and Executive Orders.

VIII. Findings and Decision

Having reviewed the Boyer Park Marina Dock Replacement Project Approval EA, I find that the document provides sufficient discussions on the purpose of and need for the Proposed Action, alternatives, the environmental effects of the Proposed Action and the alternatives, and a listing of agencies and persons consulted. I have taken into

consideration the technical aspects of the project, best scientific information available and public comments received. These documents provide sufficient evidence and analysis to meet the Corps' requirements pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Based on this information, I find that implementation of the Proposed Action would not result in significant impacts on the quality of the human environment and that an environmental impact statement is not required. The Corps will proceed to approve the Proposed Action.

CHRISTIAN N. DIETZ
Lieutenant Colonel, EN
Commanding

Date

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