

## Sawtooth Environmental Consulting, LLC

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P.O. Box 2707 Ketchum, ID. 83340  
208-727-9748

### **Tax Lot 7995 – 708 East Fork Road Preliminary Compensatory Wetland Mitigation Strategy September 2016**

**Applicant:** Camp Rainbow Gold

**Location:** 708 East Fork Road, within Sections 29, 30 and 32, Township 4 North, Range 19 East, B.M., Blaine County, Idaho.

**Project:** Camp Rainbow Gold Medical Youth Camp Retreat – Conditional Use Permit Application: Preliminary Proposed Wetland Disturbance and Compensatory Wetland Mitigation Strategies.

### **Project Overview**

Camp Rainbow Gold plans to construct a medical youth camp retreat on Tax Lot 7995, located within Sections 29, 30 and 32, Township 4 North, Range 19 East, B.M., Blaine County, Idaho. Project development, excavation and subsequent filling for the proposed access roadways and associated camp infrastructure will impact approximately 17,800 sq.ft., (0.41 acre) of identified wetland resources.

Camp Rainbow Gold conceptual project plan is designed to provide the necessary vehicular access to the proposed development area and adequate pedestrian trail access to desired recreational sites. The proposed project design avoids impacts to wetlands resources where possible and minimizes impacts to sensitive natural resources including wetlands to the maximum extent practicable.

Due to property boundaries, site topography and existing natural resource constraints, access to the proposed development area and associated recreational sites is limited. To gain reasonable access and meet recommended safety parameters, two access roads, one pedestrian bridge crossing and associated trail elements are proposed to be constructed within jurisdictional areas, and potential jurisdictional wetland areas.

The identified wetland areas associated with the parcel, and the proposed camp development application has not, to date, been reviewed by the United States Army Corps of Engineers (COE). However, COE staff have visited the Project area and no specific concerns were identified. A jurisdictional determination from the COE is forthcoming. Final project plan design, regulatory permitting

requirements and associated compensatory wetland mitigation application will address impacts to waters of the United States, including wetlands once an approved jurisdictional determination has been completed by Corps of Engineers.

Understanding the importance of wetland and riparian habitats and their role in floodplain function, protecting water quality and providing valuable wildlife habitat, the applicant proposes to restore, reclaim, enhance and construct wetland habitat with a 1 to 1 (minimum) replacement ratio in order to provide compensatory mitigation for the proposed filling and associated impacts to jurisdictional waters.

This document outlines preliminary compensatory wetland mitigation strategies that will be applied to help mitigate for unavoidable adverse impacts that will occur as a result of the proposed site development.

#### Preliminary Proposed Wetland Impacts:

- Access Roadway: Approximately 680 linear feet  
Area of Impact: 16,800 sq. ft. (0.39 Acre)  
Classification: Emergent Wetland [PEMC] 16,800 sq. ft. (0.39 Acre)  
Mitigation Area [1:1]: 16,800 sq. ft. (0.39 Acre)
- Pedestrian Bridge: Approximately 50 linear feet  
Area of Impact: 250 sq. ft. (0.006)  
Classification: Riverine – Scrub Shrub  
Mitigation Area [1:1]: 250 sq. ft.
- Pedestrian Trail(s): Approximately 150 linear feet  
Area of Impact: 750 sq. ft. (0.017 Acre)  
Classification: Emergent Wetland [PEMC]  
Mitigation Area [1:1]: 750 sq. ft. (0.017 Acre)

#### **Mitigation Strategies**

Applicant request review and permit approval to allow aggregate filling of approximately 17,800 sq.ft., (0.41 acre) of wetlands. The attached site map shows existing identified wetland areas, area of proposed impacts and proposed mitigation sites.

To mitigate for the unavoidable adverse wetland impacts we propose the following compensatory mitigation strategies:

- Restore wetland habitat by reclaiming and enhancing approximately 7,000 sq. ft. of emergent wetland area associated with the old home site located within the western most portion of the proposed development area. The proposed wetland reclamation area has been impacted by past land-use applications, and is located adjacent to existing non-impacted wetland resources.
- Restore wetland hydrology by filling surface water drainage ditches identified on the property fill 800 linear feet, approximate area 2,400 sq. ft. (minimum). Surface drainage ditches remove excess water that collects on the land surface as well as in the soil profile and provide a means to manage or lower water tables. By reclaiming “filling in” portions of the existing surface ditches located on the property we will effectively mitigate drainage effects and work to restore wetland hydrology in those areas.
- Construct approximately 8,400 sq. ft. of emergent and scrub shrub wetland habitat. To help further offset proposed wetland impacts we propose to construct additional wetland habitat in areas immediately adjacent to existing wetlands, expanding the function and value of the on-site wetland resources.

Proposed mitigation would be undertaken and managed in a manner that will sustain wetland characteristics, supporting wetland vegetation, soils and hydrology. Mitigation areas will be constructed on grade elevation consistent with the hydrologic gradient associated with the East Fork of the Big Wood River and adjacent wetland resources. All mitigation areas and other disturbed sites associated with the proposed development will be addressed with appropriate native plant materials.

### **Construction Plans**

Mitigation will be completed in conjunction with site development. The existing ground material located within the proposed mitigation sites will be excavated down to an elevation consistent with the hydraulic gradient supporting the adjacent wetlands. All excavated materials will be exported and/or deposited on uplands. Since the restored and constructed wetland areas will be connected to existing wetlands, simple observations can determine the extent and to what elevation the over-burden needs to be excavated. When excavation intersects the hydraulic gradient, soils will be analyzed to determine if they are sufficient to support wetland soil characteristics. If not, the area will be excavated down another 6 to 12 inches and a hydric soil mix and/or topsoil will be imported so that wetland soil characteristics can be maintained. Salvaged vegetation (sod mats and live transplants) and containerized native

riparian/wetland shrubs and trees will then be planted throughout the mitigation sites. All remaining bare ground will be address with wetland plant plugs and/or seeded with a riparian/wetland grass mix and covered with straw mulch. Plant species utilized for re-vegetation will match the wetland plant species identified for parcel. Natural recruitment and colonization of native riparian/wetland plant species is also expected to occur throughout the site.

### **Preliminary Species List**

<b>Scientific Name</b>	<b>Common Name</b>	<b>Wetland Indicator</b>
<b>Trees and Shrubs</b>		
Cornus stolonifera	Red-osier Dogwood	FACW
Populus tremuloides	Quaking Aspen	FAC+
Populus trichocarpa	Black Cottonwood	FAC
Ribes aureum	Golden current	FAC+
Rosa woodsii	Wood's Rose	FACU
Salix spp.	Willow species	OBL – FACW
<b>Grasses and Ground Cover</b>		
Alopecurus arundinaceus	Creeping foxtail	FAC
Calamagrostis spp.	Bluejoint reedgrass	FACW
Carex rostrata	Beaked sedge	OBL
Carex nebrascensis	Nebraska sedge	FACW
Elymus cinereus	Great Basin wildrye	FACU
Festuca idahoensis	Idaho fescue	FACU
Juncus balticus	Baltic rush	FACW
Poa palustris	Fowl bluegrass	FAC

### **Construction Buffer**

The project plan proposes to preserve a 25 to 50-foot undisturbed vegetation buffer adjacent to all surface water resources and wetlands. Fencing will be placed along this boundary to inhibit encroachment during site excavation and construction of the proposed project.

### **Monitoring and Maintenance**

Mitigation areas will be inventoried at the end of the first growing period. Wetland vegetation planted shall be deemed successful if over 80% of the transplanted and planted vegetation survives and shows signs of new growth. Should the vegetation not meet the survival criteria, it shall be replanted to the original prescribed densities.

Subsequent inventories will occur annually until all mitigation areas are considered functional. The same success criteria will apply, as will the contingency plan. If, after subsequent replanting the plant(s) fail to survive and

grow, a new species shall be selected for planting. A monitoring report including photographic documentation will be submitted annually until there have been two consecutive years of successfully meeting performance criteria.

### **Success Criteria**

Wetland mitigation sites will be considered functional if at the end of three years:

- 80% of the transplanted and planted vegetation survives and shows signs of new growth.
- Herbaceous wetland plant communities (sedges and rushes) are reproducing with less than 25 percent bare soil throughout the mitigation sites.
- Evidence of wetland hydrology exists within the wetland mitigation sites (COE - indicators for wetland hydrology).

### **Conclusion**

The proposed **Preliminary Compensatory Wetland Mitigation Strategy** for Tax Lot 7995 – 708 East Fork Road and Camp Rainbow Gold outlines the general approach and philosophy for the proposed mitigation strategies. Compensatory wetland mitigation strategies will be applied to help mitigate for unavoidable adverse impacts to the identified wetland resources that will occur as a result of the proposed site development. Upon final plan approval a more detailed wetland mitigation and restoration plan will be developed generally consistent with this Preliminary Strategy, and all necessary local, state and federal permits will be obtained prior to any ground disturbance.

