



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 10
IDAHO OPERATIONS OFFICE
1435 N. Orchard St.
Boise, Idaho 83706

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Sackett Site Inspection Report

FROM: Carla H. Fromm
Environmental Scientist

TO: File

Date: June 1, 2007

On May 3, 2007, at about 2:00pm, Barbara Bengé (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, "Corps"), John Olson (EPA) and I inspected the site of a complaint made to Barbara of wetland filling adjacent to Priest Lake. The site is located on Kalispell Bay Road, NE1/4 of Section 12, T60N, R5W (see attached topographic map excerpt and aerial photograph). When we arrived, a dump truck was delivering a load of fill and an excavator operator was pushing fill into excavated wetlands (photo 1). I asked the truck driver if she was in charge and she directed me to the excavator operator. I introduced myself and showed him my credentials. His name was Chris. He said the boss was Mike Sackett, Sackett Construction and Excavating. Chris did not have a CWA Section 404 permit from the Corps with him, so he called the office to talk to Mike about our arrival and our request to see the permit. He was not able to reach Mike. I suggested he not proceed with filling of the lot until he heard back about the permit.

John paced off the area that was filled, and took some photographs of the site. The area filled was approximately 300 feet by 100 feet. Chris explained he had been told to fill the whole lot. Along both the east and west property boundaries, strips of excavated ground remained to be filled (photos 2, 3 and 7). These strips of excavated ground revealed wetland soils (photos 2 and 3). The vegetation on neighboring properties and on the south end of the Sackett lot consisted of the wetland species, including red osier dogwood (photo 15) and alder.

Chris suggested we go to the office to ask for the permit. When we arrived there, we talked with Kim, the receptionist or office administrator. She informed us that both Mike and his wife Chantell were in meetings, and we would need to talk with one of them about the permit.

We returned to the site to look for culverts connecting the wetland to either the wetland on the north side of Kalispell Bay Road or connecting the wetland to ditches or another waterway draining into Priest Lake to the south. We did not see culverts under either Kalispell Bay Road or Old Snyder Road which is between the wetland and Priest Lake. The wetland to the north of Kalispell Bay Road (photos 12 and 13) drains via what appeared to be a roadside ditch to Kalispell Creek which flows into Priest Lake.

Chris decided to leave early to start his weekend. He explained that a load of dirt had been placed at the entrance to the lot to keep people from driving in.

Prior to leaving the site at about 3:30pm, a neighbor spoke with John Olson, explaining that occasionally water comes over the road from the wetland to the north, flowing into the filled wetland. The neighbors to the east of the Sackett's lot told us the area filled had looked exactly like their backyard (photos 9 and 10).

Photographs of the Sackett Site, Priest Lake
Photographs Taken by John Olson, EPA, on May 3, 2007

- 1) Excavator filling excavated wetland site, Mike and Chantell Sackett's lot.
- 2) West side of lot showing a strip of excavated ground on the right abutting the neighboring property of intact wetlands; fill shown on the left.
- 3) Same excavated area in photo 2, photographed from the south with the neighboring property of intact wetlands on the left, fill on the right.
- 4) Dumptruck loaded with fill.
- 5) Another view of the west side of lot.
- 6) Another view of the west side of lot.
- 7) East side of lot showing a strip of excavated ground that was being filled when we arrived.
- 8) Culvert placed at entrance to the lot.
- 9) East side of lot showing the excavated strip that was being filled when we arrived, and backyard of the neighbors to the east.
- 10) Another view of the east side of lot and backyard of the neighbors to the east.
- 11) Another view of the east side of lot that shows the lot had been excavated prior to filling.
- 12) Wetlands on the north side of Kalispell Bay Road, looking west.
- 13) Wetlands on the north side of Kalispell Bay Road, looking east.
- 14) Sackett Contracting and Excavating company truck.
- 15) Red-twigged vegetation in the foreground is red osier dogwood. The stake delineates the northwest lot corner.
- 16) South end of the Sacketts' lot.



1) Excavator filling excavated wetland site, Mike and Chantell Sackett's lot.



2) West side of lot showing a strip of excavated ground on the right abutting the neighboring property of intact wetlands; fill shown on the left.



3) Same excavated area in photo 2, photographed from the south with the neighboring property of intact wetlands on the left, fill on the right.



4) Dump truck loaded with fill.



5) Another view of the west side of lot.



6) Another view of the west side of the lot.



7) East side of the lot showing a strip of excavated ground that was being filled when we arrived.



8) Culvert placed at entrance to the lot.



9) East side of lot showing the excavated strip that was being filled when we arrived, and backyard of the neighbors to the east.



10) Another view of the east side of lot and backyard of the neighbors to the east.



11) Wetlands on the north side of Kalispell Bay Road, looking east.



12) Wetlands on the north side of Kalispell Bay Road looking east.



13) Sackett Contracting and Excavating company truck.



14) Red-twigged vegetation in the foreground is red osier dogwood.
The stake delineates the northwest lot corner.



15) South end of the Sacketts' lot.