

## Smith, Joe

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**From:** Bob Ries - NOAA Federal <bob.ries@noaa.gov>  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 16, 2020 1:35 PM  
**To:** Smith, Joe  
**Subject:** Re: Endangered Species Consultation for EPA Permit application

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Joe,

The coordinates you sent in your email indicate that the gravel pit is located in the headwaters of Rock Creek, Hydrologic Unit 170603061202. Snake River Basin steelhead occupy lower portions of Rock Creek. The upstream extent of critical habitat for Snake River Basin steelhead is approximately 2.5 miles downstream from the gravel pit. Ephemeral 1st order streams in the vicinity of the gravel pit generally do not support fish .

A gravel crushing operation at this location could potentially affect steelhead and critical habitat if the activities increase runoff/sediment delivery to RockCreek or if fuel stored on site were to spill into Rock Creek. These potential effects might be avoided by ensuring that surface runoff and fuels are contained in a manner where they cannot enter Rock Creek.

Dust and other air pollutants that might be created from rock crushing could potentially enter water in amounts that could affect fish or critical habitat. However, dust and other air pollutants from a temporary gravel crushing operation may be too widely dispersed in the air to cause high concentrations of pollutants in water. An analysis of air pollutant dispersal might be used to determine if a risks to fish or critical habitat exists.

The information provided above is advisory information that may assist the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in determining if any permits issued for this action may affect listed fish or critical habitat. If EPA determines that the action does not affect listed fish or critical habitat, Endangered Species Act consultation pursuant to section 7 is not required. If EPA finds that the action may affect listed species or critical habitat, a biological assessment describing those effects would be required.

Let me know if you need any other information or if you have any questions.

Bob

On Fri, Jul 10, 2020 at 1:18 PM Smith, Joe <[Joe.Smith@kniferiver.com](mailto:Joe.Smith@kniferiver.com)> wrote:

Bob/Marshall,

I am currently working on an air quality permit application for a crushing operation on the Nez Perce Reservation (located just north of Winchester). I have attached a USFW letter for the referenced project site. I need correspondence from the appropriate agencies for any endangered or threatened species concerns. I am hoping you can assist with this project or be able to point me in the right direction.

Thanks in advance for your help.

**Joe Smith**

**Regional Environmental Manager**

**Intermountain Region**



**Office: 406-532-5220**

**Cell: 406-876-4637**

**Fax: 406-532-5200**

[joe.smith@kniferiver.com](mailto:joe.smith@kniferiver.com)

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Bob Ries

*NOAA Fisheries West Coast Region*

*Interior Columbia Basin Area Office*

*U.S. Department of Commerce*

Temporary contact number while working at home: 208-596-3677

Office: 208-882-6148

[bob.ries@noaa.gov](mailto:bob.ries@noaa.gov)

