

Monitoring Results of Past Dam Projects
T. Anderson, 8/31/06

The Mill Lake Dam Slip-Lining Project (reference Mill Lake Dam Project, Environmental Assessment, May 2005) was successful and met the terms and conditions for dam safety and erosion control based on the following:

1. There was no seepage around the outlet pipe in the spring of 2006 following the 2005 slip-lining project. The primary evidence for a successful slip-lining project is the elimination of excessive seepage that was occurring around the outlet pipe.
2. If the slip-lining project had not been successful in 2005, another rehabilitation effort addressing this seepage deficiency would have been required. A failure of the grout to seal the annular space between the corrugated metal pipe and the new HDPE pipe could have resulted in another more extensive rehabilitation project, such as excavation of the embankment down to the foundation at the outlet works, replacement of the pipe, then placement and compaction of the material over the outlet works. This scenario would have resulted in more extensive impacts, including additional helicopter flights within wilderness. The duration of the project would have been longer, so other impacts would have increased, such as longer use of campsites and other impacts caused by increased human activity.
3. There were no spills onsite nor during helicopter transport of equipment, materials and supplies for the project.
4. The trailhead was posted during the construction activities to minimize impacts of wilderness visitors.
5. The upstream area within the existing reservoir area was dewatered prior to the grouting operations and placement of concrete for the trashrack structure. Dewatering of the reservoir and construction site essentially offered an effective erosion control measure. There was no evidence of sediment transport into the stream channel below the dam.
6. The terms and conditions that were presented in the EA were successfully implemented during this project.

