

Jerry L. Storedahl, Owner



Office: (360) 636-2420
FAX: (360) 577-3906

March 21, 2014

2233 Talley Way • Kelso, Washington 98626

ROCK PRODUCTS, GRADING & EXCAVATING

Mr. Jeff Fisher, PhD.
NOAA Fisheries
510 Desmond Drive SE
Lacey, WA 98503

U.S. FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE
WFWO

FEB 24 2014

Mr. Tim Romanski
U.S. Fish & Wildlife
510 Desmond Drive SE
Lacey, WA 98503

LACEY, WA
RECEIVED

Re: Daybreak habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) Annual Report

Gentlemen:

Attached is a brief summary of the conservation and monitoring measures at the Daybreak site over the past year. In addition to the summaries, we have included raw data and reports prepared by our staff and consultants as prescribed in the HCP.

As noted in our last annual report, with the completion of our on-going consultation and the ITP in place, it is our intent to phase back into the original schedule. We have made significant headway in this endeavor. Specifically, we have completed the water rights transfer per CM-04; increased the endowment funding to nearly \$90,000; mechanically removed invasive vegetation, terraced and planted the Dean Creek riparian area; completed fish and bathymetric surveys and analyses at the Ridgefield Pits per CM-10; contributed \$25,000 for offsite floodplain enhancement to the LCFRB per CM-11; and we consulted with Ducks Unlimited to determine their interest in the initial transfer of property with the conservation easement per CM-12. Unfortunately after several months of discussions we were notified by DU that since they could not sell the property, they "...could not move forward ..." with the donation. We have since begun discussions with the Columbia Land Trust.

As noted in our previous report, we are prepared to work with you and appropriate state and local agencies regarding the 'adaptive management' of the remaining Dean Creek work.

If you have any questions or comments please feel free to call me or Randy Sweet at (360) 673-5397.

Respectfully submitted,

Kimball Storedahl
Vice President
cc.
Clark County Building and Planning
Department of Ecology
WDNR

Daybreak Conservation Measures Annual Report for 2013

CM-01	Washwater clarification process	Daybreak continues to operate via dry processing only and will continue to do so until further notice.
CM-02	Storm Water and Erosion Control Plan and Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan	The approved Clark County plan continues to be implemented. Turbidity levels at the Pond 5 outfall ranged from a low of 3.1 in the fourth quarter to a high of 5.7 NTUs in the third quarter. Notably, flow in Dean Creek was intermittent as early as late May and there was no flow in Dean Creek from mid-June through September. DMRs and NPDES General Permit monitoring data is attached.
CM-03	Donation of Water Rights	Storedahl retained counsel to re-initiate the transfer of the water rights to the State Trust for enhancement of instream flows. That transfer was completed in December of 2013 and included the immediate transfer of a portion of the rights, with an allowance for up to 7 years of limited irrigation of crops; ongoing irrigation on a "as needed" basis for riparian and wetland plantings; and 45 afy reserved for industrial use, i.e., makeup water for the closed-loop clarifier system. The irrigation water as well as the final 45 afy used in the closed-loop clarifier system will be donated to the State Trust at the completion of all mining and reclamation.
CM-04	Water Management Plan	This measure is approximately 80 % complete. Installation of the pumping system and discharge points along Dean Creek has been eliminated per direction of the Services. Aggradation in Dean Creek has eliminated any benefit to flow augmentation. Irrigation of the Dean Creek riparian plantings will be conducted with a portable gasoline powered pump and irrigation lines.
CM-05	Conservation and habitat enhancement endowment	As of December 31, 2013 the fund has accrued \$88,061.65 and the year-end bank statement is attached.
CM-06	Native valley-bottom forest revegetation	The conifer planting is complete and the understory planting is scheduled in year seven of operation.
CM-07	Floodplain Reestablishment Between Dean Creek and the ponds	Storedahl applied and received a HPA from WDFW for this project. Invasive vegetation was mechanically cleared in 2013. Terracing prescribed in the HCP was completed and planting of riparian vegetation completed during the Fall of 2013.
CM-08	Mining and reclamation designs to reduce the risk of avulsion	Approximate infill and reconfiguration of Pond 1 is 75%; Pond 2 is 75%; Pond 3 is 50%; and Pond 4 is 75% complete.
CM-09	Contingency plan for potential avulsion	As previously reported, the avulsion sill and overflow spillway are in place.

CM-10	Study of the Ridgefield Pits and EFLR	Surveys of fish species and distribution were completed by R2 Resources, Inc. during the Summer (see attached report). Bathymetric surveys were completed by WEST Consultants, Inc. during the Summer. Their report (attached) includes an analysis of the rate-of-fill in the Ridgefield Pits. Notably, the rate-of-fill mirrors their projection from 1996.
CM-11	Offsite floodplain Enhancement	Storedahl made a cash conation of \$25,000 to the Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board in December, stipulating that the funds were for use only for habitat enhancement in the EFLR subbasin.
CM-12	Conservation easement and fee-simple transfer	Storedahl met and consulted with Ducks Unlimited over a period of several months to discuss the potential transfer of the initial 20 acres to that organization. DU declined to accept after determining that they could not "...sell to a conservation buyer" (see attached Email). We have since initiated consultation with the Columbia Land Trust.
CM-13	Riparian management zone on Dean Creek	As noted under CM-07, initial terracing and riparian planting was completed the past Summer and Fall.
CM-14	In-channel habitat enhancement in Dean Creek	As noted under CM-02 and 04, field observations show that the continuing accumulation of bed load has exacerbated the intermittent flow problems in Dean Creek. The HCP includes "...an adaptive management framework that acknowledges uncertainty inherent in the management of biological systems..." It calls for "...modification of specific conservation measures to increase their effectiveness and benefits, while meeting overall project goals." Storedahl is prepared to discuss any appropriate alternative actions proposed by the Services and/or other resource agencies and to evaluate their effectiveness in meeting the overall project objectives, i.e., habitat enhancement.
CM-15	Shallow water and wetland habitat creation	Cells 1C & D have been excavated, topsoil placed and graded, and wetland vegetation planted. Large wood will be placed as it becomes available.
CM-16	Control of non-native predatory fishes	Not scheduled until year five of operation.
CM-17	Create habitat suitable For Oregon spotted frogs	To the best of our knowledge, no Oregon spotted frogs have been identified in the area.
CM-18	Control public access	Fencing and signage is in place.