

**U. S. Department of the Interior  
Fish and Wildlife Service  
Region 1, Portland, Oregon**

**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**

**Carty Lake Remedial Action at Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge**

**Clark County, Washington**

The Port of Ridgefield (the Port) proposes to remediate sediment in the southern end of Carty Lake. Carty Lake is located at Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge (Refuge), adjacent to the former Pacific Wood Treating Co. (PWT) site in Ridgefield, Washington. PWT operated a wood-treating facility from 1964 to 1993 at the Port's Lake River Industrial Site (LRIS); historical PWT activities impacted sediments in the southern end of Carty Lake.

The purpose of this remedial action is to address the presence of chemicals above screening criteria or cleanup levels, including chlorinated dibenzo-p-dioxins and dibenzofurans (dioxins), pentachlorophenol, and metals (arsenic and chromium) found in sediment in the southern portion of Carty Lake. Dioxins were identified as the primary chemical of concern. The remedial action was selected by Washington State Department of Ecology [Ecology], (Ecology, 2013b) in accordance with Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 173-340-380.

The proposed Carty Lake remedial action involves mechanical sediment excavation, the placement of a clean layer of sand to manage residuals, and stabilization of a treated-wood bulkhead (Ecology, 2013b). The action includes in-water and upland components; the proposed actions are conducted primarily on Refuge property, with some upland project components extending to the LRIS. Construction is proposed to take place over a two-month period in summer 2014.

The Refuge proposes to issue a Special Use Permit to the Port and its agents to implement remedial actions on the Carty Lake Unit of the Refuge. The Refuge developed an Environmental Assessment (EA) to meet National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements associated with the issuing a Special Use Permit.

**Alternatives Considered**

Following is a brief description of the range of alternatives considered, including the selected alternative (Alternative B). The EA describes the range of alternatives in detail.

***Alternative A. No Action***

Under the No Action Alternative, the Port would not conduct the remedial action required by Ecology in Carty Lake. The existing contaminated sediments would remain in Carty Lake, non-native vegetation would remain in the project footprint, and additional components associated

with the project would not be constructed. The vegetated upland footprint and the wetland footprint would not be modified in the Carty Unit.

### ***Alternative B. Carty Lake Remedial Action (Preferred Alternative)***

Under Alternative B, the Port would conduct cleanup actions and construct associated components. The Alternative consists of in-water and upland components, the details of which are described in the EA and supporting documents.

Alternative B is one of four alternative remedial actions considered during a feasibility study (MFA, 2013) conducted for Carty Lake as part of the remediation planning process in accordance with the Model Toxics Control Act. The feasibility study evaluated a range of potential remediation options against a set of criteria defined in state regulations (WAC 173-340-350). The feasibility study was reviewed and approved by Ecology, and Alternative B was selected as the preferred remediation option. Other feasibility study Alternatives are briefly summarized in the EA; details are provided in the cleanup action plan for the former PWT Site (Ecology, 2013b).

### **Decision**

The feasibility study Alternatives assessed protection of human health and the environment, removal and capping of impacted sediment, and/or institutional controls to manage the potential for exposure to impacted sediment. A No Action Alternative was considered, but was dismissed from further evaluation, as it is not protective of human health and the environment. The selected Alternative B provides a high degree of certainty for long-term protectiveness, provides immediate short-term reductions in surface concentrations (including achieving concentrations protective of ecological receptors upon implementation), avoids unnecessary short-term habitat disturbance by minimizing the project footprint, and is proportionately cost effective when the benefits are considered. All alternatives require institutional controls to continue to limit consumption of fish from Carty Lake. As such, the Refuge decision is to issue a Special Use Permit to the Port and its agents to implement remedial actions on the Carty Lake Unit of the Refuge.

### **Public Review**

Ecology and the Port have addressed community concerns throughout the history of former PWT site cleanup actions. Consistent with WAC 173-340-600, Ecology provided public notice for the cleanup action plan, and public comments on the project were solicited from the community during the formal comment period (July 25, 2013, through August 23, 2013). A public participation plan describing the tools that Ecology uses to inform the public about site activities has been developed (Ecology, 2013a). In addition, a public open house was held in February 2012 at the Ridgefield Community Center, 210 N. Main Avenue, Ridgefield, Washington, in an effort to inform interested parties of the cleanup actions related to the former PWT site.

In addition, the Refuge posted the Environmental Assessment and draft Compatibility Determination on the Refuge website from December 10, 2013 to December 27, 2013 for public comment and review. No comments were received on either document.

**Conclusions**

Based on review and evaluation of the information contained in the supporting references, I have determined that issuing a Special Use Permit for remedial actions at Carty Lake is not a major Federal action that would significantly affect the quality of the human environment, within the meaning of section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended. Accordingly, the Service is not required to prepare an environmental impact statement.

This Finding of No Significant Impact and supporting references are on file at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge Complex, 28908 NW Main Avenue Ridgefield, WA 98642 (telephone 360-887-4106). These documents are available to the public and can be found on the internet at: <http://www.fws.gov/ridgefieldrefuges/>

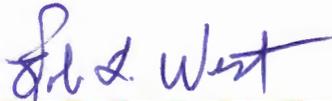
**Supporting References**

*Ecology. 2013a. Public participation plan, former Pacific Wood Treating Co. site. Washington State Department of Ecology. July.*

*Ecology. 2013b. Cleanup action plan, former Pacific Wood Treating Co. site. Washington State Department of Ecology. November 5.*

*MFA. 2013. Former PWT site remedial investigation and feasibility study. Prepared for the Port of Ridgefield. Maul Foster & Alongi, Inc., Vancouver, Washington. July 1.*

*USFWS. 2013. Draft Environmental Assessment, Proposed Carty Lake Remedial Action at Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. November.*



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Regional Chief,  
National Wildlife Refuge System  
Region 1

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Date