

PLAN OF OPERATION

General Information

Project: Pacific Lumber Bar/Eel River at Dyerville
Renewal of Permit # SMR-01-92/CUP-09-92 (Attachment 1)

Applicant: Humboldt County Department of Public Works
1106 Second Street
Eureka, CA 95501

Parcel: Assessor Parcel #211-141-03, 65 Acres (Attachment 2)

Property Owner: The Pacific Lumber Company (Attachment 3)
P.O. Box 37
Scotia, CA 95565-0037

Volume: Permitted: 28,000 cubic yards every 3 years
Proposed: 28,000 cubic yards every 3 years

Acres: Permitted: 40 acres
Proposed: 30 acres

Introduction

The project is extraction of gravel from the river bar for use in County road maintenance activities in the region. This permit renewal application proposes extraction of up to 28,000 cubic yards (cy) of gravel every 3 years, for a period of 15 years.

Project Location

The Pacific Lumber gravel bar on the Eel River at Dyerville (river mile 40.8) is located 2.25 miles north of the community of Weott (Attachment 4). It is in Township 1 South, Range 2 East, Section 26, and can be seen on the Weott 7.5' USGS quadrangle map (Attachment 5). Access to the bar is off Dyerville Loop Road 0.6 miles from Highway 101.

Past Mining Activities

A surface mining permit was issued by the Humboldt County Planning Commission on January 5, 1993 (Permit #SMR-01-92/CUP-09-92) for the extraction of 28,000 cy of gravel from the bar every 3 years for 15 years.

Humboldt County Public Works (HCPW) has not performed an extraction at the site since 1994. However, permanent monitoring cross sections were established on the bar in 1996. These cross sections have been surveyed annually since that time (Attachment 6).

Proposed Mining Activities

HCPW proposes to extract up to 28,000 cy of gravel every 3 years, for a period of 15 years. Extraction may occur as frequently as annually, but the total volume in any three consecutive years will not exceed 28,000 cy. See Attachment 7 (Site Plan) for site layout, and Attachment 8 (Photographs) for views of the site.

Gravel Extraction

Skimming is the preferred extraction method for this site, based on extraction history and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) recommendations. Other extraction methods that may be used for the site include narrow skim, trenching, horseshoe skim, alcove, and wetland pit methods. The volume, location and extraction method will be determined using the recommendations made by the County of Humboldt Extraction Review Team (CHERT) and the capabilities of the equipment used.

In the spring, CHERT will visit the site with HCPW staff to evaluate the availability of gravel, best location for an extraction, volume to be extracted, and type of extraction to perform. Following the CHERT site visit, a pre-extraction report will be prepared for CHERT and other participating regulatory agencies. Pre-extraction cross-sections will be surveyed and superimposed on an aerial photograph of the site. A discussion of the proposed extraction methodology will be included in the report, along with a work plan for the proposed action.

Upon approval of the pre-extraction report, and prior to extraction, survey cut stakes will be set throughout the extraction area to guide equipment and set boundaries for the operation.

The haul road to the extraction site will be the existing gravel bar access/haul road on the west side of the bar, and the shortest route on the bar from the access/haul road to the extraction area.

Equipment used for the extraction will consist of a bulldozer or excavator, front-end loader, and dump trucks. The bar will be accessed via the designated haul road. Working within the pre-set cut stakes, the bulldozer or excavator will remove gravel from the area and create temporary piles on the bar. The front-end loader will load the piled gravel into dump trucks for transport to the existing established stockpile location for processing.

Gravel extraction activities will be conducted between September 16 and November 1 to avoid the northern spotted owl and marbled murrelet nesting periods, and ensure completion of work before the winter rainy season. The work period for each extraction will be approximately three to four weeks.

Dust control measures will consist of watering the access road, haul road, and extraction area(s) as needed with a water truck using an offsite water source or drafting from a temporary hole dug in the bar away from the low-flow channel.

Following completion of the extraction, the extraction area will be reclaimed according to permit requirements and CHERT recommendations. This includes grading the entire extraction area to drain freely and filling in depressions. Temporary stockpiles will be

removed from the bar. Haul roads on the bar will be scarified to reduce compaction. Post-extraction cross-sections will also be surveyed.

Gravel Processing

A portable crusher assembly, consisting of jaw and cone crushers, conveyors, and a generator trailer (Attachment 9), will be temporarily located adjacent to the existing stockpile area. Gravel from the bar will be transported to the crusher via dump truck and/or front-end loader. Crushed rock will be stockpiled on-site, or transported to another storage facility or construction site. Crushing activities will take place between September 16 and February 1 to avoid nesting periods for northern spotted owls and marbled murrelets. Once crushing activities are completed, the crusher assembly will be dismantled and removed from the area.

Traffic Control

Traffic control will consist of placing warning signs along Dyerville Loop Road in both directions on either side of the stockpile/gravel bar access road. It will not be necessary to detour or otherwise restrict traffic. Minor traffic delays may occur as vehicles slow down when they encounter trucks entering or exiting Dyerville Loop Road from the stockpile access road. Delays will be temporary, ending when extraction and reclamation activities are completed and trucks/equipment leave the area.

Monitoring and Reporting Activities

Monitoring will consist of surveying the pre-established monitoring cross sections as required by the permitting agencies, with results submitted to the Corps of Engineers and NMFS. Following permit expiration or final closure of the site, no subsequent monitoring will be performed.

Reclamation

Interim Management During Idle Periods

Mining operations at the Pacific Lumber bar at Dyerville have been idle since 1995. There is an Interim Management Plan (IMP) in place (Attachment 10), and interim measures from the plan have been implemented. These measures include regular site inspections, annual monitoring cross section surveys, and maintaining limited access to the bar.

Final Reclamation

Following each extraction the bar will be reclaimed and all equipment removed. The area around the extraction will be graded to fill in depressions. Equipment and temporary stockpiles will be removed from the bar, and the haul roads will be scarified to reduce compaction.

No changes to the existing, approved Reclamation Plan (Attachment 11) are proposed. No substantial changes in mining or reclamation activities will occur during the proposed renewal period. State Mining and Geology Board Reclamation Regulations, Article 1 §3502(d) states "An amended reclamation plan shall be approved by the lead agency prior to commencement of activities determined to be a substantial deviation from the approved plan." A substantial deviation includes changes to the operation that substantially affect completion of the previously approved reclamation plan or changes in the end use that would substantially change the scope of reclamation. While an extension of the termination date of mining is proposed, no substantial increase in