

Dear Senators VICK, Johnson, Stennett, and
Representatives GIBBS, Lickley, Rubel:

The Legislative Services Office, Research and Legislation, has received the enclosed rules of the
Idaho Department of Water Resources:

IDAPA 37.03.07 - Stream Channel Alteration Rules (New Chapter, Fee Rule) - Proposed Rule
(Docket No. 37-0307-2101).

Pursuant to Section 67-454, Idaho Code, a meeting on the enclosed rules may be called by the
cochairmen or by two (2) or more members of the subcommittee giving oral or written notice to Research
and Legislation no later than fourteen (14) days after receipt of the rules' analysis from Legislative
Services. The final date to call a meeting on the enclosed rules is no later than 10/01/2021. If a meeting is
called, the subcommittee must hold the meeting within forty-two (42) days of receipt of the rules' analysis
from Legislative Services. The final date to hold a meeting on the enclosed rules is 10/29/2021.

The germane joint subcommittee may request a statement of economic impact with respect to a
proposed rule by notifying Research and Legislation. There is no time limit on requesting this statement,
and it may be requested whether or not a meeting on the proposed rule is called or after a meeting has
been held.

To notify Research and Legislation, call 334-4854, or send a written request to the address on the
memorandum attached below.



Terri Kondeff
Director

Legislative Services Office

Idaho State Legislature

Serving Idaho's Citizen Legislature

MEMORANDUM

TO: Rules Review Subcommittee of the Senate Resources & Environment Committee and the House Resources & Conservation Committee

FROM: Deputy Division Manager - Katharine Gerrity

DATE: September 14, 2021

SUBJECT: Idaho Department of Water Resources

IDAPA 37.03.07 - Stream Channel Alteration Rules (New Chapter, Fee Rule) - Proposed Rule (Docket No. 37-0307-2101)

Summary and Stated Reasons for the Rule

The Idaho Department of Water Resources submits notice of proposed rule at IDAPA 37.03.07 - Stream Channel Alteration Rules. According to the department, IDAPA rules described minimum standards that allow the department to expedite authorization of select qualifying suction dredge mining operations in Idaho. The department states that proposed projects meeting the minimum standards removed the necessity for the department to furnish copies of applications to other state and federal agencies and seek comment. The department notes that it currently expedites authorization of suction dredge operations meeting minimum standards with the Idaho Recreational Mining Authorization Letter Permit ("Letter Permit"). The department adds that the applicant's signature to the Letter Permit certifies that the applicant agrees to conduct his or her operations in accordance with Letter Permit conditions and instructions, and the minimum standards set forth by rule.

The department states that the proposed rule is, in part, in response to concerns raised by certain small scale suction dredge miners during the 2020 Legislative Session. The department notes that the rule makes certain changes to the existing expedited minimum standard-based Letter Permit, replacing it with a similarly functioning Small Scale Mining Permit regime. The department adds that the rule clarifies the expedited permitting processes, clarifies current permit exemptions for select non-powered mining activities, and modifies and updates some of the minimum standards that allow for an expedited permit process. The department adds that the proposed rule does not change current application filing fee amounts.

Negotiated Rulemaking / Fiscal Impact

The department states that negotiated rulemaking was conducted and that there is no fiscal impact.

Statutory Authority

The rulemaking appears to be authorized pursuant to Sections 42-1734, 42-1805, and 42-3803, Idaho Code.

Kristin Ford, Manager
Research & Legislation

Paul Headlee, Manager
Budget & Policy Analysis

April Renfro, Manager
Legislative Audits

Glenn Harris, Manager
Information Technology

Statehouse, P.O. Box 83720
Boise, Idaho 83720-0054

Tel: 208-334-2475
www.legislature.idaho.gov

cc: Idaho Department of Water Resources
Caitlin McCoy
Mathew Weaver

***** PLEASE NOTE *****

Per the Idaho Constitution, all administrative rules may be reviewed by the Legislature during the next legislative session. The Legislature has 3 options with this rulemaking docket: **1)** Approve the docket in its entirety; **2)** Reject the docket in its entirety; or **3)** Reject the docket in part.

**IDAPA 37 – IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
IDAHO WATER RESOURCE BOARD**

37.03.07 – STREAM CHANNEL ALTERATION RULES

DOCKET NO. 37-0307-2101 (NEW CHAPTER, FEE RULE)

NOTICE OF RULEMAKING – PROPOSED RULE

AUTHORITY: In compliance with Section 67-5221(1), Idaho Code, notice is hereby given that this agency has initiated proposed rulemaking procedures. The action is authorized pursuant to Sections 42-1734(19), 42-1805(8), and 42-3803, Idaho Code.

PUBLIC HEARING SCHEDULE: Public hearing(s) concerning this rulemaking will be scheduled if requested in writing by twenty-five (25) persons, a political subdivision, or an agency, not later than September 15, 2021.

The hearing site(s) will be accessible to persons with disabilities. Requests for accommodation must be made not later than five (5) days prior to the hearing, to the agency address below.

DESCRIPTIVE SUMMARY: The following is a nontechnical explanation of the substance and purpose of the proposed rulemaking:

Idaho Code § 42-3803(c) states that “[r]ules, regulations and orders adopted or issued pursuant to this section may include, but are not limited to, minimum standards to govern projects or activities for which a permit or permits have been received . . .” Idaho Code § 42-3803(d) states that “the [Idaho Water Resource] Board may, by regulation, dispense with procedural requirements for permit application and approval contained in this chapter for projects and activities which, in all respects, at least meet minimum standards adopted pursuant to this section.”

Existing IDAPA 37.03.07 Rule 61 – Suction Dredges and Non-Powered Sluice Equipment (Rule 61), describes minimum standards that allow the Idaho Department of Water Resources (IDWR) to expedite authorization of select qualifying suction dredge mining operations in Idaho streams and rivers. Proposed projects meeting the minimum standards removes the necessity for IDWR to furnish copies of applications to other state and federal agencies and seek comment from those agencies. IDWR currently expedites authorization of suction dredge operations meeting minimum standards with the Idaho Recreational Mining Authorization Letter Permit (“Letter Permit”). The Letter Permit is an immediate authorization with no agency comment process. The Letter Permit is analogous to an Idaho fishing license; it only requires an applicant to give his or her name, address, the name or names of streams the applicant plans to dredge, and submission of a fee (\$10 for Idaho resident, \$30 for non-resident). The applicant’s signature to the Letter Permit certifies that the applicant agrees to conduct his or her operations in accordance with Letter Permit conditions and instructions, and the minimum standards set forth in Rule 61.

The Proposed Rule incorporates changes to Rule 61 as a result of negotiated rulemaking conducted as a part of the Governor’s Executive Order 2020-01 zero-based regulation initiative and in response to concerns raised by certain small scale suction dredge miners during the 2020 Legislative Session. The Proposed Rule makes certain changes to the existing expedited minimum standard-based Idaho Recreational Mining Authorization Letter Permit (“Letter Permit”), replacing it with a similarly functioning Small Scale Mining Permit regime. The majority of stakeholders expressed support during negotiated rulemaking to maintain an expedited permit process for small scale dredge mining (and similar) de minimis mining activities with some changes to the current requirements. The Proposed Rule maintains and clarifies the expedited permitting processes, clarifies current permit exemptions for select non-powered mining activities, and modifies and updates some of the minimum standards associated with Rule 61 that allow for an expedited permit process. Other areas of the Stream Channel Alteration Rules, such as the definitional section at IDAPA 37.03.07.010, also needed to be updated as a result of changes made to Rule 61.

FEE SUMMARY: The following is a specific description of the fee or charge imposed or increased:

Idaho Code § 42-3803(a) authorizes the Idaho Water Resource Board to collect “statutory filing fees” in association with stream channel alteration activities including permitted activities authorized under Rule 61. This Proposed Rule does not change current application filing fee amounts.

FISCAL IMPACT: The following is a specific description, if applicable, of any negative fiscal impact on the state general fund greater than ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) during the fiscal year resulting from this rulemaking: N/A

NEGOTIATED RULEMAKING: Pursuant to Section 67-5220(1), Idaho Code, negotiated rulemaking was conducted. The Notice of Intent to Promulgate Rules – Negotiated Rulemaking was published in the April 7, 2021 Idaho Administrative Bulletin, [Vol. 21-4, pages 53-54](#).

INCORPORATION BY REFERENCE: Pursuant to Section 67-5229(2)(a), Idaho Code, the following is a brief synopsis of why the materials cited are being incorporated by reference into this rule: N/A

ASSISTANCE ON TECHNICAL QUESTIONS, SUBMISSION OF WRITTEN COMMENTS: For assistance on technical questions concerning the proposed rule, contact Mathew Weaver at (208) 287-4800.

Anyone may submit written comments regarding this proposed rulemaking. All written comments must be directed to the undersigned and must be delivered on or before September 22, 2021.

DATED this July 30, 2021.

Gary Spackman, Director
Idaho Department of Water Resources
322 E. Front Street
PO Box 83720
Boise, ID 83720-0098
Phone: (208) 287-4800

THE FOLLOWING IS THE PROPOSED TEXT OF DOCKET NO. 37-0307-2101
(New Chapter – Zero-Based Regulation Rulemaking)

37.03.07 – STREAM CHANNEL ALTERATION RULES

000. LEGAL AUTHORITY (RULE 0).

The purpose of these rules and minimum standards is to specify procedures for processing and considering applications for stream channel alterations under the provisions of Title 42, Chapter 38, Idaho Code. ()

001. TITLE AND SCOPE (RULE 1).

01. Title. These rules are titled IDAPA 37.03.07, “Stream Channel Alteration Rules.” ()

02. Scope. The minimum standards are intended to enable the Director to process, in a short period of time, those applications which are of a common type and which do not propose alterations which will be a hazard to the stream channel and its environment. It is intended that these rules and minimum standards be administered in a reasonable manner, giving due consideration, to all factors affecting the stream and adjacent property. ()

002. -- 009. (RESERVED)

010. DEFINITIONS (RULE 10).

01. Alteration. To obstruct, diminish, destroy, alter, modify, relocate or change the natural existing shape of the channel or to change the direction of flow of water of any stream channel within or below the mean high water mark. It includes removal of material from the stream channel and emplacement of material or structures in or

across the stream channel where the material or structure has the potential to affect flow in the channel as determined by the director. ()

02. Applicant. Any individual, partnership, company, corporation, municipality, county, state or federal agency, their agent, or other entity proposing to alter a stream channel or actually engaged in constructing a channel alteration, whether authorized or not. ()

03. Base Flood Elevation. The Base Flood (BF) is referred to as the one hundred (100) year flood and is a measure of flood magnitude based on probability. The BF has a one percent chance of occurring or being exceeded in any given year, with the Base Flood Elevation (BFE) being the level of flooding reached during the BF or the one hundred (100) year flood event. ()

04. Board. The Idaho Water Resource Board. ()

05. Continuously Flowing Water. A sufficient flow of water that could provide for migration and movement of fish, and excludes those reaches of streams which, in their natural state, normally go dry at the location of the proposed alteration. IDWR will assume, subject to information to the contrary, that the USGS quadrangle maps accurately depict whether a stream reach is continuously flowing, at the location of the proposed alteration. Such exclusion does not apply to minor flood channels that are a part of a stream which is continuously flowing in the reach where the alteration is located. Also, such exclusion does not apply to streams which may be dry as a result of upstream diversion or storage of water. ()

06. Department. The Idaho Department of Water Resources. ()

07. Drop Structures, Sills and Barbs. Physical obstructions placed within a stream channel for the purpose of stabilizing the channel by decreasing stream gradient and velocity and by dissipating stream energy. ()

08. Director. The Director of the Idaho Department of Water Resources. ()

09. Human Life Support System. Any artificial or natural system that provides all or some of the items (such as oxygen, food, water, control of temperature, or disposition of carbon dioxide) necessary for maintaining human life or health. ()

10. Mean High Water Mark. As defined in Idaho Code, § 42-3802(h), the mean high water mark is water level corresponding to the “natural or ordinary high water mark” and is the line which the water impresses on the soil by covering it for sufficient periods of time to deprive the soil of its terrestrial vegetation and destroy its value for commonly accepted agricultural purposes. ()

11. Non-Powered Equipment. Equipment which is powered only by human strength. ()

12. Plans. Maps, sketches, engineering drawings, photos, work descriptions and specifications sufficient to describe the extent, nature, and location of the proposed stream channel alteration and the proposed method of accomplishing the alteration. ()

13. Powered Equipment. Equipment which is powered by means other than human strength such as a gasoline engine or electric motor. ()

14. Repair. Any work needed or accomplished, to protect, maintain, or restore any water diversion structure and the associated stream channel upstream and downstream as necessary for the efficient operation of the water diversion structure. ()

15. Stream Channel. A natural water course of perceptible extent with definite beds and banks which confines and conducts continuously flowing water. The channel referred to is that which exists at the present time, regardless of where the channel may have been located at any time in the past. For the purposes of these rules only, the beds of lakes and reservoir pool areas are not considered to be stream channels. ()

011. -- 024. (RESERVED)

025. EXEMPTIONS (RULE 25).

01. Work on Existing or Proposed Reservoir Projects. Permits are not required under the provisions of Title 42, Chapter 38 for construction work on any existing or proposed reservoir project, including the dam, and such areas downstream as the Director may determine is reasonably necessary for construction and maintenance of the dam. ()

02. Snake and Clearwater Rivers. Permits are not required for work within that portion of the Snake and Clearwater rivers from the state boundary upstream to the upper boundary of the Port of Lewiston Port District as it now exists or may exist in the future. ()

03. Cleaning, Maintenance, Construction or Repair Work. No permit is required of a water user or his agent to clean, maintain, construct, or repair any diversion structure, canal, ditch, or lateral or to remove any obstruction from a stream channel which is interfering with the delivery of any water under a valid existing water right or water right permit. ()

04. Removal of Debris. No permit is required for removal of debris from a stream channel provided that no equipment will be working in the channel and all material removed will be disposed of at some point outside the channel where it cannot again reenter the channel. ()

05. Mining Operations Using Non-Powered Equipment. No permit is required for mining activities using non-powered equipment to move one-quarter (1/4) cubic yard per hour or less below the mean high water mark, except as otherwise described in Rule 61.05. ()

026. -- 029. (RESERVED)

030. APPLICATIONS (RULE 30).

01. Alteration of Stream Channels Permit Required. No person shall engage in any activity which will alter a stream channel without first applying for a permit as provided by § 42-3803, Idaho Code. ()

02. Joint Application Permit Form. The Department of Water Resources, Department of Lands, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers have developed a joint application for permit form which will suffice for the required permit application under the Stream Protection Act. An application should be filed at least sixty (60) days before the applicant proposes to start the construction and shall be upon the joint application form furnished by the Department. The application shall be accompanied by plans which clearly describe the nature and purpose of the proposed work. ()

03. Applicant Following Minimum Standards. In those cases where the applicant intends to follow the minimum standards (Rule 055), detailed plans may be eliminated by referring to the specific minimum standard; however, drawings necessary to adequately define the extent, purpose, and location of the work may be required. Plans shall include some reference to water surface elevations and stream boundaries to facilitate review. The application should show the mean high water mark on the plans; however, any water surface or water line reference available will be helpful as long as this reference is described. (Examples: present water surface, low water, high water.) ()

04. Submission of Copies. The applicant shall submit one (1) copy of all necessary plans along with the application form. When drawings submitted are larger than eight and one half by eleven (8 1/2 x 11), the applicant shall provide the number of copies specified by the department. ()

031. -- 034. (RESERVED)

035. APPLICATION REVIEW (RULE 35).

01. Prior to Issuance of Permit. The following items shall be among those considered by the Director

- prior to issuing a permit: ()
- a. What is the purpose of doing the work? ()
 - b. What is the necessity and justification for the proposed alteration? ()
 - c. Is the proposal a reasonable means of accomplishing the purpose? ()
 - d. Will the alteration be a permanent solution? ()
 - e. Will the alteration pass anticipated water flows without creating harmful flooding or erosion problems upstream or downstream? ()
 - f. What effect will the alteration have on fish habitat? ()
 - g. Will the materials used or the removal of ground cover create turbidity or other water quality problems? ()
 - h. Will the alteration interfere with recreational use of the stream? ()
 - i. Will the alteration detract from the aesthetic beauty of the area? ()
 - j. What modification or alternative solutions are reasonably possible which would reduce the disturbance to the stream channel and its environment and/or better accomplish the desired goal of the proposed alteration? ()
 - k. Is the alteration to be accomplished in accordance with the adopted minimum standards? ()
 - l. Are there public safety factors to consider? ()

02. Proposed Alteration Which Does Not Follow Minimum Standards. In those cases where a proposed alteration does not follow the minimum standards, a copy of the application will be sent for review to those state agencies requesting notification. The Director shall provide for review by the Department of Lands, copies of applications on navigable rivers. The Director will provide a copy of any other application requested by the Department of Lands and may request review by other state agencies regardless of whether or not the proposed alteration will comply with the minimum standards. ()

036. -- 039. (RESERVED)

040. APPROVAL (RULE 40).

01. Conformance to Application. All work shall be done in accordance with the approved application, subject to any conditions specified by the department. ()

02. Permits Allowed Without Review. A permit may be approved by the Director of the Department of Water Resources without review by other agencies in situations where the work is of a nature not uncommon to the particular area and where it is clear that the work will not seriously degrade the stream values except on navigable rivers which require review by the Department of Lands. All work approved in this manner shall be accomplished in accordance with the minimum standards. ()

03. Reinstatement of Expired Permit. A permit which has expired may be reinstated by the Director after review by other agencies as determined by the Director. ()

041. -- 044. (RESERVED)

045. ENFORCEMENT OF ACT (RULE 45).

01. Written Orders Issued by Designated Employees of Department. Employees of the Department designated by the Director may issue written orders directing an applicant to cease and desist, to ensure proper notice to applicants who are found to be altering a stream without a permit or not in compliance with the conditions of a permit. Such orders shall be in effect immediately upon issuance and will continue in force until a permit is issued or until the order is rescinded by the Director. ()

02. Failure to Comply with Stream Protection Act. Failure to comply with any of the provisions of the Stream Protection Act (Chapter 38, Title 42, Idaho Code), may result in issuance of an Idaho uniform citation and/or the cancellation of any permit by the Director without further notice and the pursuit in a court of competent jurisdiction, such civil or criminal remedies as may be appropriate and provided by law. The Director may allow reasonable time for an applicant to complete stabilization and restoration work. ()

046. -- 049. (RESERVED)

050. EMERGENCY WAIVER (RULE 50).

01. Waiver of Provisions of Stream Protection Act. Section 42-3808, Idaho Code, provides for waiver of the provisions of the Stream Protection Act in emergency situations where immediate action must be taken to protect life or property including growing crops. The Director will not consider failure to submit an application for a stream channel alteration far enough ahead of the desired starting time of the construction work as an emergency situation. ()

02. Verbal Waivers. A verbal waiver may be granted initially; however, all verbal requests for waivers shall be followed up by the applicant in writing within fifteen (15) days of any initial authorization to do work. If the applicant is unable to contact the Director to obtain an emergency waiver, he may proceed with emergency work; however, he must contact the Director as soon as possible thereafter. Proving that a bonafide emergency did actually exist will be the responsibility of the applicant. ()

03. Emergency Waiver. Work authorized by an emergency waiver shall be limited to only that which is necessary to safeguard life or property, including growing crops, during the period of emergency. ()

04. Conformance to Conditions of Waiver. The applicant shall adhere to all conditions set by the Director as part of a waiver. ()

05. Waivers Granted by Designated Employees. The Director may delegate the authority to grant waivers to designated employees of the Department. Names and telephone numbers of such employees will be made available to any interested applicant upon request. ()

051. -- 054. (RESERVED)

055. MINIMUM STANDARDS (RULE 55).

These standards are intended to cover the ordinary type of stream channel alteration and to prescribe minimum conditions for approval of such construction. Unless otherwise provided in a permit, these standards shall govern all stream channel alterations in this state. An applicant should not assume that because an application utilizes methods set forth in these standards it will automatically be approved. These minimum standards include the following items: ()

- 01. Construction Procedures.** ()
- 02. Dumped Rock Riprap.** ()
- 03. Drop Structures, Sills and Barbs.** ()
- 04. Culverts and Bridges.** ()
- 05. Removal of Sand and Gravel Deposits.** ()

06. Small Scale Mining with Suction Dredges, Powered Sluices, or Non-Powered Equipment. ()
07. Piling. ()
08. Pipe Crossings. ()
09. Concrete Plank Boat Launch Ramps. ()

056. CONSTRUCTION PROCEDURES (RULE 56).

01. Conformance to Procedures. Construction shall be done in accordance with the following procedures unless specific approval of other procedures has been given by the Director. When an applicant desires to proceed in a manner different from the following, such procedures should be described on the application. ()

02. Operation of Construction Equipment. No construction equipment shall be operated below the existing water surface without specific approval from the Director except as follows: Forging the stream at one (1) location only will be permitted unless otherwise specified; however, vehicles and equipment will not be permitted to push or pull material along the streambed below the existing water level. Work below the water which is essential for preparation of culvert bedding or approved footing installations shall be permitted to the extent that it does not create unnecessary turbidity or stream channel disturbance. Frequent forging will not be permitted in areas where extensive turbidity will be created. ()

03. Temporary Structures. Any temporary crossings, bridge supports, cofferdams, or other structures that will be needed during the period of construction shall be designed to handle high flows that could be anticipated during the construction period. All structures shall be completely removed from the stream channel at the conclusion of construction and the area shall be restored to a natural appearance. ()

04. Minimizing Disturbance of Area. Care shall be taken to cause only the minimum necessary disturbance to the natural appearance of the area. Streambank vegetation shall be protected except where its removal is absolutely necessary for completion of the work adjacent to the stream channel. ()

05. Disposal of Removed Materials. Any vegetation, debris, or other material removed during construction shall be disposed of at some location out of the stream channel where it cannot reenter the channel during high stream flows. ()

06. New Cut of Fill Slopes. All new cut or fill slopes that will not be protected with some form of riprap shall be seeded with grass and planted with native vegetation to prevent erosion. ()

07. Fill Material. All fill material shall be placed and compacted in horizontal lifts. Areas to be filled shall be cleared of all vegetation, debris and other materials that would be objectionable in the fill. ()

08. Limitations on Construction Period. The Director may limit the period of construction as needed to minimize conflicts with fish migration and spawning, recreation use, and other uses. ()

057. DUMPED ROCK RIPRAP (RULE 57).

01. Placement of Riprap. Riprap shall be placed on a granular bedding material or a compact and stable embankment. ()

02. Sideslopes of Riprap. Sideslopes of riprap shall not be steeper than 2:1 (2' horizontal to 1' vertical) except at ends of culverts and at bridge approaches where a 1 1/2:1 sideslope is standard. ()

03. Minimum Thickness of Riprap. The minimum thickness of the riprap layer shall equal the dimension of the largest size riprap rock used or be eighteen (18) inches, whichever is greater. When riprap will be placed below high water level, the thickness of the layer shall be fifty percent (50%) greater than specified below. ()

04. Riprap Protection. Riprap protection must extend at least one (1) foot above the anticipated high water surface elevation in the stream. ()

05. Rock Used for Riprap. Rock for riprap shall consist of sound, dense, durable, angular rock fragments, resistant to weathering and free from large quantities of soil, shale, and organic matter. The length of a rock shall not be more than three (3) times its width or thickness. Rounded cobbles, boulders, and streambed gravels are not acceptable as dumped riprap. ()

06. Size and Gradation of Riprap. Riprap size and gradation are commonly determined in terms of the weight of riprap rock. The average size of riprap rock shall be at least as large as the maximum size rock that the stream is capable of moving. The maximum size of riprap rock used shall be two (2) to five (5) times larger than the average size. ()

07. Methods Used for Determining Gradation of Riprap. There are many methods used for determining the gradation of riprap rock. One of these many acceptable methods is shown in Table 1 below. Another acceptable method is the Far West States (FWS) method shown in APPENDIX A - Table 1A.

Table 1 – GRADATION OF RIPRAP IN POUNDS		
Max. Weight of Stone required (lbs)	Min. and Max. Range in weight of Stones (lbs)	Weight Range 75 percent of Stones (lbs)
150	25 - 150	50 - 150
200	25 - 200	50 - 200
250	25 - 250	50 - 250
400	25 - 400	100 - 400
600	25 - 600	150 - 600
800	25 - 800	200 - 800
1000	50 - 1000	250 - 1000
1300	50 - 1300	325 - 1300
1600	50 - 1600	400 - 1600
2000	75 - 2000	600 - 2000
2700	100 - 2700	800 - 2700

08. Use of Filter Material. A blanket of granular filter material or filter fabric shall be placed between the riprap layer and the bank in all cases where the bank is composed of erodible material that may be washed out from between the riprap rock. Filter material shall consist of a layer of well-graded gravel and coarse sand at least six (6) inches thick. ()

09. Toe Protection. Some suitable form of toe protection shall be provided for riprap located on erodible streambed material. ()

a. Various acceptable methods of providing toe protection are shown in APPENDIX B, Figure 2 at the end of this chapter. ()

b. In addition to the approved methods of providing toe protection as shown in APPENDIX B, any other reasonable method will be considered by the Director during review of a proposed project. ()

10. Extension of Riprap Area. Riprap shall extend far enough upstream and downstream to reach stable areas, unless the riprap is protected against undermining at its ends by the method shown in APPENDIX C, Figure 3 at the end of this chapter. On extremely long riprap sections, it is recommended that similar cutoff sections be used at several intermediate points to reduce the hazard that would be created if failure of the riprap occurred at any one (1) location. ()

11. Finished Surface. Placement shall result in a smooth, even finished surface. Compaction is not necessary. ()

12. Placement of Riprap. The full course thickness of the riprap shall be placed in one (1) operation. Dumping riprap long distances down the bank or pushing it over the top of the bank with a dozer shall be avoided if possible. Material should be placed with a backhoe, loader, or dragline. Dumping material near its final position on the slope or dumping rock at the toe and bulldozing it up the slope is a very satisfactory method of placement, if approval is obtained for the use of equipment in the channel. ()

13. Design Procedure. Design procedure using the Far West States (FWS) method. ()

a. The FWS method uses a single equation to deal with variables for riprap. ()

$$D75 = 3.5/CK \text{ WDS for Channel Banks}$$

where: D75 = Size of the rock at seventy five percent (75%) is finer in gradation, in inches.

W	= Specific weight of water, usually 62.4 lbs./cu.ft.
D	= Depth of flow in stream, in feet in flood stage
S	= Channel slope or gradient, in ft/ft.
C	= A coefficient relating to curvature in the stream
K	= A coefficient relating to steepness of bank slopes

()

b. The coefficient, C, is based on the ratio of the radius of curvature of the stream, (CR), to the water surface width, (WSW), so it is necessary for the user to make field determination of these values. The coefficient varies from 0.6 for a curve ratio of 4 to 6, up to 1.0 for a straight channel. If the computed ratio for a particular project is less than 4, the designer should consider some modification less than 4.

CR/WSW	C
4 - 6	0.60
6 - 9	0.75
9 - 12	0.90
Straight Channel	1.00

()

c. The coefficient, K, ranges from 0.5 for a 1.5:1 sideslope to 0.87 for 3:1 sideslope. No values are given for steeper or flatter slopes. Slopes steeper than 1.5:1 are not recommended. If slopes flatter than 3:1 are desired, it would be conservative to use the K-value for 3:1 slopes.

Bankslope	K
1.5:1	0.50

Bankslope	K
1.75:1	0.63
2.0:1	0.72
2.5:1	0.80
3.0:1	0.87

()

058. DROP STRUCTURES, SILLS AND BARBS (RULE 58).

01. Drop Structures. A drop structure shall be constructed of rocks, boulders and/or logs placed within a stream channel to act as a low level dam. Placement of a drop structure perpendicular to stream flow will decrease the stream gradient, dissipate stream energy and decrease stream velocity through an increase in water surface elevation immediately above the structure. Drop structures shall comply with the following criteria: ()

a. Maximum water surface differential across (upstream water surface elevation minus downstream water surface elevation) a drop structure shall not exceed two (2) feet. The department shall approve the final elevation of any structure. ()

b. Rock drop structures shall be constructed of clean, sound, dense, durable, angular rock fragments, and/or boulders of size and gradation, such that the stream is incapable of moving the material during peak flows. Rocks shall be keyed into the stream banks to minimize the likelihood of bank erosion, (See APPENDIX D located at the end of this chapter). ()

c. Log drop structures are acceptable in four (4) designs including the single log dam, the stacked log dam, the three (3) log dam, and the pyramid log dam. Log ends shall be keyed into both banks at least one-third (1/3) of the channel width or a distance sufficient to prevent end erosion. To prevent undercutting, the bottom log shall be imbedded in the stream bed or hardware cloth, cobbles or boulders shall be placed along the upper edge. Minimum log size for a single log structure shall be determined by on-site conditions and shall be placed to maintain flow over the entire log to prevent decay. Each log drop structure must be accompanied by downstream scour protection, such as a rock apron (See APPENDIX E located at the end of this chapter). ()

d. All drop structures shall be constructed to facilitate fish passage and centralized scour pool development. ()

02. Sills. A sill shall be constructed of the same material and in the same manner as a drop structure. The top of the sill may not exceed the elevation of the bottom of the channel. The purpose of a sill is to halt the upstream movement of a headcut, thus precluding the widening or deepening of the existing channel. (See APPENDIX F located at the end of this chapter). ()

03. Barb or Partial Drop Structure. A barb or partial drop structure shall be constructed in the same manner and of the same material as a drop structure and placed into the stream channel to act as a low level dam and grade control structure. The barb will decrease stream gradient, dissipate stream energy and redirect stream flow. ()

a. Barbs shall be constructed of clean, sound, dense, angular rock fragments, of size and gradation such that the stream is incapable of moving the material during peak flows. ()

b. Barbs shall be constructed with a downstream angle of no less than one hundred (100) degrees and no greater than one hundred thirty-five (135) degrees unless otherwise specified. ()

c. Barbs shall “extend” into the channel a distance of not more than twenty percent (20%) of the width of the channel unless otherwise specified by the Director. ()

d. Barbs shall be keyed into the bank a distance equal to or greater than the width of the structure and down to bed level. Whenever moisture is encountered in the construction of the keyways, willow cuttings or clumps shall be placed before and during rock placement in such a manner that the base of the cutting is in permanent moisture and the top extends a minimum of six (6) inches above grade (see APPENDIX G located at the end of this chapter). ()

059. CULVERTS AND BRIDGES (RULE 59).

01. Culverts and Bridges. Culverts and bridges shall be capable of carrying streamflows and shall not significantly alter conditions upstream or downstream by causing flooding, turbidity, or other problems. The appearance of such installations shall not detract from the natural surroundings of the area. ()

02. Location of Culverts and Bridges. Culverts and bridges should be located so that a direct line of approach exists at both the entrance and exit. Abrupt bends at the entrance or exit shall not exist unless suitable erosion protection is provided. ()

03. Ideal Gradient. The ideal gradient (bottom slope) is one which is steep enough to prevent silting but flat enough to prevent scouring due to high velocity flows. It is often advisable to make the gradient of a culvert coincide with the average streambed gradient. ()

a. Where a culvert is installed on a slope steeper than twenty percent (20%), provisions to anchor the culvert in position will be required. Such provisions shall be included in the application and may involve the use of collars, headwall structures, etc. Smooth concrete pipe having no protruding bell joints or other irregularities shall have such anchoring provisions if the gradient exceeds ten percent (10%). ()

04. Size of Culvert or Bridge Opening. The size of the culvert or bridge opening shall be such that it is capable of passing design flows without overtopping the streambank or causing flooding or other damage. ()

a. Design flows shall be based upon the following minimum criteria:

Drainage Area	Design Flow Frequency
Less than 50 sq. mi.	25 Years
Over 50 sq. mi. or more	50 years or greatest flow of record, whichever is more

()

b. For culverts and bridges located on U.S. Forest Service or other federal lands, the sizing should comply with the Forest Practices Act as adopted by the federal agencies or the Department of Lands. ()

c. For culverts or bridges located in a community qualifying for the national flood issuance program, the minimum size culvert shall accommodate the one hundred (100) year design flow frequency. ()

d. If the culvert or bridge design is impractical for the site, the crossing may be designed with additional flow capacity outside the actual crossing structure, provided there is no increase in the Base Flood Elevation.

(NOTE: When flow data on a particular stream is unavailable, it is almost always safe to maintain the existing gradient and cross-section area present in the existing stream channel. Comparing the proposed crossing size with others upstream or downstream is also a valuable means of obtaining information regarding the size needed for a proposed crossing.) ()

e. Minimum clearance shall be at least one (1) foot at all bridges. This may need to be increased substantially in the areas where ice passage or debris may be a problem. Minimum culvert sizes required for stream crossings: ()

i. Eighteen (18) inch diameter for culverts up to seventy (70) feet long; ()

- ii. Twenty-four (24) inch diameter for all culverts over seventy (70) feet long. ()
- f.** In streams where fish passage is of concern as determined by the director, an applicant shall comply with the following provisions and/or other approved criteria to ensure that passage will not be prevented by a proposed crossing. ()
- g.** Minimum water depth shall be approximately eight (8) inches for salmon and steelhead and at least three (3) inches in all other cases. ()
- h.** Maximum flow velocities for streams shall not exceed those shown in Figure 17 in APPENDIX H, located at the end of this chapter, for more than a forty-eight (48) hour period. The curve used will depend on the type of fish to be passed. ()
- i.** Where it is not feasible to adjust the size or slope to obtain permissible velocities, the following precautions may be utilized to achieve the desired situation. ()
- j.** Baffles downstream or inside the culvert may be utilized to increase depth and reduce velocity. Design criteria may be obtained from the Idaho Fish and Game Department. ()
- k.** Where multiple openings for flow are provided, baffles or other measures used in one (1) opening only shall be adequate provided that the opening is designed to carry the main flow during low-flow periods. ()
- 05. Construction of Crossings.** When crossings are constructed in erodible material, upstream and downstream ends shall be protected from erosive damage through the use of such methods as dumped rock riprap, headwall structures, etc., and such protection shall extend below the erodible streambed and into the banks at least two (2) feet unless some other provisions are made to prevent undermining. ()
- a.** Where fish passage must be provided, upstream drops at the entrance to a culvert will not be permitted and a maximum drop of one (1) foot will be permitted at the downstream end if an adequate jumping pool is maintained below the drop. ()
- b.** Downstream control structures such as are shown in Figure 18 in APPENDIX I, located at the end of this chapter, can be used to reduce downstream erosion and improve fish passage. They may be constructed with gabions, pilings and rock drop structures. ()
- 06. Multiple Openings.** Where a multiple opening will consist of two (2) or more separate culvert structures, they shall be spaced far enough apart to allow proper compaction of the fill between the individual structures. The minimum spacing in all situations shall be one (1) foot. In areas where fish passage must be provided, only one (1) opening shall be constructed to carry all low flows. Low flow baffles may be required to facilitate fish passage. ()
- 07. Areas to be Filled.** All areas to be filled shall be cleared of vegetation, topsoil, and other unsuitable material prior to placing fill. Material cleared from the site shall be disposed of above the high water line of the stream. Fill material shall be reasonably well-graded and compacted and shall not contain large quantities of silt, sand, organic matter, or debris. In locations where silty or sandy material must be utilized for fill material, it will be necessary to construct impervious sections both upstream and downstream to prevent the erodible sand or silt from being carried away (see Figure 19, APPENDIX J, located at the end of this chapter), Sideslopes for fills shall not exceed one and one half to one (1.5:1). Minimum cover over all culvert pipes and arches shall be one (1) foot. ()
- 08. Installation of Pipe and Arch Culvert.** All pipe and arch culverts shall be installed in accordance with manufacturer's recommendations. ()
- a.** The culvert shall be designed so that headwaters will not rise above the top of the culvert entrance unless a headworks is provided. ()

060. REMOVAL OF SAND AND GRAVEL DEPOSITS (RULE 60).

01. Removal of Sand and Gravel. This work consists of removal of sand and gravel deposits from within a stream channel. The following conditions shall be adhered to unless other methods have been specified in detail on the application and approved by the Director. ()

02. Removal Below Water Surface. Sand and gravel must not be removed below the water surface existing at the time of the work. Where work involves clearing a new channel for flow, removal of material below water level will be permitted to allow this flow to occur; however, this must not be done until all other work in the new channel has been completed. ()

03. Buffer Zone. A buffer zone of undisturbed streambed material at least five (5) feet in width or as otherwise specified by the Director shall be maintained between the work area and the existing stream. The applicant shall exercise reasonable precautions to ensure that turbidity is kept to a minimum and does not exceed state water quality standards. ()

04. Movement of Equipment. Equipment may cross the existing stream in one (1) location only, but shall not push or pull material along the streambed while crossing the existing stream. ()

05. Disturbing Natural Appearance of Area. Work must be done in a manner that will least disturb the natural appearance of the area. Sand and gravel shall be removed in a manner that will not leave unsightly pits or other completely unnatural features at the conclusion of the project. ()

061. SMALL SCALE MINING WITH SUCTION DREDGES, POWERED SLUICES, OR NON-POWERED EQUIPMENT (RULE 61).

01. Small Scale Mining Permit. The Director may issue a permit for the operation of a powered suction dredge or power sluice, or certain qualified non-powered mining activities that follow minimum standards (Rule 61), within stream channels designated as open by the Department or Board. A powered suction dredge or power sluice shall only be operated in accordance with the conditions of the Small Scale Mining Permit. A power sluice and a high-banker are synonymous for the purposes of these rules. ()

02. Standards for Small Scale Mining Permits. The following standards shall apply only to uses of suction dredges and power sluices below the mean high water mark with nozzle diameters of five (5) inches or less and powered equipment rated at fifteen (15) HP or less, or the use of non-powered sluice equipment moving more than one-quarter (1/4) cubic yard per hour. ()

03. Powered Equipment Prohibited Below High Water Mark. There shall be no use of powered equipment below the mean high water mark except for the suction dredge, or power sluice and any human life support system necessary to operate the suction dredge or power sluice. ()

04. Protection of Streambanks. The operation of a suction dredge or power sluice, or the use of non-powered equipment shall be carried out in a manner that prevents the undercutting of streambanks. ()

05. Permit Required for Certain Non-Powered Operations. A Small Scale Mining Permit is required for non-powered mining activities when those activities include: (1) the use of non-powered equipment by more than five (5) people mining the same area; or (2) the use of non-powered equipment where the disturbed area at the mining location exceeds thirty three (33) percent of the width of the wetted stream channel. ()

06. Limitation of Mining Sites. Only one (1) mining site per one hundred (100) linear feet of stream channel shall be worked at one (1) time unless waived by the Director. ()

062. PILING (RULE 62).

01. Standards for Pilings. The following standards apply to a piling associated with a boat or swimming dock, a log boom, a breakwater, or bridge construction. ()

02. Replacement of Pilings. In replacing a piling the old piling shall be completely removed from the channel, secured to the new piling or cut at stream bed level. ()

03. Condition of Pilings. Chemicals or compounds used for protection of piles and lumber shall be thoroughly dried to prevent bleeding, weeping or dissolution before placing such piles and lumber over, in or near water. ()

04. Prohibited Materials. The application of creosote, arsenicals or phentachlorophenol (Penta) to timber shall not occur in, or over water. ()

063. PIPE CROSSINGS (RULE 63).

01. Standards for Pipe Crossings. The following standards apply to pipe crossings to be installed below the bed of a stream or river such as utility crossings of a gas line, sewer line, electrical line, communication line, water line or similar line. ()

02. Depth of Line. The line shall be installed below the streambed to a depth which will prevent erosion and exposure of the line to free flowing water. In areas of high stream velocity where scouring may occur, the pipe shall be encased in concrete or covered with rock riprap to prevent the pipeline from becoming exposed. ()

03. Pipe Joints. The joints shall be welded, glued, cemented or fastened together in a manner to provide a water tight connection. ()

04. Construction Methods. Construction methods shall provide for eliminating or minimizing discharges of turbidity, sediment, organic matter or toxic chemicals. A settling basin or cofferdam may be required for this purpose. ()

05. Cofferdam. If a cofferdam is used, it shall be completely removed from the stream channel upon completion of the project. ()

06. Revegetation of Disturbed Areas. Areas disturbed as a result of the alteration shall be revegetated with plants and grasses native to these areas. ()

064. CONCRETE PLANK BOAT LAUNCH RAMPS (RULE 64).

01. Construction of Concrete Plank Boat Launch Ramps. Concrete plank boat launch ramps, shall be constructed with individual sections of precast, reinforced concrete planks linked together to provide a stable non-erosive water access (see Figure 20, APPENDIX K, located at the end of this chapter). ()

02. Construction of Concrete Planks. Typical concrete plank size is twelve feet by fourteen inches by four inches (12' x 14" x 4"). All planks shall be constructed with Type II low alkali cement. All planks shall have a broom form finish, free of rock pockets and loose materials. Figures 21 and 22 shows a typical launch plank detail. (See APPENDIXES L and M). ()

03. Assembly of Planks. The planks shall be assembled out of the water and slid into place on a constructed launch ramp where water velocities do not exceed two (2) feet per second. In waters exceeding (2) feet per second the ramp sections shall be linked together and fastened to pre-positioned stringers anchored into the launch ramp. (See Figure 23, APPENDIX N, located at the end of this chapter). ()

04. Water Depth. The water depth above the lower end of the ramp section shall not be less than three (3) feet during low level or low flow periods. (See Figure 20, APPENDIX K, located at the end of this chapter). ()

05. Construction of Boat Ramp. The boat launch ramp shall have a base constructed of sound, dense, durable, angular rock resistant to weathering and free from soil, shale and organic materials. Rounded cobbles, boulders and streambed material are not acceptable as base material in areas with stream flow velocities greater than two (2) fps. Base materials shall be covered with a layer of (three-fourths inches (3/4") min.) crushed rock with a

minimum depth of two inches (2"). The ramp shall have a minimum and maximum slope of ten percent (10%) and fifteen percent (15%) respectively, and shall be constructed in a manner to avoid long incursions into the stream channel. All ramps and fill material shall be protected with rock riprap in accordance with Rule 057 when stream flow velocities exceed two (2) fps. (See Figure 24, APPENDIX O, located at the end of this chapter). ()

065. -- 069. (RESERVED)

070. HEARINGS ON DENIED, LIMITED, OR CONDITIONED PERMIT OR OTHER DECISIONS OF THE DIRECTOR (RULE 70).

Any applicant who is granted a limited or conditioned permit, or who is denied a permit, may seek a hearing on said action of the Director by serving on the Director written notice and request for a hearing before the Board within fifteen (15) days of receipt of the Director's decision. Said hearing will be set, conducted, and notice given as set forth in the Rules promulgated by the Board under the provisions of Title 67, Chapter 52, Idaho Code. ()

071. -- 999. (RESERVED)

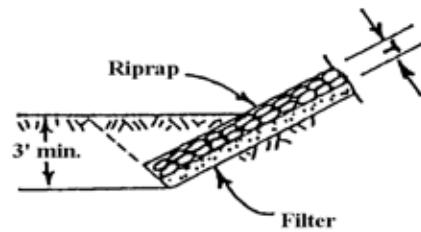
APPENDIX A

Table 1A

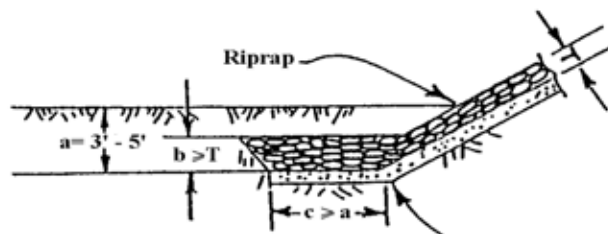
Riprap Gradation Using FWS Method

% Finer by Weight (Lbs.)	Minimum Size (Lbs.)	Maximum Size (Lbs.)
D ₁₀₀	1.33 X D ₇₅	2.0 X D ₇₅
D ₇₅	1.0 X D ₇₅	1.67 X D ₇₅
D ₅₀	0.67 X D ₇₅	1.17 X D ₇₅
D ₂₅	0.33 X D ₇₅	0.77 X D ₇₅
D ₀	None	0.33 X D ₇₅

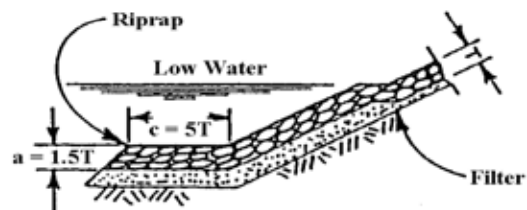
APPENDIX B



METHOD 1: This is most suited to areas where the toe is dry during construction.



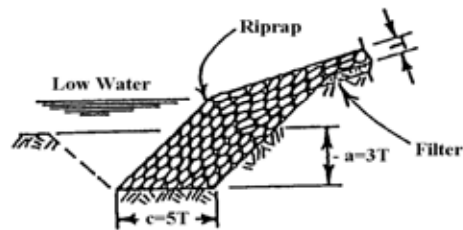
METHOD 2: Used when streambed is very wet or groundwater present makes using Method 1 impractical.



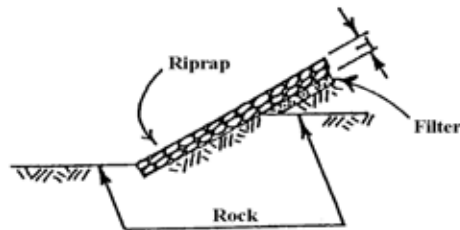
METHOD 3: Often used when toe is underwater during construction. Both Methods 2 and 3 utilize the idea that undermining will cause rock at toe blanket to settle into eroded area providing protection during scouring.

FIGURE 2. Acceptable toe protection

APPENDIX B (CONTINUED)



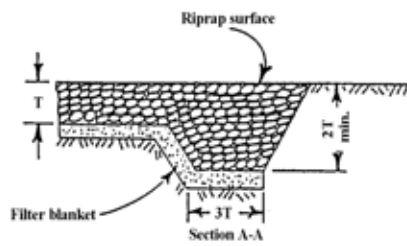
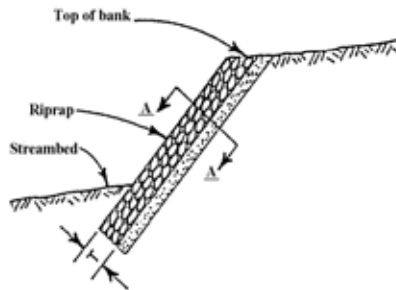
METHOD 4: Used underwater in areas with extremely bad streambed erosion conditions which make Method 3 unfeasible. This method may also be preferred where Method 3 would destroy fish spawning beds.



METHOD 5: When the streambed is non-erodible, no special provisions for toe protection are needed other than insuring that the riprap is well keyed to the rock.

FIGURE 2. Acceptable toe protection *continued*

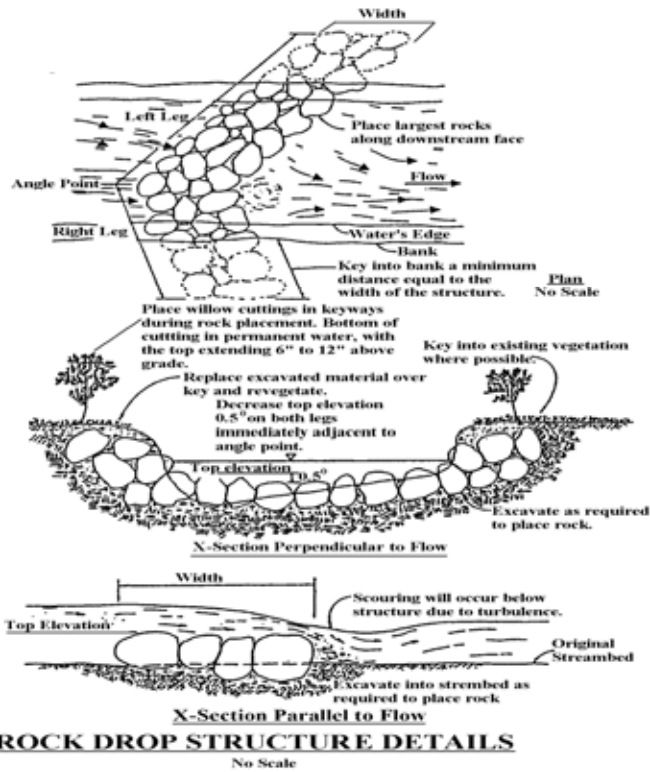
APPENDIX C



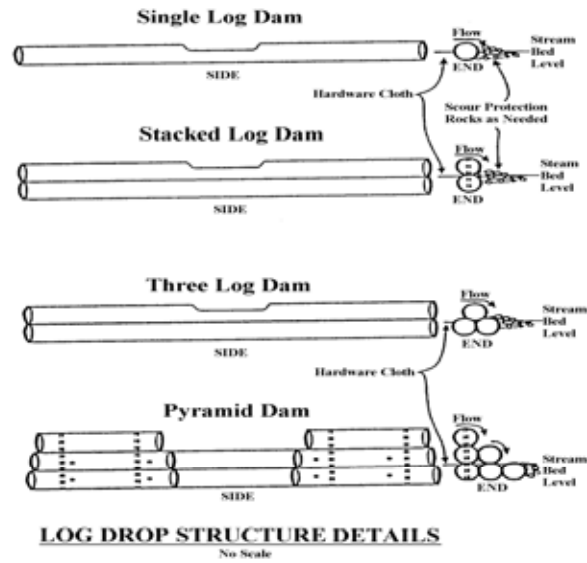
View shown above is cross section at end of riprap looking down along the sideslope toward streambed.

FIGURE 3. Protection against undermining

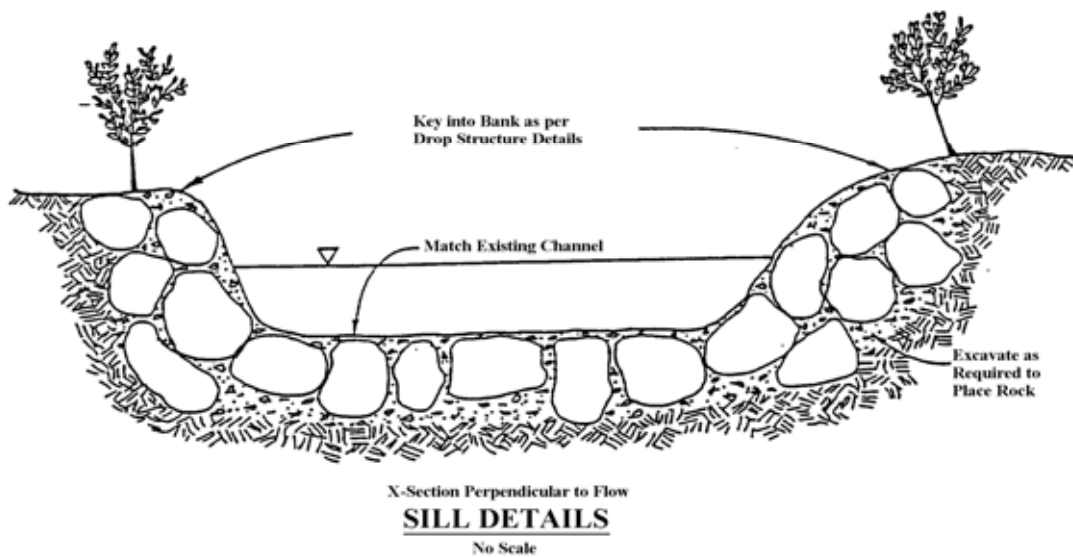
APPENDIX D



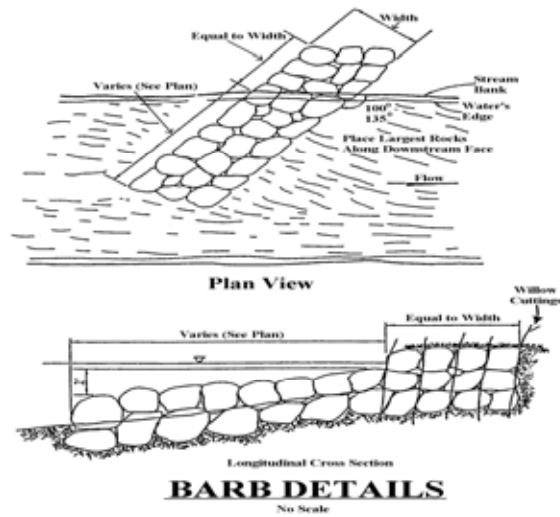
APPENDIX E



APPENDIX F



APPENDIX G



APPENDIX H

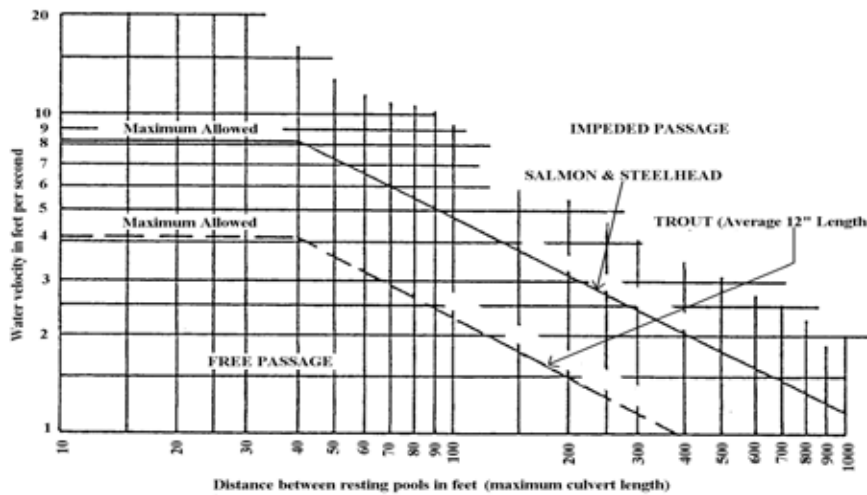


FIGURE 17. Swimming capability of migrating salmon and trout (Alaskan Curve)

APPENDIX I

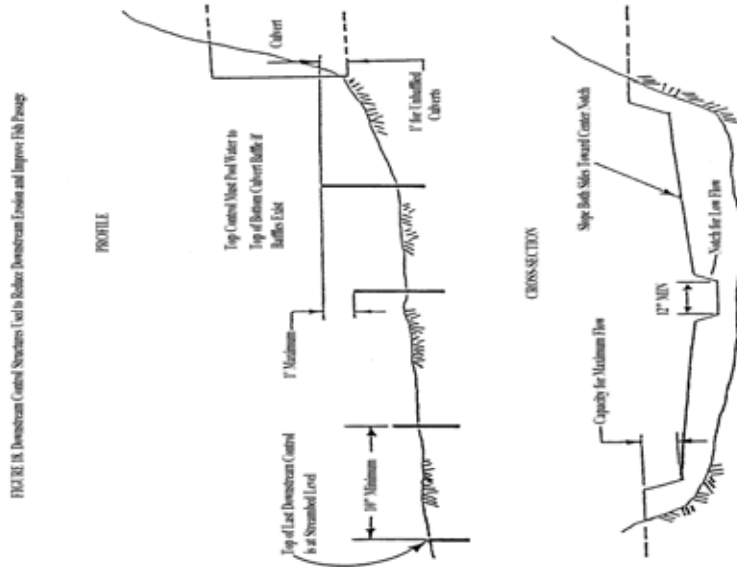


FIGURE 18. Downstream Control Structures Used to Reduce Downstream Erosion and Improve Fish Passage

APPENDIX J

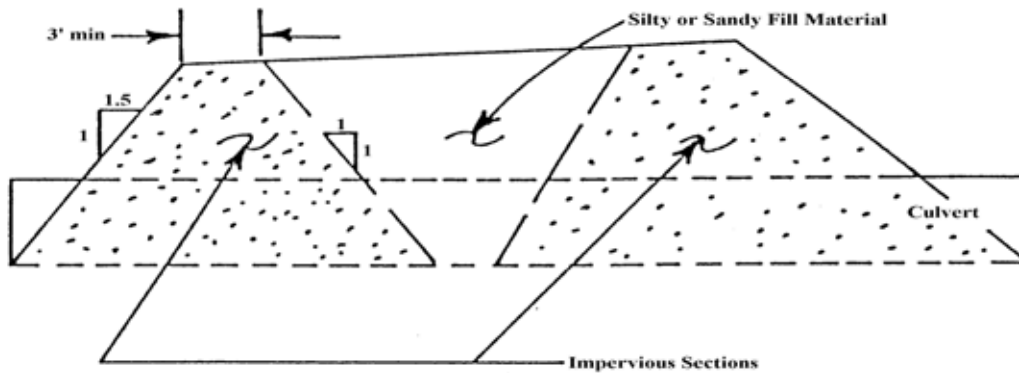
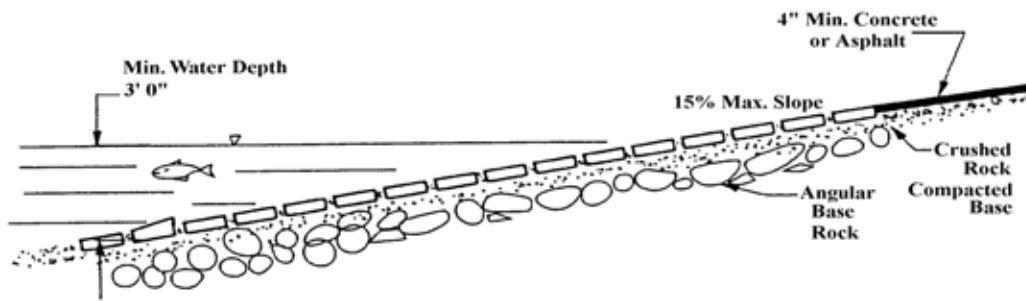


FIGURE 19. Culvert Backfill Using Silty or Sandy Material

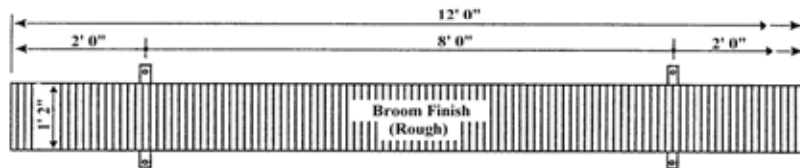
APPENDIX K



LAUNCH RAMP SECTION

No Scale
Figure 20

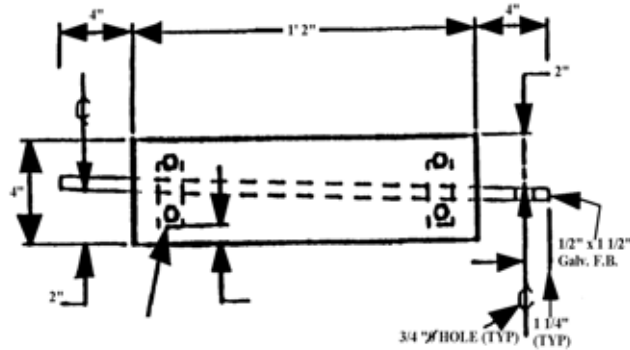
APPENDIX L



CONCRETE PLANK

No Scale
Figure 21

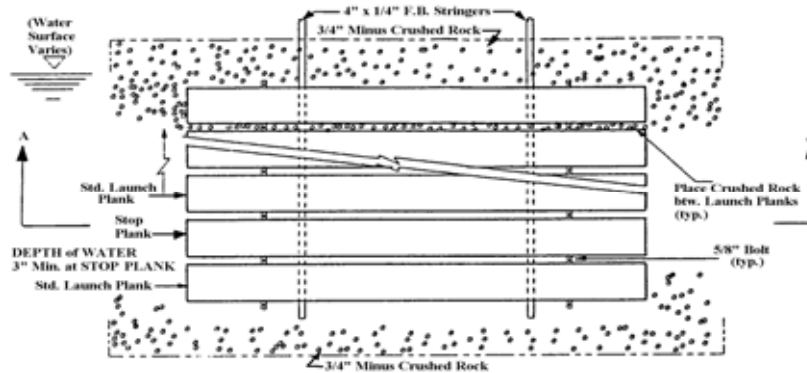
APPENDIX M



CONCRETE LAUNCH PLANK DETAIL

No Scale
Figure 22

APPENDIX N

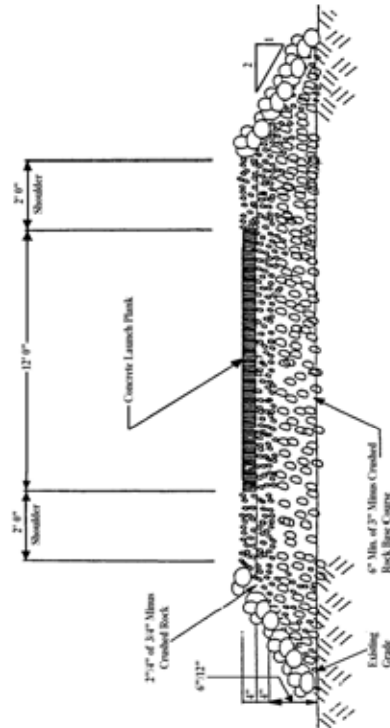


CONCRETE LAUNCH-PLAN VIEW

Figure 23
No Scale

Place crushed rock as shown. Position stringers under planks in order shown and secure with 5/8" bolts. Slide planks on stringers, adding planks as needed, to desired water depth. Stringers consist of 2 - 4" x 1/4" x 20' lng. stl. flat bar w/ clevis pin hole one end. Pull flat bar stringers up grade from water when planks are positioned and bolted together, remove when last plank has been set in place.

APPENDIX O



CONCRETE LAUNCH - CROSS-SECTION

No Scale
Figure 24

PROPOSED RULE COST/BENEFIT ANALYSIS

Section 67-5223(3), Idaho Code, requires the preparation of an economic impact statement for all proposed rules imposing or increasing fees or charges. This cost/benefit analysis, which must be filed with the proposed rule, must include the reasonably estimated costs to the agency to implement the rule and the reasonably estimated costs to be borne by citizens, or the private sector, or both.

Department or Agency: Idaho Department of Water Resources _____

Agency Contact: Mat Weaver _____ **Phone:** 208-287-4914 _____

Date: August 9, 2021 _____

IDAPA, Chapter and Title Number and Chapter Name:

[IDAPA 37.03.07 Stream Channel Alteration Rules](#) _____

Fee Rule Status: Proposed _____ Temporary

Rulemaking Docket Number: 37-0307-2101

STATEMENT OF ECONOMIC IMPACT:

This proposed rule changes the standards and requirements by which IDWR's Stream Channel Alteration ("SCA") Program receives, reviews, processes, and issues expedited SCA Letter Permits for qualifying small-scale suction dredge mining activities. A minimum-standards-based expedited Letter Permit process has existed for small-scale suction dredge mining activities since at least the 1990s. Permit fees for this qualifying small-scale suction dredge mining activities are outlined in I.C. § 42-222M, which establishes an application fee of \$10 for in-state "recreational dredge" permits (i.e., currently referred to as small scale dredge mining activities), \$30 for out of state "recreational dredge" permits, and \$20 for all "other" SCA permits. This Proposed Rule does not change any fee amounts.

IDWR undertook rulemaking to develop this Proposed Rule partially in response to requests from some in the small-scale suction dredge mining community dissatisfied with the current rule-based minimum standards required to carry out the Expedited Letter Permit process for small-scale suction dredge mining activities. Idaho Code § 42-3803 allows the Department to establish minimum standards for certain SCA activities that, if agreed to by an applicant, allow IDWR to expedite the permitting process. As a result of the minimum standards established for small-scale suction dredge mining activities, IDWR routinely processes and issues Letter Permits for qualifying activities on the same day a person files their application. The Letter Permit is an immediate authorization with no agency comment process. The Letter Permit functions as a permit for IDWR and the Idaho Department of Lands (IDL) (when used on navigable rivers and state lands). Without the Letter Permit, IDWR may need to seek comments from IDL and other state and federal agencies before approving a Joint Application. An interagency comment process routinely adds 15 to 40 days to the permit processing and approval period.

Maintaining minimum standards that allow for expedited permitting for qualifying dredge mining activities will have no fiscal impact on the State of Idaho. However, removing the minimum standards for small-scale suction dredge mining that would force the agency to remove the expedited Letter Permit approval process and rely instead on the regular Joint Application permit process (or long-form process) would have a fiscal impact. The change in application processes would increase the application fee for state residents from \$10 to \$20 per application and decrease the non-resident fee from \$30 to \$20 per application. Total fees collected through suction dredge applications would likely increase slightly.

Most small-scale suction dredge miners who obtain the Letter Permit engage in the activity as a hobby or recreational interest, not for commercial or business purposes. Maintaining the minimum standards will have no impact on miners meeting the minimum standards because the minimum standard rules allow those miners to obtain an expedited permit with current application fees set by statute. Removal of the minimum standard sub-rules removes the expedited Letter Permit process. Without an expedited Letter Permit process, IDWR will require commercial and recreational small-scale suction dredge miners to submit a regular stream channel alteration Joint Application (or long-form application) that requires additional information and more time for the applicant to complete. Additionally, IDWR will spend more time reviewing and processing the application, which will change permit processing times from same-day turnaround to 15 to 40 days.

Maintaining minimum standards for qualifying small-scale suction dredge mining activities will not impact IDWR or any other local governments in Idaho. Removal of minimum standards could roughly double the number of regular (or long-form) Joint Application SCA permits that IDWR staff must review and process (from about 400 per year to 800 per year).