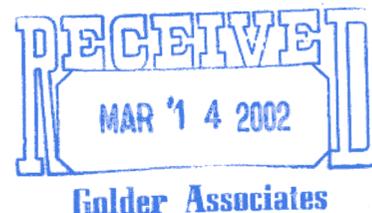




REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
SEATTLE DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
P.O. BOX 3755
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON 98124-2255



Mr. Keith Wolf, Director/Senior Biologist
Ecological Sciences Group
Golder Associates, Inc.
18300 Northeast Union Hill Road, Suite 200
Redmond, WA 98052-3333

MAR 2 2002

Dear Mr. Wolf:

Thank you for keeping me informed about the progress of the development of the Physical Processes Method/Model (PPM) Project [Project Number 29021]. I am keenly interested in this project and encourage you to continue your efforts to link land forming processes with habitat conditions in the Chehalis Basin.

As you are aware, the Corps of Engineers, Seattle District is currently conducting an ecosystem and flood damage reduction study in the Chehalis Basin. This study does not simply propose to address the symptoms of degraded natural processes within the basin, but rather to identify how the basin once functioned when healthy, comparing this to how the basin currently functions, and make recommendations on what actions we could take to restore these functions. This should enable us to target the naturally occurring processes (i.e., channel formation, stream flow, sediment budget, etc.) that have been altered by land use and other human induced actions, and focus our restoration efforts on projects that will ameliorate these conditions, and provide us with projects that are cost effective and necessary for the improving the ecosystem health of the entire basin.

I encourage you to capture the currently available existing information and integrate this into a system that will provide the necessary tools land use planners, scientists and others need to assess the conditions of the basin and provide a decision making mechanism for future land use, restoration, and/or planning actions. I currently have a list of 70 potential restoration projects that could be done within the basin, but no methodology for determining what information is currently available to assess these projects, nor a mechanism for establishing which of these projects might best help recover the natural processes of the basin. It is my hope that the PPM Project effort will help us get closer to realizing this. An ecosystem based approach to future land use planning in the basin would be a welcome and timely addition to our box of tools.

I am anxiously awaiting a decision on the PPM Project. I hope it will help identify and isolate the physical processes controlling the environment of the basin, and determine possible treatment actions that can produce the desired restoration effects. It is essential that this approach be applied at the watershed scale and any projects recommended that are subsequently built be monitored to ensure that the proposals have the desired effects. The PPM Project appears to be a solid approach that will extend and integrate landform literature, approaches, models and matrices into the Ecosystem Diagnosis and Treatment (EDT) Methodology. This link between the biological and physical is imperative if we are to make timely and useful decisions at the local, state, tribal and federal levels for the recover of fish, wildlife and naturally-occurring basin processes in the Chehalis drainage.

If you have questions or further information on the proposed project, please don't hesitate to contact me at (206) 764-3604.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lori Morris". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Lori Morris, Project Manager
Chehalis Basin Ecosystem
Restoration Project