

EcoRA Work Group Conference Call - April 20, 2000, 9 AM - 9:35 AM

Participants:

Tom Dahl, Dahl Associates
Bill Rickard, City of Spokane (for Lloyd Brewer)
Harry Ohlendorf, CH2M Hill
Merril Coomes, City of Coeur d'Alene
Dana Houkal, URS
Joe Goulet, EPA
Julie Campbell, USFWS
John Roland, Ecology
Anne Dailey, EPA

Schedule

- current plan is to have the draft RI/FS completed by late 2000 and the draft EcoRA schedule is still under discussion but would likely be available for comment in the late summer/early fall of 2000

Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918

- Dailey noted that the EcoRA workgroup had an extensive discussion on the 4/6/00 teleconference regarding and asked for any follow-up questions or comments
- No additional issues were raised by call participants (or in response the notes from the 4/6/00 teleconference)

Current EcoRA Update provided by Harry Ohlendorf

- database is in hand at CH2M Hill
- habitat mapping is ongoing to ensure th sample locations are identified in appropriate habitat
- maps produced by URS/CH used the Bookstrom/USGS maps (palustrine areas are identified as farmed); BLM provided their updated vegetation GIS layer which is being used to identify areas that are riparian vs. agricultural and sediment vs. soil in the flood plain areas
- accurate habitat typing of sample sites is key to conducting the exposure calculations
- for CSM units 1 and 2 (upper basin) URS is working with the National Wetland inventory provided by the CDA tribe
- Julie Campbell offered to share the field collection information from USFWS with URS/CH since the field notes may help clarify the habitat where samples were collected

Other Discussions

- Julie Campbell reported that the USFWS has made several additional site visits to check on the Spring 2000 bird migration. Julie promised to provide an update on the migration electronically to EPA for inclusion in the EcoRA call notes and this update is

provided below:

Spring 2000 waterfowl observations in the Coeur d'Alene River Basin

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service conducted limited waterfowl surveys in the lateral lakes area during Spring migration, in order to evaluate waterfowl use, as well as potential waterfowl mortality, occurring in the area. Based on four roadside surveys conducted during the migration period, numbers of tundra swans in the Coeur d'Alene River Basin this year appear to be reduced from recent years, with fewer than 500 observed during a single survey. As of April 17, approximately 50 swans still remained in the lateral lakes area, with many exhibiting signs of impaired health. The remains of 37 tundra swans and Canada geese were identified during the four days of observations, with 18 of those remains collected for potential evaluation. (Contact: Julie Campbell at 509-891-0450)

- John Roland mentioned that he'd attended the Clark Fork Symposium in Missoula last week and there was information about the Clark Fork EcoRA which was conducted by ISI Consulting (Dale Hoff, EPA R8 is the project manager -> 303-312-6690)
- Matt Kadlec is leaving Ecology and will be working for a private consulting firm (CSI); Ecology is hoping to assign someone to back-fill Matt's work on the CDA Basin RI/FS
- Tom Dahl reported that Bob Foley is recuperating and will hopefully be telecommuting part-time in the near future - Excellent News!!!

Next Teleconference

- Next EcoRA call will be on May 4, 2000 at 9 AM PST (call-in number is 206-553-4602; no pass code required)
- topics of discussion will include:
 - schedule and status of the EcoRA
 - appropriate effect level for the risk assessment (this issue was discussed at the EcoRA this is important for the EcoRA team)
 - other topics as appropriate