

Brent Johnson

Thanks for the opportunity to provide comments on the Draft NPDES Construction Stormwater General Permit.

Section 2.10 includes proposed language delaying the issuance of the NPDES Construction Stormwater Permit until all wetland permitting is finalized. This requirement is unnecessary and should be removed. The issuance of the NPDES Construction Stormwater Permit does not need to be conditional upon finalization of wetland permitting. For example, a small wetland impact being permitted somewhere on a construction site should not hold up the issuance of the Construction Stormwater Permit and delay construction anywhere on the site.

Draft Rule Section 25.15 defines trails set apart from roads as not considered impervious surfaces, but requires sidewalks to be included as impervious surfaces. The trail exemption is a good idea, but it should also apply to sidewalks that are sloped to vegetated areas.

The Rice Creek Watershed District (RCWD) exempts trails from their stormwater rules. RCWD Rule C.12 Exceptions: Rule C requirements do not apply to sidewalks and trails 10 feet wide or less that area bordered down-gradient by vegetated open space or vegetated filter strip with a minimum width of 5 feet.

I recommend that you modify the permit to authorize an exemption in the Construction Stormwater permit for linear trails and sidewalks with impervious surfaces 10 feet wide or less that are bordered down-gradient by vegetated open space or vegetated filter strip with a minimum width equal to the trail and sidewalk width.

The MIDS model and the impervious disconnection BMP was used to simulate a trail sloping to an equal sized vegetated area. The simulated reductions in annual runoff and pollutant loads are impressive. Please see the accompanying uploaded file for a table of runoff volume and pollutant removals for associated hydrologic soils groups.

Thanks again for the opportunity to comment on the NPDES Construction Stormwater Permit.

MIDS Results for Scenario with Effective Pervious Area Receiving Redirected Impervious Runoff Equal to Trail Area

Hydrologic Soils Group	Percent Annual Runoff Volume Removed (%)	Percent Annual Total Phosphorus Removed (%)	Percent Annual TSS Removed (%)
A	88%	88%	96%
B	77%	77%	93%
C	66%	66%	89%
D	15%	15%	73%
Average	62%	62%	88%