



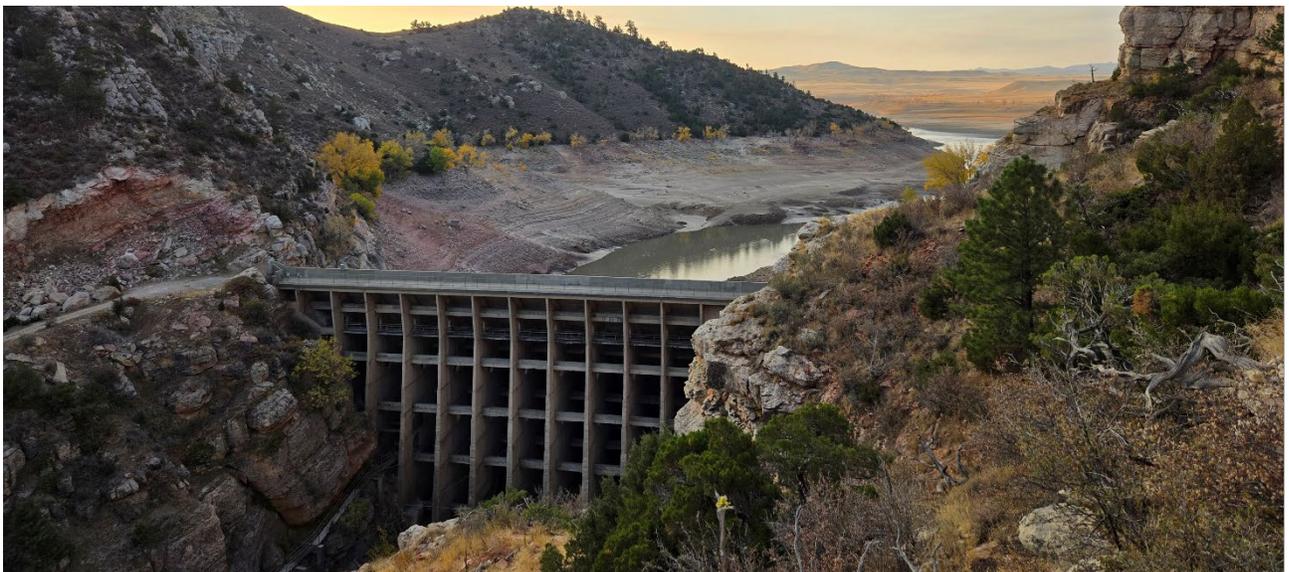
— BUREAU OF —
RECLAMATION

Final Environmental Assessment for the LaPrele Dam Reconstruction Project

EA No. WYAO-EA-2025-02

Prepared by: HDR

Prepared for: **United States Department of the Interior**
Bureau of Reclamation Missouri Basin Region,
Wyoming Area Office



In accordance with 516 DM 1 Section 1.5 (e)(4) and Section 1.5 (f)(6), I certify that the breadth and depth of analysis in this environmental assessment have been tailored to ensure compliance with the mandated page limits. Reclamation has considered all factors required by NEPA and has made a good-faith effort to prioritize the most important considerations within NEPA's congressionally mandated page limits and timeframes. This prioritization reflects Reclamation's expert judgment. Any considerations addressed briefly or left unaddressed were deemed, in Reclamation's judgment, to be of comparatively lesser substantive nature and did not meaningfully inform the consideration of environmental effects or the resulting decision on how to proceed.

Furthermore, Reclamation's effort is substantially complete and in Reclamation's expert opinion, it has thoroughly considered the factors mandated by NEPA and the analysis contained therein is adequate to inform and reasonably explain Reclamation's decision regarding the proposed Federal action.

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Applicant-Directed Contractor

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Professional Integrity Statement:

I certify that the above named environmental document has been prepared with professional and scientific integrity, using reliable data and resources, and meets Reclamation's needs for decision-making.

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Financial or Other Interests Disclosure Statement:

As the contractor or applicant preparing the referenced environmental document, I certify that

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and its employees have:

No financial or other interests in the outcome of the Action.

Disclosed the following financial or other interests in the outcome of the Action.

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Mission Statement

The U.S. Department of the Interior protects and manages the Nation's natural resources and cultural heritage; provides scientific and other information about those resources; and honors its trust responsibilities or special commitments to American Indians, Alaska Natives, Native Hawaiians, and affiliated Island Communities.

The mission of the Bureau of Reclamation is to manage, develop, and protect water and related resources in an environmentally and economically sound manner in the interest of the American public.

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Acronyms, Abbreviations, and Initialisms

°F	degrees Fahrenheit
APE	area of potential effects
BGEPA	Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act
BLM	Bureau of Land Management
BMP	best management practice
CAA	Clean Air Act
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
CWA	Clean Water Act
District	LaPrele Irrigation District
EA	Environmental Assessment
ESA	Endangered Species Act
FONSI	Finding of No Significant Impact
HDR	HDR Engineering, Inc.
IPaC	Information for Planning and Conservation
LEDPA	least environmentally damaging practicable alternative
LCGP	Large Construction General Stormwater Permit
MLRA	Major Land Resource Area
NAAQS	National Ambient Air Quality Standards
NASS	National Agriculture Statistics Service
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NHPA	National Historic Preservation Act
NRCS	Natural Resources Conservation Service
NRHP	National Register of Historic Places
OHWM	ordinary high water mark
PA	Programmatic Agreement
PRRIP	Platte River Recovery Implementation Plan
Reclamation	Bureau of Reclamation
SGCN	Species of Greatest Conservation Need
SHPO	State Historic Preservation Office
SWPPP	Stormwater Pollution Prevent Plan
THPO	Tribal Historic Preservation Office
USACE	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
U.S.C.	United States Code
USDA	U.S. Department of Agriculture
USEPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
USFWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
WGFD	Wyoming Department of Game and Fish
WOTUS	Waters of the United States
WSGS	Wyoming State Geological Survey

WYDEQ Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality
WYPDES Wyoming Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
WYSEO Wyoming State Engineer's Office

1 Introduction

This Final Environmental Assessment (EA) has been prepared on behalf of the U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) to evaluate and disclose the potential environmental effects of the LaPrele Dam Reconstruction Project (“Project” or “Proposed Action”) proposed by the LaPrele Irrigation District (District). The federal nexus for this Final EA is Reclamation’s funding assistance to the district for implementation of the Project.

LaPrele Dam is not a Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) facility or project. Reclamation is the lead federal agency because the project is federally funded through Reclamation as directed by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), Title IX- Western Water Infrastructure, Section 4094(b) (Public Law 117-58, Statute 135).

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) is a cooperating agency for preparation of the EA as prescribed in the procedures outlined in 33 CFR Section 333 because permitting is anticipated to be required through the USACE under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. The Converse County Board of Commissioners, Wyoming Office of State Lands and Investments, Wyoming State Engineer’s Office (WYSEO), Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality (WYDEQ), Wyoming Game and Fish Department (WGFD), Wyoming Department of Agriculture, and the Wyoming Department of State Parks and Cultural Resources are cooperating agencies for preparation of the EA.

Reclamation has prepared this Final EA in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Reclamation’s implementing provisions 516 Department Manual [DM] 1; DOI 2025) U.S. Department of the Interior Handbook of National Environmental Policy Act Implementing Procedures. The EA is not a decision document but rather serves as a disclosure of the environmental consequences of the No Action and Proposed Action alternatives. An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will be prepared if potentially significant impacts to environmental resources are identified. Reclamation will issue a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) if no significant impacts are identified.

1.1 Project Location and Legal Description

The Project is located in the North Platte River Basin approximately 11 miles west-southwest of the City of Douglas in Converse County, Wyoming (Figure 1-1). The Project area (defined as the footprint of all Project construction and operational components) associated with the dam reconstruction consists of approximately 43.7 acres. Major Project components include construction of the new dam, the restored reservoir behind the dam, access roads, and staging areas. The Project area, shown in

Figure 1-2, is located within Sections 20, 21, 28, 33 and 34 of Township 32 North, Range 73 West.

The Project area consists of private and public lands administered by the State of Wyoming; there are no Reclamation-managed lands within the Project footprint. The Project area includes approximately 21.7 acres of privately owned land, 7.0 acres owned by LaPrele Irrigation District, and 15.2 acres of state-owned land.

Figure 1-1. Project Location

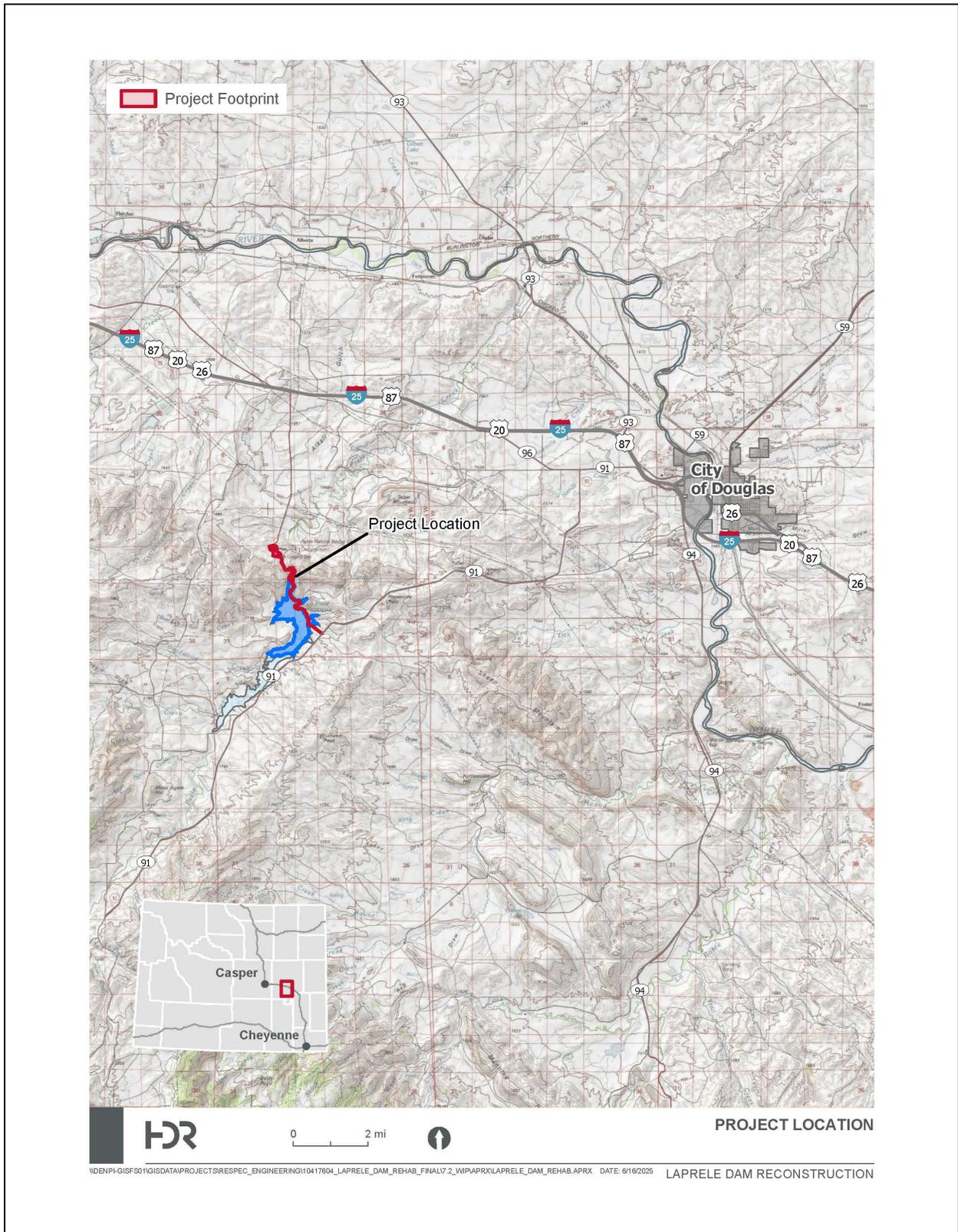
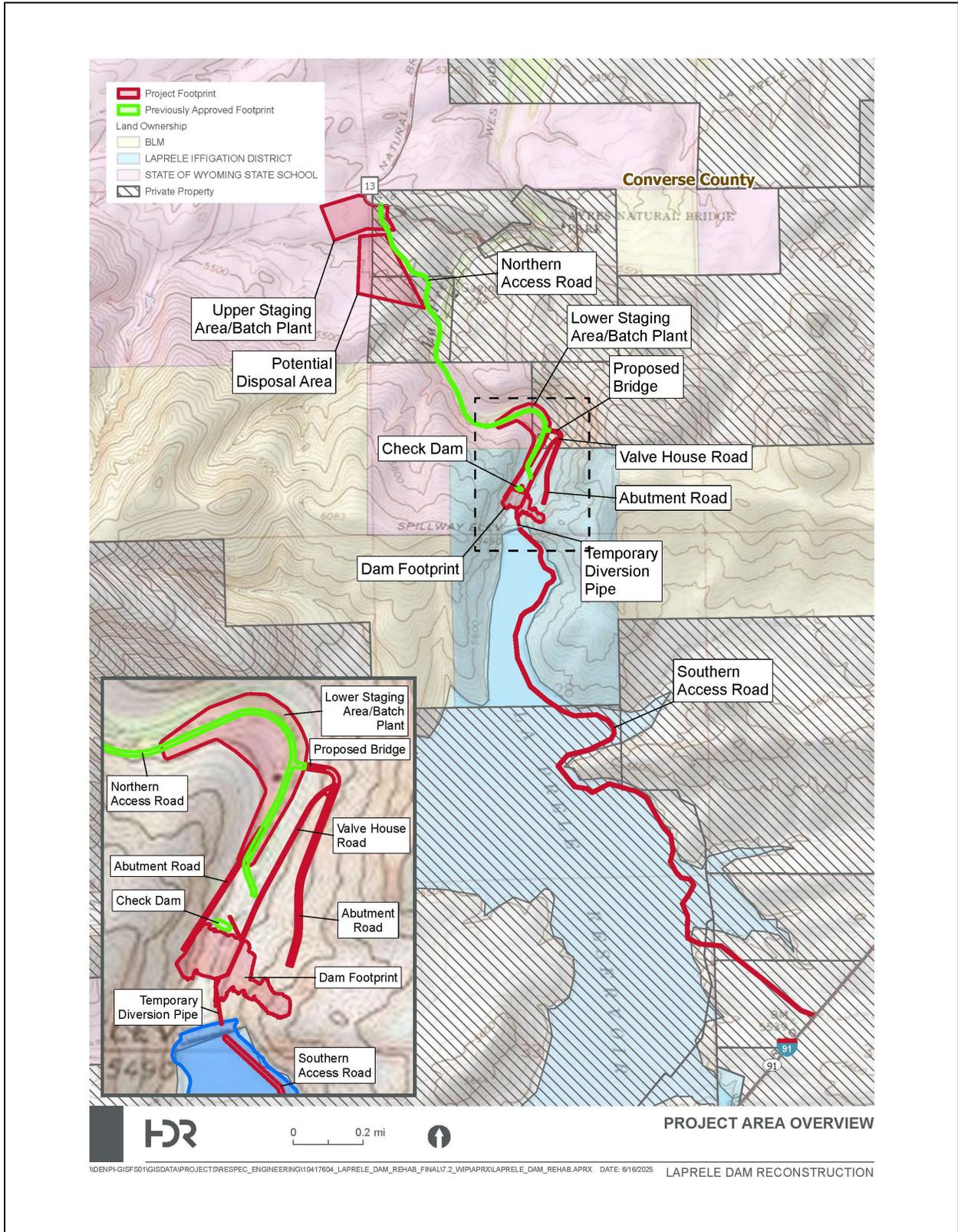


Figure 1-2. Project Area



1.2 Background

The District is proposing this Project with support from the Wyoming Water Development Commission (WWDC) and Reclamation. The District, formerly known as the Douglas Reservoir Water Users Association, provides agricultural water service to over 100 users irrigating 11,462 acres of land in Converse County, Wyoming. Waters from the reservoir have been delivered to users via several canals and diversion ditches for irrigation, domestic, and industrial uses. Until fall 2024, the District provided this service through operation of the LaPrele Dam and LaPrele Reservoir on LaPrele Creek. The District owned the former LaPrele Dam, which has since been demolished, and would also own the proposed replacement dam.

The former LaPrele Dam was an Ambursen slab-and-buttress style dam with reinforced concrete slab sloping upwards at 40 degrees from horizontal and supported by 16 buttresses. The dam was a 135-foot-tall structure with a crest length of 320 feet, providing 20,000 acre-feet of storage. LaPrele Creek is a tributary to the North Platte River, located approximately 23 miles downstream of the Project area, or approximately 10 miles measured directly.

Construction of the former dam was completed in 1909. The dam showed early signs of structural deficiency following its construction and had several repairs and updates made over the years. Repairs and modifications were made in the 1920s in an attempt to address leakage problems and a rehabilitation project was completed in 1979 to address deficiencies of the dam. Continued deterioration of the dam resulted in restriction of water storage in the reservoir beginning in 2019 and the reservoir was drained in October 2024 after discovery of new cracks.

The WYSEO determined that LaPrele Dam was an immediate threat to life and property and issued a Breach Order on November 1, 2024. The Breach Order required that the dam be removed to an elevation of 5,400 feet by no later than April 1, 2025, when inflows from spring runoff could exceed the dam's ability to pass inflows and fill the reservoir. At the District's request,¹ the required post-breach top of the remaining dam structure elevation was raised slightly by 3.5 feet to 5,403.5 feet National Geodetic Vertical Datum of 1929 (NGVD29) to allow the remaining structure to serve as a cofferdam and for storage of water that can be used for construction (such as for concrete mixing, modifying soils for compaction purposes, or dust control). Low flows from the impounded water could then bypass the new dam site through a 54-inch pipe to allow for construction "in the dry."

¹ Letter from the LaPrele Irrigation District to the WYSEO on January 7, 2025.

Dam demolition was addressed under a separate environmental review. A FONSI was issued on January 31, 2025, and the demolition was substantially completed on April 24, 2025.

1.3 Purpose of and Need for the Proposed Action

The District provides agricultural water service to over 100 shareholders to irrigate 11,462 acres of land in Converse County, Wyoming. This irrigation service has been provided since 1909 through the District's ownership and operation of LaPrele Dam. Due to age and deterioration, the concrete dam became structurally unsound, the reservoir was emptied for public safety reasons, and the dam was decommissioned. The purpose of the LaPrele Dam reconstruction is to replace the decommissioned dam and renew and restore the senior storage of senior water rights in LaPrele Reservoir. This will allow the District to resume service to its shareholders. Since water rights cannot currently be stored behind the decommissioned dam, the Proposed Action is needed to resolve the current and severe agricultural water shortage experienced by the District and its shareholders.

1.4 Relationship to Other Projects

As described above in greater detail, as a separate action, Reclamation provided funding for demolition of the former LaPrele Dam. As part of the dam demolition project, the existing north access road to LaPrele Dam from Ayres Natural Bridge Road (County Road 13) was improved to safely accommodate equipment and vehicles. The Dam Reconstruction Project would use the improved Northern Access Road and the staging areas established for dam demolition.

1.5 Scoping, Coordination, and Public Review

Reclamation has coordinated closely with stakeholders within the District. Design concepts for this EA have been refined based on feedback from, and coordination with, these partners.

Scoping was conducted as part of environmental review that began prior to the Breach Order described in Section 1.2. Stakeholder scoping letters regarding demolition of the existing dam and construction of a new replacement dam were distributed on February 7, 2024, to agencies and tribes. The letters requested information, comments, or items of concern related to the proposed Project. A copy of the letter and the distribution list are included in Appendix A.

In response to the February 7, 2024, request for comments, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) stated that the Project would not cause permanent conversion of Prime Farmland or Farmland of Statewide Importance and that no further action was required to remain in compliance.

The Wyoming Office of Homeland Security referred to the Converse County Surveyor for flood permit issuance. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) recommended reviewing procedures for protecting migratory birds and eagles, avian power line interactions, responsibilities of wetland protection, and conserving species being reviewed for listing. The WYSEO requested the design for the new dam location so that the new reservoir surface area could be reviewed. The WYDEQ indicated that any concrete batch plant would require a valid New Source Review permit or permit waiver. It did not anticipate any adverse air quality impacts with the possible exception of dust from construction activities. Dust control measures such as chemical stabilization or watering were recommended. The Wyoming State Geological Survey (WSGS) provided additional information on and sources for local geology and geologic hazards. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) recommended evaluating purpose and need, range of alternatives, existing conditions, cumulative impacts, water resources/quality, wetlands, air resources, and climate change in the NEPA analysis.

Two tribes, the Comanche Nation and Northern Arapaho Tribe, responded to the February 7, 2024, consultation letter with information regarding cultural and historic properties pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). Ongoing Section 106 consultation efforts are further addressed in Chapter 5.

2 Proposed Action and Alternatives

This EA analyzes two alternatives considered for the LaPrele Dam Reconstruction project, including the No Action Alternative that serves as a baseline for analysis and the Proposed Action. It also summarizes the alternatives considered but eliminated from further analysis. The alternative analysis section is based on engineering feasibility, environmental constraints, and the Purpose and Need identified in Section 1.3. For USACE, a Cooperating Agency for the EA, practicable alternatives, as defined under Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 404(b)(1), were considered during the alternatives analysis.

Several action alternatives were considered for this Project during a rehabilitation options analysis initiated in 2021. The rehabilitation options analysis process began with a workshop held in December 2021 and concluded with submittal of the Rehabilitation Report in August 2022. Two alternatives for construction access were considered. These included an east route and a south route, both of which originated at Cold Springs Road (Highway 91) and crossed private property. The east route was dismissed from further consideration due to the potential for unacceptable impacts to cultural and biological resources. The south route (Southern Access Road) was retained as part of the Proposed Action.

Three structural alternatives were considered. The first was to rehabilitate the existing dam. This alternative was determined to be infeasible due to the age and condition of the dam, and the dam has since been removed as noted above. A new rock-fill dam was considered as a replacement for the existing dam. However, it was eliminated due to a combination of site-specific constraints and dam safety considerations. The narrow, high-walled canyon at the site requires a large-capacity spillway to accommodate inflows during a Probable Maximum Flood event. Spillway placement on the dam would be necessary but routing large flood flows over a rock-fill or embankment structure presents significant dam safety risks and is inconsistent with current best practices in dam engineering. Additionally, geotechnical investigations identified poor quality on-site rock formations that are unsuitable for key dam components such as an impermeable core, concrete or asphalt facing, or shell materials. As a result, this alternative would have required substantial importation of high-quality materials, increasing cost and environmental impact. Due to these limitations, the rock-fill dam alternative was determined to be not feasible and was dismissed from further evaluation. The third structural alternative, constructing a new dam with roller compacted concrete (RCC), was selected as the most feasible option and serves as the Proposed Action.

2.1 No Action Alternative

As described above in Section 1.2, the original LaPrele Dam was demolished, leaving the base of the dam as a “sill.” Debris from dam removal was placed on the upstream and downstream sides of the existing dam site (upstream of the proposed dam). Under the No Action Alternative, the proposed replacement dam would not be constructed, and the remnant of the old dam and rubble piles would remain exposed. Water would not be restored in LaPrele Reservoir, and the District would not resume service to its users. Failure to restore the reservoir would affect agricultural users who rely on water supplied through the LaPrele system and may result in increased reliance on groundwater or alternative sources, where available. The temporary staging areas and access roads used for demolishing the old dam would be restored to pre-disturbance conditions, and the check dams would be removed.

The No Action Alternative serves as the baseline for analysis of effects related to the Proposed Action. This alternative would not meet the Purpose of and/or Need for the Project.

2.2 Proposed Action

The Proposed Action would include construction of a new RCC dam, approximately 200 feet downstream (north) of the demolished dam. The replacement dam would be designed to meet current engineering, dam safety, and design standards and guidelines. A full pool would be reached at an elevation 5,492.65 feet (North American Vertical Datum of 1988 [NAVD88]) with a storage pool of 20,000 acre-feet, which is equivalent to the historic storage capacity behind the original dam.

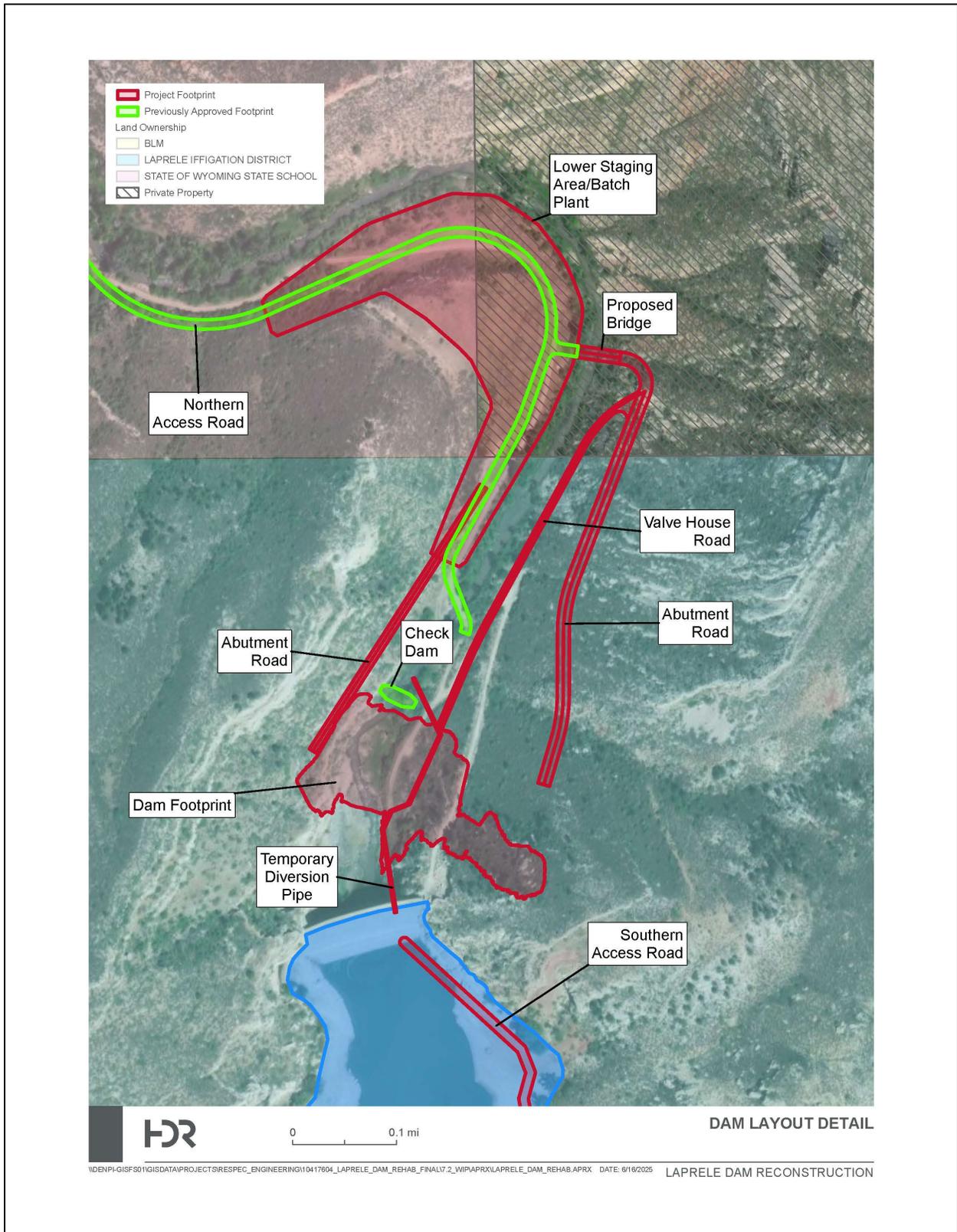
The Proposed Action also includes associated infrastructure and site modifications necessary to support the construction, operation, and maintenance of the new dam. These activities would occur within the defined Project area, which includes all areas of temporary and permanent disturbance. Figure 2-1 depicts the detailed layout of the Proposed Action, including all permanent and temporary disturbance areas. Table 2-1 summarizes the major components of the Proposed Action, including their construction disturbance footprint and operational footprint.

Table 2-1: Construction and Operational Footprints

Component	Construction Footprint (acres)	Operational Footprint (acres)
Southern Access Road (Temporary)	6.5	Not Applicable
Right Abutment Access Road and Valve House Access Road (permanent)	1.2	1.2
Left Abutment Access Road (Permanent)	0.4	0.4
Dam Axis and Layout	3.1	3.1
Temporary Diversion Pipe (54")	0.1	Not Applicable
Permanent Bridge Crossing	0.2	0.2
Staging Areas (Concrete batch plant, office trailers)	16.9	Not Applicable
Disposal Area	15.3	Not Applicable ¹
Project Total	43.7	5.0

¹Material from excavation for the dam would be permanently placed at this location; however, the area would not be used for operations.

Figure 2-1. Dam Layout Detail



2.2.1 Dam Construction

Initial work on the replacement dam would begin with site preparation and excavation. Based on geotechnical investigations, an estimated 115,000 cubic-yards of material would be excavated and placed in the potential disposal area noted in Figure 1-2. Excavation would be completed using bulldozers, excavators, backhoes, and dump trucks. Other equipment used for dam construction would include generators, graders, concrete mixers, haul trucks, vibratory compactors, and cranes and lifts. A complete list of anticipated construction equipment is provided in Attachment D.

Drilling would be conducted to support multiple construction activities. This includes drilling for blasting to remove rock in preparation for excavation, as well as drilling for anchors and other stabilization measures as part of rock bolting efforts. Additional drilling would be performed to install foundation drains below the dam, grout holes in the foundation to reduce seepage, and geotechnical instrumentation for ongoing monitoring.

All blasting and drilling activities would comply with applicable safety standards and regulatory requirements. Best management practices (BMPs) would be implemented to minimize potential impacts such as noise, vibration, and dust. Notification procedures would be followed to inform adjacent landowners and land managers, as appropriate. The replacement for the LaPrele Dam would be an RCC dam with a parapet height of 5,524 feet, matching the height of the former dam. RCC is used for mass concrete applications like those commonly used in dam construction. RCC is a stiff, zero-slump concrete that is drier than conventional concrete. It is typically placed in successive 12-inch horizontal lifts using conveyor belts or dump trucks and then spread by bulldozers. After the concrete is poured, it is then rolled with vibrating compactors, similar to what is used in roadway construction to achieve the required density and strength.

2.2.2 Concrete Batch Plants

To facilitate the preparation of materials to be used in the replacement dam, two concrete batch plants would be constructed. The first plant, for traditional concrete, would be located within a staging area at the north end of the Northern Access Road. The second batch plant, for producing RCC, would be located at the dam site (Figure 1-2). Both batch plants would be included in the 16.91-acre construction staging footprint. This area would accommodate the batch plant operations as well as stockpiling of materials necessary for concrete production, including sand, aggregate, fly ash, silica fume, slag, and cement. Nighttime operations of the RCC batch plant are expected during the estimated 3 to 6-month RCC placement period. Finally, the drilling of a groundwater well at each batch plant location has been proposed (two total). Water from the wells would be utilized for the purpose of concrete production (both CVC and RCC), dust suppression, aggregate cooling, and for other activities associated with construction of the RCC dam. It is anticipated that each well would have a peak

pumping rate of up to 300 gallons per minute, feeding on-site storage tanks as needed (storage sizing to be determined). Monthly anticipated withdrawal ranges from 160,000 gallons up to 1,760,000 gallons total (combination of both wells) during peak construction periods.

2.2.3 Material Sourcing

Two currently permitted quarries are proposed to source materials necessary to construct the replacement dam and temporary access roads. The Douglas Pit (also known as Russel Quarry) is located along Cold Springs Road (Highway 91), approximately 6.3 miles east of the dam site. The Wagonhound Pit (also referred to as Buckshot Pit) is located approximately 3 miles west of the dam site, off Spring Canyon Road. Other regional commercial sources such as Knife River and Croell would be used to provide supplemental aggregate and sand products, as needed. Up to 200,000 cubic yards of aggregate, sand, and gravel would be purchased and transported from these sources to the on-site batch plant for dam construction.

Hauling is expected to occur over an estimated 4 to 6-month period using standard dump trucks. Material from the Russel Quarry would be hauled via Highway 91 to Spring Canyon Road to Natural Bridge Road, or via Highway 91 to the Southern Access Road. Hauling from the Wagonhound Pit would occur either via off-road access into the reservoir or along Highway 91 to the Southern Access Road. During peak hauling, an estimated 75 to 100 truck trips per day are anticipated. All hauling activities would occur on existing roadways or disturbed areas and no new surface disturbance is anticipated at the quarry sites. Both quarries are currently permitted and operate in compliance with WYDEQ regulations.

During peak hauling, dust suppression measures such as water application on haul road routes would be implemented, as necessary. Noise impacts from truck traffic would be minimized by restricting haul hours to daylight periods and there are no residential corridors along the haul routes.

The fill material to be used for the Project, consisting of roller-compacted concrete, conventional concrete and native rock/earth, is inert and free from harmful pollutants. Therefore, the discharge will not cause or contribute to violations of water quality standards due to the chemical composition of the fill material.

2.2.4 Construction Access

The Northern Access Road, an existing road to the historic dam from Interstate 25, via Ayres Natural Bridge Road (County Road 13), would be used to access the construction site for the replacement dam from the north. After construction of the new dam, the

Northern Access Road would continue to be used for operation and maintenance of the dam.

A second construction access road, the Southern Access Road, would provide access from the south side of the dam site. This road would follow an existing two-track road across private property from Cold Springs Road (Highway 91) to the eastern edge of the reservoir. The existing road would be widened to 30 feet, graded, and surfaced with gravel. The road would then be extended beyond the terminus of the existing two-track road to continue north along the edge of the drained reservoir, below the former ordinary high-water mark (OHWM), to the dam reconstruction site, as depicted in Figure 2-1. Rock borrow material needed to construct the Southern Access Road would be obtained from the permitted quarry sites described in Section 2.2.3. The portions of the Southern Access Road outside the reservoir would be removed upon completion of the new dam if so requested by the landowner while the portion below the OHWM would be abandoned and inundated beneath the reservoir. Restoration activities are described in Section 2.2.7.

Additional access routes would include a permanent 12-foot-wide equipment access road to the left abutment of the dam site. In addition, a permanent access road to the right abutment and a valve house access road would be constructed, which includes a new bridge crossing over LaPrele Creek.

2.2.5 Staging Areas

The Project would use two staging areas (Figure 1-2) that were previously established for the separate Dam Demolition Project. The Upper Staging Area would be near the junction of Ayres Natural Bridge Road (County Road 13) and the existing road to LaPrele Dam. This area would be used primarily for vehicle parking, temporary office trailers, fuel storage, and a concrete batch plant, as described in Section 2.2.2. The Lower Staging Area would be north of the new dam site on the west side of the existing dam access road and would serve the same functions as the Upper Staging Area. Both staging areas are located on a combination of private land and State of Wyoming land.

2.2.6 Construction Schedule

Contingent on project approval, construction of the new dam would begin in fall 2025 with excavation of rock in preparation for the dam foundation. Construction activities during 2026 would include installing the concrete batch plants, placing a grout curtain for the dam foundation, and performing other preparatory work necessary prior to concrete placement. The concrete work for the dam would occur in 2027 and the dam would be completed and operational by spring 2028.

Construction hours would vary depending on the season and specific construction activities. Generally, earthwork and excavation would occur during daylight hours, while temperature-sensitive activities, such as concrete placement, may be conducted overnight during summer months to ensure optimal curing conditions. The construction contractor may implement a shift-based schedule during critical phases, but 24-hour/7-days-per-week operations are not currently planned.

2.2.7 Site Reclamation

Following completion of dam construction, all temporary disturbance areas would be reclaimed to approximate pre-construction conditions to the extent practicable with the exception of the Southern Access Route below the OHWM that will be abandoned and inundated by the refilled reservoir.

The staging areas, including the concrete batch plant footprints, and Southern Access Road would be fully reclaimed to their pre-project states, as possible. Site reclamation activities would include:

- **Removal of the Southern Access Road:** The Southern Access Road would be removed, and the disturbed area outside the previously established two-track route would be recontoured to match surrounding topography and reseeded with an approved native seed mix. The portion of the access road below OHWM would be inundated.
- **Staging Area Restoration:** The Upper and Lower Staging Areas (including the concrete batch plant located near the dam site) would be graded and recontoured and reseeded with an approved native seed mix.
- **Dam and other construction disturbance areas:** All other temporary disturbance areas associated with construction of the new dam would be recontoured and reseeded, where appropriate.

Monitoring and Restoration Success

Post-construction monitoring would be conducted to determine the success of upland restoration and seeding. Monitoring would assess native seed establishment, erosion control success, and streambank recovery. The Project team would coordinate with Reclamation to determine monitoring requirements and any required adaptive management or additional treatments (e.g., reseeded, erosion repairs, bank stabilization).

2.2.8 Operation and Maintenance

Following dam reconstruction, the District anticipates the reservoir would likely fill during spring runoff of the following season and operate as a “drain-and-fill” reservoir. A full

pool would be reached at an elevation 5,492.65 feet (North American Vertical Datum of 1988 [NAVD88]) with a storage pool of 20,000 acre-feet, which is equivalent to the historic storage capacity behind the original dam. Water will be released from behind the dam through a cone valve directly onto a concrete apron.

Anticipated operations and maintenance activities conducted by the District are expected to include:

- Regular inspection of the dam structure, valve house, and spillway
- Maintenance of permanent access roads
- Operation and exercising for all valves and gates
- Routine instrumentation data collection and analysis

Additional maintenance tasks, such as cleaning of foundation drains and maintenance of the outlet works intake structure, would be conducted on an as-needed or less frequent basis. Maintenance personnel would typically access the site for maintenance via the Northern Access Road. Frequency of site visits is expected to vary seasonally, increasing during spring runoff and irrigation periods. In winter months, snow plowing may be required to maintain site access.

Annual Reservoir Operations Planning

The District uses streamflow data for annual reservoir operations planning to determine the best strategy to meet the following Project storage release operations:

Low Hydrologic Year: Reservoir releases are truncated throughout winter and spring snowmelt when forecasted stream flows are lower than average. Increased risk of unexpected higher flows could cause excessive spills.

Average Hydrologic Year: Reservoir releases are regulated during spring snowmelt freshet to ensure storage volume allocation is filled but not exceeded. The District considers risk of unexpected higher flows causing excessive spills.

High Hydrologic Year: Reservoir releases are regulated during spring snowmelt freshet to hold reservoir lower to ensure space for high freshet flows but meet irrigation storage allocation. Risks of unexpected higher flows could cause excessive spills.

Flood Hydrology

The District would consider hydrologic forecasts when operating the reservoir using the low-level outlets to meet storage allocation while minimizing excessive uncontrolled spill events.

2.3 Alternatives Considered but Dismissed

Early in the planning process an offsite location for possible reconstruction of LaPrele Dam was considered. It was quickly discerned that if the dam were reconstructed upstream that the ability to store 20,000 acre feet, as allowed by existing water rights, would be compromised as a result of limited topography and reduced watershed size. Likewise, it was determined that reconstructing the dam downstream of the canyon proved to be inadequate as the topography downstream would not support construction of a facility that could store 20,000 acre feet of water. Finally, it was determined that a site outside LaPrele Creek watershed would not be able to deliver the water due to a lack of agricultural water conveyance infrastructure (e.g. tunnels, canals, and ditches) to provide water to water right holders.

2.4 Permits and Authorizations

If the Proposed Action is approved, the permits and plans listed in Table 2-2 would be required prior to project implementation. The District or its construction contractors would be responsible for obtaining all permits and approvals required to construct and operate the Project regardless of their inclusion in this table. In addition, USACE, as a cooperating agency, will need to permit the least environmentally damaging practicable alternative (LEDPA). The Proposed Action is likely the LEDPA.

Table 2-2: Permits and Authorizations

Agency	Permit/Approval/Consultation
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	Section 404 Individual Permit; for discharge of dredged or fill material in Waters of the U.S.
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Endangered Species Act Section 7 Consultation
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act • USFWS Nest Take Permit; if removal of golden eagle nest is required
Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality – Water Quality Division	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CWA Section 401 Water Quality Certification for discharge of dredged or fill material in Waters of the U.S. • Wyoming Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (WYPDES) Large Construction Permit and Stormwater Pollution Prevent Plan (SWPPP) for Compliance with CWA Section 402
Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality – Air Quality Division	New Source Review Permit or permit waiver for the concrete batch plant
Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office	National Historic Preservation Act Section 106 Consultation
Wyoming Office of State Land and Investments	Non-roadway Easement and Temporary Use Permit for construction on or across state lands
Wyoming State Engineers Office	Temporary Water Use Agreement
Wyoming Department of Transportation	Oversize/Overweight Permit for oversize and/or overweight vehicles on state highways
Converse County	Floodplain Construction Permit
Converse County	Roadway Use Agreement

The District and its contractors would be required to comply with the following laws prior to and during Project implementation.

Natural Resource Protection Laws

- Clean Air Act of 1963 (CAA; 42 U.S. Code [U.S.C.] 7401)
- Endangered Species Act of 1973 as amended (ESA; 16 U.S.C. 1531-1544, 87 Strat. 884)
- Clean Water Act of 1972 as amended (CWA; 33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.)
- Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918 (MBTA; 16 U.S.C. 703-712)
- Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act of 1940 (BGEPA; 16 U.S.C. 668-668c)
- Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA; 43 U.S.C. 1701-1785)

Cultural Resource Laws

- National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA; 16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.)
- Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979 (ARPA; 16 U.S.C. 470aa-470mm et seq.)
- Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act of 1990 (NAGPRA; 25 U.S.C. 3001 et seq.)
- American Indian Religious Freedom Act of 1978 (AIRFA; 42 U.S.C. PL 95-341)
- Archaeology and Historic Preservation: Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines (48 FR 44716)

3 Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences

This chapter describes the environmental effects (including direct and indirect) of the No Action and the Proposed Action. For each resource, the potentially affected area and/or resources are identified, existing baseline conditions are described, and potential direct and indirect impacts are analyzed. Direct effects are caused by the action and occur at the same time and place. Indirect effects are caused by the action and are later in time or farther removed in distance but are still reasonably foreseeable. As defined by NEPA regulations (40 CFR 1501.3(b)(1)), only those resources and conditions having the potential to be affected by the Proposed Action are discussed and analyzed within this section.

For this analysis, temporary impacts are defined as those impacts generally occurring during the period of construction and reclamation. Long-term impacts are generally associated with dam operation and maintenance.

The study area considered in this analysis varies depending on the resource but is assumed to be the Project area unless otherwise specified for a given resource.

3.1 Geology

3.1.1 Affected Environment

Geologic Setting

Surface geology in the Project area consists of the following units (McLaughlin and Ver Ploeg 2008):

- Quaternary alluvial deposits (Qa) – consists of unconsolidated and poorly consolidated clay, silt, sand, and gravel; found mainly in channel and meander belts of creeks and rivers.
- Tertiary White River Group (TW_r) – consists of blocky tuffaceous, bentonitic claystone and lenticular arkosic conglomerate with lenses of thin sandstone.
- Jurassic Sundance Formation (J_s) – upper part is primarily glauconitic shale, middle part consists of sandstone and shale and thin gypsum and limestone beds, and lower part is thick-bedded sandstone.
- Triassic Chugwater Group (Tr_C) – consists of four sedimentary rock formations made up of limestone, mudstone, sandstone, shale and siltstone.

- Triassic and Permian Goose Egg Formation (TrPG) – is made up of shale and siltstone with interbedded gypsum, algal limestone, and dolomite.
- Permian and Pennsylvanian Casper Formation (PPc) – consists of alternating thicker sandstone and thinner hard fossiliferous limestone, with shale and siltstone.
- Mississippian Madison Limestone (Mm) – consists of alternating units of cherty limestone and dolomite; the entire formation is fossiliferous. The Lavender Member of this formation displays jointing and fracturing at the dam site (Knight 1936).

Geologic Resources

Geologic resources in the area include stone quarries and aggregate mines. Two currently permitted quarries are located near the Project Area, as described in Section 2.2.3. These include one quarry approximately 3 miles west and another approximately 6.3 miles east of the Project area. Additionally, the nearest oil and gas infrastructure, the Brenning Basin, is located approximately 1 mile north of the Project area. No active extraction or drilling operations are present within the immediate vicinity of the Proposed Action.

Geologic Hazards

Potential geologic hazards relevant to the Project area include earthquakes, faults, rockfalls and landslides, and expansive soils.

Most earthquakes in Wyoming occur inside the Intermountain Seismic Belt, which trends north to south along the western edge of the state about 250 miles from the Project area. The 1897 Casper earthquake and 1984 Laramie Mountains earthquake are the largest Wyoming events on record to occur outside of the Intermountain Seismic Belt (Langer et al. 1991). The 1947 LaPrele earthquake is the largest to have occurred in Converse County (Case et al. 2002). Information on these earthquakes is summarized in Table 3-1.

Table 3-1: Historical Earthquakes

Earthquake	Approximate Location	Magnitude	Modified Mercalli Intensity
1897 Casper Earthquake	Casper, Wyoming	Not determined	VI–VII (strong to very strong shaking)
1947 LaPrele Creek Earthquake	Near LaPrele Creek southwest of Douglas	Not determined	V (moderate shaking)
1984 Laramie Mountains Earthquake	25 miles south of dam site	5.4	VI (strong shaking)

Source: Langer et al. 1991 and Case et al. 2002.

For the area around the LaPrele Dam and Reservoir, the 2023 National Seismic Hazard Model (Petersen et al. 2024) assigns a 5 to 25 percent probability of potentially

damaging ground shaking (Modified Mercalli Intensity of VI) occurring in a 100-year period and a 2 percent probability in a 50-year period of “very strong” ground shaking (Modified Mercalli Intensity of VII) that has the potential to produce negligible damage to structures of good design and considerable damage to structures of ordinary design (Stover and Coffman 1993).

A southwest-dipping normal fault is mapped in the Casper Formation within several hundred meters of the proposed dam site (McLaughlin and Ver Ploeg 2008), but there is no evidence that this fault has been active during the Quaternary Period (i.e., the last 2.6 million years). No recognized Quaternary-active faults occur in the immediate vicinity of the Project area. The closest mapped is the South Granite Mountains fault (USGS 2020), which is about 71.5 miles to the southwest.

The WSGS statewide landslide database (Case n.d.) does not show any landslides mapped in the Project area or in the immediate vicinity of the proposed dam site. The WSGS’s 1:850,000-scale statewide landslide susceptibility map shows a few areas of “high” landslide susceptibility adjacent to the northern shore of LaPrele Reservoir and the downstream canyon due to steep slopes in the Casper Formation (Wittke et al. 2019). This is consistent with field observations of acute rockfall hazards at the existing dam (RESPEC 2018).

Expansive soils have not been identified near the dam construction or operational areas (Wittke et al. 2019b) and are not likely to be a consideration for the Project.

3.1.2 No Action

Under the No Action Alternative, the new dam would not be constructed and the geologic resources (such as aggregate, limestone, and clay) needed for making concrete would be available for other uses. However, because these resources are already plentiful, the effect of the No Action Alternative on resource availability would be negligible.

3.1.3 Proposed Action

The Proposed Action would involve minor but permanent impacts to geologic resources. Excavation of geologic resources for making concrete would reduce the overall availability of these resources. However, this material would be a small proportion of the material available in the area so the impact would be negligible. Bedrock within the Project area where the dam would be constructed would be permanently impacted by the excavation required to ensure a stable foundation for the dam, spillway, and drain components. However, this impact would be localized and have a minor impact on the geomorphology at this location.

3.2 Water Rights and Use

3.2.1 Affected Environment

The District obtains its water supply from direct flow water rights from LaPrele Creek and from water stored in LaPrele Reservoir (State of Wyoming 2006). The District serves 106 water users across a service area of about 30,000 acres in total, including 11,462.2 acres irrigated with those water rights used for agricultural irrigation, domestic, and industrial uses (Table 3-2 and Table 3-3; State of Wyoming 2024). Two major surface water diversions from LaPrele Creek include the West Side Ditch and the East Main Canal. The West Side Ditch is located in Section 16, Township 32 North, Range 73 West and has a permitted diversion of 38.16 cubic feet per second from LaPrele Creek. The East Main Canal is located in Section 21, Township 32 North, Range 73 West and has a permitted diversion of 136.08 cubic feet per second (State of Wyoming 2024). In addition to these water permits and diversions, the District also utilizes intermediate and smaller regulating reservoirs and more than 94 miles of canals and laterals.

Irrigation allotments within the District are evaluated at the beginning of each irrigation season by the District Board. Board members rely on LaPrele Reservoir water storage levels, current snowpack, and streamflow conditions to determine the season's expected total allotment. The total available water volume is reduced by 20 percent (to account for losses due to evaporation, reservoir seepage, and canal/ditch loss during the irrigation season) and then is allotted to shareholders. A wet spring or summer may allow water allotments to be increased mid-season at the discretion of the District Board.

Water within the District has several uses, including the previously noted agricultural irrigation, domestic, and industrial uses. Irrigated crops within the district can be categorized into three main categories: alfalfa, grass hay/pasture, and other non-alfalfa/grass hay/pasture crops. Alfalfa comprises up to 76 percent of irrigated parcels within the district, while grass hay/pasture makes up 21 percent of irrigated land. Other non-alfalfa/grass hay/pasture crops account for about 3 percent, based on analysis completed in the 2015 USDA National Agriculture Statistics Service (NASS) Cropland Data Layer.

Table 3-2: LaPrele Irrigation District Storage Water Rights

WYSEO Permit No.	Source	Reservoir	Priority	Uses	Acre-Feet
P728R ¹	LaPrele Creek	LaPrele Reservoir	12/6/1904	Irrigation, Industrial, Domestic	15,106
P1581R	LaPrele Creek	LaPrele Reservoir	9/21/1905	Irrigation	4,894
P5571R	Five Mile Creek	East Side Reservoir No. 3	4/2/1935	Irrigation, Stock	116.7
P6841R	Ervin Draw	West Side Reservoir No. 1	2/4/1957	Irrigation, Stock	64.0
P6808R	LaPrele Creek	Busch Reservoir	7/30/1962	Irrigation	37.57
P6782R	LaPrele Creek	Chamberlain No. 1 Reservoir	4/14/1964	Irrigation	504.83
LaPrele Reservoir Total					20,000

¹ Permit No. P728R restricts total storage for industrial purposes to 5,000 acre-feet in any water year.

Source: Water Rights in accordance with the October 1999 Tabulation of Adjudicated Water Rights of the State of Wyoming – Water Division Number 1, Surface Water, Online access to WYSEO E-Permit system, August 2024.

Table 3-3: LaPrele Irrigation District (and Member) Adjudicated Irrigation Water Rights

WYSEO Permit No.	Source ¹	Conveyance	Priority	Uses	Type
P1430E	LaPrele Creek and LaPrele Reservoir	LaPrele Ditch (Table Mountain)	9/21/1905 7/7/1909	Irrigation	Direct Flow – Original Supply, Secondary Supply
P1670E	LaPrele Creek and LaPrele Reservoir	LaPrele Ditch (Powell and Ayres)	9/21/1905 3/18/1907 7/7/1909	Irrigation	Direct Flow-Original Supply, Secondary Supply
P2968E	LaPrele Creek and LaPrele Reservoir	LaPrele Ditch	9/21/1905 7/7/1909 5/11/1914	Irrigation	Direct Flow-Original Supply, Secondary Supply
P4054E	LaPrele Creek and LaPrele Reservoir	LaPrele Ditch	9/21/1905 7/7/1909 11/17/1919	Irrigation	Direct Flow-Original Supply, Secondary Supply
P4139E	LaPrele Creek and LaPrele Reservoir	LaPrele Ditch	9/21/1905 7/7/1909 7/26/1920	Irrigation	Direct Flow- Original Supply, Secondary Supply
P4530E	LaPrele Creek and LaPrele Reservoir	LaPrele Ditch	9/21/1905 7/7/1909 12/17/1926	Irrigation	Direct Flow – Original Supply, Secondary Supply
P4531E	LaPrele Creek and LaPrele Reservoir	West Side Ditch	9/21/1905 7/7/1909 12/17/1926	Irrigation	Direct Flow – Original and Supplemental Supply, Secondary Supply

WYSEO Permit No.	Source ¹	Conveyance	Priority	Uses	Type
P4589E	LaPrele Creek and LaPrele Reservoir	LaPrele Ditch	9/21/1905 7/7/1909 7/9/1928	Irrigation	Direct Flow – Original Supply, Secondary Supply (expired),
P16986D	LaPrele Creek and LaPrele Reservoir	West Side Ditch	9/21/1905 7/7/1909 12/4/1909	Irrigation	Direct Flow – Original Supply, Secondary Supply
P4055E	LaPrele Reservoir	West Side Ditch	9/21/1905 7/7/1909	Irrigation	Secondary Supply, Supplemental (expired)
P17955D	Rocky Ford Creek	Rocky Ford Ditch	1/22/1931	Reservoir Supply	Transbasin Diversion
P17956D	Reed Creek	Reed Creek Ditch	1/22/1931	Reservoir Supply	Transbasin Diversion
P17957D	Gould Creek	Gould Creek No. 2 Ditch	1/22/1931	Reservoir Supply	Transbasin Diversion
P4760E	Wagonhound Creek	Sims No. 2 Ditch	1/22/1931	Reservoir Supply	Transbasin Diversion

¹ Total shall not exceed 20,000 acre-feet stored within LaPrele Reservoir from all sources in any one year. **Source:** Water Rights in accordance with the October 1999 Tabulation of Adjudicated Water Rights of the State of Wyoming – Water Division Number 1, Surface Water, Online access to WYSEO E-Permit system, August 2024.

3.2.2 No Action

The No Action Alternative would have significant impacts on water rights and usage compared to the Proposed Action. Failure to reconstruct LaPrele Dam would leave thousands of residents along LaPrele Creek in Wyoming without access to water they are legally entitled to and could result in abandonment of water rights.

3.2.3 Proposed Action

The Proposed Action is anticipated to preserve state District water rights and, comply with the 2001 Modified North Platte Decree², and take actions to ensure there are no new depletions or provide necessary mitigation under the interstate water compacts within the region, including the 2001 Modified North Platte Decree³ and the Platte River Recovery Implementation Program⁴(PRRIP). The proposed action is also anticipated to

² NE DNR, 2001. 2001 Modified North Platte Decree. Available at: <https://dnr.nebraska.gov/sites/default/files/doc/water-planning/upper-platte/north-platte-river-settlement/modified-np-decree.pdf>

³ NE DNR, 2001. 2001 Modified North Platte Decree. Available at: <https://dnr.nebraska.gov/sites/default/files/doc/water-planning/upper-platte/north-platte-river-settlement/modified-np-decree.pdf>

⁴ Platte River Recovery Implementation Program. Available at: <https://platteriverprogram.org/about/water-plan>.

reduce the loss of access to water through improved efficiency of the conveyance system. Groundwater withdrawals from the two proposed wells are not anticipated to impact the surface waters of LaPrele Creek and therefore no impacts are anticipated to existing water rights. Overall, these changes would be beneficial and are expected to preserve existing water rights while minimizing future disruptions in water delivery; any impacts would be localized and result in a net improvement to water use efficiency within the District.

3.3 Water Quality

3.3.1 Affected Environment

The Project is located within the Lower LaPrele Creek watershed (HUC-12 #101800071203) (USGS 2024). WYDEQ monitors and assesses water quality in the State of Wyoming under delegated CWA authorities overseen by the USEPA including development of surface water quality standards, identification of impaired waters, and development of total maximum daily loads for impaired waters under Section 303; inventorying water quality under Section 305; discharge permitting under Section 402; water quality certifications under Section 401; and addressing nonpoint sources of pollution under Section 319. The WYDEQ Water Quality Division is responsible for the protection and restoration of the quality of waters of the state in accordance with Title 35, Chapter 11 of the Wyoming Statutes and Wyoming's Water Quality Rules. WYDEQ has not placed any waters in the vicinity of the Project on Wyoming's 303(d) list of impaired waters for non-attainment of Wyoming Surface Water Quality Standards. LaPrele Creek flows north from the dam site, meandering approximately 23.5 miles before reaching the North Platte River. Measured directly, the North Platte River is located approximately 14.5 miles northeast of the dam location. When operating, the LaPrele Reservoir receives water from Deadwood Creek, Bull's Run, Harris Creek, and Tomahawk Draw in addition to LaPrele Creek (WYDEQ 2007).

LaPrele Creek is designated as a Class 2AB water and LaPrele Reservoir is a Class 3B water. Class 2AB waters are designated as suitable drinking water, game fish, and non-game fish, fish consumption, other aquatic life, recreation, wildlife, agriculture, industry, and scenic value. Class 3B waters are designated as suitable for other aquatic life, recreation, wildlife, agriculture, industry, and scenic value (WYDEQ 2021). The North Platte River is categorized into seven segments within Wyoming. LaPrele Creek converges with the North Platte River within the Pathfinder to Guernsey segment. Waters within this segment are considered Class 2AB (WYDEQ 2001). LaPrele Creek, LaPrele Reservoir, and the North Platte River are all subject to water quality standards (WQS) set by the State of Wyoming and outlined in Chapter 1 of the Wyoming Surface Water Quality Standards established on April 24, 2018 (WYDEQ 2018).

Water quality within the area is affected by non-point sources such as irrigation return flows, which often elevate sediment and nutrient levels within the waters and impact water quality. Permitted discharges from municipal wastewater treatment facilities can also cause localized changes to water quality within this area of the North Platte River. At the time of this report, WYDEQ has not assessed the North Platte River in proximity to the Project (WYDEQ 2025b).

3.3.2 No Action

The No Action Alternative is not anticipated to cause direct impacts to water quality as further disturbances would not occur. This alternative would leave LaPrele Creek with a concrete sill several feet above the level of the accumulated sediment at the former dam's face, with LaPrele Creek able to flow at a base level of 5,400 feet from the north end of the LaPrele Reservoir. Sediment located at this concrete sill may be over 30 feet in depth; however, only the top 2 to 12 feet (average depth, 7.8 feet) would be above the 5,400-foot, post-demolition elevation. Of this layer, only a channel's width is likely to be washed down stream following dam removal, with the remaining sediment forming the channel banks. Rubble from the dam removal would be located within portions of the OHWM; however, water would still flow through the area.

Indirect impacts to water quality would be anticipated under this alternative. The No Action Alternative would likely have an overall positive long-term indirect impact on water quality both upstream and downstream of the former LaPrele Dam location. Several water quality benefits of not rebuilding a dam on location could include water temperature stabilization, increased levels of dissolved oxygen, restored nutrient transport downstream, and decreased sedimentation.

Unregulated flow would likely result in more stable water temperatures, which may help minimize the growth of algae and other bacteria associated with warm, stagnant surface water conditions in impounded environments. Minimizing the amount of harmful algae, bacteria, and other vegetative species within the waterway via water temperature stabilization can also help to improve dissolved oxygen levels. Water held behind a reservoir can be subject to thermal stratification (Wang et al. 2022). Thermal stratification can cause warm water temperatures near the surface and cold temperatures near the bottom of the reservoir. In some instances, the cold-water environments can become extremely low in dissolved oxygen and create hypoxic conditions (Zhang et al. 2024). These hypoxic conditions can be harmful to both aquatic life and humans within the area.

Sedimentation of both coarse (such as gravel or sand) and fine (such as clay or silt) sediment upstream of the former dam site is likely to decrease under the No Action Alternative. This could have a benefit on water quality within the reservoir area. Reducing sedimentation within the reservoir may also improve water quality

downstream of the dam location by more easily transporting natural nutrients to downstream stretches of the creek system versus held behind a dam wall. This would likely improve downstream nutrient transport as well as improve channel incision (Kondolf et al. 2014). Reducing sedimentation would also decrease the amount of contaminants from upstream (such as heavy metals, nitrates, and other pollutants that may run off from agricultural fields and farmsteads upstream) that would build up within the area as compared to a dam wall in place to hold these contaminants back.

Water quality could also experience indirect negative impacts during flooding events along LaPrele Creek. Up to 30 feet of sediment is currently impounded behind the concrete sill left in place from the demolished LaPrele Dam. Over time, a new channel would likely develop within the sediment at this location, and sediment carried downstream from behind the concrete sill would be minimal under normal conditions (NRCS 2007). However, during high-flow events or other disturbances, additional sediment that has been building up behind the concrete sill since the construction of the LaPrele Dam in 1909 has the potential to be mobilized and transported downstream. This could cause a temporary impact on downstream water quality from increased turbidity. Rubble from the LaPrele Dam removal is located within portions of the OHWM downstream of this concrete sill and may help to catch any displaced sediment before it washes further downstream.

Overall, the No Action Alternative is not anticipated to have any direct impacts to water quality. It is anticipated to generally provide long-term beneficial impacts to water quality both up and downstream of the LaPrele Dam location.

3.3.3 Proposed Action

Under the Proposed Action, construction of a new dam would be completed within a Waters of the United States (WOTUS), LaPrele Creek, downstream of the original dam location. This alternative is not anticipated to have direct or indirect impacts to water quality. Water quality is anticipated to be similar in condition as prior to the removal of the previous LaPrele Dam.

Under the Proposed Action water quality downstream of the Project within LaPrele Creek and the North Platte River are anticipated to be maintained through application of existing and future BMP's. A pair of check dams were built during the demolition of the original LaPrele Dam downstream of the proposed dam site; these check dams would remain in place during construction of the new dam to aid in containing sediment and other particles. Additionally, it is anticipated that BMPs will be developed as a component of the CWA Section 401 permitting procedures. It is not anticipated that temporary impacts would exceed WYDEQ standards for surface water quality as the application of BMPS would assist in mitigating these impacts.

LaPrele Creek would temporarily be diverted during construction of the Proposed Action. The portion of the original dam that was left in place would act as a cofferdam. LaPrele Creek and any impounded low flows behind this cofferdam will bypass the new dam site via a 54-inch pipe, which would allow for construction of the new dam to occur in dry conditions and for water to be stored for construction uses (such as concrete mixing, modifying soils for compaction, and dust control). BMPs coordinated with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), design features, and required conditions of WYDEQ's WYPDES Large Construction General Stormwater Permit (LCGP) and 401 Water Quality Certification, as well as the USACE 404 permit, would be followed to minimize impacts to water quality. Conditions of the WYDEQ 401 Water Quality Certification are enforceable under the USACE 404 permit and projects permitted under a WYPDES LCGP are required to develop a SWPPP and meet conditions of BMPs. Proper precautions, such as completing construction activities during low flow season, would be used to avoid and minimize temporary and long-term impacts to water quality within the Project area as well as within the greater North Platte River basin.

A design element of the proposed dam that will assist in maintaining water quality, specifically, oxygenation, is the release of water from behind the dam through a fixed cone valve directly onto a downstream concrete pad. Sprayed water would impact the concrete surface, agitating the water, and improving oxygenation.

Through the application of BMP's and design elements, the Proposed Action is anticipated to maintain water quality in a similar condition as existed prior to the demolition of the original LaPrele Dam. BMPs, as coordinated with the WYDEQ and USACE, and required by their respective permitting mechanisms, would be used to prevent and mitigate water quality impacts during construction.

3.4 Aquatic Resources

3.4.1 Affected Environment

Significant aquatic resources within the region of the Project include the perennial stream, LaPrele Creek, and its associated freshwater emergent wetland, two irrigation ditches, several agricultural and domestic wells, and LaPrele Reservoir.

LaPrele Creek flows north and drains into the North Platte River approximately 18 miles north of the LaPrele Dam. The OHWM of LaPrele Creek is approximately 26 feet wide within the first few miles downstream of the dam. LaPrele Creek is contained by a narrow canyon for approximately 1.25 miles immediately downstream of the dam before flowing through Ayres Natural Bridge Park. LaPrele Creek then meanders through rural residential areas and rangeland. Its associated riparian corridor is dominated by mature narrowleaf cottonwood (*Populus angustifolia*) and eastern cottonwood (*Populus deltoides*) trees. Two canals, LaPrele Main Canal and West Side Ditch, branch off from

LaPrele Creek via diversion structures located directly downstream of the Ayres Natural Bridge Park.

The wells in the area are drilled into aquifers within the White River Formation and Quaternary alluvium, which yield modest amounts of water suitable for irrigation and domestic use. (A U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) report from 1953 documented 62 groundwater wells and springs in the LaPrele area. However, additional irrigation wells have been drilled since that time.

The Project also includes LaPrele Reservoir, an approximately 627-acre reservoir made by damming LaPrele Creek. The reservoir has not been at that capacity since 2019, due to the structural concerns of the previous dam.

Special flood hazard areas cover the entirety of the reservoir and much of LaPrele Creek downstream from the dam (FEMA 2009)

The 0.17-acre freshwater emergent wetland, which was identified by Grouse Mountain Environmental Consultants on July 21, 2023, downstream of the original dam, is dominated by tufted hair grass (*Deschampsia cespitosa*) and Nebraska sedge (*Carex nebrascensis*).

3.4.2 No Action

Impacts to wetlands and waterways would be expected under the No Action Alternative. Permanent impacts would occur to LaPrele Creek, its floodplain, and adjoining wetland(s) downstream of the dam. Increased flows from spring runoff may result in erosion, sediment deposition, and the creation of new stream channels and wetlands where the increased velocity and volume of the water creates new paths. Under the No Action Alternative, LaPrele Creek would likely reconnect to its broader floodplain and reach a new equilibrium, and USACE may require restoration and rehabilitation of LaPrele Creek within the footprint of the removed dam and reservoir, resulting in positive impacts from a return to the natural hydraulic regime and fluvial geomorphology. However, water would no longer be stored in LaPrele Reservoir and would become unavailable for agricultural and livestock irrigation. Additionally, groundwater recharge would likely decrease locally, and if the reservoir were to remain bare, invasive or noxious plant species could colonize the area.

3.4.3 Proposed Action

Permanent and temporary impacts to wetlands and waterways are expected under the Proposed Action. For the purposes of this narrative, “temporary” includes project elements that will be removed once construction is complete, and do not necessarily reflect the USACE definition of temporary and permanent impacts. Additionally, the

decommissioned LaPrele Dam is considered the baseline and a temporary condition of the watershed.

Permanent impacts would occur to LaPrele Creek and the wetland located between the original dam and the proposed new dam site. Placement of the new dam approximately 200 feet downstream (north) would flood the upstream portion of LaPrele Creek and the associated delineated wetland, resulting in a total loss of approximately 250 linear feet of perennial stream and 0.17 acres of wetlands, as well as additional riparian habitat. Construction of the dam would require a new bridge across LaPrele Creek to accommodate large equipment, directly downstream of the existing bridge, resulting in 0.07 acres of permanent impact to LaPrele Creek.

Temporary impacts are also anticipated due to the construction of access roads, the dam structure itself and temporary construction features including a diversion pipe, cofferdam, and a temporary stream crossing. The temporary diversion pipe would be used to divert LaPrele Creek around the site of the new dam during construction. The pipe would be approximately 54 inches wide and laid in uplands along the banks of LaPrele Creek. The cofferdam would be constructed directly upstream of the diversion pipe outlet to prevent the diverted creek from backing into the construction area. The cofferdam would be approximately 75 feet long and 5 feet tall. The temporary stream crossing would consist of two approximately 36-inch culverts located upstream of the existing bridge. The deck of the existing bridge would be removed but would not require instream work. The abutments and stream gauge would be left in place.

Approximately 7,000 feet of the Southern Access Road would be constructed below the OHWM of the drained reservoir for access to the new dam site. Rock and other material would be collected and redistributed to accommodate the access road. Once construction is complete, the road will be inundated behind the new dam.

After construction, the capacity of the reservoir would not be increased, but would allow the reservoir to be filled to its original design capacity of 20,000 acre-feet.

Although the Proposed Action would result in localized permanent and temporary impacts to LaPrele Creek and a wetland area, these impacts will reestablish historical water regimes to the area through the long-term restoration of reservoir conditions and improved downstream management for agricultural and livestock uses. The Proposed Action, while significant in effort, will reestablish pre-existing conditions and is not expected to result in long-term, adverse effects to the aquatic resources in the Project area.

3.5 Air Quality

3.5.1 Affected Environment

The WYDEQ, USEPA, and the CAA set guidelines and limits to monitor and enforce air quality standards throughout the State of Wyoming and the United States. WYDEQ standards are set in order to meet the USEPA's National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) (USEPA 2024b). The nearest WYDEQ air quality monitoring station to the Project area is the Converse County Monitoring Station, which was established in April 2015 and replaced the Converse County Mobile Monitoring Station in Douglas. The Converse County Monitoring Station is approximately 30 miles north of the Project area on Highland Loop Road in close proximity to wind energy and oil and gas development in an area with sparse rural residences (WYDEQ 2025a). Wind erosion is a concern throughout the area and can contribute to the movement of fine particles and sediment that can influence air quality in the Project area (NRCS 2022). The surrounding topography, which is made up of canyons and buttes, would provide some barrier for particulate pollutants moving from the Project area.

According to the USEPA, air quality in Converse County is in attainment, meaning the criteria pollutants monitored at the Converse County Monitoring Station meet the NAAQS (USEPA 2025).

The USEPA has established emissions and equipment standards for 187 listed hazardous air pollutants (HAPs) to regulate and mitigate their impact on public health and the environment. Human-generated pollutants include emissions from industrial activities and vehicles, as well as fugitive dust from natural processes such as wind erosion and human activity, including recreational vehicles driving on unpaved roads, which contribute to reduced air quality conditions. However, there are no prominent sources of such emissions in the Project area, and air quality is considered good.

3.5.2 No Action

The No Action alternative would have no impact on air quality.

3.5.3 Proposed Action

The Proposed Action may result in temporary, localized impacts to air quality within the immediate vicinity of the dam during construction as fugitive dust particles are produced from construction activity and vehicle traffic. Peak vehicle traffic to the Project area is anticipated to be between 75 and 100 inbound trips per 10-12 hour delivery period.

The Proposed Action would install two temporary concrete batch plants north of the proposed dam location, one within a staging area at the north end of the Northern Access Road, and the second at the dam site. Concrete batch plants typically produce

concrete made up of water, cement, and fine and coarse aggregate material (USEPA 2006). The major pollutant of concern from concrete batch plants is particulate matter mainly consisting of cement, pozzolan dust, aggregate, and sand dust that may be released into the air (USEPA 2006). The USEPA gives guidance on the emission factors for uncontrolled and controlled emissions for particulate matter in AP-42, *Compilation of Air Pollutant Emissions Factors from Stationary Sources* (USEPA 2006). The construction of the concrete batch plants would require a New Source Review Air Quality Permit in compliance with Wyoming Air Quality Standards and Regulations, overseen by WYDEQ's Air Quality Division prior to the construction of the facility (WYDEQ 2006).

While Converse County does not have specific regulations governing fugitive dust control, appropriate standard BMPs would be implemented by the contractor, including the use of a water trucks on haul roads to reduce fugitive dust. Additional BMPs to reduce airborne emissions may include water sprays, containment curtains, hoods, enclosures, shrouds and central duct collection systems (see Table 4-1, Environmental Commitments) (USEPA 2006).

No permanent impacts to air quality from the Project are anticipated, as emissions would be minor, temporary and limited to the construction period only.

3.6 Access, Transportation, and Safety

3.6.1 Affected Environment

Access, transportation, and safety within the region of the Project are managed by several local and state agencies. These agencies include the Douglas Police Department, the Converse County Commissioners, Converse County Rural Fire Association (comprised of nine zones, each with a fire warden [Converse County 2024]), Converse County Road and Bridge Department, and the Wyoming Department of Transportation. Transportation routes within the vicinity of the dam include Interstate 25 and Ayers Natural Bridge Road, which both pass over LaPrele Creek. The LaPrele Reservoir can be accessed from the south off Highway 91.

3.6.2 No Action

The No Action Alternative could increase the risk of flooding and road washout, relative to when the dam was in place, due to the increase in flows from spring runoff resulting in erosion, sediment deposition, and the creation of new stream channels where the increased velocity and volume of the water creates new paths in the absence of the dam.

3.6.3 Proposed Action

Access and safety are anticipated to improve with the Proposed Action. Long-term access to the dam location would remain similar to existing conditions.

Two routes to provide construction access to staging areas, batch plants, and the dam work site are proposed (see Figure 2-1). An existing Northern Access Road into the site connecting Ayers Bridge Natural Bridge Road to Highway 91 and facilitating access to the Project area would be improved to an approximately 24-foot wide graveled road. A Southern Access Road would be developed to connect the Buckshot/Wagonhound pit located southwest of the project near Spring Canyon Road/County Road 11 to the Project area. This road would primarily follow existing two-track road and the rim of the former reservoir but would be improved to approximately 24-foot-wide gravel road. This Southern Access Road would be reclaimed after completion of the Project.

Short-term disruptions to traffic along County Road 13 from Interstate-25 and Highway 91 may occur as heavy machinery and additional worker vehicles ingress/egress. Peak construction traffic is expected to include approximately 25 to 50 workers on site over a 24-hour period and 75 to 100 inbound truckloads of project materials per 10 to 12-hour day. This increase in traffic would be notable on County Road 13, which has a typical total annual average daily traffic (AADT) count of 138, with more than half of those trips from trucks, but would not result in significant delays to travelers and this would still represent only approximately 10 to 15 vehicles travelling the road per hour (WYDOT 2024). Appropriate traffic signage and flagging would be used to notify drivers of active construction and the Applicant and/or the Applicant's contractor would coordinate with Converse County and local sheriff departments if traffic or access would be delayed or substantially rerouted. Due to the nature of the temporary traffic disruptions, it is not anticipated the impact from the Proposed Action would be significant.

All utilities under the Proposed Action would be located and marked, and if necessary, relocated or raised prior to construction within the Project area. Utilities known to occur in the Project area include electric transmission lines managed by Rocky Mountain Power. A brief interruption of utility services may occur if utilities within the Project area need to be relocated or raised. The District and the contractor would coordinate with the utility companies if any brief interruptions were to occur. Due to the temporary nature of the interruptions, the impacts on utilities would not be significant. No significant impacts to access, transportation, and public safety are anticipated as a result of the Proposed Action.

No impacts to emergency services are expected as the increase in vehicle traffic would still represent a low volume of vehicle trips and no closures of roads are anticipated. As with any major construction project, the presence of construction personnel and equipment could temporarily increase the potential need for local emergency services to

respond to emergencies associated with construction. Impacts on local healthcare facilities would be able to manage minor increases in demand during construction due to the low number of workers anticipated.

3.7 Noise

3.7.1 Affected Environment

Noise is excessive or unwanted sound that may be disturbing to residents, wildlife, or others within an area. Existing noise levels within the Project area are typical of an undeveloped rural creek canyon and grasslands and may include noise linked to rural traffic, farming operations, residential dwellings, and the natural sounds of LaPrele Creek. Noise levels within the area are typically constant on a year-to-year basis.

The Project area is sparsely populated. The nearest residence north of the existing dam is approximately 2.5 miles north of the dam, west of Ayers Natural Bridge Road. The nearest residence to the south is approximately 2.6 miles from the dam, about 1.8 miles south of the Southern Access Road. Ayres Natural Bridge Park is 0.5 miles from the proposed batch plant at the north end of the Northern Access Road.

3.7.2 No Action

No impact to noise would be anticipated with a No Action Alternative. Noise would be expected to remain at levels similar to current existing conditions.

3.7.3 Proposed Action

Project construction activities would cause a moderate, temporary, short-term increase in ambient noise levels. Nearby residents, wildlife, and recreationists could experience increased noise from construction equipment and activities. Effects on residences from construction noise and vibration would primarily occur along haul routes. There are no residences adjacent to or within 0.5 miles of the construction areas.

Drilling of boreholes and blasting as part of various construction activities would produce noticeable sound to those in the area. A blasting plan would be developed and BMPs would be implemented to minimize potential noise impacts, including notification of adjacent landowners and land managers as appropriate. Historic trails are located approximately 1.5 miles from the Project area and hunting areas are present approximately 3 miles southwest of the Project Area (WGFD 2025). These would not experience impacts from construction noise due to sound and vibration decrease over distance.

Heavy machinery such as backhoes, dump trucks, water trucks, air compressors and graders would also be used and would elevate ambient noise levels within the area. Typical noise levels for these kinds of equipment when measured at 50 feet range

between 76 and 88 A-weighted decibels (dBA) (FHWA 2006). With implementation of the measures proposed to avoid and minimize noise effects and the distance to sensitive receptors, the project's noise impacts, while noticeable and unavoidable to those in the area, would be temporary and moderate.

The concrete batch plants would produce noticeable increases in noise in the immediate vicinity during operation of concrete mixing equipment and hauling activity. This noise level would vary depending on the design of the plant and may be audible to visitors traveling to Ayres Natural Bridge Park (the closest recreational receptor) but would be unlikely to be noticeable at the Natural Bridge Area itself due to distance and topography.

Long-term impacts would result from the operation of the dam, as the operation of the dam and occasional maintenance activities would increase ambient noise levels. However, these noise levels would be constant and relatively low, and due to the distance to sensitive receptors, these impacts would be minor and long-term.

3.8 Visual Resources

3.8.1 Affected Environment

The LaPrele Dam is located within a narrow canyon on LaPrele Creek approximately 20 miles upstream of the confluence with the North Platte River. The former reservoir extended several miles upstream of the dam at full pool elevation. Immediately upstream of the reservoir, LaPrele Creek is gently sloped and meandering, with farmed floodplains adjacent to the creek in some areas. Downstream of the original LaPrele Dam, LaPrele Creek flows through a narrow, steep canyon for a little over 1 mile to the Ayres Natural Bridge Park, where the creek is spanned by a natural limestone arch. Downstream of Ayres Natural Bridge Park, the valley widens and the creek meanders between wide alluvial terraces and floodplains over the next 22 miles past Interstate 25 to the North Platte River. Due to the topography, the Project area is not visible from Ayres Natural Bridge Park, located over 1 mile north of the dam location.

The Project area is sparsely populated and visually isolated due to topography. The former LaPrele Dam site is visible from the north only to those traveling along the existing road to the dam. From the south, the reservoir and former dam site are visible from Cold Springs Road (Highway 91) and from scattered rural residences. An additional access road to the dam location is visible from Cold Springs Road as well as from the reservoir itself.

Staging areas for the Proposed Action are located within the Project area footprint and are visible primarily from dam site access roads and the northern portion of LaPrele

Reservoir. Rubble from the dam removal may be visible upstream and downstream of the former dam, depending on water levels.

3.8.2 No Action

The No Action Alternative is unlikely to have significant impacts on visual resources following the LaPrele Dam removal as no additional construction activities would take place. All temporary impacts and improvements from the dam removal such as previously improved staging areas and access roads would be regraded and revegetated. Indirect impacts of the No Action Alternative are anticipated to include the long-term decrease in water levels within the LaPrele Reservoir. This continued lack of water in the reservoir would be visible from rural residences and from Cold Springs Road (Highway 91). Minor to moderate long-term visual impacts are anticipated with No Action Alternative due to the altered landscape from the loss of the reservoir.

3.8.3 Proposed Action

Under the Proposed Action, the new dam would be constructed approximately 200 feet downstream of the original LaPrele Dam. Following prior completion of the original dam removal, construction of the new dam is anticipated to have a minor impact on visual resources within the Project area and surrounding landscape. Visual impacts are not anticipated to be visible from Ayres Natural Bridge Park located to the north due to the topography of the surrounding landscape.

Temporary visual impacts associated with the Proposed Action would be associated with development and use of the Southern Access Road, two staging areas with concrete batch plants, a disposal area, material excavation within the OHWM, and diversion of LaPrele Creek during construction.

Temporary impacts associated with the construction and use of the Southern Access Road and staging areas would include grading of the Southern Access Road from Cold Springs Road (Highway 91), earthwork, vegetation removal, and the presence of construction equipment and vehicles (including two concrete batch plants). The Southern Access Road would be visible to motorists traveling on Highway 91, rural residences in the vicinity, and potential recreators on LaPrele Reservoir. The northern staging area would be visible to roadway users of Natural Bridge Road/County Road 13. The Southern Access Road and staging areas would be regraded and revegetated following completion of the Project.

Additional minor, temporary visual impacts include the installation of a 54-inch diversion pipe to reroute the stream flows during construction and a designated disposal area located north of the dam location. The diversion pipe would be visible from the nearby roadways and would be removed following completion of the Project. Minor visual

impacts are anticipated to occur due to material excavation located within the LaPrele Reservoir's OHWM; this area would be visible until water levels reach full pool capacity. Other temporary visual impacts may include the presence of large construction equipment and vehicles and erosion control measures such as silt fencing and/or straw waddles.

Permanent impacts associated with the Proposed Action are largely anticipated to be caused by the construction of the new dam structure itself. Section 2.2.1 describes the design of the proposed dam. This dam's footprint would be located just north of the former dam location. A new bridge over LaPrele Creek would be constructed downstream of the existing bridge crossing as part of the right abutment permanent access road. This new bridge is anticipated to have minor permanent visual impacts within the area and would be visible from the new dam as well as the existing Northern Access Road/dam access road. The left abutment access road would also be maintained following construction to allow for permanent equipment access, resulting in additional minor visual impacts. Construction of a new valve house, including the building, a parking pad, and an approach off of County Road 13 would be visible to motorists along Natural Bridge Road/County Road 13. Improvements to the valve house access road on the east side of LaPrele Creek as well as a new portion of access road to access the dam crest would cause minor permanent impacts and would be visible from the existing Northern Access Road and the dam itself. Construction of the Southern Access Road would also require borrow material sourced from below the OHWM of the LaPrele Reservoir, which may be visible to private landowners in the area during low water seasons/events and would be a minor permanent impact. Additionally, minor permanent visual impacts are anticipated due to the widening/improvements that would be made to the existing Northern Access Road from Natural Bridge Road/County Road 13 to the new dam location.

The Proposed Action is anticipated to have minor impacts on visual resources within the Project area and surrounding landscape.

3.9 Public Recreation

3.9.1 Affected Environment

Public recreation opportunities in the area include camping, walking/hiking, road cycling, recreational hunting, fishing, and rafting, many of which are available in Ayres Natural Bridge Park, located directly downstream from the dam. The park is open seasonally from April 15 through October 15 (Converse County Tourism 2024). Motorized vehicles are not allowed off existing paths/roadways within the area due to the historic Mormon Trail pathways located within this area of BLM-managed land. The trail is approximately 1.55 miles north of the proposed batch plant at the north end of the Northern Access

Road. The historic Rock Creek/ Fort Fetterman stage road runs parallel to Cold Springs Road (Highway 91) and about a tenth of a mile to the southeast of the intersection of the south end of the Northern Access Road and Highway 91 (State of Wyoming 2025). LaPrele Reservoir itself and the location of the Proposed Action are on private land that is not open to recreation.

3.9.2 No Action

The No Action Alternative would impact recreational activities. If the dam is not reconstructed, then the flow regimes within the park would be unregulated and would likely vary from what recreators experienced when the dam was in place, impacting recreational fishing and rafting both upstream and downstream of LaPrele Reservoir as water flow creates new channels and volume does not build up within the reservoir.

3.9.3 Proposed Action

Temporary impacts to public access within the general area may occur due to short-term closures of limited areas of public land to facilitate construction activities. These closures may limit public access to recreational resources for hunting, fishing, and hiking. Travelers accessing Ayers Bridge Natural Area using County Road 13 may experience temporary delays in travel due to increased truck traffic, but these impacts would be minor and short term. Permanent impacts to public recreation from the Proposed Action would include regulated flow regimes downstream of the LaPrele Reservoir similar to what recreators experienced prior to the demolition of LaPrele Dam. The Project would result in minor temporary impacts on access to recreational activities in the area.

3.10 Livestock Grazing

3.10.1 Affected Environment

The canyon downstream of LaPrele Dam is not used for grazing although land around the LaPrele Reservoir is currently being used to graze cattle. The Project area contains portions of the Harris Creek (0.3 acre), LaPrele Creek 3 (5.0 acres), Spring Canyon Creek (2.1 acres), and Buckshot Creek (7.1 acres) BLM grazing allotments (State of Wyoming 2025). The Southern Access Road would pass through 5.3 acres of the Buckshot Creek grazing allotment. The Southern Access Road would pass through 8.9 acres of the Buckshot Creek grazing allotment.

3.10.2 No Action

The No Action Alternative would impact grazing activities within the area. Water that was historically stored in LaPrele Reservoir would remain unavailable for irrigation of crops for livestock grazing. Portions of land downstream from the dam used for grazing may be at a higher risk of flash flooding during spring run-off. Although unlikely,

potential flooding could cause injury or death to cattle under select circumstances. The No Action Alternative would have no effect on existing groundwater wells that serve as stock tanks.

3.10.3 Proposed Action

Under the Proposed Action, a total of approximately 7.8 acres of BLM grazing allotments and two State of Wyoming grazing leases would experience temporary impacts. Construction activities and the movement of equipment throughout the area associated with the Proposed Action may create stressful and/or dangerous conditions for livestock. It is recommended that livestock not be allowed to graze within the proposed construction or access areas until project activities are completed. Grazing land may be impacted by machinery and/or staging areas, but these areas would be fully reclaimed following the completion of construction activities. The Proposed Action would result in minor and temporary impacts to grazing activities during construction as a result of disturbance from construction equipment and reduced forage on the BLM and state of Wyoming grazing allotments. Following the completion of the proposed new dam, the reservoir would be capable of storing the originally designed 20,000 acre-feet and irrigation activities could resume to pre-2019 levels.

3.11 Vegetation

3.11.1 Affected Environment

The Project area is in the Northern Rolling High Plains, Southern Part Major Land Resource Area (MLRA) 58B. This MLRA is dominated by grassland vegetation, including many species that are suitable for cattle and sheep grazing and livestock grazing is a dominant land use in this area. Dominant grasses are wheatgrasses (including *Pascopyrum smithii* and *Elymus spicatus*), needle and thread (*Hesperostipa comata*), blue grama (*Bouteloua gracilis*), Indian ricegrass (*Achnatherum hymenoides*), and Basin wildrye (*Leymus cinereus*). The dominant shrub is Wyoming big sagebrush (*Artemisia tridentata wyomingensis*) (NRCS 2022).

The Project area is located at an elevation between approximately 5,300 and 6,000 feet and is dominated by loamy (10-14 PZ), clayey (10-14 PZ), shallow loamy (10-14 PZ), and rocky hills (foothills and mountains southeast) ecosites. Temperatures range from an average of 25.9 degrees Fahrenheit (°F) in winter to an average of 68.4°F in summer. Mean annual precipitation is 14.52 inches (NOAA 2024).

Within the Project area, the canyon downstream of the dam and the Northern Access Road consist of upland areas dominated by smooth brome (*Bromus inermis*), mountain mahogany (*Cercocarpus ledifolius*), and thickspike wheatgrass (*Elymus lanceolatus*) and lowland areas dominated by tufted hairgrass and Nebraska sedge. Dominant trees

include narrowleaf cottonwood (*Populus angustifolia*), willow (*Salix* spp.), and Rocky Mountain juniper (*Juniperus scopulorum*). Immediately surrounding the dam, the Project area is characterized by steep and rocky pine (*Pinus* spp.)/ juniper forest and mountain mahogany (*Cercocarpus ledifolius*) shrubland. The Southern Access Road is dominated by Sandberg bluegrass (*Poa secunda*), Wyoming big sagebrush (*Artemisia tridentata wyomingensis*), silver sagebrush (*Artemisia cana*), western wheatgrass (*Pascopyrum smithii*), and needle and thread (*Hesperostipa comata*).

Alfalfa and grass hay/pasture make up a majority of crops in the vicinity of the Project area based on analysis completed in the 2015 USDA NASS Cropland Data Layer.

Federally threatened and endangered plant species are addressed in Section 3.14.

3.11.2 No Action

Permanent impacts to vegetation would be expected under the No Action Alternative. Prior to the decommissioning of the original dam, LaPrele Reservoir remained unvegetated below the OHWM due to inundation. If a new dam is not built to replace the decommissioned dam, vegetation will progressively encroach on the existing OHWM until a new equilibrium is reached. Vegetation would eventually cover the footprint of the former LaPrele Reservoir with the exception of the newly created and defined stream channels associated with LaPrele Creek and its perennial flow.

3.11.3 Proposed Action

Temporary impacts related to construction activity would result from the Proposed Action. These potential, temporary impacts would include the removal of vegetation for site grading, the improvement of the Northern Access Road, and creation of the Southern Access Road, concrete batch plants, parking areas, and staging areas, totaling up to approximately 40 acres of temporary vegetation impacts in upland areas. Dust from construction activities may impact vegetation by landing directly on it, resulting in reduced plant growth and palatability for grazing animals. LaPrele Reservoir below its historic OHWM is not considered an upland area because assuming that the Proposed Action is completed, the temporary transition into a new flow regime due to the decommissioning of the original LaPrele Dam would be reversed. Impacts caused by construction equipment accessing the site would be minimized to the extent possible. No permanent impacts to vegetation are expected as temporary disturbance areas as a result of the creation of the Southern Access Road, concrete batch plants, parking area, and staging areas would be restored with recontouring and reseeded of temporary disturbance areas once construction of the Proposed Action is complete. Therefore, only minor temporary impacts are anticipated.

3.12 Noxious Weeds

3.12.1 Affected Environment

Noxious species (as defined by Wyoming Statute 11-5-101) are plants and animals that are considered detrimental to the health or welfare of Wyoming. These plants and animals can aggressively invade native plant communities and/or agricultural crops, are harmful or poisonous to livestock, may carry disease or parasites, and negatively impact management of agricultural systems and/or natural ecosystems. Plants and animals that are determined to be “noxious” throughout the State of Wyoming are identified on the list of State Designated Weeds and Pests. Additional plants and animals may be considered noxious in a particular county in Wyoming, but not throughout the entire state. In this case, the Weed and Pest District Office in that county can “declare” these species as noxious, and the Wyoming Weed and Pest Council and Wyoming Board of Agriculture may officially recognize them on the Declared Weeds and Pests List for that county (Wyoming Weed and Pest Council 2025).

The Project area likely contains weed species typical for the general setting. Species designated by the State of Wyoming and Converse County as noxious weeds that have been recently recorded in Converse County include knapweeds (*Centaurea spp.*), Russian olive (*Elaeagnus angustifolia*), Russian leafy spurge (*Euphorbia virgata*), whitetop (*Lepidium draba*), and hardheads (*Rhaponticum repens*) (WYNDD 2025). Noxious weeds were not identified within the Project area as a part of the field surveys conducted by Grouse Mountain Environmental Consultants (see Appendix C).

3.12.2 No Action

The No Action Alternative is anticipated to have moderate impacts related to noxious weed infestations in the project area. Without a new dam to replace the decommissioned dam, noxious weeds would continue to spread in the Project area through natural processes, including dispersal via the flowing water in LaPrele Creek and wildlife moving through the area. In addition to natural processes, anthropogenic dispersal mechanisms based on land use in the area would include the movement of livestock, pedestrians, and vehicles through the area. Additionally, soil disturbance can result in the emergence of noxious weed seeds already in the seed bank. Finally, if LaPrele Reservoir is not refilled it is likely that formerly submerged soils would become available for the colonization and expansion of noxious weed populations.

3.12.3 Proposed Action

The presence of heavy machinery and construction crews may increase the chance of noxious weed introduction into the Project area and surrounding vicinity. However, the Proposed Action would include precautions to minimize noxious weed impacts to the area. Wyoming BLM identifies downy brome (*Bromus tectorum*) as a particular concern

and coordinates with WGFD, local weed and pest control organizations, and private landowners in Wyoming to address noxious weeds, but does not currently have an agreement with Converse County. Under the Proposed Action, the District would follow WGFD recommendations for noxious weed management, which include:

- Cleaning vehicles and equipment prior to movement to a new location in order to minimize the potential for transporting seeds;
- Working with land managers to develop and implement a plan to assess, treat, and monitor for noxious weeds and invasive plants at the project scale and in the adjacent landscape where they are present; and
- Working with the Converse County Weed and Pest district to implement and fund long-term plans for successful restoration of disturbed sites.

With the implementation of BMPs and the above recommendations, the Proposed Action would have minor and temporary impacts related to the spread of noxious weeds. Ongoing monitoring and treatment of new or worsening noxious weed infestations associated with the Proposed Action would prevent permanent impacts.

3.13 Wildlife Resources

3.13.1 Affected Environment

Terrestrial Species

Wildlife within the area includes species typical of eastern Wyoming. Small mammalian species likely found in the area include several species of bat, black-tailed jack rabbit (*Lepus californicus*), snowshoe hare (*Lepus americanus*), red squirrel (*Tamiasciurus hudsonicus*), foxes (*Vulpes sp.*), and coyote (*Canis latrans*). Large mammals and game species include mountain lion (*Puma concolor*), elk (*Cervus elaphus*), American pronghorn (*Antilocapra americana*), mule deer (*Odocoileus hemionus*), and white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) (WYNDD 2025).

The Project area is also within the range for several terrestrial Wyoming Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN), which are ranked into Tiers I, II, or III. No Tier I terrestrial species have ranges that overlap with the Project area. Tier II terrestrial species with ranges that cover the Project area include the dwarf shrew (*Sorex nanus*), eastern spotted skunk (*Spilogale putorius*), fringed myotis (*Myotis thysanodes*), northern river otter (*Lontra canadensis*), and black-tailed prairie dog (*Cynomys ludovicianus*). No prairie dogs were identified within the Project area during field surveys conducted by Grouse Mountain Environmental Consultants (Appendix C).

The Project area is located within seasonal ranges for pronghorn, mule deer, and elk. The Project area is within the seasonal crucial range for mule deer and pronghorn. The

dam is approximately 5.2 miles north of seasonal, crucial range for elk. Additionally, the Project is located within hunt areas for the following species—pronghorn, bighorn sheep, deer, black bear, and elk. Big game crucial winter year-long range is considered a vital habitat per the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission Mitigation Policy (WGFC 2016).

Migratory Birds and Eagles

Wetlands, mudflats, grasslands, rock outcrops and canyon walls, mature cottonwood trees, and shrubs all provide nesting opportunities for different avian species that could occur within the Project area. Songbirds, waterfowl, raptors, and eagles are all likely to occur and potentially nest depending on the time of year. Three golden eagle nests, two bald eagle nests, and four raptor nests have been identified within 0.5 mile of the Project area. These nests were documented by the BLM Casper Field Office raptor nest database and/or Grouse Mountain Environmental Consultants during biological field surveys that took place in July 2020, October 2023, and November 2024. With surveys being conducted outside of the breeding season for many species, only one nest was recorded as being occupied at the time of the survey. An adult bald eagle was observed perching on a nest, which was in good condition and located in a mature eastern cottonwood tree on the south side of the reservoir, during the November 2024 field survey. This nest is located approximately 0.67 miles southwest of the Southern Access Road and 1.8 miles away from the dam.

In Wyoming, golden and bald eagles nest between January and July. Raptors that have the potential to nest in the Project area begin nesting as early as February and continue through September. There is suitable nesting habitat for raptors and bald eagles in the mature cottonwood trees along LaPrele Creek and suitable nesting habitat for golden eagles along the canyon walls surrounding and downstream of the dam.

Aquatic Species

Within the Project area, aquatic species may be found within both LaPrele Creek and LaPrele Reservoir. Downstream from the dam, LaPrele Creek is designated as a red ribbon stream, which indicates a moderate level of trout (300 to 599 pounds per mile). LaPrele Creek within the Project area is also within the range for several aquatic Wyoming SGCN. No Tier I aquatic species have ranges that overlap with the Project area. Tier II aquatic species with ranges that cover the Project area include the Iowa darter (*Etheostoma exile*), northern plains killifish (*Fundulus kansae*), northern leopard frog (*Lithobates pipiens*), and plains spadefoot (*Spea bombifrons*). Tier III aquatic species with ranges that cover the Project area include the bigmouth shiner (*Notropis dorsalis*), common shiner (*Luxilus cornutus*), pewter physa (*Physa acuta*), and tadpole physa (*Physa gyrina*).

3.13.2 No Action

More water would potentially be available to terrestrial species along LaPrele Creek during certain times of the year under the No Action Alternative. Aquatic species within LaPrele Creek downstream of the decommissioned LaPrele Dam would be permanently impacted by fluctuating geomorphology, hydrology, and water quality of LaPrele Creek until a new equilibrium was met. The resulting impact on different aquatic species would be variable based on that species' biology and habitat requirements.

3.13.3 Proposed Action

The Proposed Action has the potential to impact wildlife, including golden eagles. One of the golden eagle nests, which was never identified as being active during Grouse Mountain Environmental Consultants' field surveys, is located very close to the proposed location of the new dam. This nest may need to be removed due to its proximity to the proposed location of the new dam, which would require a USFWS Nest Take Permit prior to removal in compliance with the BGEPA. The removal of the nest would result in permanent impacts to golden eagles under the Proposed Action. However, the other golden eagle nests along the canyon wall would remain intact. Other minor and temporary impacts to raptors and eagles are also anticipated under the Proposed Action

The increase in vehicle traffic, noise, and vibrations immediately surrounding the dam may cause raptors and eagles to temporarily avoid the area, but there are ample opportunities for hunting on the surrounding landscape. A pre-construction raptor and eagle nesting survey would be conducted within 0.50 miles of all proposed ground disturbance to assess the status of nests.

Based on interagency communication a traffic management plan is recommended to account for the potential increased likelihood of wildlife vehicle collisions, and to account for construction in crucial big game winter range, specifically mule deer and pronghorn. Best management practice recommendations are as follows:

- Avoid all surface disturbance and human activity associated with the project in designated mule deer and pronghorn crucial winter range from November 15 – April 30, to the extent practical.
- Vehicle travel should be minimized between 6-9 a.m. and 3-6 p.m. to reduce disturbance and collisions with wintering wildlife.
 - Limit the number of vehicles going to and from the construction site by carpooling or using buses.
- Winter Road Maintenance - In deep snow conditions that require winter road maintenance, we request blading turnouts on both uphill and downhill sides of the road at one-mile intervals and at known game crossings to allow wildlife escape routes.

Minor and temporary impacts to aquatic species within the Project area within LaPrele Creek are anticipated under the Proposed Action. The geomorphology, hydrology, and water quality of LaPrele Creek would be still in flux until the Proposed Action was executed but would then quickly return to the previously established conditions created by the original decommissioned dam. Minor and temporary impacts to terrestrial species within the Project area are anticipated under the Proposed Action. Temporary impacts to terrestrial species would likely be caused by the presence of construction workers and equipment as well as temporary elevations in noise levels within the vicinity of construction activities. Areas of suitable habitat for some species may also be disturbed for the use of staging areas or access roads. It is unlikely that the Project would result in any permanent impacts to aquatic species within the general area.

3.14 Threatened and Endangered Species and Other Special Status Species

3.14.1 Affected Environment

HDR Engineering, Inc. (HDR) used the USFWS Information for Planning and Conservation (IPaC) database to obtain an official species list (Consult Code: 2025-0101589). As a part of the informal consultation process under Section 7 of the federal ESA, Reclamation is preparing a letter to the USFWS.

There are several species protected under the ESA within the general area. The Project area may host one of these species – the monarch butterfly, which is currently proposed as a threatened species. However, it is unlikely that this species would regularly be found within the Project area. Monarchs may pass through the Project area during the warm months of the year.

There is no designated critical habitat for any of the species listed in Table 3-4 within the Project area. There is proposed critical habitat for the monarch butterfly, but it consists of their overwintering grounds in California.

Several species including the piping plover (*Charadrius melodus*), whooping Crane (*Grus americana*), and pallid sturgeon (*Scaphirhynchus albus*) occur downstream of the Project Area and are included in our analysis because they are associated with the Platte River Recovery Implementation Program (PRRIP).

Table 3-4: Federally Listed Species Potentially Occurring in the Project Area

Common Name	Scientific Name	Status	Habitat/Distribution	Effects Determination
Piping Plover	<i>Charadrius melodus</i>	Threatened	Wide, flat, open, sandy beaches with very little grass or other vegetation. Nesting territories often include small creeks or wetlands.	No effect

Common Name	Scientific Name	Status	Habitat/Distribution	Effects Determination
Whooping Crane	<i>Grus americana</i>	Endangered	Variety of habitats used during migration including croplands and palustrine wetlands.	No effect
Pallid Sturgeon	<i>Scaphirhynchus albus</i>	Endangered	Large, deep turbid river channels, usually in strong current over firm sand or gravel.	No effect
Monarch Butterfly	<i>Danaus plexippus</i>	Proposed threatened	Feed on a wide variety of nectar producing plants and require ample milkweed on which to lay their eggs.	Not likely to jeopardize
Suckley's Cuckoo bumble bee	<i>Bombus suckleyi</i>	Proposed endangered	Feed on a wide variety of nectar producing plants. Obligate social parasite of social bumble bees in the genus <i>Bombus</i> .	Not likely to jeopardize
Ute Ladies'-Tresses	<i>Spiranthes diluvialis</i>	Threatened	Thrive in moist to wet conditions including shores of lakes and reservoirs, in mesic meadow-type vegetation maintained by lake level fluctuations or seasonal flooding of gravel bars. Elevation: 4,200-7,000 feet.	No effect
Western Prairie Fringed Orchid	<i>Platanthera praeclara</i>	Threatened	Full sun on moist to wet, calcareous prairies and sedge meadows. Often grows in relatively undisturbed grassland but also found in moderately disturbed sites such as roadside ditches.	No effect

Source: USFWS 2025a

Piping Plover

This species has not been previously recorded within the Project area (WYNDD 2025). The Project area is outside of the current range of the northern Great Plains population (PRRIP 2025). Piping plovers are a shorebird that typically seek out rocky sandbars within riverine systems for nesting purposes. Suitable habitat may be found downstream along the North Platte River and LaPrele Creek, but it is unlikely that piping plovers would occur in the vicinity of the Proposed Action.

Whooping Crane

Whooping cranes are known to use a variety of habitats, including coastal marshes and estuaries, inland marshes, lakes, open ponds, shallow bays, salt marsh and sand or tidal flats, upland swales, wet meadows and rivers, and pastures and agricultural fields (USFWS 2025b). This species breeds in Wood-Buffalo National Park in Canada but migrate across the central United States (north/south). Whooping cranes migrate through a narrow corridor of the Great Plains, going through Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas, Nebraska, South Dakota, North Dakota, and eastern Montana.

Pallid Sturgeon

The pallid sturgeon is typically found within large, deep river channels with murky waters and firm sand or gravel beds. The pallid sturgeon is currently found along the Missouri River and the lower reaches of the North Platte River within 30 miles of their confluence.

Monarch Butterfly

The Project area is within summer breeding and fall migration range for the monarch butterfly (MJV 2024). Additionally, monarch butterflies have been documented within the general area in recent years (WYNDD 2025). Vegetation removal and ground disturbance may cause the removal of nectarous flowers that migrating adults could feed on. However, removal of these important vegetative species is anticipated to be minimal due to the lack of flowering species and milkweed within the direct Project area. High-quality habitat for the monarch is available along both the North Platte and Laramie River corridors near the Project area. Ground and vegetation disturbance within the Project area would be reclaimed following Project completion and the Proposed Action is not anticipated to contribute to short- or long-term impacts on the monarch butterfly population or habitat within the region.

The monarch butterfly is currently proposed as a threatened species with protective regulations under Section 4(d) of the ESA. Because monarchs are not yet listed under the ESA, the effect determination would be made under conference and would begin with a jeopardy determination.

Suckley's Cuckoo Bumble Bee

Suckley's cuckoo bumble bees were once found in northwestern North America from Alaska to Colorado and Oregon to South Dakota. However, their numbers have declined throughout their range, and they have not been detected in Wyoming since 2012 (WYNDD 2025). They are known to occupy a wide range of habitat types, including prairies, grasslands, meadows, and woodlands within elevations ranging from sea level to 10,500 feet. They require pollen and nectar from native flowering plants for nutrition like other species of bees. However, they are also an obligate social parasite of social bumble bees in the genus *Bombus*. Female Suckley's cuckoo bumble bees usurp the nest of a suitable host colony, and the host workers take care of her young (USFWS 2024). Because Suckley's cuckoo bumble bees are not yet listed under the ESA, the effect determination would be made under conference and would include a jeopardy determination.

Ute Ladies'-Tresses

The Ute ladies'-tresses is a perennial species known to occur in a variety of moist-soil settings (moist meadows associated with perennial stream terraces, floodplains, oxbows, seasonally flooded river terraces, sub-irrigated or spring-fed abandoned stream channels and valleys, lakeshores, etc. (USFWS 2025c). This species has been previously documented along human-made structures such as irrigation canals. The nearest regularly occupied range and documentation of the species to the Project area is more than 40 miles north of the Project in Converse County, Wyoming (WYNDD 2025).

Western Prairie Fringed Orchid

The western prairie fringed orchid is a species often found in most tallgrass prairies and sedge meadows which are often undisturbed or lightly disturbed (USFWS 2025d). The Project area is outside of this species' known range and there have been no documented observations in the vicinity of the Project area. It is also likely that the Project area lacks the fine, moist soils and undisturbed habitat that is required for this species to thrive.

3.14.2 No Action

Federally threatened, endangered, or proposed species that could be affected by the No Action Alternative include PRRIP species, the monarch butterfly, and the Ute ladies'-tresses. In all cases, the impact is expected to be positive, resulting from increased water flow to the North Platte River via LaPrele Creek. This additional flow has the potential to locally enhance riparian habitat along LaPrele Creek, benefiting the monarch butterfly and Ute ladies'-tresses, while also contributing to increased downstream flows in the North Platte River benefitting PRRIP species.

3.14.3 Proposed Action

Effects determinations as a result of the Proposed Action for the federally threatened, endangered and proposed species with the potential to occur within the Project Area, are stated below:

Piping Plover

Minor fluctuations in water quality due to the construction of the dam would not impact downstream suitable habitat that occurs within the Platte River. The dam would regulate the conveyance of water downstream. Given that the Project area is well outside the known range of the northern Great Plains population of piping plovers and the historical water regime of LaPrele creek will persist, the Proposed Action would have **no effect** on the piping plover.

Whooping Crane

The migration corridor could potentially include the southeastern edge of Wyoming and individuals could potentially pass through the general area during migration. However, they are unlikely to stop over within the direct Project area due to lack of suitable habitat. It is possible that an individual whooping crane could be found near LaPrele Creek due to its proximity to the North Platte River and associated floodplains. Construction activities, which would include the presence of workers and heavy equipment, may deter individuals in the unlikely event that they do stopover in or near the Project area. However, the broader landscape provides ample stopover opportunities if a whooping crane were to travel through the area. Due to lack of suitable habitat within the Project area, documented observations within the general area, and the historical water regime of LaPrele creek will persist, the Proposed Action would have **no effect** on the whooping crane.

Pallid Sturgeon

The pallid sturgeon's current range is more than 450 miles downstream of the confluence between LaPrele Creek and the North Platte River (PRRIP 2025). The historical water regime of LaPrele creek will persist, and any minor fluctuations in water quality due to the construction of the dam will not impact the suitable habitat that occurs within the Missouri River and the lower reaches of the North Platte River. Therefore, the Proposed Action would have **no effect** on this species.

Monarch Butterfly

Activities associated with the Proposed Action are not anticipated to result in the loss of the species' viability within the planning area, cause the monarch to trend towards a federal listing, or cause the loss of the species' viability range-wide. Minor, temporary impacts are anticipated and would be associated with noise and human activity as well as the clearing of vegetation within staging areas. Disturbed areas or areas cleared of vegetation associated with the construction of the Southern Access Road, parking areas, staging areas, and concrete batch plants would be reclaimed following the construction of the new dam.

Due to a lack of milkweed plants within the Project area, the Proposed Action is **not likely to jeopardize** the continued existence of monarch butterflies. A provisional effect determination has also been made for this proposed threatened species, which would apply if it became listed in the future. Based on the above analysis, the Proposed Action **may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect**, the monarch butterfly.

Suckley's Cuckoo Bumble Bee

Suckley's cuckoo bumble bees have not been detected in Wyoming since 2012 and impacts to suitable habitat are not anticipated, the project will not jeopardize the continued existence of Suckley's cuckoo bumble bee. A provisional effect determination has also been made for this proposed endangered species, which would apply if it became listed in the future. Based on the above analysis, the Proposed Action **may affect but is not likely to adversely affect** the Suckley's cuckoo bumble bee.

Ute Ladies'-Tresses

The preferred elevation for this species in Wyoming appears to be 4,650 to 5,420 feet (Heidel 2007). The Project area is within this range but likely lacks the moist soil conditions this species prefers except for areas directly adjacent to LaPrele Creek. Three years of surveys for this species have been conducted in the areas surrounding LaPrele Dam that potentially provide suitable habitat conditions, and no individuals have been detected (see Appendix B for survey reports). Therefore, it is unlikely that the Ute ladies'-tresses would be found within the Project area, and the Proposed Action would have **no effect** on the species.

Western Prairie Fringed Orchid

The substrate of LaPrele Creek downstream of the dam consists largely of cobble and gravel. Disturbance from the decommissioning of the dam as well as historic maintenance of the original dam and access roads, cattle grazing, and other factors are likely to limit the ability of the orchid to thrive within the Project area. Due to the lack of suitable habitat and the Project area being outside of this species' known range, the Proposed Action would have **no effect** on the western prairie fringed orchid.

3.15 Cultural Resources

3.15.1 Affected Environment

Historic and cultural resources are protected by federal guidance, including federal statutes and Executive Orders. Cultural resources are "tangible links to the past" and may include archaeological sites, historic buildings and structures, landscapes, Native American artifacts, sacred places, and other objects from the past (Reclamation 2024). Cultural resources can be found throughout the North Platte River Basin. Reclamation's responsibility for protecting cultural resources primarily falls under the NHPA (36 CFR Part 800), and Reclamation Policy LND P01 and Directives and Standards (LND 02-01). Section 106 of the NHPA requires federal agencies to take into account the effects of an undertaking on historic properties, which are cultural resources that are included in or eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), and to consult with the SHPO and Tribal Historic Preservation Office (THPO). Section 106 review is

independent of the NEPA process; however, 36 CFR Part 800.8 addresses the need for coordination between the two review processes to reduce duplication of effort and for federal agencies to plan the reviews as early as possible to meet the purposes and requirements of both statutes in a timely and efficient manner (Reclamation 2012). The area of potential effects (APE) is the study area used in Section 106 reviews and is often larger than the NEPA project area. The APE is used as the cultural resource study area and is defined as the area that includes all construction areas, proposed access roads, and proposed staging and disposal areas.

Six cultural resource surveys have been conducted of the APE. Three surveys were conducted on the downstream side of the dam, two on the upstream side, and one supplemental survey that covered both the downstream and upstream sides; these are summarized in Table 3-5. A total of 19 cultural resources have been identified within the APE (Table 3-6). Cultural resources include the LaPrele Dam, prehistoric lithic scatters, stone circles and cairns, historic irrigation features, historic foundations, and historic artifact scatters.

Table 3-5: Cultural Resource Surveys of the APE

SHPO Document Number	Report Title	Author	Year	Project Area
DBI_WY_2020_619	A Class III Cultural Resource Investigation: LaPrele Access Road	Rebecca L. Mashak	2020	Downstream
DBI_WY_2020_766	A Class III Cultural Resource Investigation: La Prele Dam Geotechnical Survey and Access 404 Permit Compliance Survey	Rebecca L. Mashak	2020	Downstream
Unknown	Section 106 Determination and Eligibility and Effects Analysis for the LaPrele Dam Removal Project	John Ferguson	2024	Downstream
DBPR_WY_2023_821	A Class III Cultural Resource Investigation of the Proposed LaPrele Dam Reconstruction Access Road in Converse County, Wyoming	Travis Kern, Rebecca Mashak	2023	Upstream
DBI_WY_2024_665	A Class III Cultural Resource Investigation of the Proposed LaPrele Dam Southern Access Reroute in Converse County, Wyoming	Zoeyanne DeCapria, Rebecca Mashak, Travis Kern	2024	Upstream
DBI_WY_2025_430	A Supplementary Class III Cultural Resource Survey for the LaPrele Dam Reconstruction Project, Converse County, Wyoming	Mink Damrongsang, Paul Buckner, Megan Mueller	2025	Downstream and Upstream

Table 3-6: Known Cultural Resources Within the APE

Site Number	Site Name	Site Type	Description	NRHP Eligibility
48CO845	LaPrele Dam	Historic	Dam	Eligible (demolished)
48CO1789	LaPrele Irrigation System Historic District	Historic	Irrigation System	Eligible
48CO3267	Unknown	Prehistoric	Lithic Scatter	Not Eligible
48CO3478	62-2013-0023-01	Prehistoric	Lithic Scatter	Not Eligible
48CO4159	S-001	Historic	Wood Stave Pipe	Not Eligible
48CO4160	S-002	Historic	Foundations, Depressions and Historic Artifact Scatter	Not Eligible
48CO4218	Unknown	Prehistoric	Lithic Scatter	Not Eligible
48CO4219	S-002	Unknown	Cairn	Unevaluated
48CO4223	S-007	Prehistoric	Lithic Scatter	Not Eligible
48CO4229	F-001	Historic	Concrete Structure	Not Eligible
48CO4231	Unknown	Unknown	Cairn	Unevaluated
48CO4263	ZD-LPS-001	Multicomponent	Lithic scatter, Stone Circles, and Historic Artifact Scatter	Eligible
48CO4264	RW-LPS-001	Prehistoric	Lithic Scatter and Stone Circles	Eligible
48CO4265	RW-LPS-002	Prehistoric	Lithic Scatter and Stone Circles	Eligible
48CO4267	ZD-LPS-002	Prehistoric	Lithic Scatter	Eligible
48CO4268	RW-LPS-003	Prehistoric	Stone Circle	Eligible
48CO4277	Old County Road	Historic	Crown and Ditch Road	Not Eligible
48CO4289	HDR-001	Prehistoric	Lithic Scatter	Not Eligible
48CO4290	HDR-002	Prehistoric	Lithic Scatter	Not Eligible

3.15.2 No Action

Impacts to cultural resources within the study areas or adjacent lands could occur under the No Action alternative in the event of dam failure. Flood waters from the dam could damage portions of the historic Mormon Trail to the north of the study area.

3.15.3 Proposed Action

Impacts to cultural resources within the study areas or adjacent lands could occur under the Proposed Action, including damage to existing historic properties and potential impact to previously unknown artifacts during construction of access roads or the dam.

3.15.4 Mitigation

There is no formal mitigation plan for the construction of the new dam; however, Reclamation with concurrence from the Wyoming State Historic Preservation office has requested avoidance fence constructed around the following cultural resources:

48CO4263, 48CO4264, 48CO4265, 48CO4267, and 48CO4268. A qualified archaeologist will supervise the installation of the fences to ensure no cultural materials are disturbed. If there is an inadvertent discovery of cultural materials, construction around the discovery will be halted and Reclamation will be contacted. The inadvertent discovery of human remains on private and state lands is covered under Wyoming State Law WS-7-4-106. Under Wyoming State Law WS-7-4-106, if human remains are discovered during construction, work will be halted within 100 feet of the discovery until the Reclamation archaeologist can be contacted and arrives on site. During consultation the Northern Arapaho and Eastern Shoshone Tribes requested tribal monitors during ground disturbing work. Reclamation is committed to consulting with tribal entities to protect cultural resources.

3.16 Soils and Farmlands of Agricultural Significance

3.16.1 Affected Environment

There are four soil map units in the project area (Table 3-7). The predominant soil in the Project area is the Tyzak-Rock outcrop complex (6 to 70 percent slopes) soil mapping unit. This soil mapping unit is within and adjacent to the upper staging area/batch plant, potential disposal area, dam footprint, Northern Access Road, and Southern Access Road. This soil mapping unit occurs on hills and is considered well-drained and non-hydric. Its parent material consists of alluvium, residuum, and/or colluvium weathered from limestone. All four of the soil types within the Project area lack hydric components. The NRCS Web Soil Survey website provides complete soil information (NRCS 2025).

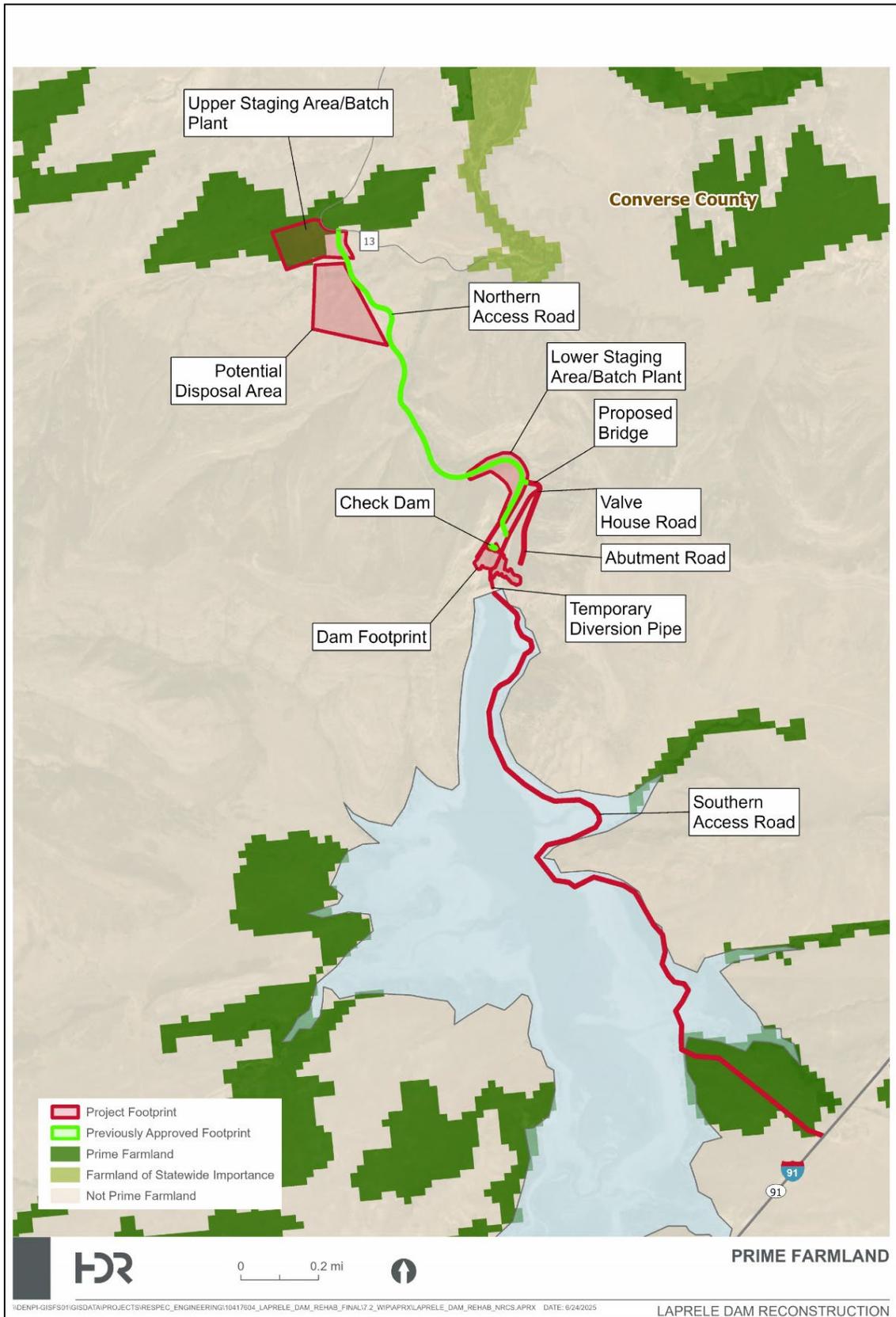
Table 3-7: Soils in the Project Area

Map Unit	Textures	Parent Materials	Landform	Acres in Project Area
Forkwood-Cambria loams, 0 to 6 percent slopes	Loam; clay loam	Alluvium derived from sandstone and shale	Alluvial fans	1.3
Forkwood-Cambria-Cushman loams, 6 to 15 percent slopes	Loam; clay loam	Alluvium derived from sandstone and shale Alluvium over residuum weathered from sandstone and shale	Hills	0.1
Kishona-Cambria silt loams, 0 to 6 slopes	Silt loam; silty clay loam	Alluvium derived from sandstone and siltstone	Alluvial fans	7.8
Tyzak-Rock outcrop complex, 6 to 70 percent slopes	Very channery loam; bedrock	Alluvium and/or colluvium and/or residuum weathered from limestone	Hills	31.6
Water	N/A	N/A	N/A	2.9
Total	43.7			

The Forkwood-Cambria loams (0 to 6 percent) and Kishona-Cambria silt loams (0 to 6 percent) soils in the Proposed Action area are agriculturally significant since they are

classified by NRCS as “prime farmland if irrigated” (NRCS 2025). These prime farmland areas occur in the upper staging area/batch plant and the Southern Access Road intermittently with other soils with the Project area footprint. Approximately 21 percent of the soils in the Project area are classified as prime farmland (Figure 3-1). Alfalfa and grass hay/pasture make up a majority of crops in the vicinity of the Project area based on analysis completed in the 2024 USDA NASS Cropland Data Layer.

Figure 3-1. Prime farmland in the Project Area.



3.16.2 No Action

The No Action Alternative is not expected to have any impacts on soils within the Project area. Farmlands of agricultural significance would not be impacted by any aspects of construction under the No Action Alternative.

3.16.3 Proposed Action

Approximately 9.1 acres of prime farmland are anticipated to be impacted by the Proposed Action. Temporary impacts due to location access and staging areas would be revegetated and reclaimed following the completion of construction. Some permanent impacts may be required for access roads. It is estimated that no acres of farmland would be lost under the Proposed Action.

No significant impacts to Soils or Farmlands of Agriculture Significance would occur as a result of the Proposed Action.

3.17 Socioeconomics

The Project Area is located in Converse County, Wyoming. The Census County Divisions (CCD) nearest to the Project Area are the cities of Douglas, approximately 11.5 miles to the east-northeast, and Glenrock, approximately 16.5 miles to the northwest. In 2022, the total population of Douglas was estimated to be 9,587 (U.S. Census Bureau 2024). Approximately 12.6 percent of individuals in the Douglas CCD are in poverty, which is higher than the poverty rates in Converse County (11.3 percent) and the state of Wyoming (10.7 percent). Glenrock CCD's population was estimated to be 4,210 people in 2022. Approximately 8.4 percent of the population in Glenrock is considered to be in poverty, which is lower than both Converse County (11.3 percent), and the state of Wyoming (10.7 percent) (U.S. Census Bureau 2024).

Within Converse County the agriculture industry is both an economic and cultural touchstone. The water that was held behind LaPrele Dam directly contributed to local agricultural output. Approximately 11,462 acres were irrigated with the water stored behind LaPrele Dam with alfalfa hay being the primary crop produced. In 2018 Respec prepared an Economic Impact Assessment to inform the WWDO Level II study and apprise LID of potential economic impacts that may be associated with removal of LaPrele Dam.

3.17.1 No Action

Under the No Action Alternative LaPrele Dam would not be reconstructed and the short and long-term economic impacts that were identified by Respec (2018) would likely be born out. It is assumed that with the loss of access to irrigation water agriculture would shift from irrigated crop production to grazing.

Major short-term direct impacts resulting from a decision to not reconstruct LaPrele Dam included the loss of approximately 53 fulltime jobs, more than \$1 million dollars of lost labor income and the loss of more than an additional \$1 million dollars in value added products and nearly \$1.9 million dollars of lost economic output. Short-term indirect impacts would include an additional loss of three fulltime jobs, approximately \$82,771 of lost labor income, \$200,805 loss of value added products, and \$349,629 loss of economic output.

Major long-term direct impacts resulting from the decision to not reconstruct LaPrele Dam include the loss of approximately 103 fulltime jobs, nearly \$2 million dollars of lost labor income and the loss of than approximately \$18 million dollars in valued added products and more than \$2.8 million dollars of lost economic output. Long-term indirect impacts would include an additional loss of almost ten additional fulltime jobs, approximately \$235,000 of lost labor income, \$515,728 loss of value added products, and \$989,961 loss of economic output.

3.17.2 Proposed Action

Under the Proposed Action it is anticipated that between 2026 and 2028 when the reconstruction of LaPrele Dam is currently scheduled to be completed, should the project be approved, economic impacts from the lack of access to the irrigation water previously held behind the dam will be borne out in the short-term as articulated in section 3.17.1. No economic mitigation efforts to offset these impacts are assumed as part of this analysis.

The proposed reconstruction of LaPrele Dam, in addition to mitigating the long-term economic impacts stated in 3.17.1 is anticipated to produce limited short-term economic benefits. Those benefits are anticipated to be attributed to construction of the dam in the years 2026-2028 rather than mitigating the affected agricultural production output.

3.18 Summary of Potential Impacts

The LaPrele Dam has played a vital role in ensuring a steady water supply for its 106 users who rely on the over 11,000 acres irrigated in the district⁵. The dam has helped provide more consistent water access during times of drought.

Though reconstruction of the dam would result in impacts on various environmental resources, these impacts would be largely temporary and would not be significant (see Table 3-8). In addition to providing a consistent water source for the District users, the

⁵ State of Wyoming. 2024. Agricultural Water Use: Major Diversions. Available at: https://waterplan.state.wy.us/plan/platte/2006/atlas/pathfinder/pathfinder_agricultural_irrigation_districts.htm

Project would have beneficial impacts of flood control, providing lacustrine habitat for wildlife.

Table 3-8: Summary of Potential Impacts

Resource	Assessed Level of Impact Resulting from the Proposed Action
Geology	Minor, permanent
Water Rights and Use	Minor, beneficial
Water Quality	Minor to moderate, short and long-term
Aquatic Resources	Localized temporary and permanent
Air Quality	Minor, temporary
Access, Transportation, and Safety	No impacts
Noise	Minor, long-term
Visual Resources	Minor, long-term
Public Recreation	Minor, short-term
Grazing	Minor, temporary
Vegetation	Minor, temporary
Noxious Weeds	Minor, temporary
Wildlife Resources	Minor, temporary
Threatened, Endangered, and Special Status Species	No Effect
Cultural Resources	Minor to moderate, temporary and permanent
Soils and Farmlands of Agricultural Significance	Minor, temporary
Socioeconomics	Major, short and long-term negative for No Action. Short-term negative and positive, and long-term positive for Proposed Action

4 Environmental Commitments

Table 4-1: Environmental Commitments

Environmental Commitment/BMP	Impacted Resource	Authority
WYPDES – Large Construction General Permit	Water Quality	Clean Water Act; WYDEQ
Clean Water Act Section 404 compensatory mitigation for loss of wetlands and Waters of the U.S.	Aquatic Resources	Clean Water Act; USACE
New Source Review Air Quality Permit	Air Quality	Clean Air Act; WYDEQ
Traffic Control Plan	Access, Transportation, and Public Safety	WYDOT, Converse County Sheriff's Department, and Converse County Fire Rescue
Dust Control Plan	Access, Transportation, and Public Safety	WYDOT, Converse County Sheriff's Department, and Converse County Fire Rescue
Notification of allotment permittees	Grazing	BLM, WY State Land Board
Buffer, flagging, marking, or fencing, as appropriate.	Vegetation	BLM, State of WY, and Private Landowners
Reseeding as appropriate with BLM approved seed mix, county approved seed mix, and USACE approved seed mix for riparian areas.	Vegetation	BLM, State of WY, and Private Landowners, USACE
Migratory bird timing restrictions.	Wildlife Resources	Migratory Bird Treaty Act; USFWS, WGFD
Nest surveys, if applicable.	Wildlife Resources	Migratory Bird Treaty Act, Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act; USFWS, WGFD
Nest Take Permit	Wildlife Resources	Migratory Bird Treaty Act, Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act USFWS
Threatened and Endangered Species Consultation	T& E Species	Endangered Species Act; USFWS
SHPO consultation	Cultural	National Historic Preservation Act; WSHPO
Exclusionary fencing	Cultural	National Historic Preservation Act Reclamation; WSHPO

Environmental Commitment/BMP	Impacted Resource	Authority
Inadvertent Discovery Protocol	Cultural	National Historic Preservation Act; WSHPO
Tribal Monitors	Cultural	National Historic Preservation Act; THPO

CWA Section 401 (WDEQ) and Section 404 (USACE) permitting is being conducted concurrently with this EA. Additional environmental commitments associated with these permit actions are the responsibility of the District.

5 Consultation and Coordination

Reclamation is the lead federal agency for interagency consultation under the ESA and NHPA. As acknowledged in their cooperating agency acceptance letter dated 28 July, 2025, USACE is a cooperator based on the agency's respective authorities.

The Proposed Action is subject to various federal laws and regulations that require consultation and coordination with agencies, SHPO, and other stakeholders to ensure impacts to sensitive resources are considered and appropriately addressed.

The ESA requires the consideration of impacts on federally listed species for all federally funded, permitted, or authorized projects. Reclamation initiated consultation with the USF&WS on July 31, 2025. The agency responded with recommendations on August 27, 2025.

Section 106 of the NHPA, as amended in 1992 (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*), requires the consideration of impacts on historic properties that are listed, or eligible to be listed, in the NRHP. Reclamation will conduct Section 106 consultation with the following tribes, State of Wyoming Archaeologist and the State of Wyoming Historic Preservation Office:

- Blackfeet Nation
- Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes, Oklahoma
- Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe of the Cheyenne River Reservation, South Dakota
- Chippewa Cree Tribe of the Rocky Boy's Reservation
- Comanche Nation, Oklahoma
- Crow Creek Sioux Tribe of the Crow Creek Reservation, South Dakota
- Crow Tribe of Montana
- Eastern Shoshone Tribe of the Wind River Reservation
- Fort Belknap Indian Community of the Fort Belknap Reservation of Montana
- Fort Peck Assinboine and Sioux Tribes
- Northern Arapaho Tribe of the Wind River Reservation
- Northern Cheyenne Tribe of the Northern Cheyenne Indian Reservation, Montana
- Oglala Sioux Tribe
- Rosebud Sioux Tribe of the Rosebud Indian Reservation, South Dakota
- Santee Sioux Nation, Nebraska
- Standing Rock Sioux Tribe of North & South Dakota
- Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office
- State of Wyoming Archaeologist

The Project will comply with the American Indian Religious Freedom Act, NHPA, State of Wyoming Human Remains law Section 7-4-106 and other legislation pertaining to cultural resources.

6 Preparers

Table 6-1: List of Preparers

Name	Affiliation	Title	Areas of Responsibility
Bailey, Erin	HDR	Biologist II	Vegetation Noxious Weeds Special Status Species Wildlife
Brownlee, Sirena	HDR	Environmental Planning Lead	QC
Carlson, Michaela	HDR	Environmental Scientist	Water Quality Visual Resources
Cech, Tom	HDR	Sr. Water Resource Consultant	Water Rights and Use
Coats, Travis	HDR	Environmental Scientist II	Aquatic Resources Grazing
Huck, Chelsea	HDR	Environmental Planner I	Air Quality Access, Transportation, & Safety Noise Recreation
Johnson, Bradley	HDR	Federal Water Lead	NEPA Lead
Mueller, Megan	HDR	Environmental Planner	Cultural Resources Soils and Farmlands
Pool, Wes	HDR	GIS Technician	GIS
Rose, Kaisha	HDR	GIS Analyst	GIS
Terhaar, Patricia	HDR	Sr. Environmental Scientist	Alternatives QC
Thode, Lesley	HDR	Technical Writer	Technical Editing

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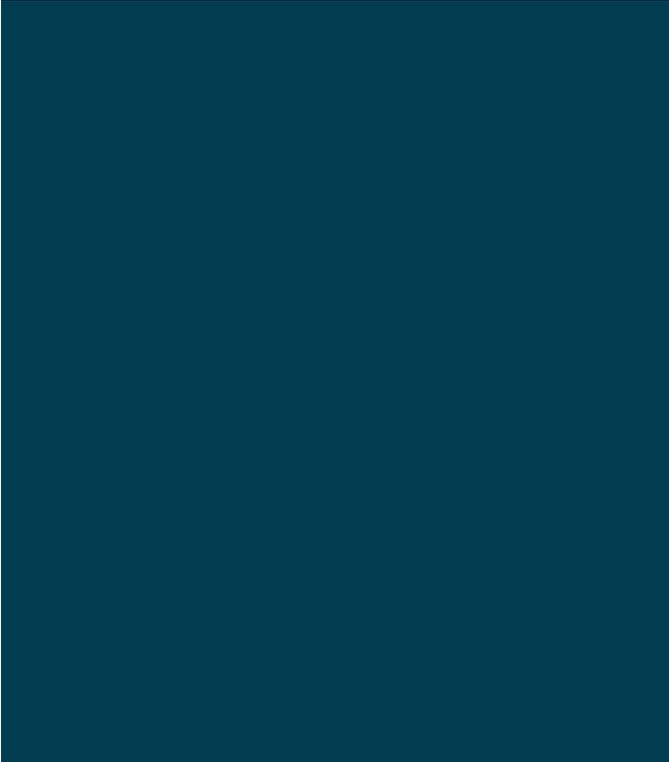
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Appendix A. Cooperating Agency Distribution List, Comments, and Responses

Appendix A: Agencies and Tribes Sent Cooperating Agency Letters

Federal Agencies

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Wyoming Regulatory Office

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 8

Federal Emergency Management Agency, Region VIII

Tribes

Apache Tribe of Oklahoma

Blackfeet Nation

Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes, Oklahoma

Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe of the Cheyenne River Reservation, South Dakota

Chippewa Cree Tribe of the Rocky Boy's Reservation

Comanche Nation, Oklahoma

Crow Creek Sioux Tribe of the Crow Creek Reservation, South Dakota

Crow Tribe of Montana

Eastern Shoshone Tribe of the Wind River Reservation

Fort Belknap Indian Community of the Fort Belknap Reservation of Montana

Fort Peck Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes

Northern Arapaho Tribe of the Wind River Reservation

Northern Cheyenne Tribe of the Northern Cheyenne Indian Reservation, Montana

Oglala Sioux Tribe

Rosebud Sioux Tribe of the Rosebud Indian Reservation, South Dakota

Santee Sioux Nation, Nebraska

Standing Rock Sioux Tribe of North & South Dakota

State and Local Agencies

Wyoming Game and Fish Department

Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality

Wyoming Office of Homeland Security

Wyoming State Engineer's Office

Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office

Wyoming State Geological Survey

Wyoming Office of State Lands and Investments

Wyoming Department of Agriculture

Wyoming State Parks and Cultural Resources

Converse County Parks and Recreation Board

Converse County Conservation District

Douglas Historic Preservation Commission



July 2, 2025

Mike Happold
State Program Manager
Wyoming Regulatory Office, US Army Corps of Engineers
2232 Dell Range Boulevard, Suite 210
Cheyenne, WY 82009
Provided electronically to: wyoming.reg@usace.army.mil

**SUBJECT: Cooperating Agency Invitation, LaPrele Dam Reconstruction Project
Environmental Assessment, Converse County, WY**

Dear Mr. Happold,

On behalf of the Bureau of Reclamation, your agency is invited to participate as a Cooperating Agency under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for the above-titled project. The Bureau of Reclamation has been identified as the lead federal agency for NEPA as a pass-through funding agency.

Your agency has recognized expertise, authority, or interest in this project. A decision to forgo participation as a Cooperating Agency does not preclude participation in the NEPA process or as a participating agency with the ability to comment on the substance of the draft Environmental Assessment (EA) when released for public and agency review.

The LaPrele Irrigation District, in conjunction with the Wyoming Water Development Commission, is proposing to reconstruct the LaPrele Dam, approximately 11 miles west of Douglas, Wyoming. Originally constructed in 1909, the dam was located along LaPrele Creek and demolished in the spring of 2025 per the order of the Wyoming State Engineer's Office on November 1, 2024.

The reconstructed dam is anticipated to be located approximately two hundred feet downstream of the previous LaPrele Dam in Sections 21 and 28, Township 32N, Range 73W. A Project Location Map is attached for reference. Construction activities associated with the reconstruction of the LaPrele Dam would see the completion of the replacement dam as early as the fall of 2028. If you choose to participate as a Cooperating Agency, you will be notified when a preliminary draft of the EA is available for agency review and comment.

A written response within 30 days for your participation as a Cooperating Agency can be emailed to Bradley.johnson@hdrinc.com or sent by mail to 419 Canyon Ave., Suite 316, Fort Collins, CO 80521.

If you require additional information or clarification, please contact me at 720-360-6754 or the email provided above. Thank you for your response.

Sincerely,

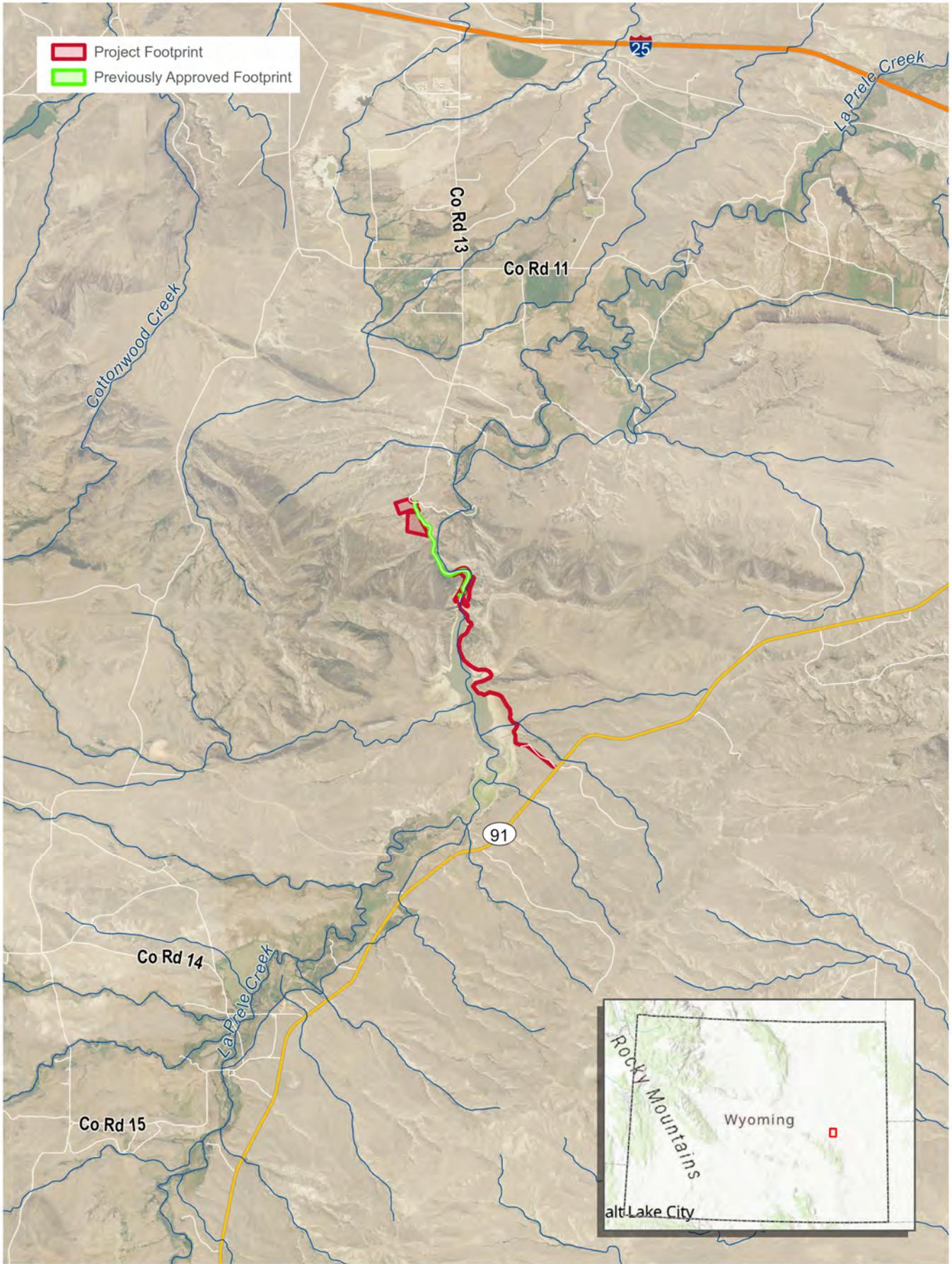
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'BJ Johnson', is centered below the word 'Sincerely,'.

Bradley Johnson, PhD
Federal Water Lead
HDR Engineering, Inc.

Attachment: Project Location Map; Project Overview Map

cc: LaPrele Irrigation District
Shain Wright, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
Stacey Johnston, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
Kristin Bowen, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
Paige Wolken, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Shawn Follum, Natural Resources Conservation Service
Jason Mead, Wyoming Water Development Office
Chace Tavelli, Wyoming Water Development Office
Pete Rausch, RESPEC
Cory Foreman, HDR

ATTACHMENT: PROJECT LOCATION MAP

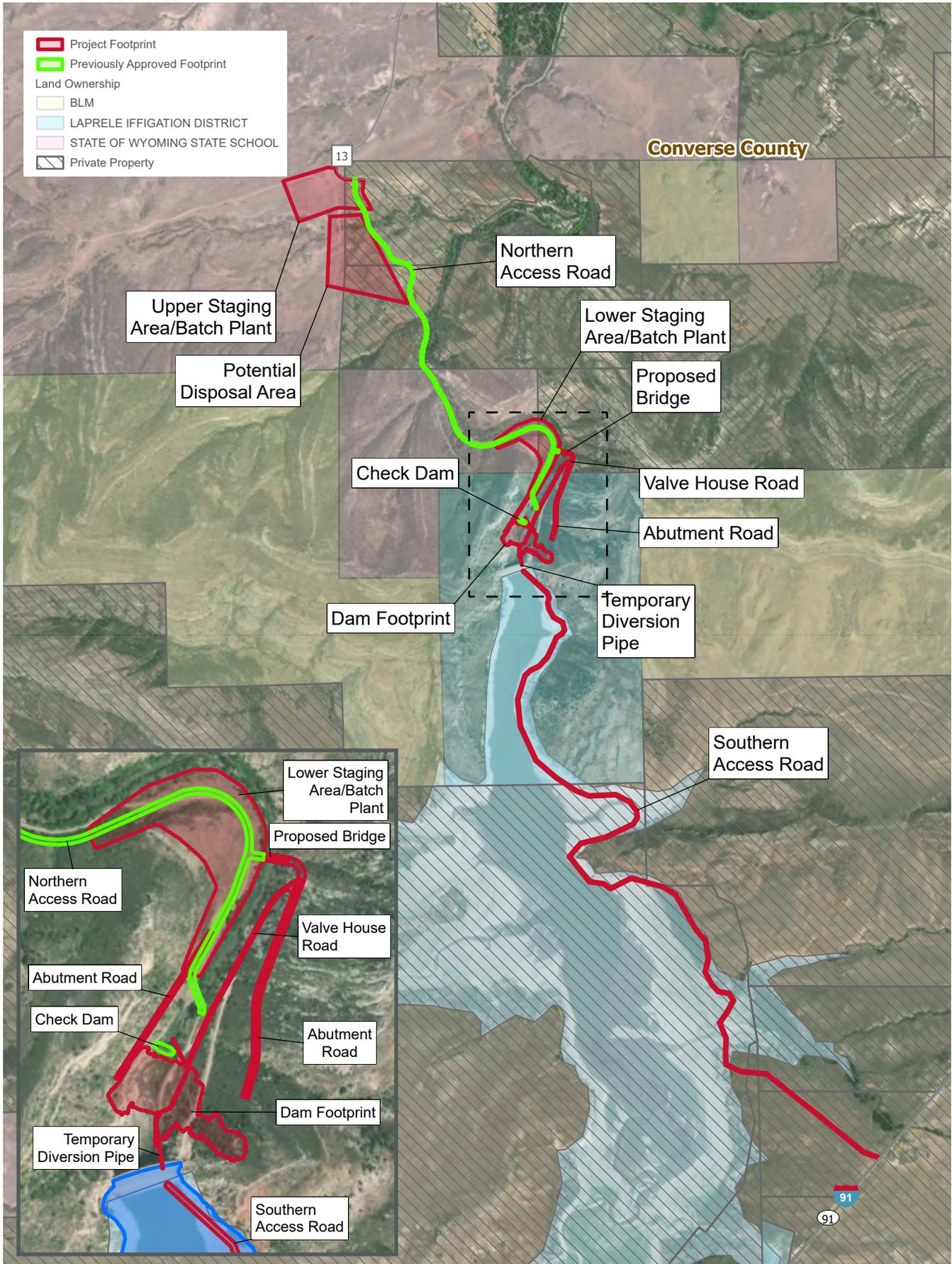


-  Project Footprint
-  Previously Approved Footprint



PROJECT LOCATION

ATTACHMENT: PROJECT OVERVIEW MAP



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PROJECT AREA OVERVIEW



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
CORPS OF ENGINEERS, OMAHA DISTRICT
WYOMING REGULATORY OFFICE
2232 DELL RANGE BOULEVARD, SUITE 210
CHEYENNE WY 82009-4942

July 28, 2025

SUBJECT: Cooperating Agency Invitation, NWO-2023-00439-RWY, LaPrele Dam Reconstruction Project (Environmental Assessment), Converse County, Wyoming

Bradley Johnson
HDR Inc.
419 Canyon Avenue, Suite 316
Fort Collins, Colorado 80521
Bradley.johnson@hdrinc.com

Dear Mr. Johnson:

This letter is in response to your letter and Bureau of Reclamation's (BoR) request, we received on July 3, 2025, to participate as a cooperating agency during preparation of an environmental assessment (EA) for the LaPrele Dam Reconstruction Project. The BoR has been identified as the lead federal agency for NEPA as a pass-through funding agency for the subject project.

We have reviewed information presented during introductory and pre-application consultation meetings throughout the past two years. The LaPrele Irrigation District, in conjunction with the Wyoming Water Development Commission, is proposing to reconstruct the LaPrele Dam, approximately 11 miles west of Douglas, Wyoming. The reconstructed dam is anticipated to be located approximately two hundred feet downstream of the previous LaPrele Dam in Sections 21 and 28, Township 32N, Range 73W. Originally constructed in 1909, the dam was located along LaPrele Creek and demolished in the spring of 2025 per the order of the Wyoming State Engineer's Office on November 1, 2024. USACE coordinated with BoR under an emergency action for the demolition project and issued a standard individual permit (Department of the Army (DA) file number NWO-2024-01976-RWY).

To efficiently address federal agency requirements, share information, and align decision-making procedures, we agree to participate as a cooperating agency according to general guiding principles for lead and cooperating agencies in National Environmental Policy Act and related implementing regulations.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) regulates the placement of dredged and fill material into wetlands and other waters of the United States as authorized primarily by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344). The term "waters of the United States"

has been broadly defined by statute, regulation, and judicial interpretation to include all waters that were, are, or could be used in interstate commerce such as streams, reservoirs, lakes and adjacent wetlands. The USACE Wyoming Regulatory Office (WRO) administers the regulatory program for the entire state and information on program requirements in Wyoming is available at <http://www.nwo.usace.army.mil/Missions/RegulatoryProgram/Wyoming.aspx>

Discharge of dredge and fill materials associated with dam construction and related activities will require Department of the Army authorization. The type of authorization depends on the potential area of effect for both temporary and permanent impacts. Routine activities with minor impacts (< 0.5 acre) could be authorized by Nationwide Permit (NP) 40 Agricultural Activities as defined in the *Federal Register* published on January 13, 2021 (86 FR 2744). Activities that exceed the nationwide permit 0.5-acre limitation on losses of aquatic resources would require a more rigorous standard permit evaluation. Preliminary information suggests that a standard permit may be required for the project.

Processing standard permits for large projects is challenging because it requires a comprehensive evaluation of alternatives that satisfy the project purpose. We recognize that each federal agency is required to evaluate a range of “reasonable alternatives” under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)(40 CFR 1502.14). However, the Corps is also required to consider a range of “practicable alternatives” under the Section 404(b) (1) guidelines (40 CFR Part 230.10(a)), which precludes issuance of a permit for the proposed action unless the applicant demonstrates that there are no other less damaging practicable alternatives available. Reasonable and practicable alternatives are not necessarily synonymous so our role as a cooperating agency would allow us to identify practicable alternatives during preparation of the EA.

Detailed information on other factors is important when we evaluate potential effects during our public interest review (33 CFR Part 320.4). Some of those factors are wetlands, water supply and conservation, property ownership, land uses, recreation, transportation, food and fiber production, energy needs, mineral needs, fish and wildlife resources, cultural resources, water quality, flood plains, flood hazards, and stream channel stability. Other factors that we must consider are conservation, economics, aesthetics, public safety, historic properties, and Indian Tribes and treaties. Our understanding of these factors would be greatly enhanced, and we would be able to rely on documentation in the EA if we participate as a cooperating agency. Further, we recognize BoR as the lead agency in all federal consultation efforts including Section 7, Endangered Species Act; Section 106, National Historic Preservation Act; and Tribal consultation for this project and request that USACE be acknowledged in writing as a cooperator to respective authorities.

Our point of contact will be Project Manager, Paige Wolken. Please contact her at the letterhead address, via email at Paige.M.Wolken@usace.army.mil, or by phone (307-772-2300) concerning future LaPrele Dam Reconstruction correspondence and reference file number NWO-2023-00439.

We appreciate the opportunity to participate as a cooperating agency and we look forward to working with you and BoR in this endeavor.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nathan Morey', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Nathan Morey
Section Chief
Wyoming Regulatory Office, Omaha District

Copy Furnished

Shain Wright, BoR



July 2, 2025

Elizabeth Duran
Section 7 Coordinator
US Fish and Wildlife Service
334 Parsley Boulevard
Cheyenne, WY 82007
Provided electronically to: WyomingES@fws.gov

**SUBJECT: Cooperating Agency Invitation, LaPrele Dam Reconstruction Project
Environmental Assessment, Converse County, WY**

Dear Ms. Duran,

On behalf of the Bureau of Reclamation, your agency is invited to participate as a Cooperating Agency under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for the above-titled project. The Bureau of Reclamation has been identified as the lead federal agency for NEPA as a pass-through funding agency.

Your agency has recognized expertise, authority, or interest in this project. A decision to forgo participation as a Cooperating Agency does not preclude participation in the NEPA process or as a participating agency with the ability to comment on the substance of the draft Environmental Assessment (EA) when released for public and agency review.

The LaPrele Irrigation District, in conjunction with the Wyoming Water Development Commission, is proposing to reconstruct the LaPrele Dam, approximately 11 miles west of Douglas, Wyoming. Originally constructed in 1909, the dam was located along LaPrele Creek and demolished in the spring of 2025 per the order of the Wyoming State Engineer's Office on November 1, 2024.

The reconstructed dam is anticipated to be located approximately two hundred feet downstream of the previous LaPrele Dam in Sections 21 and 28, Township 32N, Range 73W. A Project Location Map is attached for reference. Construction activities associated with the reconstruction of the LaPrele Dam would see the completion of the replacement dam as early as the fall of 2028. If you choose to participate as a Cooperating Agency, you will be notified when a preliminary draft of the EA is available for agency review and comment.

A written response within 30 days for your participation as a Cooperating Agency can be emailed to Bradley.johnson@hdrinc.com or sent by mail to 419 Canyon Ave., Suite 316, Fort Collins, CO 80521.

If you require additional information or clarification, please contact me at 720-360-6754 or the email provided above. Thank you for your response.

Sincerely,

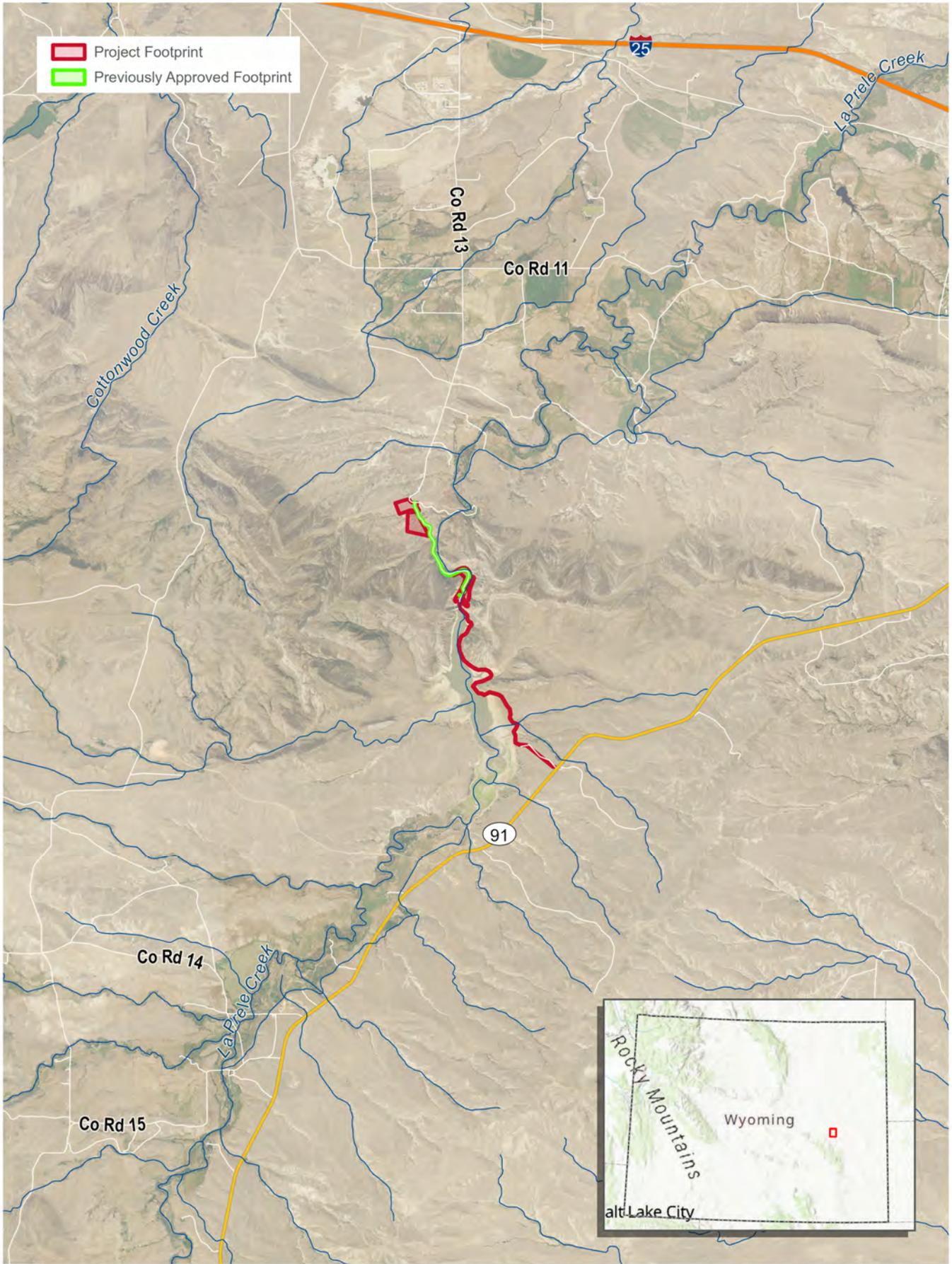
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'BJ Johnson', is centered below the word 'Sincerely,'.

Bradley Johnson, PhD
Federal Water Lead
HDR Engineering, Inc.

Attachment: Project Location Map; Project Overview Map

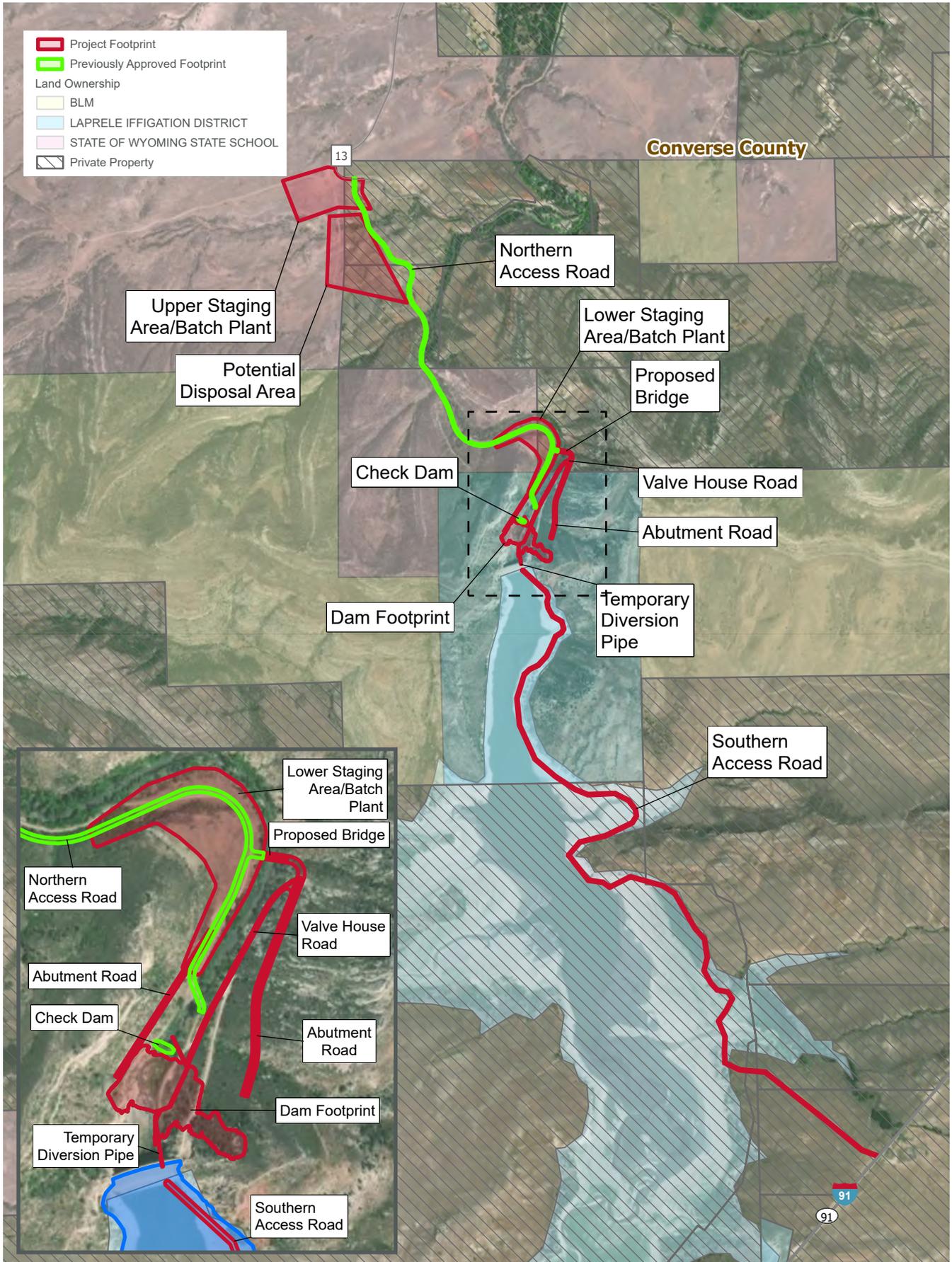
cc: LaPrele Irrigation District
Shain Wright, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
Stacey Johnston, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
Kristin Bowen, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
Paige Wolken, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Shawn Follum, Natural Resources Conservation Service
Jason Mead, Wyoming Water Development Office
Chace Tavelli, Wyoming Water Development Office
Pete Rausch, RESPEC
Cory Foreman, HDR

ATTACHMENT: PROJECT LOCATION MAP



PROJECT LOCATION

ATTACHMENT: PROJECT OVERVIEW MAP



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PROJECT AREA OVERVIEW



July 2, 2025

Melissa Benner
Wyoming State Cultural Resource Specialist
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
PO Box 33124100 E. B Street, Third Floor
Casper, WY 82604
Provided electronically to: Melissa.Benner@usda.gov

**SUBJECT: Cooperating Agency Invitation, LaPrele Dam Reconstruction Project
Environmental Assessment, Converse County, WY**

Dear Ms. Benner,

On behalf of the Bureau of Reclamation, your agency is invited to participate as a Cooperating Agency under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for the above-titled project. The Bureau of Reclamation has been identified as the lead federal agency for NEPA as a pass-through funding agency.

Your agency has recognized expertise, authority, or interest in this project. A decision to forgo participation as a Cooperating Agency does not preclude participation in the NEPA process or as a participating agency with the ability to comment on the substance of the draft Environmental Assessment (EA) when released for public and agency review.

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If you require additional information or clarification, please contact me at 720-360-6754 or the email provided above. Thank you for your response.

Sincerely,

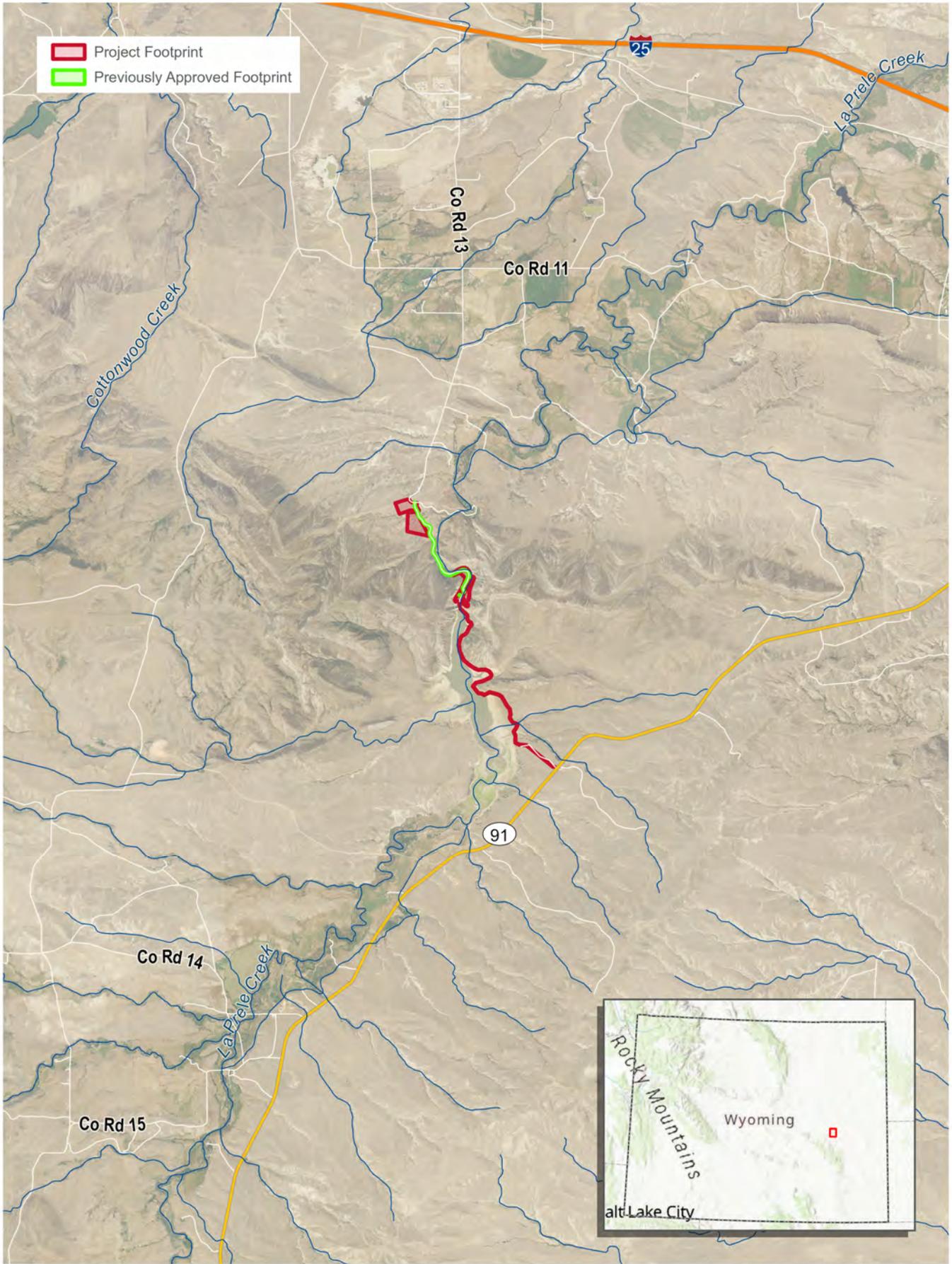
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Bradley Johnson, PhD
Federal Water Lead
HDR Engineering, Inc.

Attachment: Project Location Map; Project Overview Map

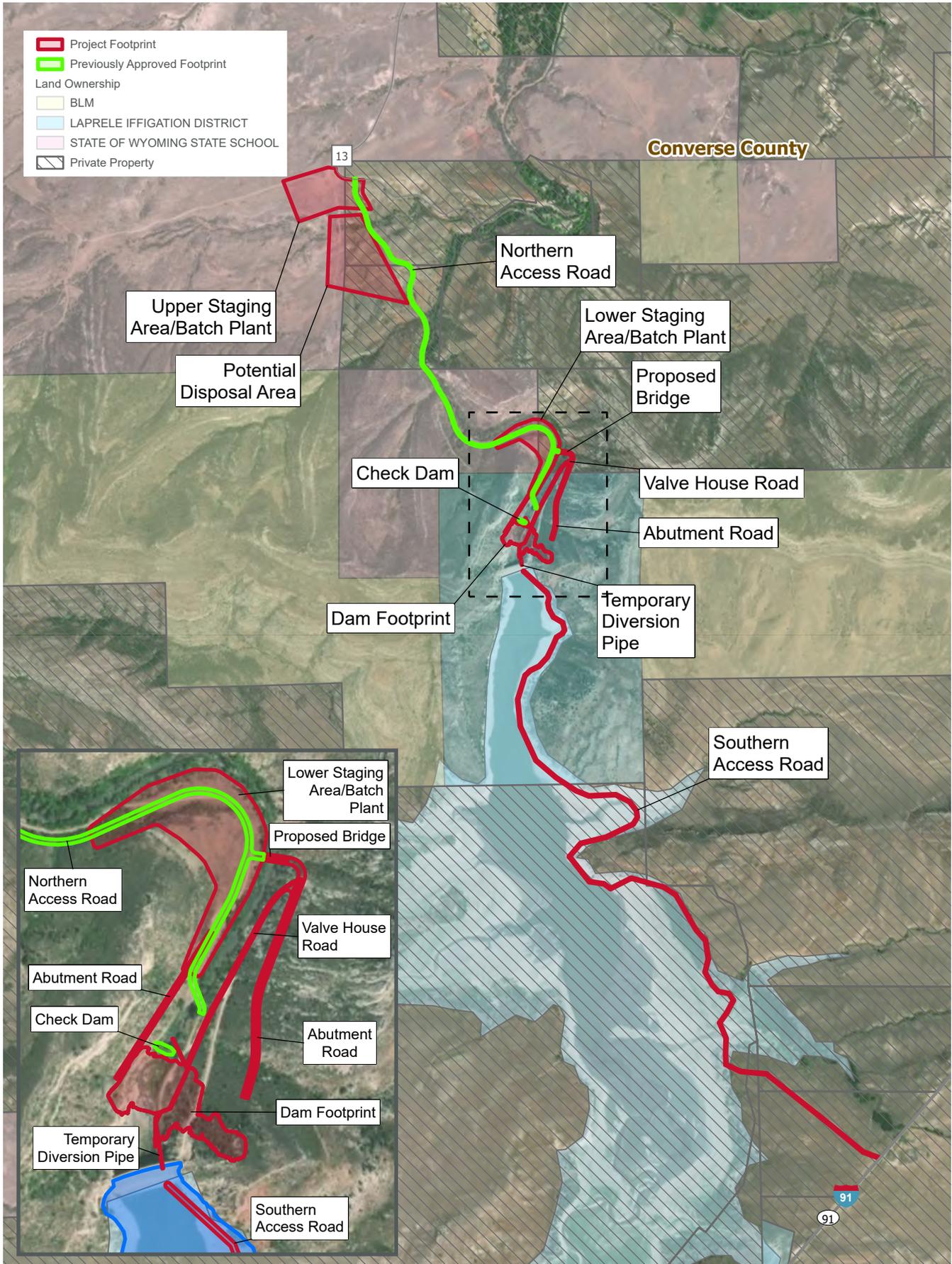
cc: LaPrele Irrigation District
Shain Wright, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
Stacey Johnston, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
Kristin Bowen, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
Paige Wolken, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Shawn Follum, Natural Resources Conservation Service
Jason Mead, Wyoming Water Development Office
Chace Tavelli, Wyoming Water Development Office
Pete Rausch, RESPEC
Cory Foreman, HDR

ATTACHMENT: PROJECT LOCATION MAP



PROJECT LOCATION

ATTACHMENT: PROJECT OVERVIEW MAP



0 0.2 mi



PROJECT AREA OVERVIEW



July 2, 2025

Jeff Goats
State Soil Scientist
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
100 East B Street, Suite 3001, PO Box 33124
Casper, WY 82602
Provided electronically to: jeff.goats@usda.gov

**SUBJECT: Cooperating Agency Invitation, LaPrele Dam Reconstruction Project
Environmental Assessment, Converse County, WY**

Dear Mr. Goats,

On behalf of the Bureau of Reclamation, your agency is invited to participate as a Cooperating Agency under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for the above-titled project. The Bureau of Reclamation has been identified as the lead federal agency for NEPA as a pass-through funding agency.

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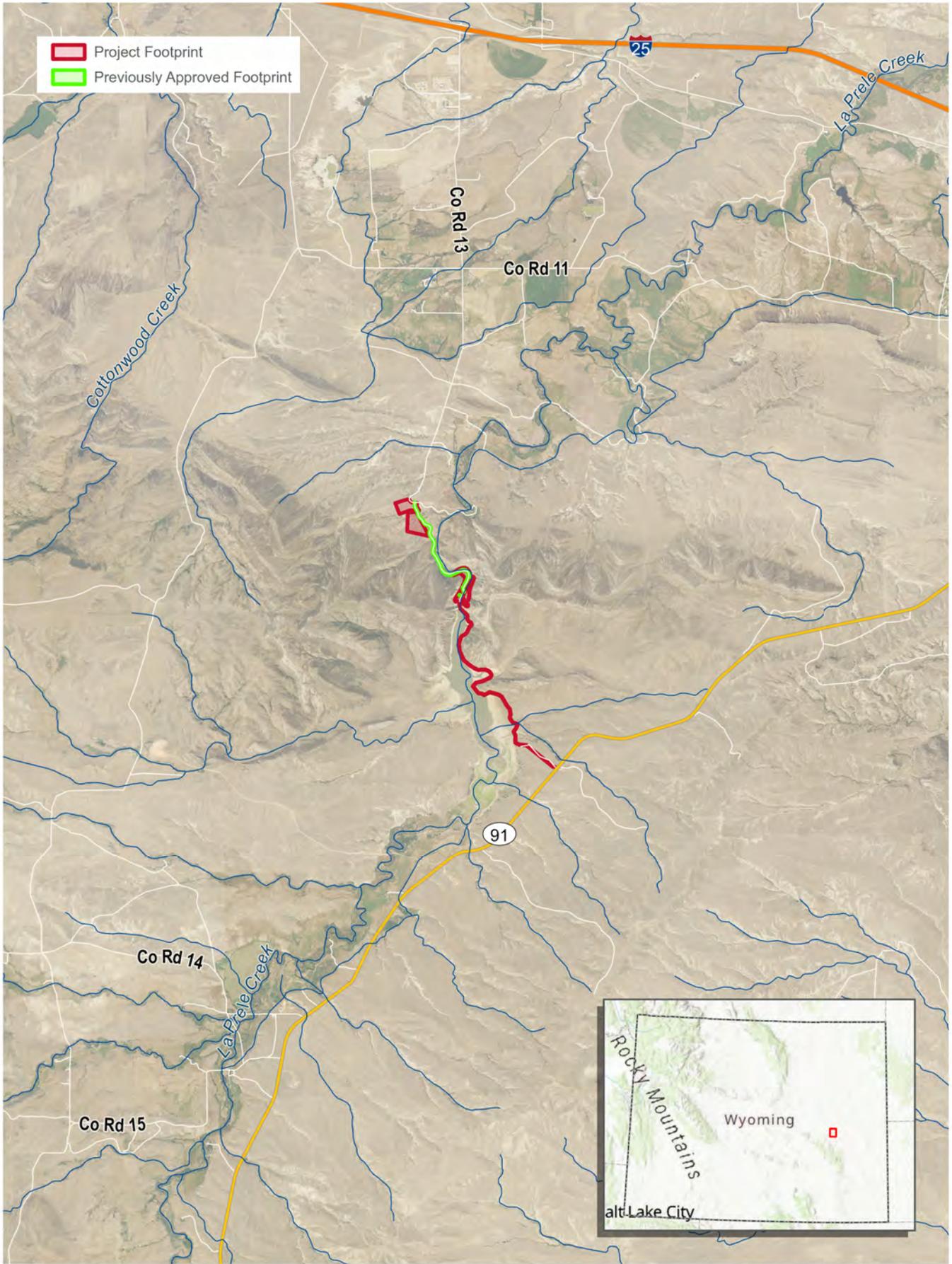
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Bradley Johnson, PhD
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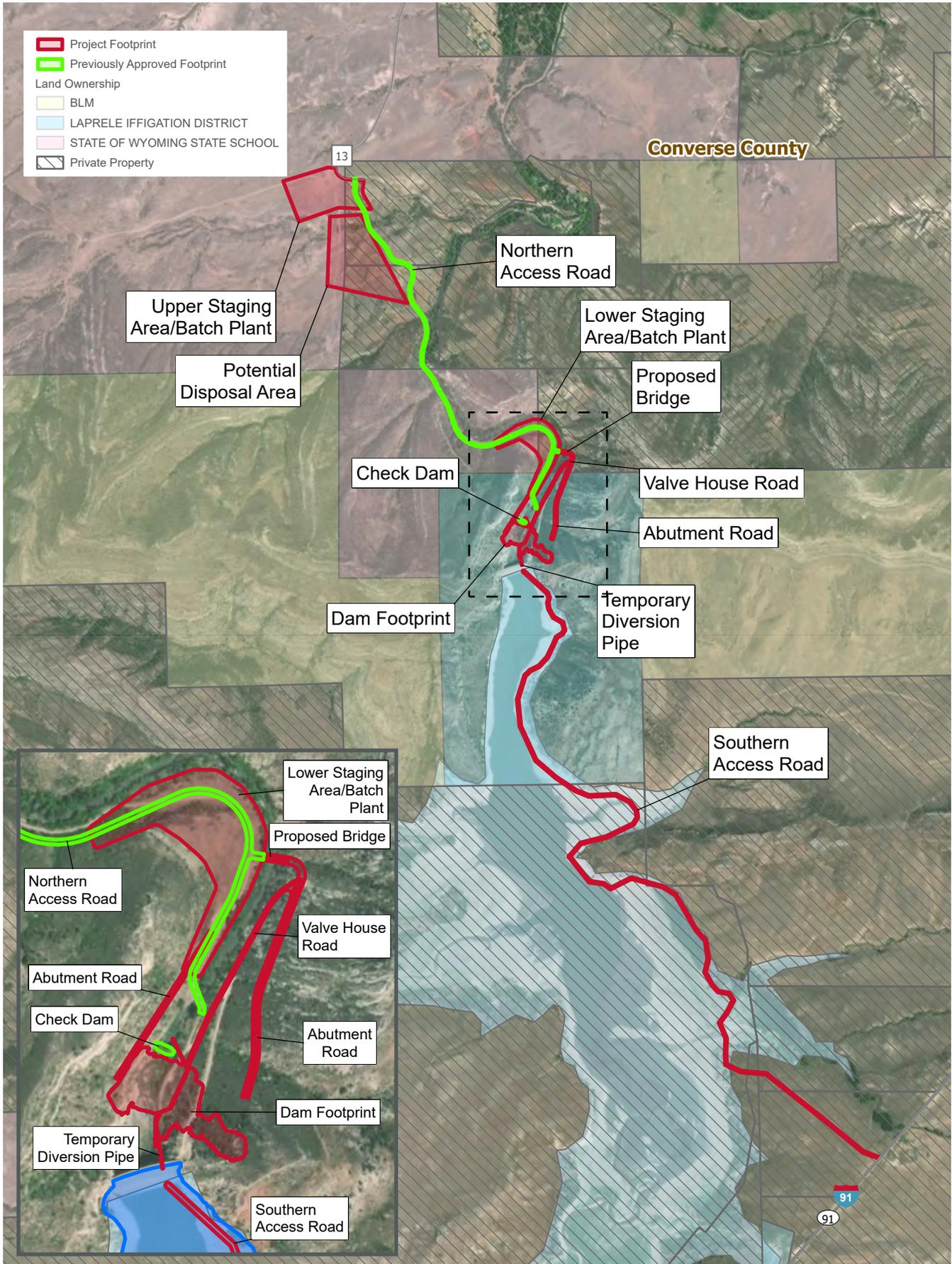
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Shawn Follum, Natural Resources Conservation Service
Jason Mead, Wyoming Water Development Office
Chace Tavelli, Wyoming Water Development Office
Pete Rausch, RESPEC
Cory Foreman, HDR

ATTACHMENT: PROJECT LOCATION MAP



PROJECT LOCATION

ATTACHMENT: PROJECT OVERVIEW MAP



0 0.2 mi



PROJECT AREA OVERVIEW



July 2, 2025

Danielle Arigoni
Director, NEPA Branch
US Environmental Protection Agency, Region 8
1595 Wynkoop Street
Denver, CO 80202
Provided electronically to: arigoni.danielle@epa.gov

**SUBJECT: Cooperating Agency Invitation, LaPrele Dam Reconstruction Project
Environmental Assessment, Converse County, WY**

Dear Ms. Arigoni,

On behalf of the Bureau of Reclamation, your agency is invited to participate as a Cooperating Agency under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for the above-titled project. The Bureau of Reclamation has been identified as the lead federal agency for NEPA as a pass-through funding agency.

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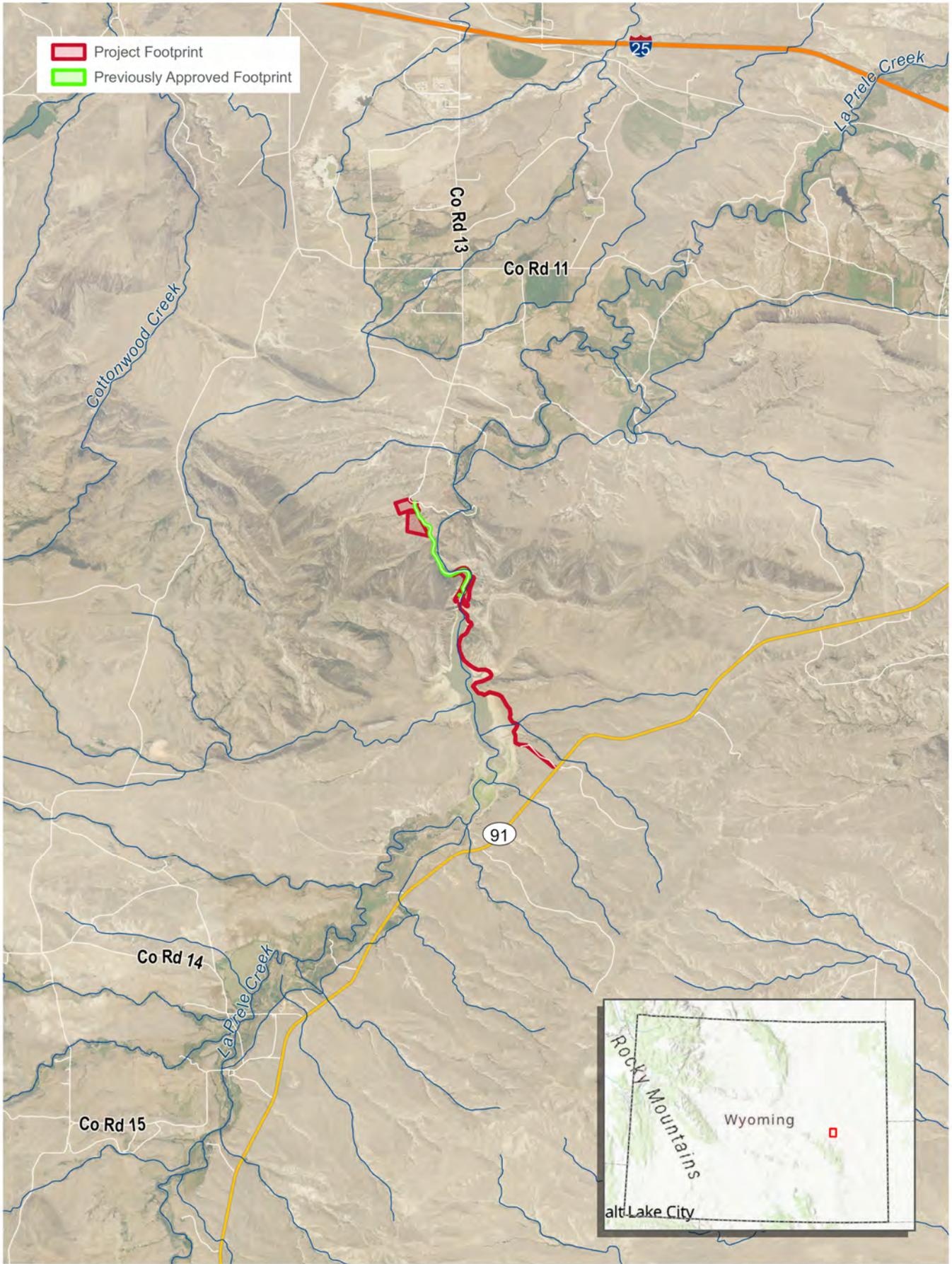
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Federal Water Lead
HDR Engineering, Inc.

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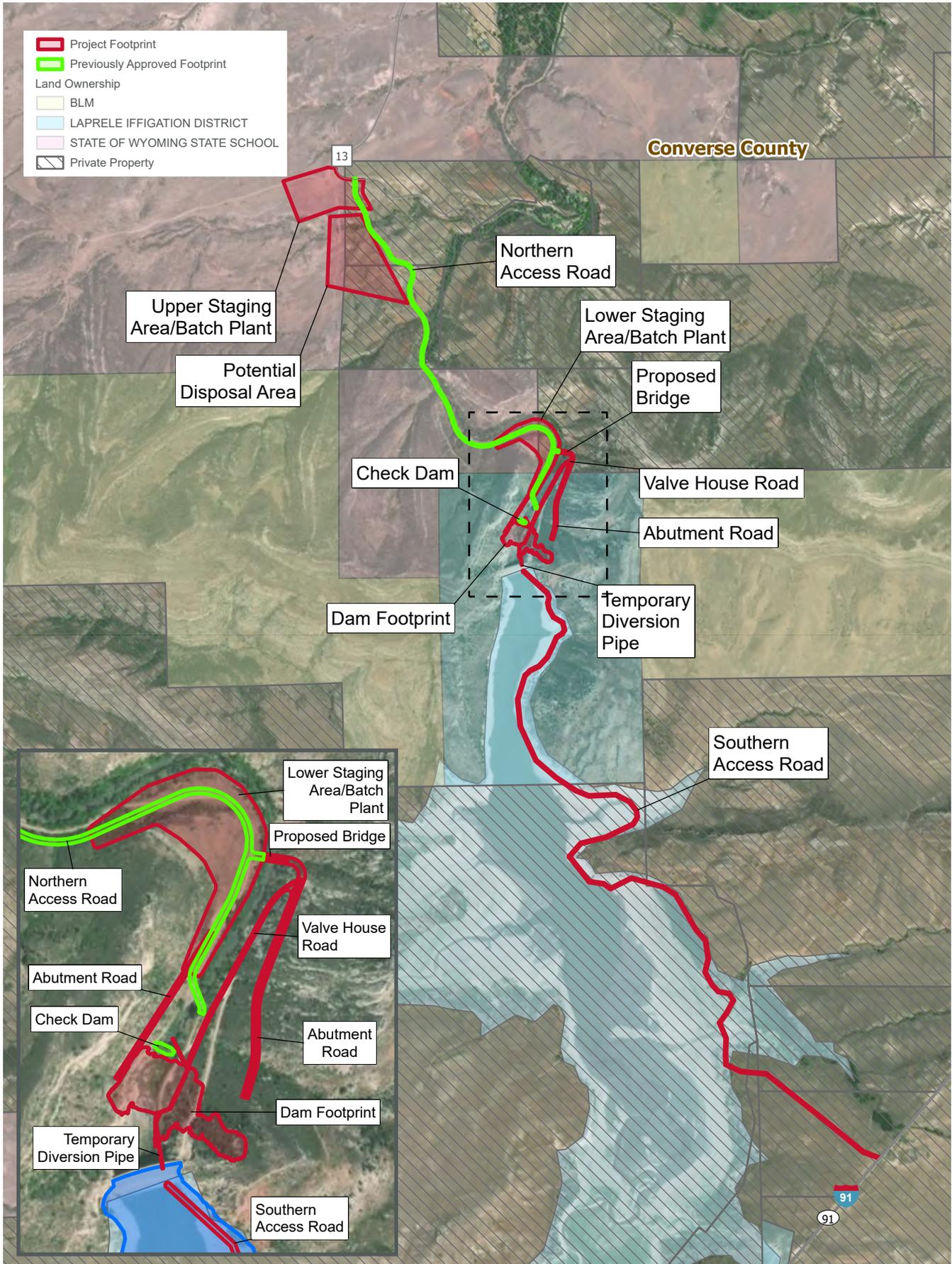
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Shawn Follum, Natural Resources Conservation Service
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Pete Rausch, RESPEC
Cory Foreman, HDR

ATTACHMENT: PROJECT LOCATION MAP



PROJECT LOCATION

ATTACHMENT: PROJECT OVERVIEW MAP



0 0.2 mi



PROJECT AREA OVERVIEW



July 2, 2025

Patrick Walker
Archaeologist
BLM Casper Field Office
2987 Prospector Dr,
Casper, WY 82604
Provided electronically to: p75walke@blm.gov

**SUBJECT: Cooperating Agency Invitation, LaPrele Dam Reconstruction Project
Environmental Assessment, Converse County, WY**

Dear Mr. Walker,

On behalf of the Bureau of Reclamation, your agency is invited to participate as a Cooperating Agency under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for the above-titled project. The Bureau of Reclamation has been identified as the lead federal agency for NEPA as a pass-through funding agency.

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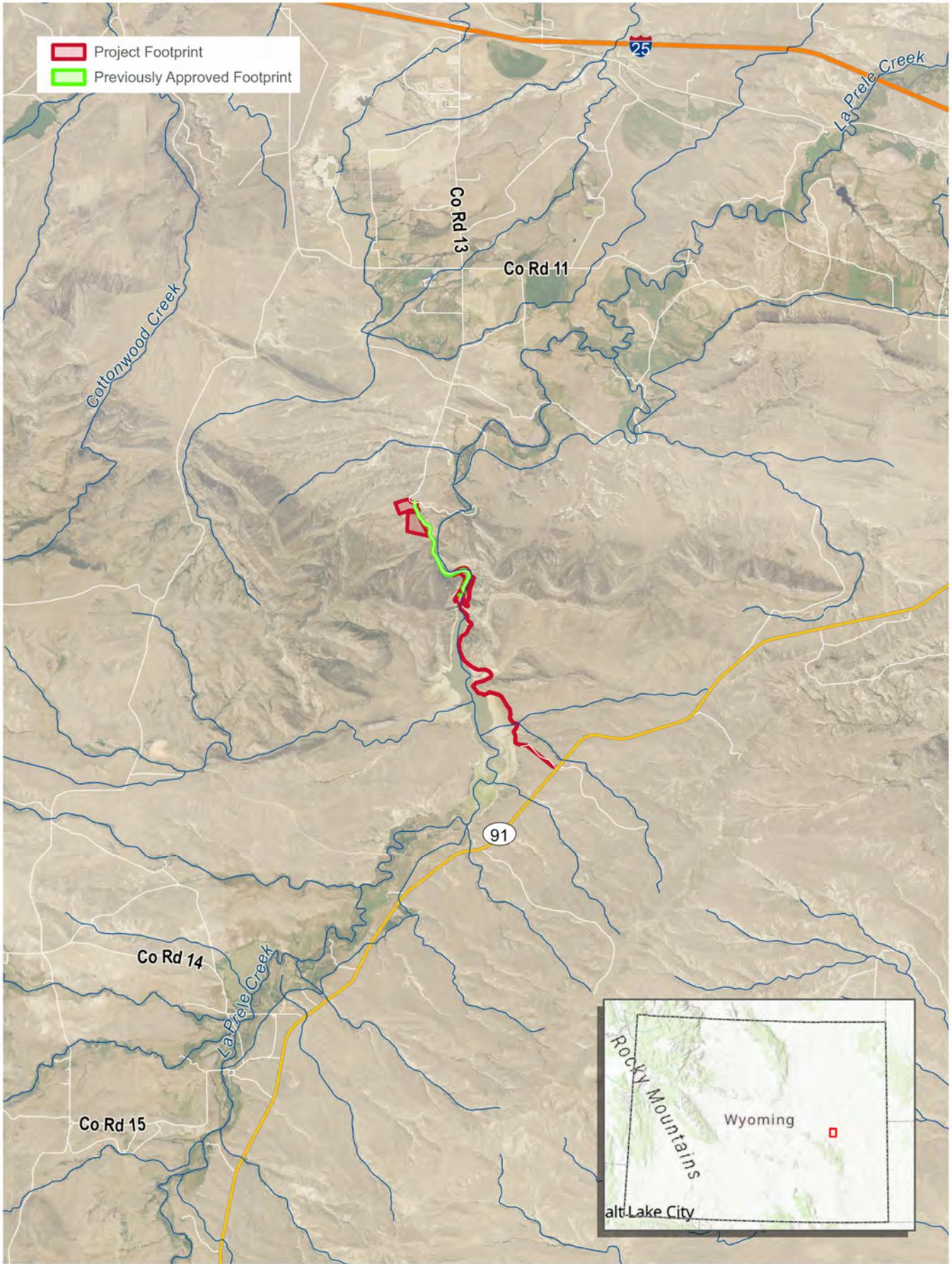
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Bradley Johnson, PhD
Federal Water Lead
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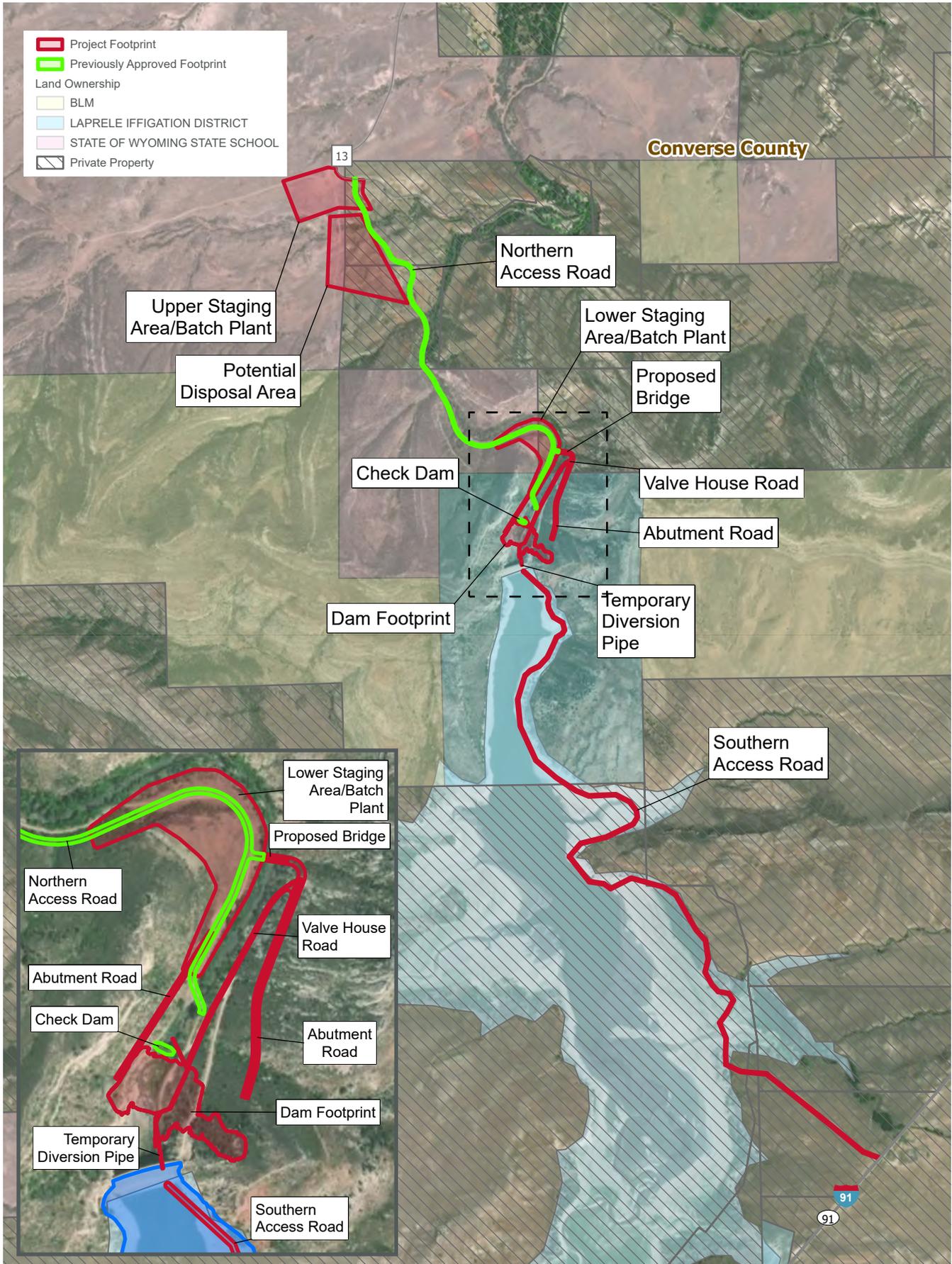


Project Footprint
Previously Approved Footprint



PROJECT LOCATION

ATTACHMENT: PROJECT OVERVIEW MAP



0 0.2 mi



PROJECT AREA OVERVIEW



July 2, 2025

Tselee Matthew
Chairman
Apache Tribe of Oklahoma
PO Box 1330
Anadarko, OK 73005
Provided electronically to: matthew.tselee@apachetribe.org

**SUBJECT: Cooperating Agency Invitation, LaPrele Dam Reconstruction Project
Environmental Assessment, Converse County, WY**

Dear Chairman Tselee Matthew,

On behalf of the Bureau of Reclamation, your agency is invited to participate as a Cooperating Agency under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for the above-titled project. The Bureau of Reclamation has been identified as the lead federal agency for NEPA as a pass-through funding agency.

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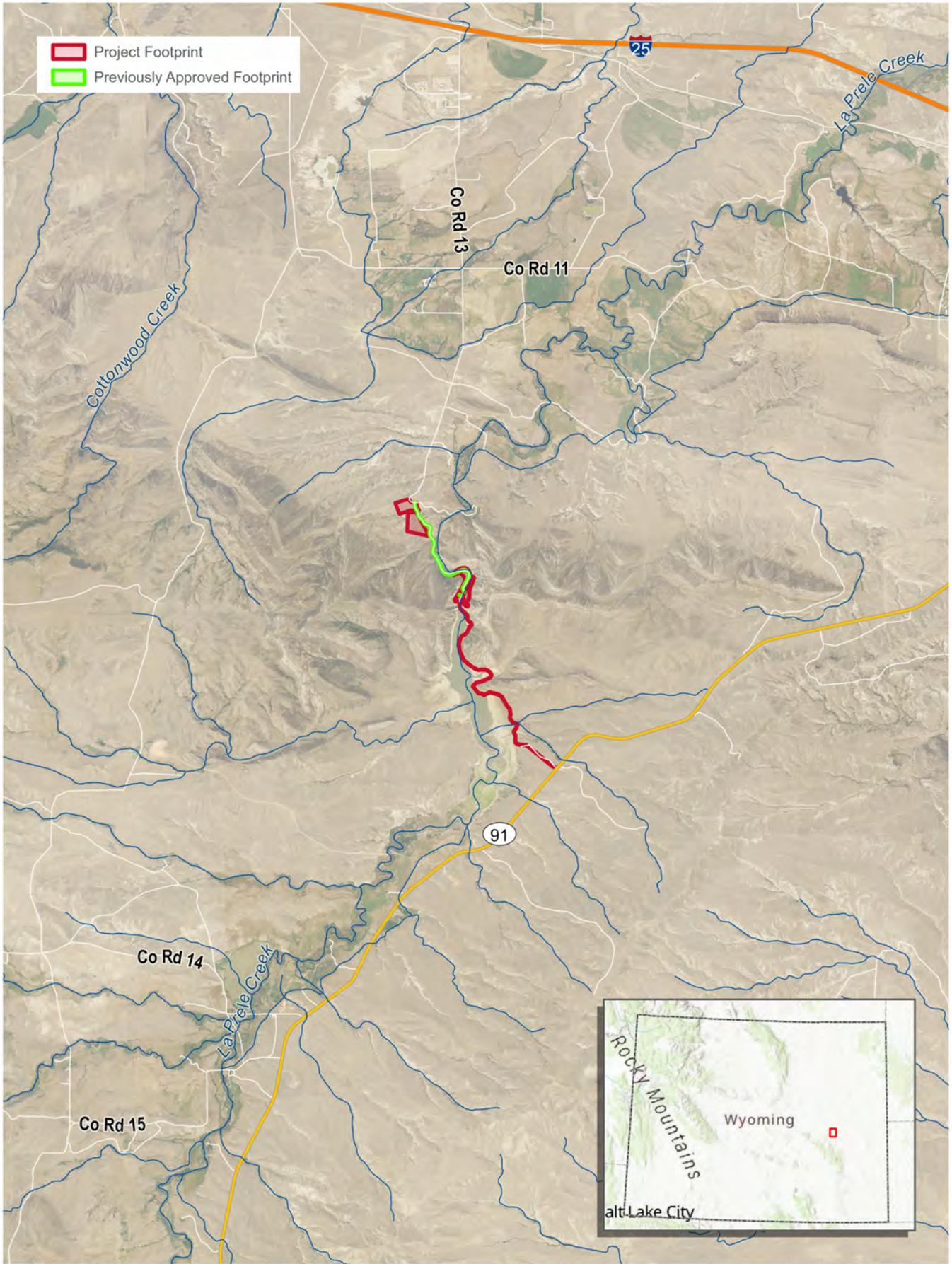
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Bradley Johnson, PhD
Federal Water Lead
HDR Engineering, Inc.

Attachment: Project Location Map; Project Overview Map

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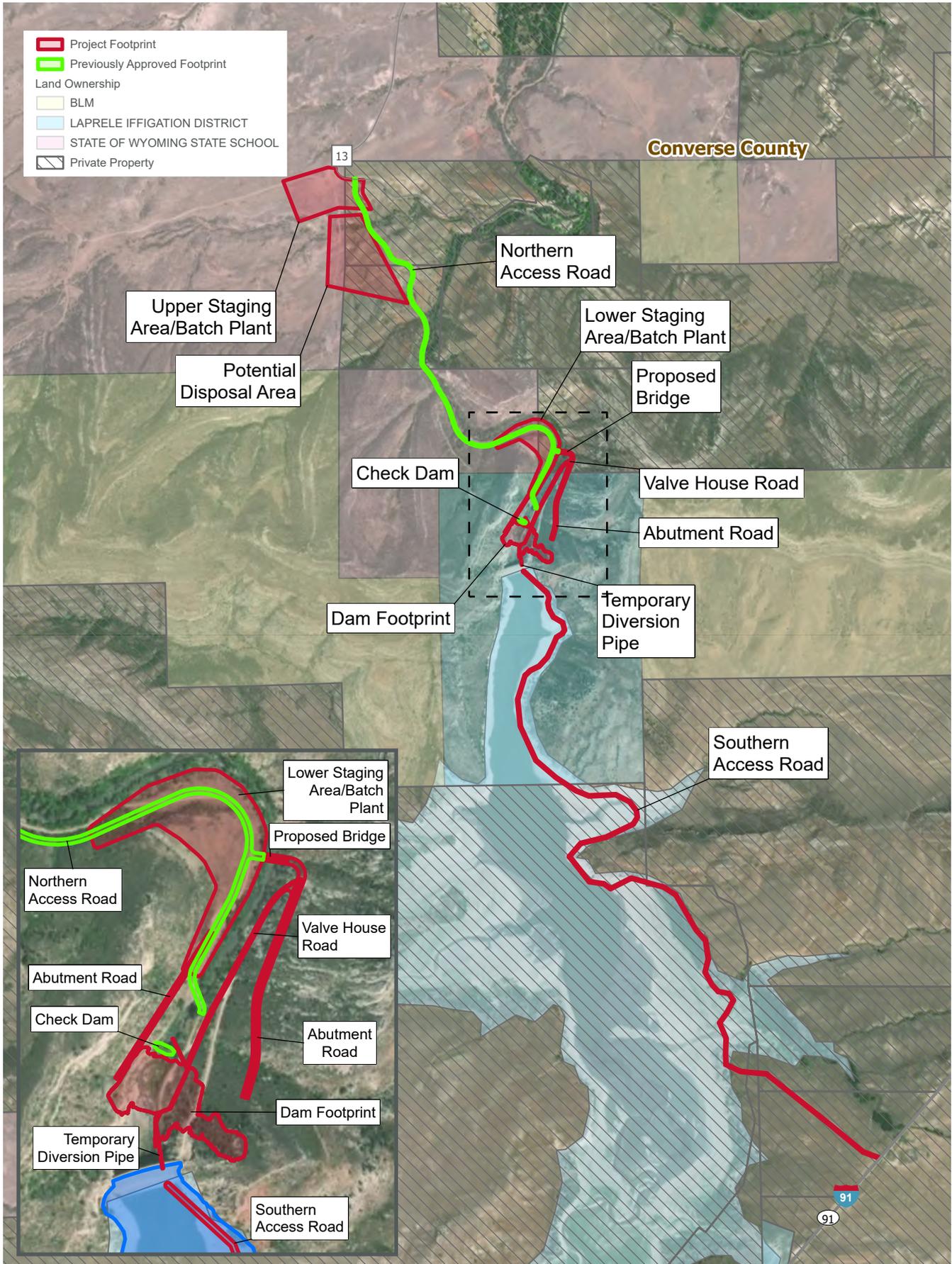


Project Footprint
Previously Approved Footprint



PROJECT LOCATION

ATTACHMENT: PROJECT OVERVIEW MAP



0 0.2 mi



PROJECT AREA OVERVIEW



July 2, 2025

Rodney "Minnow" Gervais Jr.
Chairman
Blackfeet Nation
PO Box 850, 640 All Chiefs Road
Browning, MT 59417-0850
Provided electronically to: btbc@3rivers.net

**SUBJECT: Cooperating Agency Invitation, LaPrele Dam Reconstruction Project
Environmental Assessment, Converse County, WY**

Dear Chairman Rodney "Minnow" Gervais Jr.,

On behalf of the Bureau of Reclamation, your agency is invited to participate as a Cooperating Agency under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for the above-titled project. The Bureau of Reclamation has been identified as the lead federal agency for NEPA as a pass-through funding agency.

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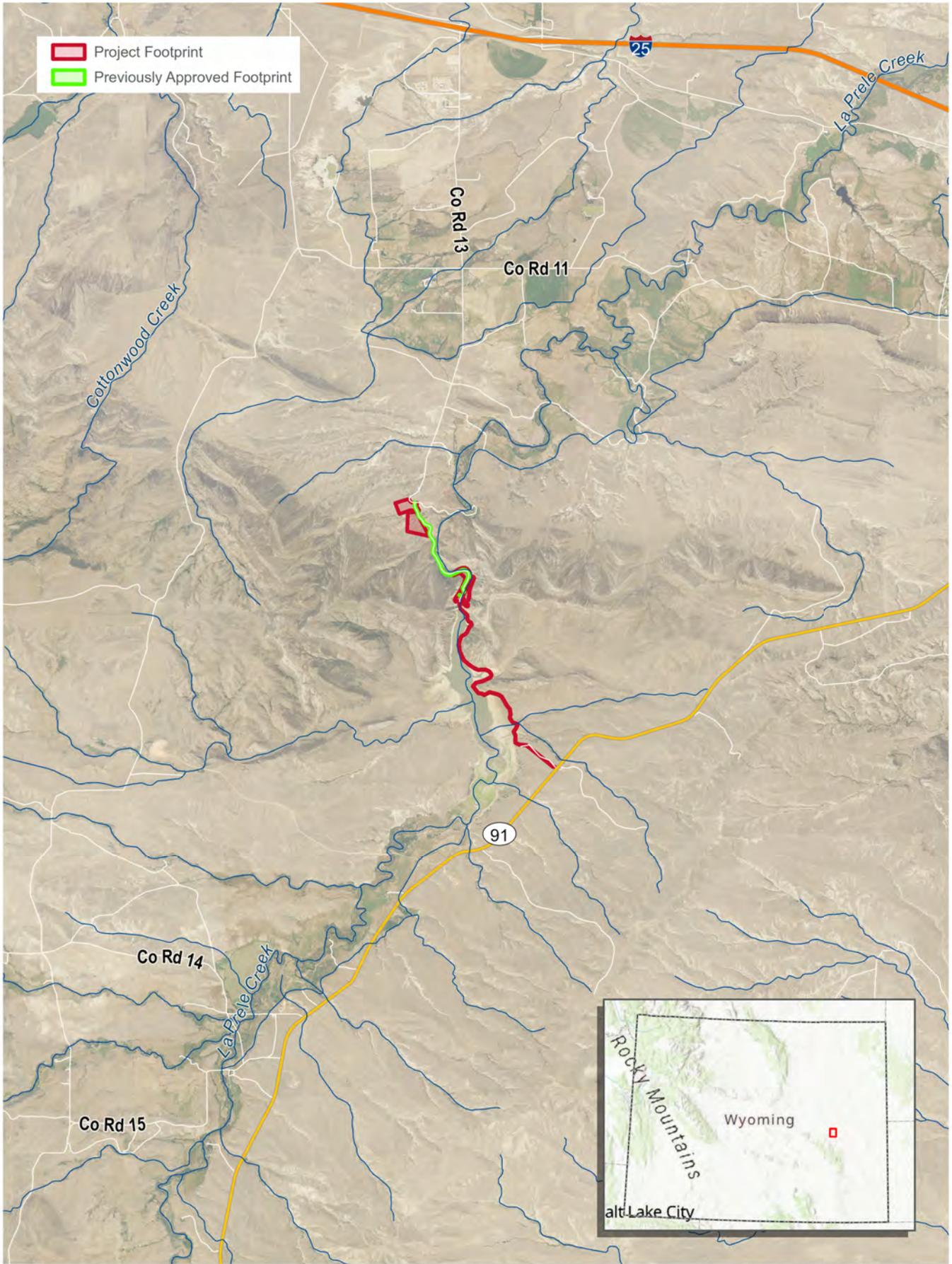
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Bradley Johnson, PhD
Federal Water Lead
HDR Engineering, Inc.

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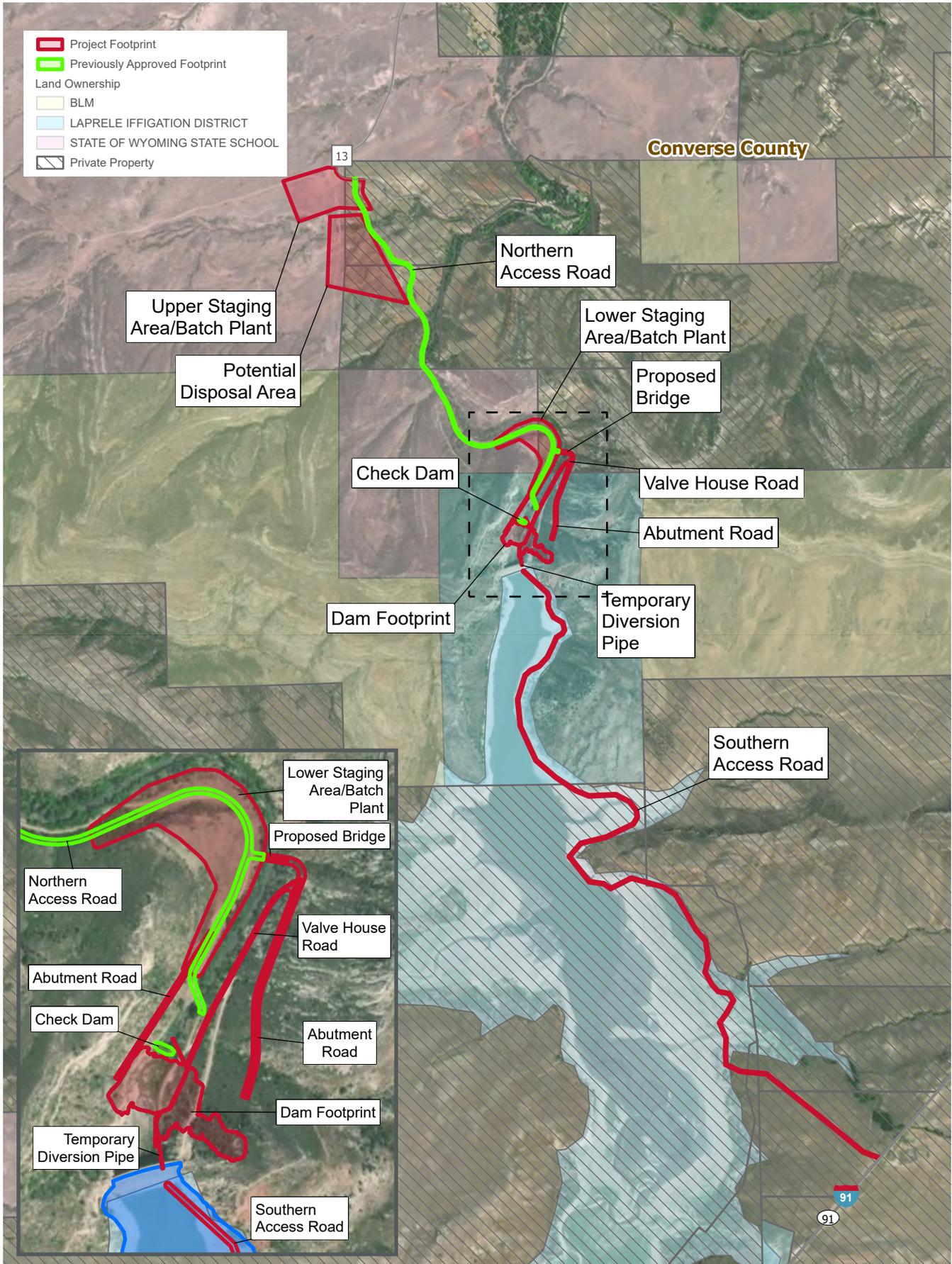
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Pete Rausch, RESPEC
Cory Foreman, HDR

ATTACHMENT: PROJECT LOCATION MAP



PROJECT LOCATION

ATTACHMENT: PROJECT OVERVIEW MAP



0 0.2 mi



PROJECT AREA OVERVIEW



July 2, 2025

John Murray
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
Blackfeet Nation
P O Box 2809 660 All Chiefs Road
Browning, MT 59417
Provided electronically to: jmflysdwn@gmail.com

**SUBJECT: Cooperating Agency Invitation, LaPrele Dam Reconstruction Project
Environmental Assessment, Converse County, WY**

Dear Mr. John Murray,

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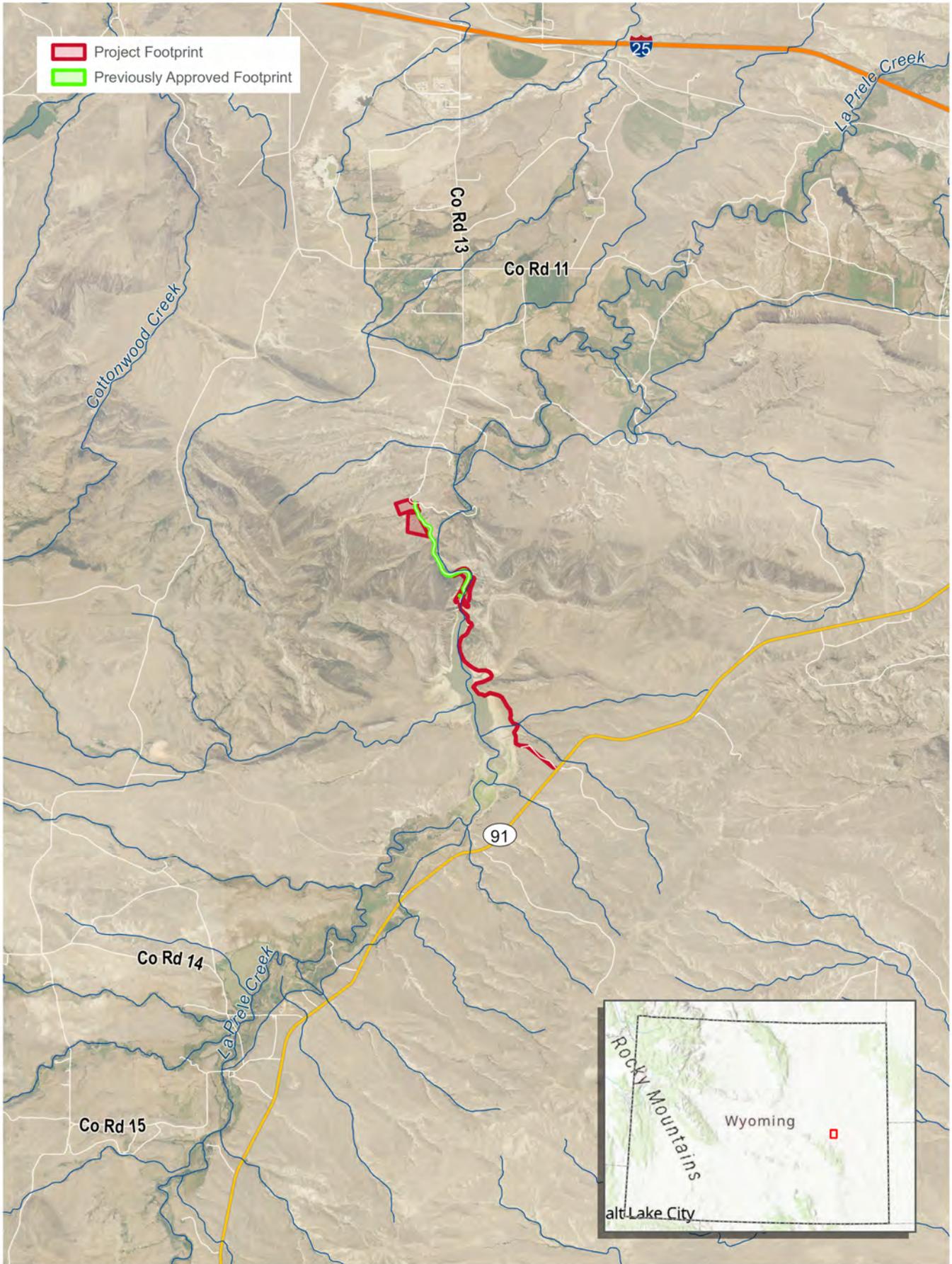
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Federal Water Lead
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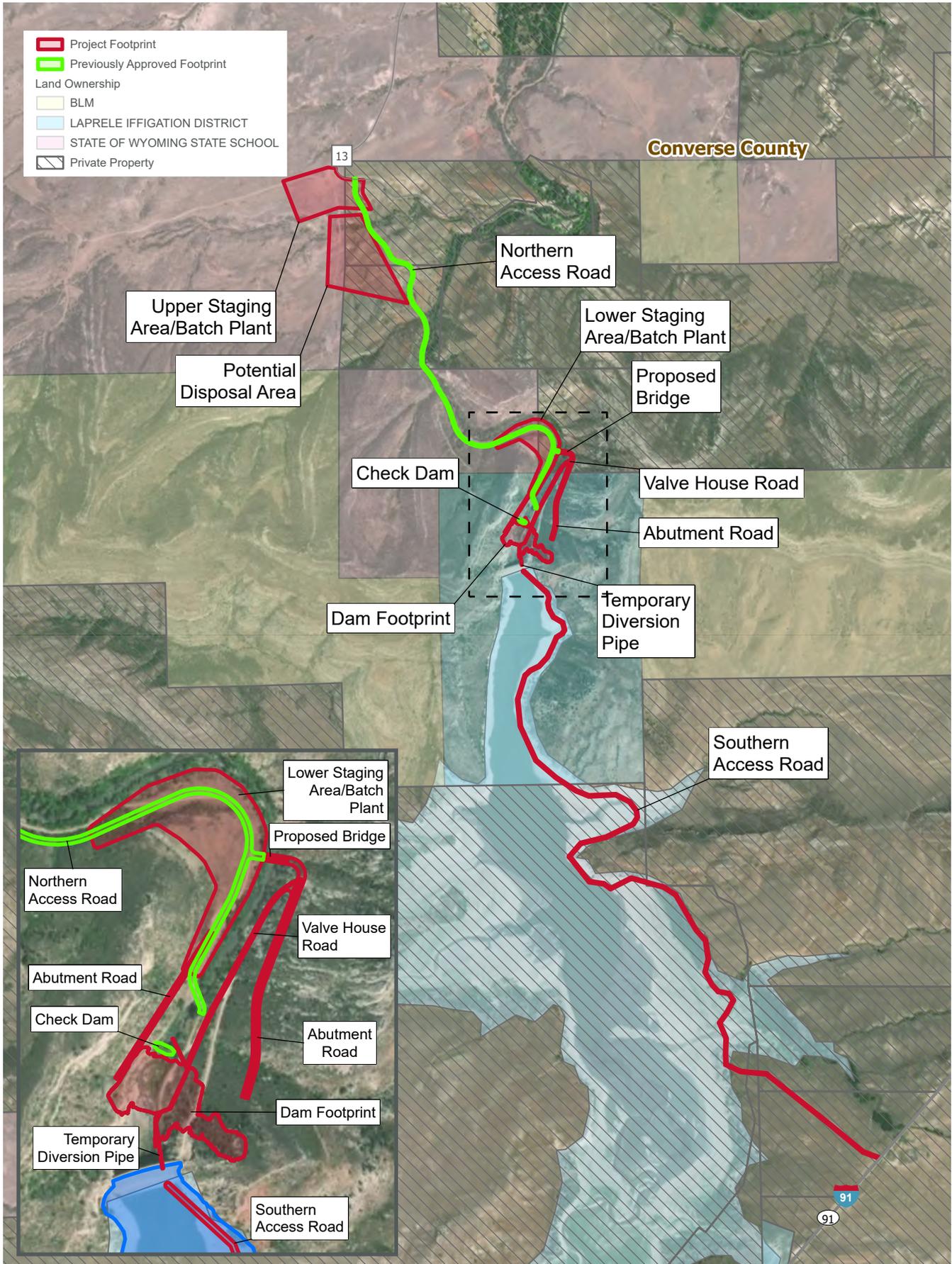
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Cory Foreman, HDR

ATTACHMENT: PROJECT LOCATION MAP



PROJECT LOCATION

ATTACHMENT: PROJECT OVERVIEW MAP



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PROJECT AREA OVERVIEW



July 2, 2025

Max Bear
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes, Oklahoma
700 Black Kettle Blvd
Concho, OK 73022
Provided electronically to: mbear@cheyenneandrapaho-nsn.gov

**SUBJECT: Cooperating Agency Invitation, LaPrele Dam Reconstruction Project
Environmental Assessment, Converse County, WY**

Dear Mr. Max Bear,

On behalf of the Bureau of Reclamation, your agency is invited to participate as a Cooperating Agency under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for the above-titled project. The Bureau of Reclamation has been identified as the lead federal agency for NEPA as a pass-through funding agency.

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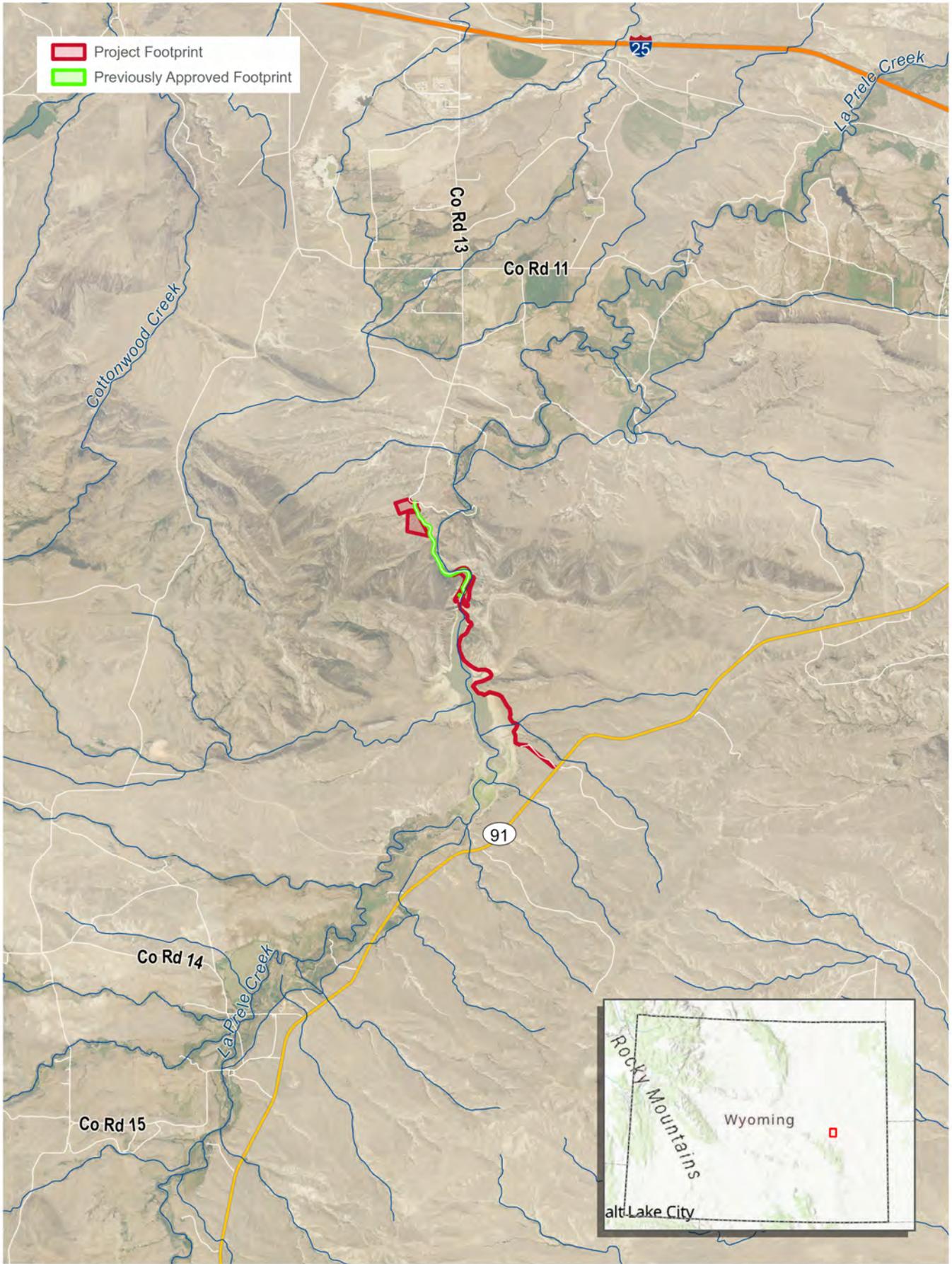
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Bradley Johnson, PhD
Federal Water Lead
HDR Engineering, Inc.

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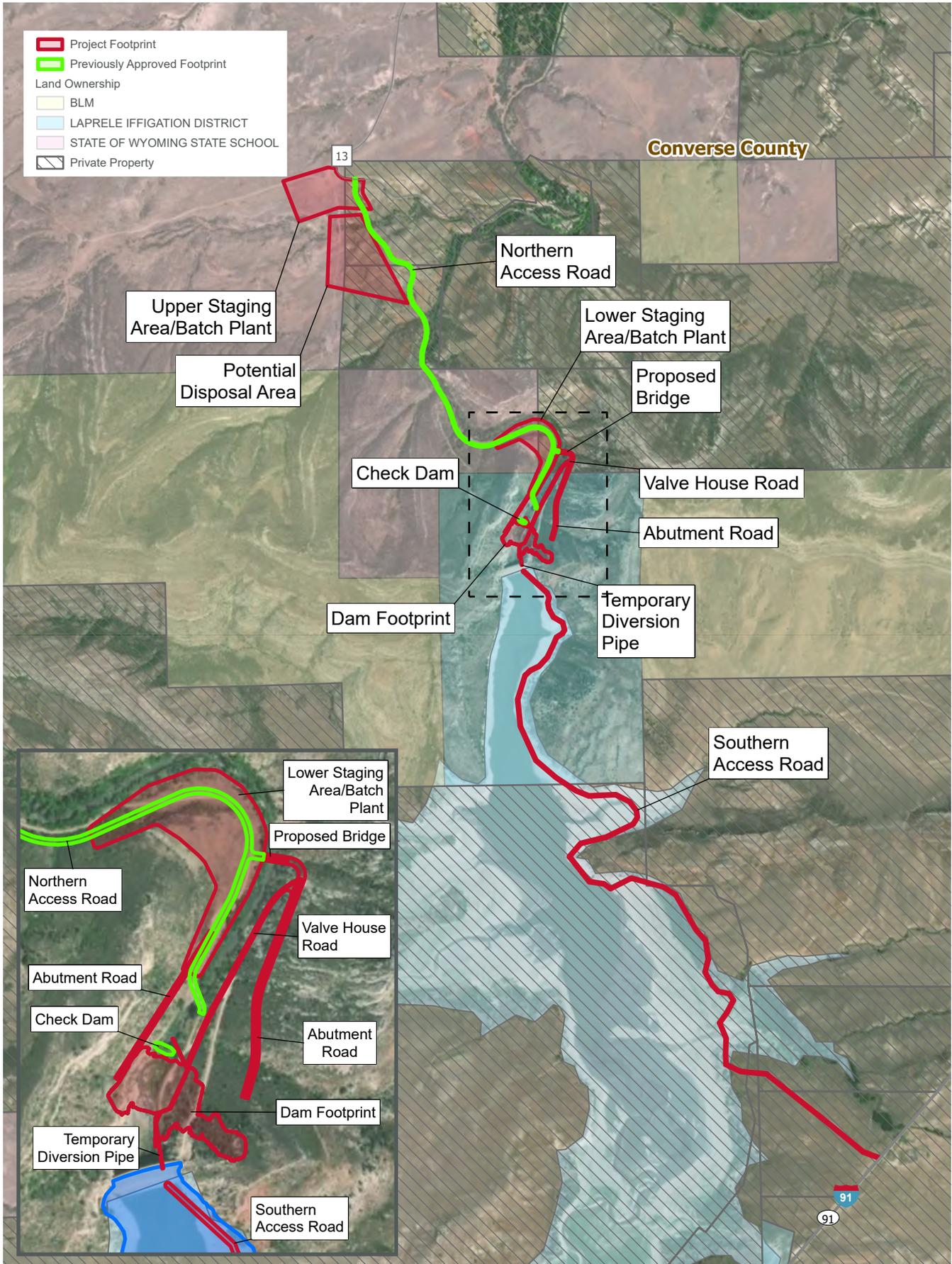
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Cory Foreman, HDR

ATTACHMENT: PROJECT LOCATION MAP



PROJECT LOCATION

ATTACHMENT: PROJECT OVERVIEW MAP



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PROJECT AREA OVERVIEW



July 2, 2025

Reggie Wassana
Governor
Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes, Oklahoma
100 Red Moon Circle
Concho, OK 73022-0038
Provided electronically to:
rwassana@c-a-tribes.org

**SUBJECT: Cooperating Agency Invitation, LaPrele Dam Reconstruction Project
Environmental Assessment, Converse County, WY**

Dear Honorable Reggie Wassana,

On behalf of the Bureau of Reclamation, your agency is invited to participate as a Cooperating Agency under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for the above-titled project. The Bureau of Reclamation has been identified as the lead federal agency for NEPA as a pass-through funding agency.

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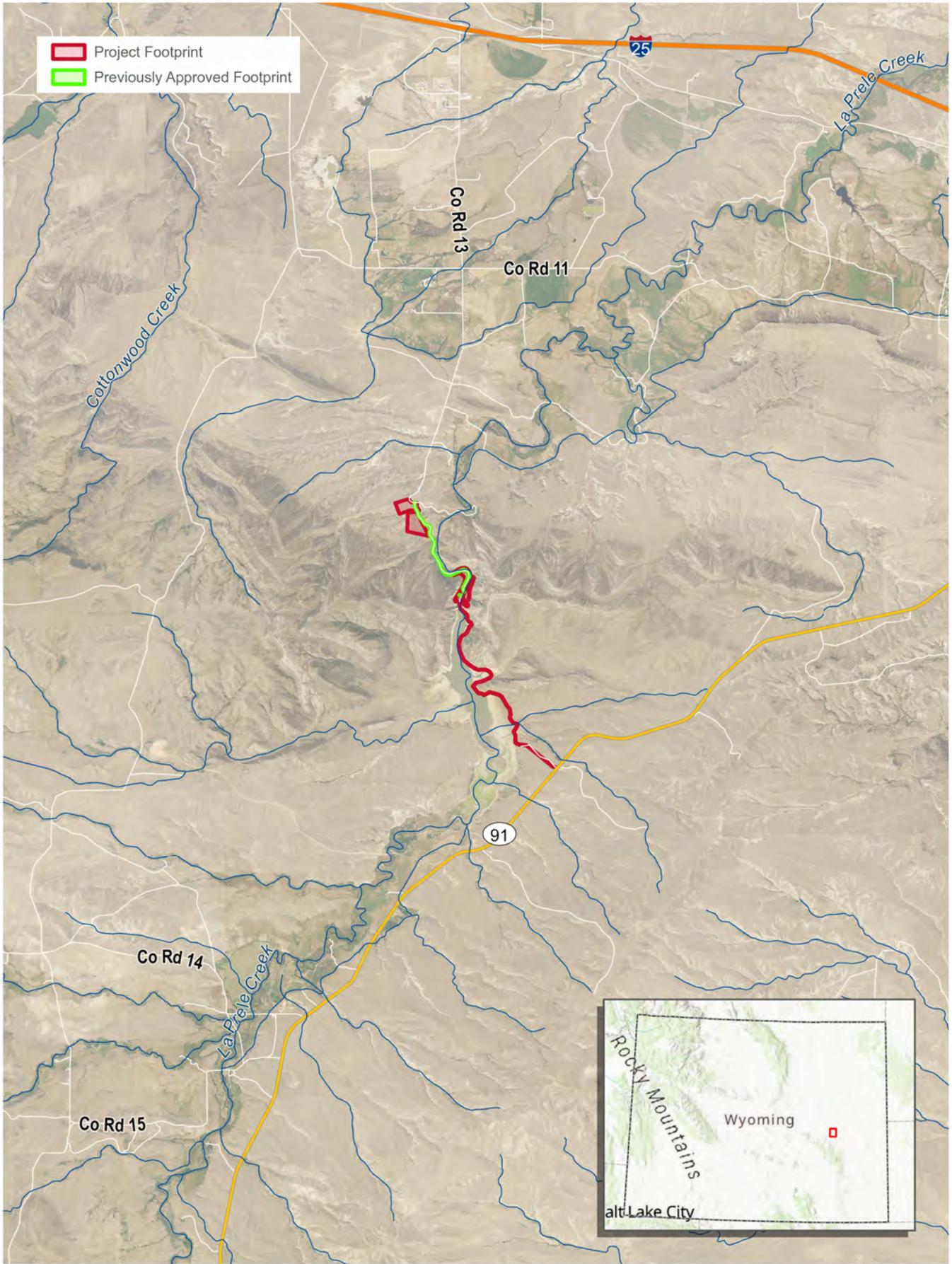
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Bradley Johnson, PhD
Federal Water Lead
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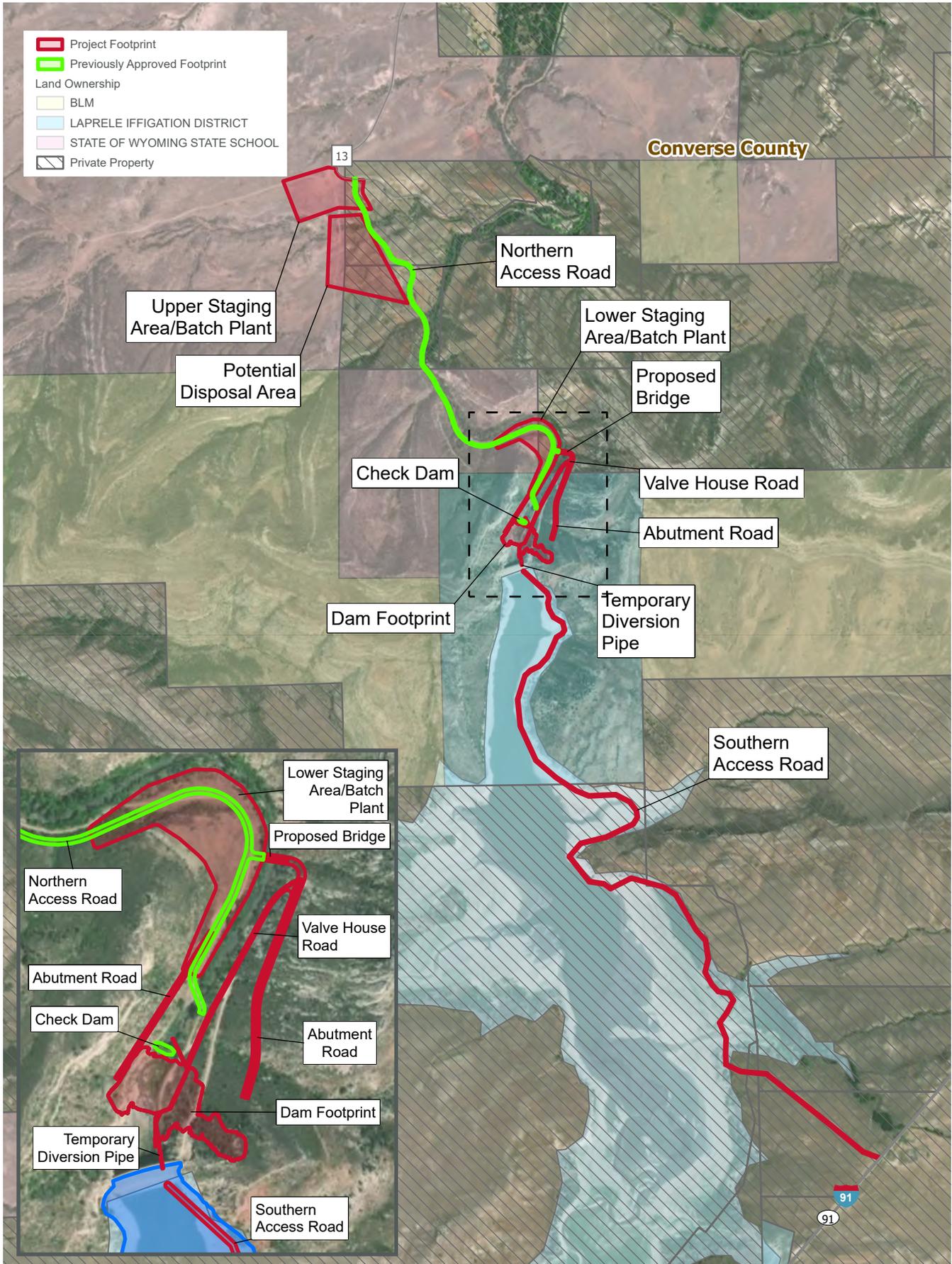
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Cory Foreman, HDR

ATTACHMENT: PROJECT LOCATION MAP



PROJECT LOCATION

ATTACHMENT: PROJECT OVERVIEW MAP



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PROJECT AREA OVERVIEW



July 2, 2025

Ryman LeBeau
Chairman
Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe of the Cheyenne River Reservation, South Dakota
PO Box 590
Eagle Butte, SD 57625-0590
Provided electronically to: chairmanlebeau@crstmail.com

**SUBJECT: Cooperating Agency Invitation, LaPrele Dam Reconstruction Project
Environmental Assessment, Converse County, WY**

Dear Chairman Ryman LeBeau,

On behalf of the Bureau of Reclamation, your agency is invited to participate as a Cooperating Agency under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for the above-titled project. The Bureau of Reclamation has been identified as the lead federal agency for NEPA as a pass-through funding agency.

Your agency has recognized expertise, authority, or interest in this project. A decision to forgo participation as a Cooperating Agency does not preclude participation in the NEPA process or as a participating agency with the ability to comment on the substance of the draft Environmental Assessment (EA) when released for public and agency review.

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A written response within 30 days for your participation as a Cooperating Agency can be emailed to Bradley.johnson@hdrinc.com or sent by mail to 419 Canyon Ave., Suite 316, Fort Collins, CO 80521.

If you require additional information or clarification, please contact me at 720-360-6754 or the email provided above. Thank you for your response.

Sincerely,

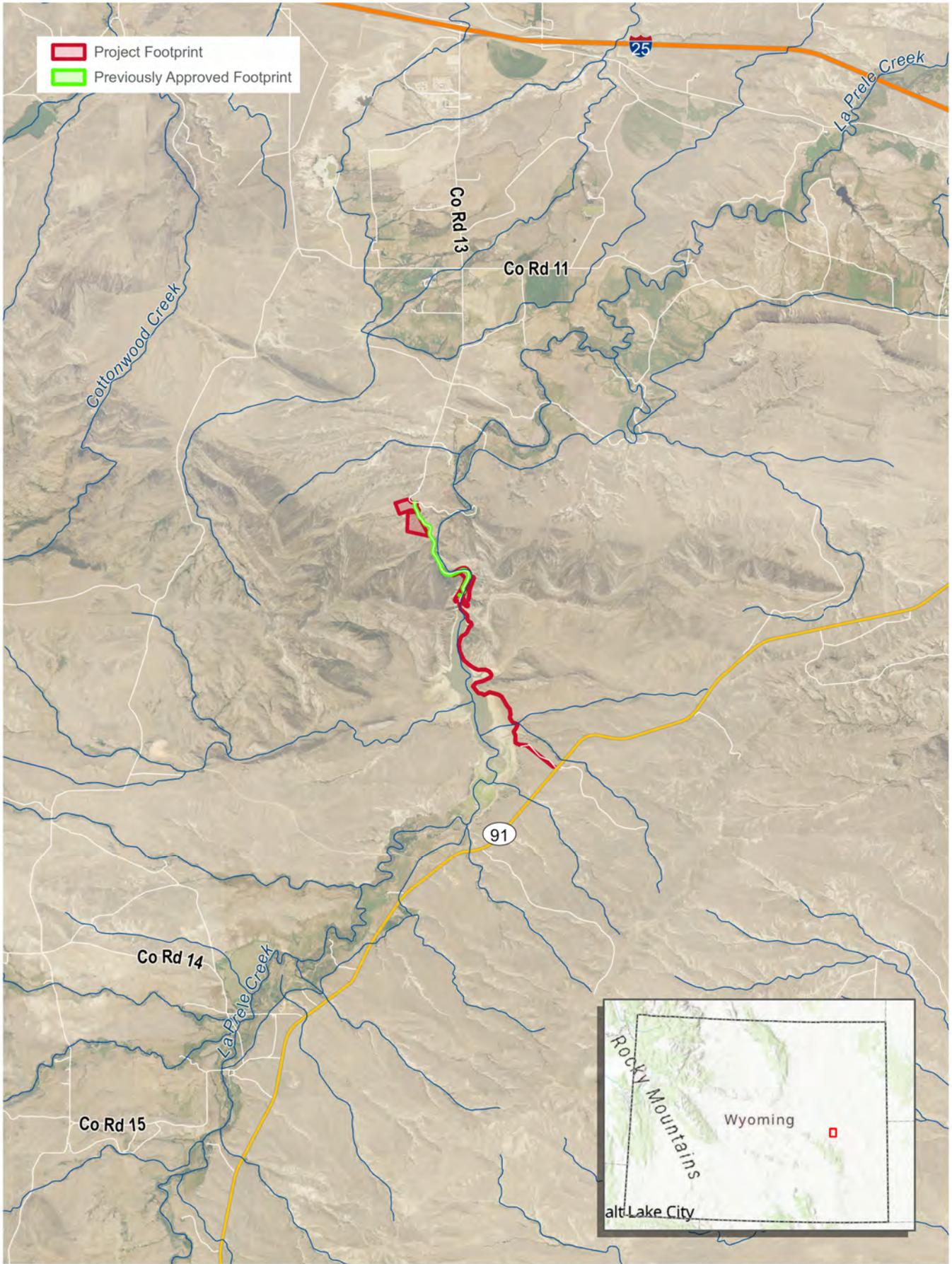
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Bradley Johnson, PhD
Federal Water Lead
HDR Engineering, Inc.

Attachment: Project Location Map; Project Overview Map

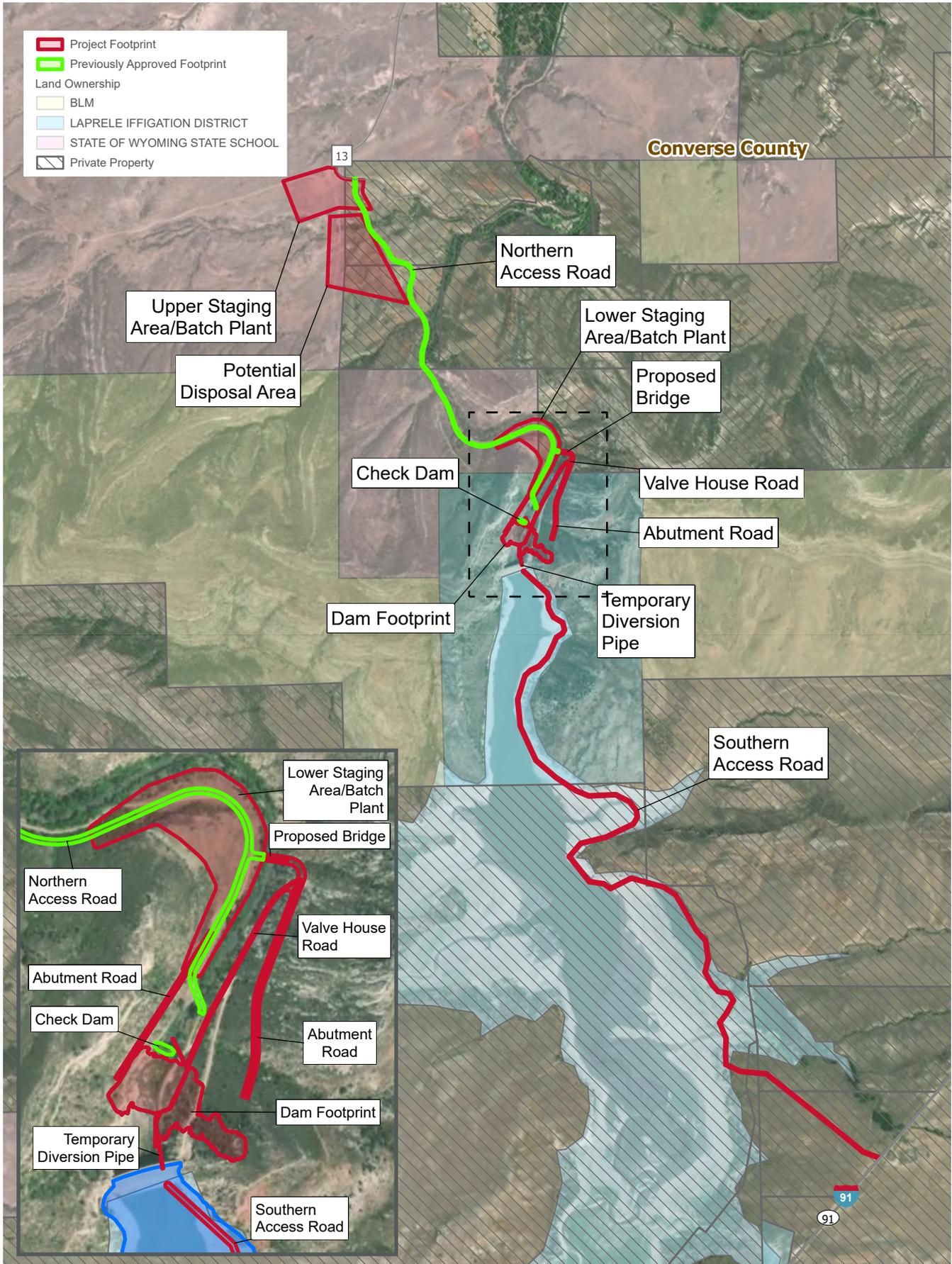
cc: LaPrele Irrigation District
Shain Wright, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
Stacey Johnston, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
Kristin Bowen, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
Paige Wolken, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Shawn Follum, Natural Resources Conservation Service
Jason Mead, Wyoming Water Development Office
Chace Tavelli, Wyoming Water Development Office
Pete Rausch, RESPEC
Cory Foreman, HDR

ATTACHMENT: PROJECT LOCATION MAP



PROJECT LOCATION

ATTACHMENT: PROJECT OVERVIEW MAP



0 0.2 mi



PROJECT AREA OVERVIEW



July 2, 2025

Steven Vance
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe of the Cheyenne River Reservation, South Dakota
PO Box 590
Eagle Butte, SD 57625-0590
Provided electronically to: steve.vance@crstmail.com

**SUBJECT: Cooperating Agency Invitation, LaPrele Dam Reconstruction Project
Environmental Assessment, Converse County, WY**

Dear Mr. Steven Vance,

On behalf of the Bureau of Reclamation, your agency is invited to participate as a Cooperating Agency under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for the above-titled project. The Bureau of Reclamation has been identified as the lead federal agency for NEPA as a pass-through funding agency.

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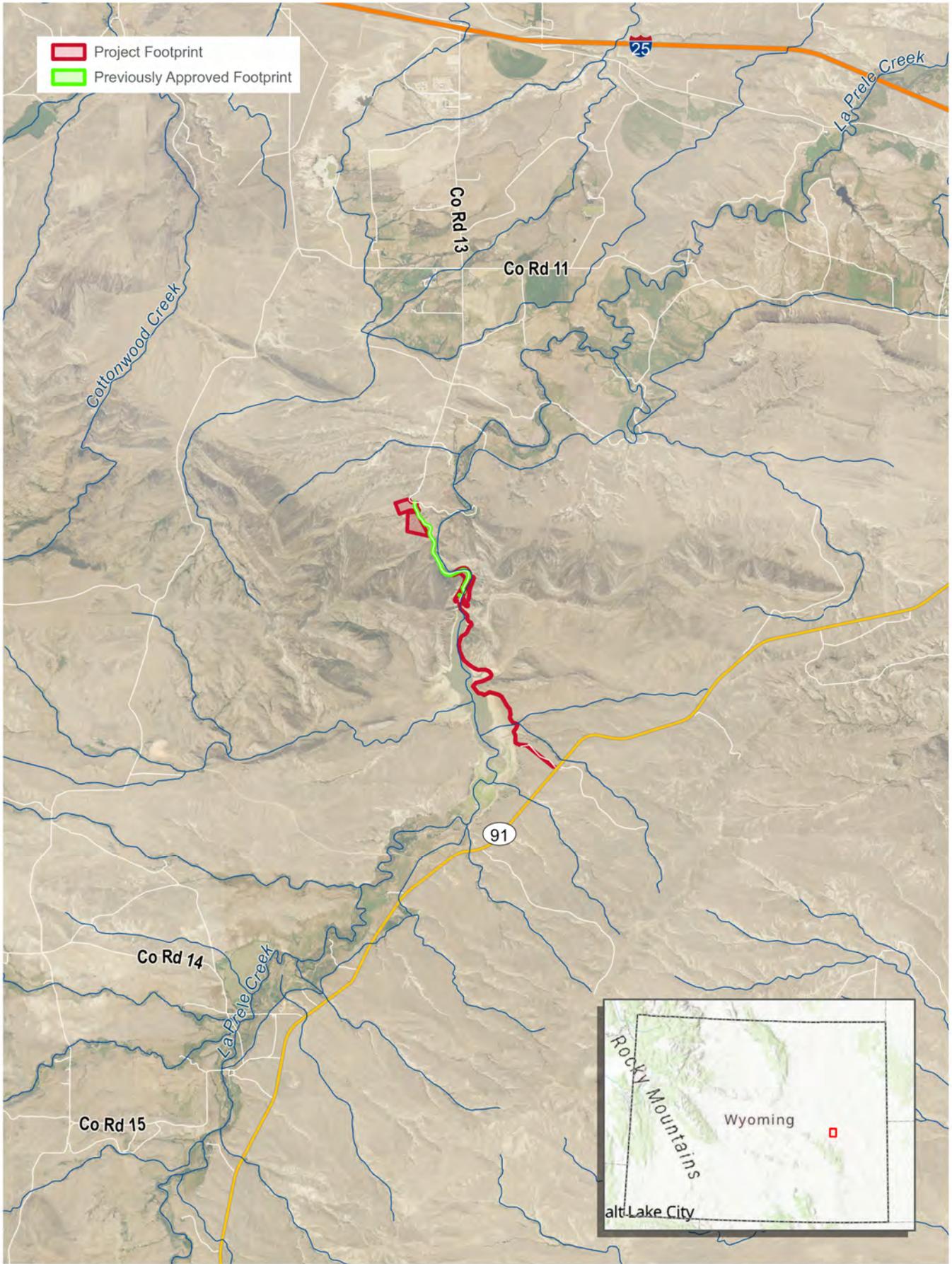
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Federal Water Lead
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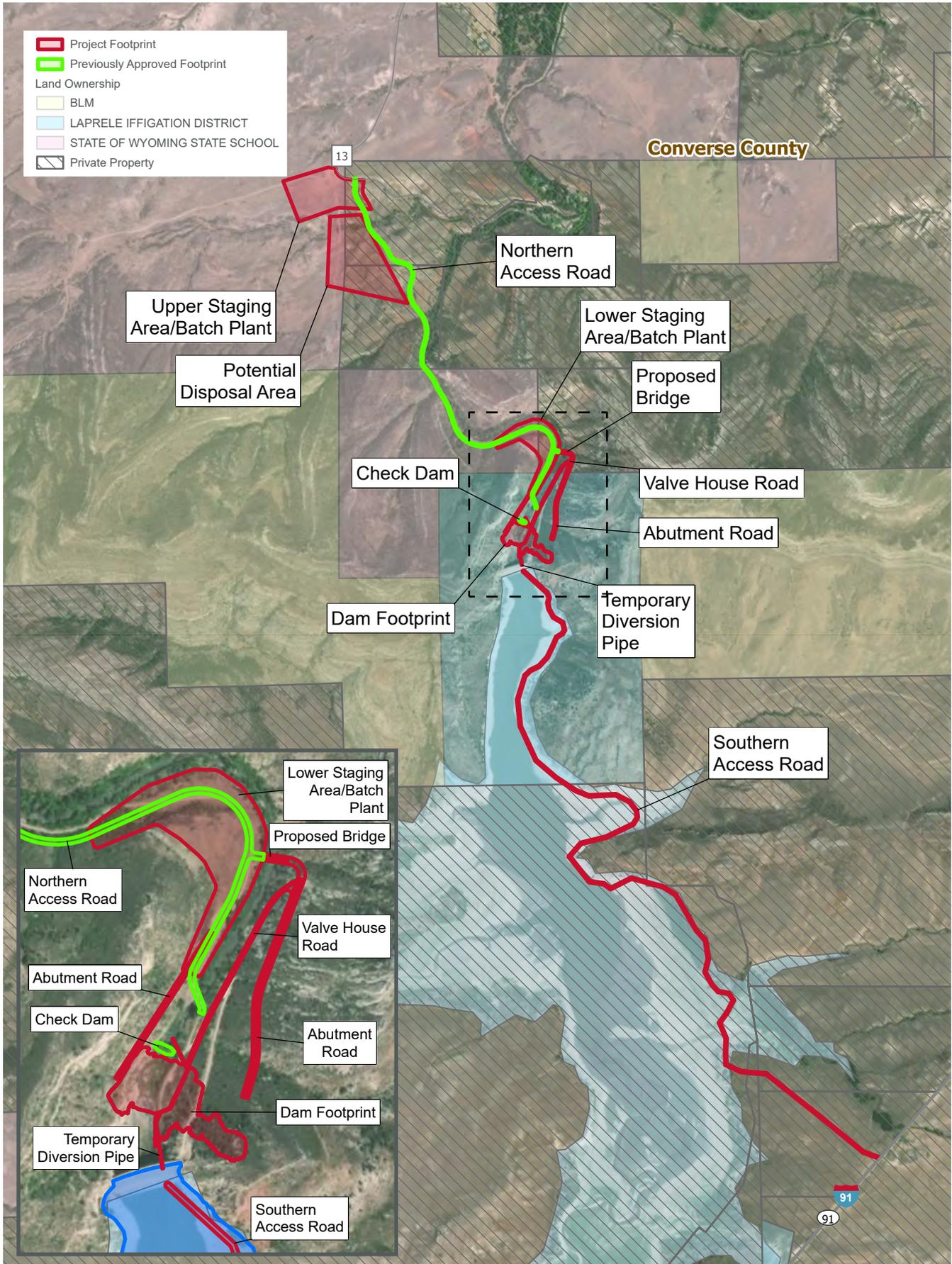
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Shawn Follum, Natural Resources Conservation Service
Jason Mead, Wyoming Water Development Office
Chace Tavelli, Wyoming Water Development Office
Pete Rausch, RESPEC
Cory Foreman, HDR

ATTACHMENT: PROJECT LOCATION MAP



PROJECT LOCATION

ATTACHMENT: PROJECT OVERVIEW MAP



0 0.2 mi



PROJECT AREA OVERVIEW



July 2, 2025

Harlan Gopher Baker
Chairman
Chippewa Cree Tribe of the Rocky Boy's Reservation
96 Clinic Road
Box Elder, MT 59521-8849
Provided electronically to: chairman@cct.rockyboy.org

**SUBJECT: Cooperating Agency Invitation, LaPrele Dam Reconstruction Project
Environmental Assessment, Converse County, WY**

Dear Chairman Harlan Gopher Baker,

On behalf of the Bureau of Reclamation, your agency is invited to participate as a Cooperating Agency under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for the above-titled project. The Bureau of Reclamation has been identified as the lead federal agency for NEPA as a pass-through funding agency.

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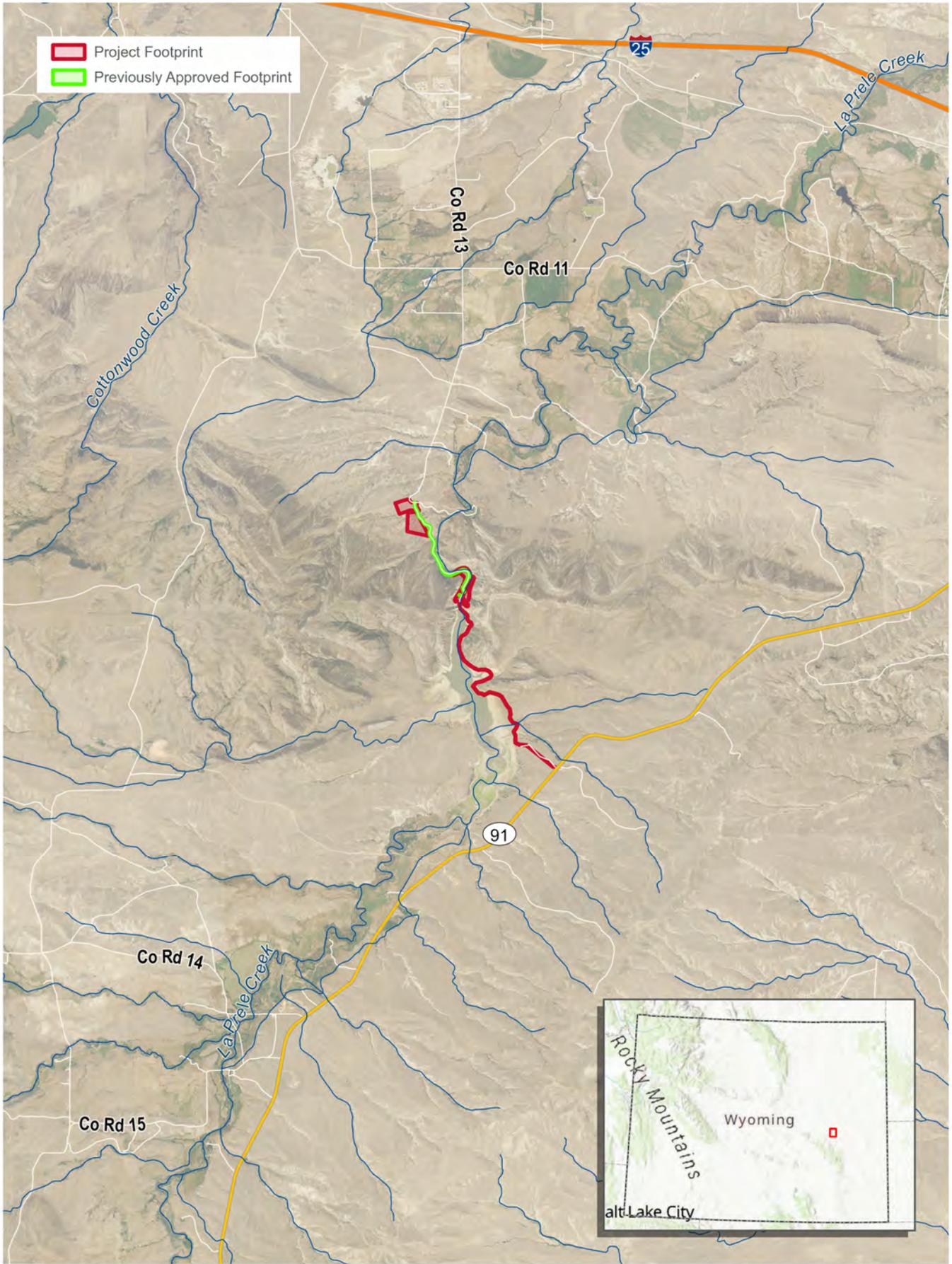
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Bradley Johnson, PhD
Federal Water Lead
HDR Engineering, Inc.

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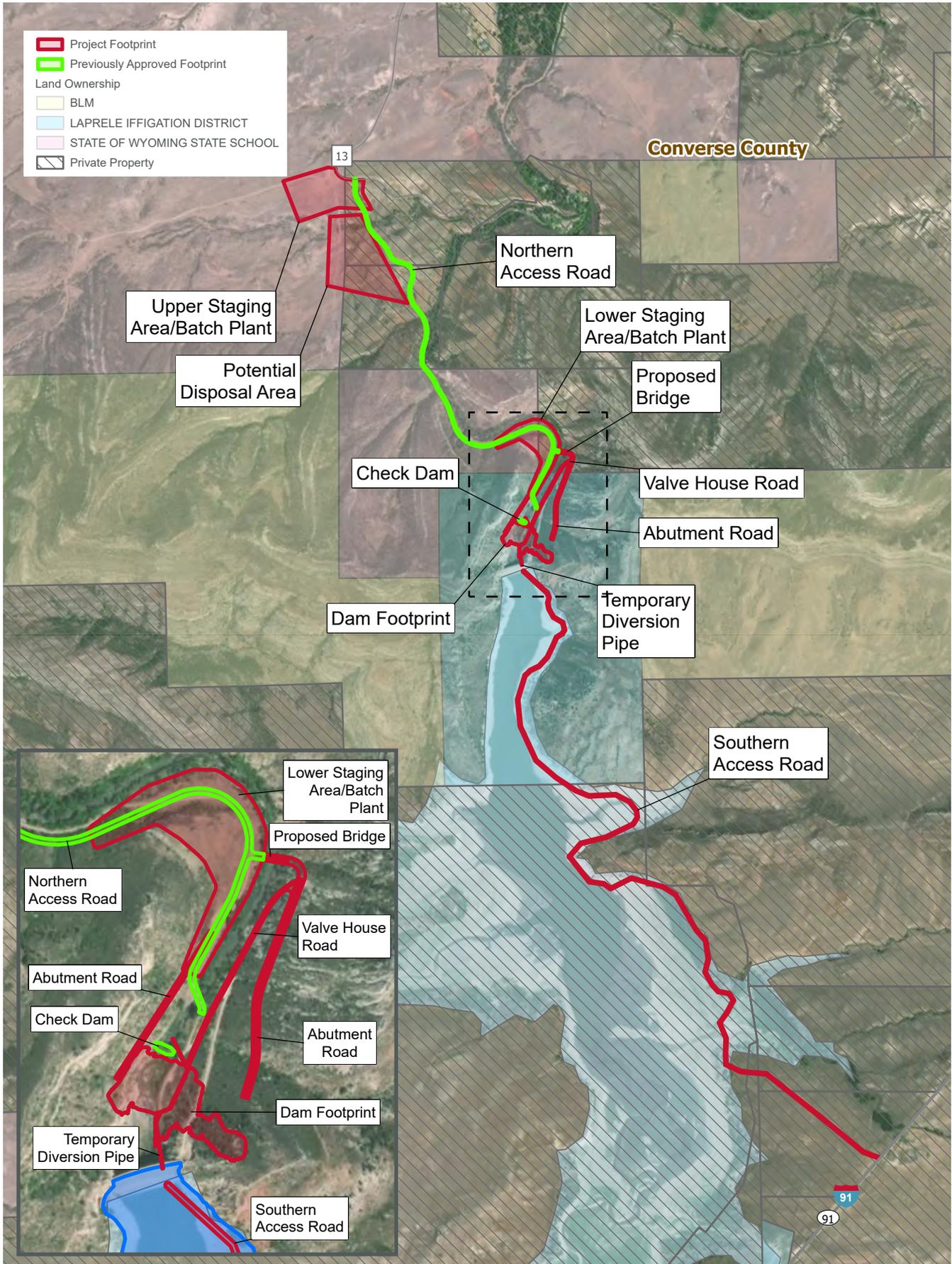
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Shawn Follum, Natural Resources Conservation Service
Jason Mead, Wyoming Water Development Office
Chace Tavelli, Wyoming Water Development Office
Pete Rausch, RESPEC
Cory Foreman, HDR

ATTACHMENT: PROJECT LOCATION MAP



PROJECT LOCATION

ATTACHMENT: PROJECT OVERVIEW MAP



0 0.2 mi



PROJECT AREA OVERVIEW



July 2, 2025

Jonathan Windy Boy
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
Chippewa Cree Tribe of the Rocky Boy's Reservation
PO Box 230
Box Elder, MT 59521
Provided electronically to: jonathan.windyboy@nei-yahw.com

**SUBJECT: Cooperating Agency Invitation, LaPrele Dam Reconstruction Project
Environmental Assessment, Converse County, WY**

Dear Mr. Jonathan Windy Boy,

On behalf of the Bureau of Reclamation, your agency is invited to participate as a Cooperating Agency under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for the above-titled project. The Bureau of Reclamation has been identified as the lead federal agency for NEPA as a pass-through funding agency.

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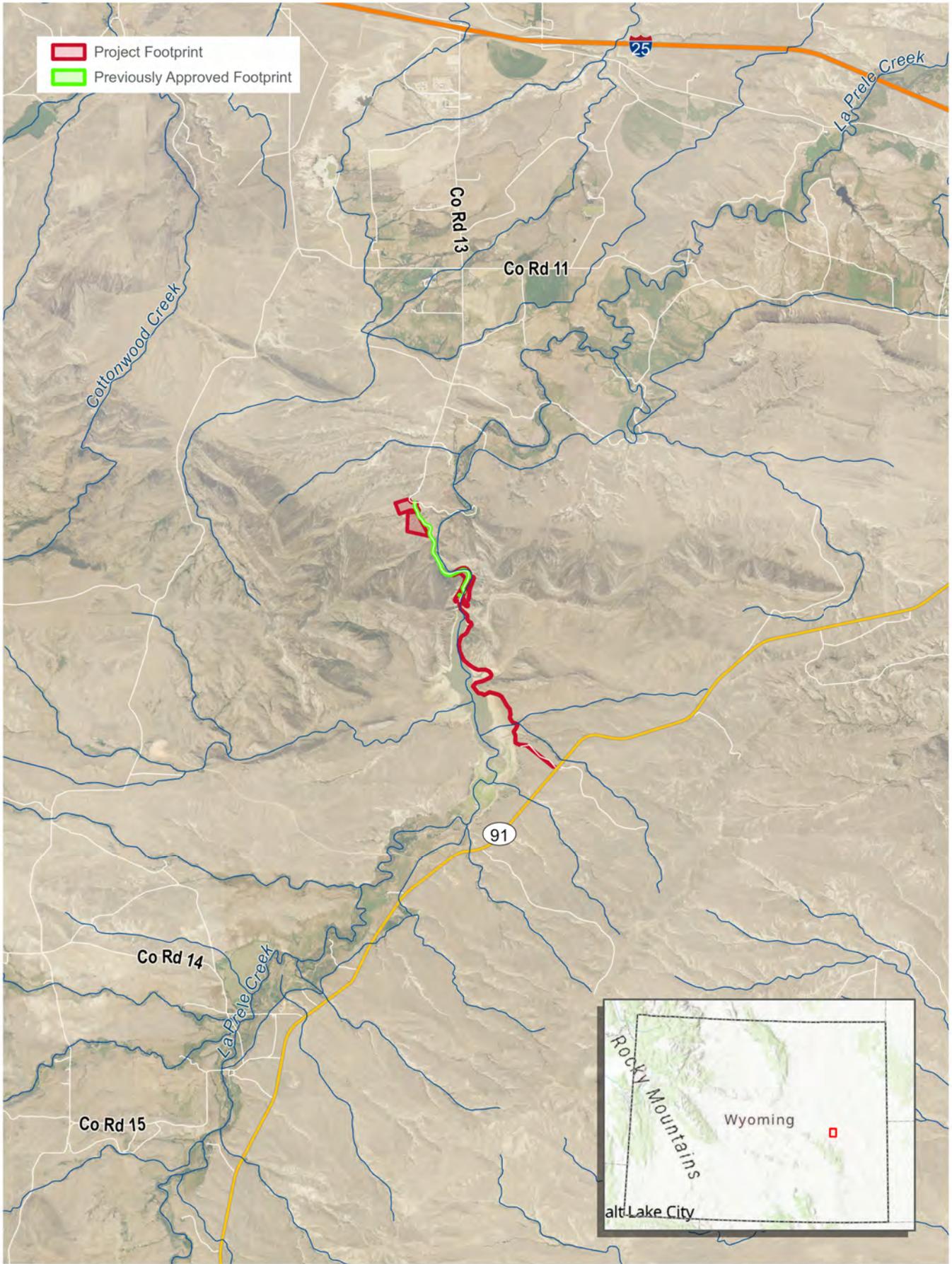
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Federal Water Lead
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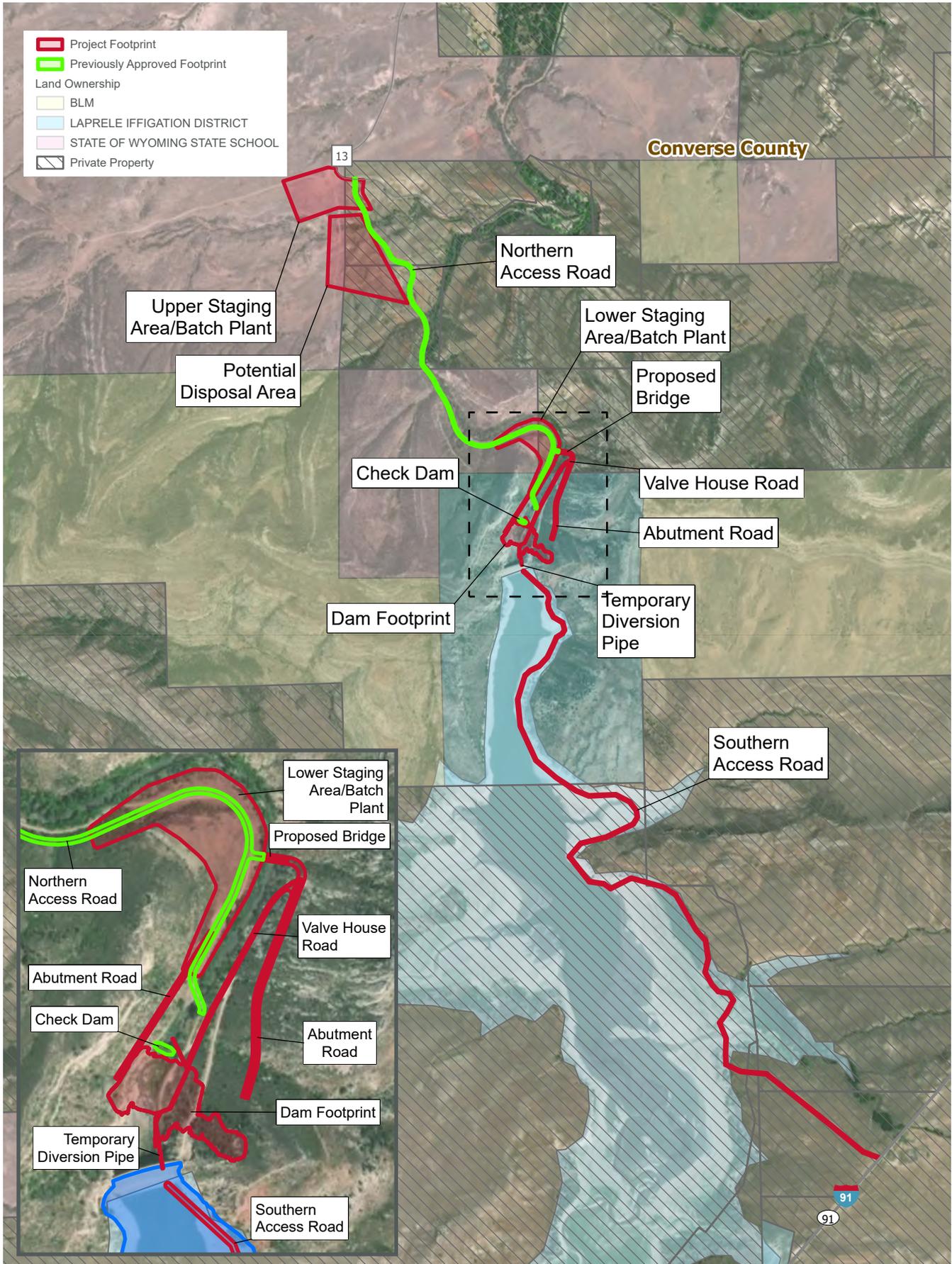
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Chace Tavelli, Wyoming Water Development Office
Pete Rausch, RESPEC
Cory Foreman, HDR

ATTACHMENT: PROJECT LOCATION MAP



PROJECT LOCATION

ATTACHMENT: PROJECT OVERVIEW MAP



0 0.2 mi



PROJECT AREA OVERVIEW



July 2, 2025

Martina Minthorn
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
Comanche Nation, Oklahoma
6 SW D Avenue, Suite C
Lawton, OK 73502
Provided electronically to: martina.minthorn@comanchenation.com

**SUBJECT: Cooperating Agency Invitation, LaPrele Dam Reconstruction Project
Environmental Assessment, Converse County, WY**

Dear Ms. Martina Minthorn,

On behalf of the Bureau of Reclamation, your agency is invited to participate as a Cooperating Agency under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for the above-titled project. The Bureau of Reclamation has been identified as the lead federal agency for NEPA as a pass-through funding agency.

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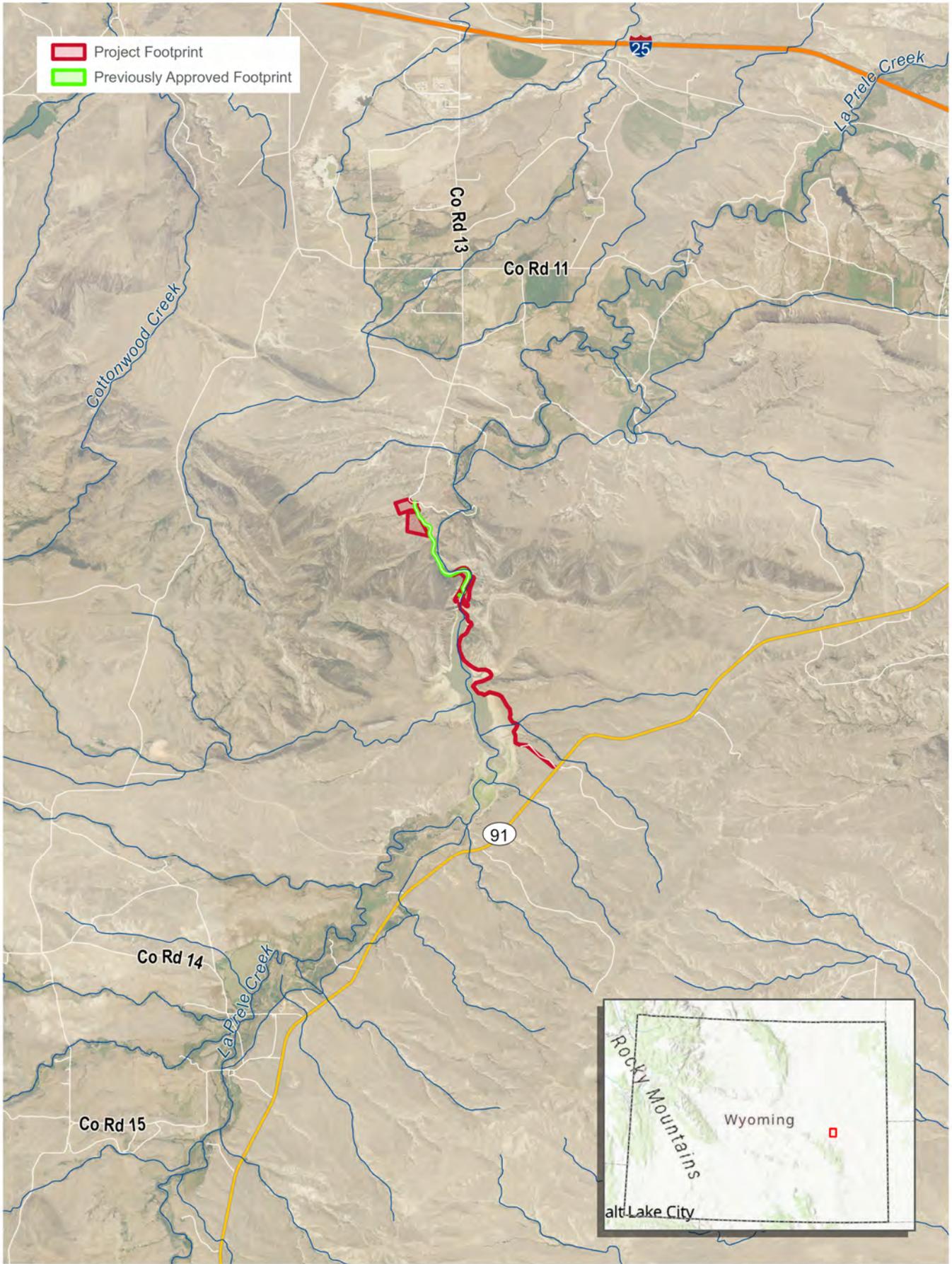
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Bradley Johnson, PhD
Federal Water Lead
HDR Engineering, Inc.

Attachment: Project Location Map; Project Overview Map

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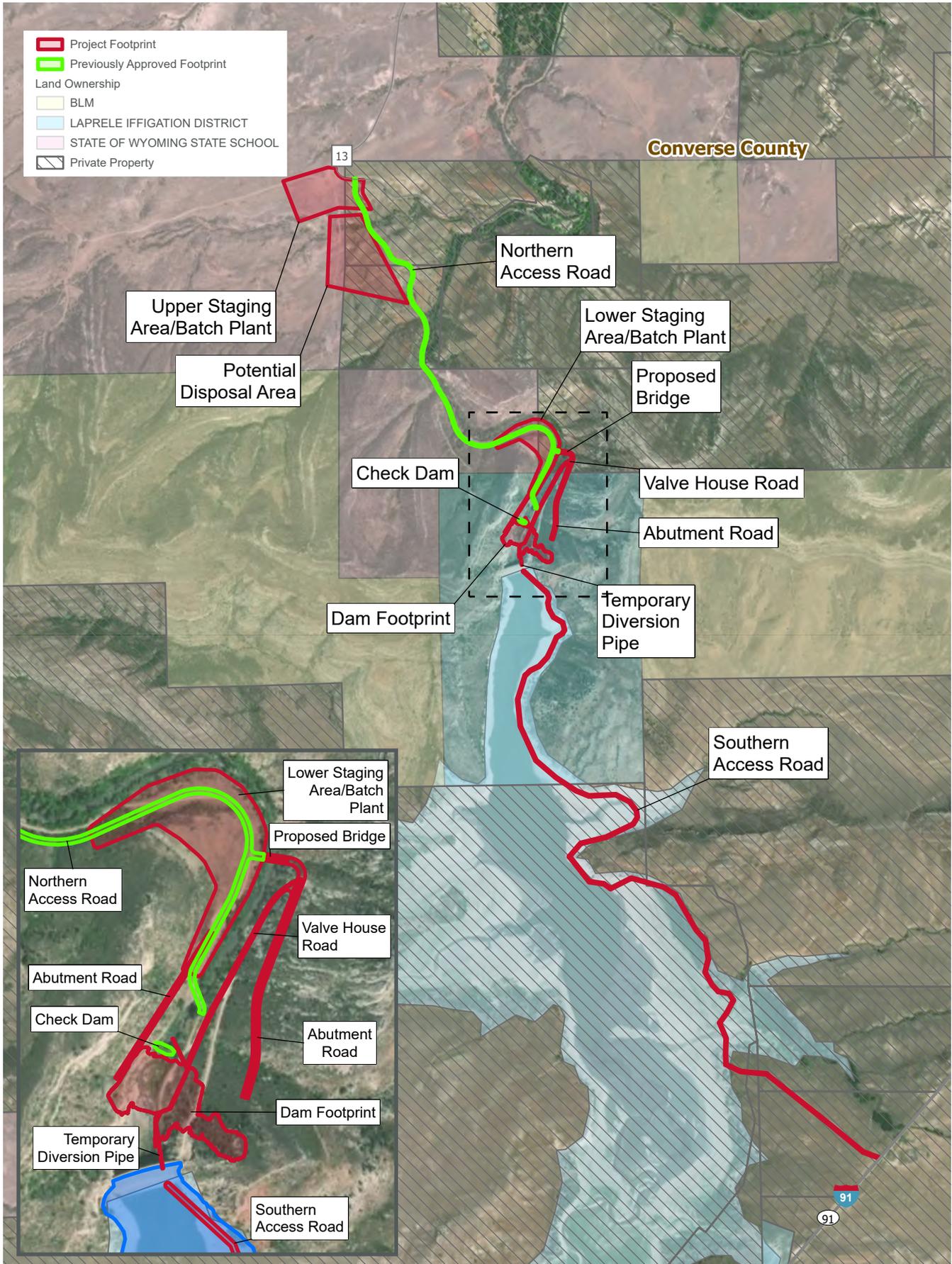


Project Footprint
Previously Approved Footprint



PROJECT LOCATION

ATTACHMENT: PROJECT OVERVIEW MAP



0 0.2 mi



PROJECT AREA OVERVIEW



July 2, 2025

Forrest Tahdooahnippah
Chairman
Comanche Nation, Oklahoma
PO Box 908
Lawton, OK 73502
Provided electronically to: forrest.tahdooahnippah@comanchenation.com

**SUBJECT: Cooperating Agency Invitation, LaPrele Dam Reconstruction Project
Environmental Assessment, Converse County, WY**

Dear Chairman Forrest Tahdooahnippah,

On behalf of the Bureau of Reclamation, your agency is invited to participate as a Cooperating Agency under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for the above-titled project. The Bureau of Reclamation has been identified as the lead federal agency for NEPA as a pass-through funding agency.

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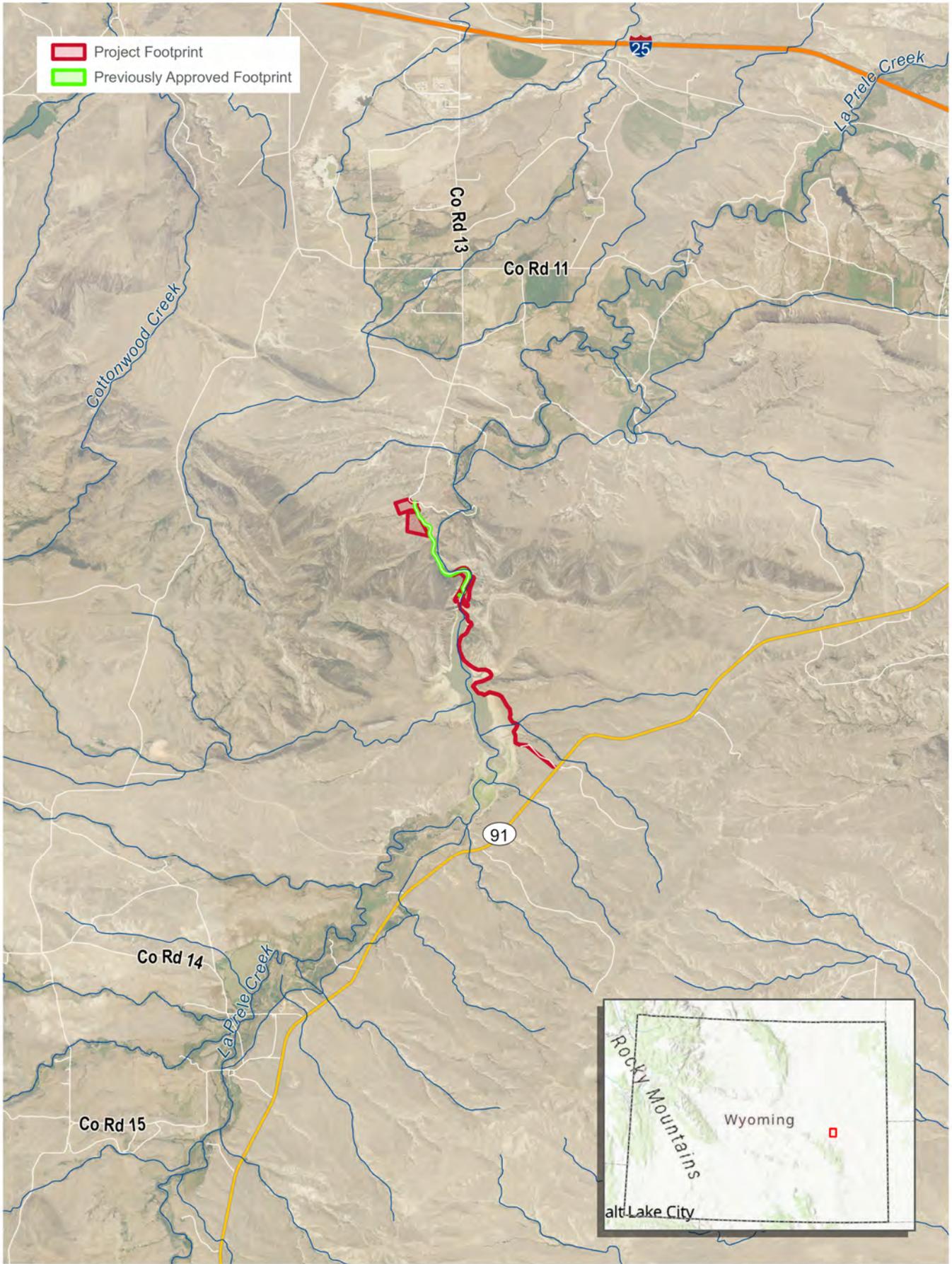
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Bradley Johnson, PhD
Federal Water Lead
HDR Engineering, Inc.

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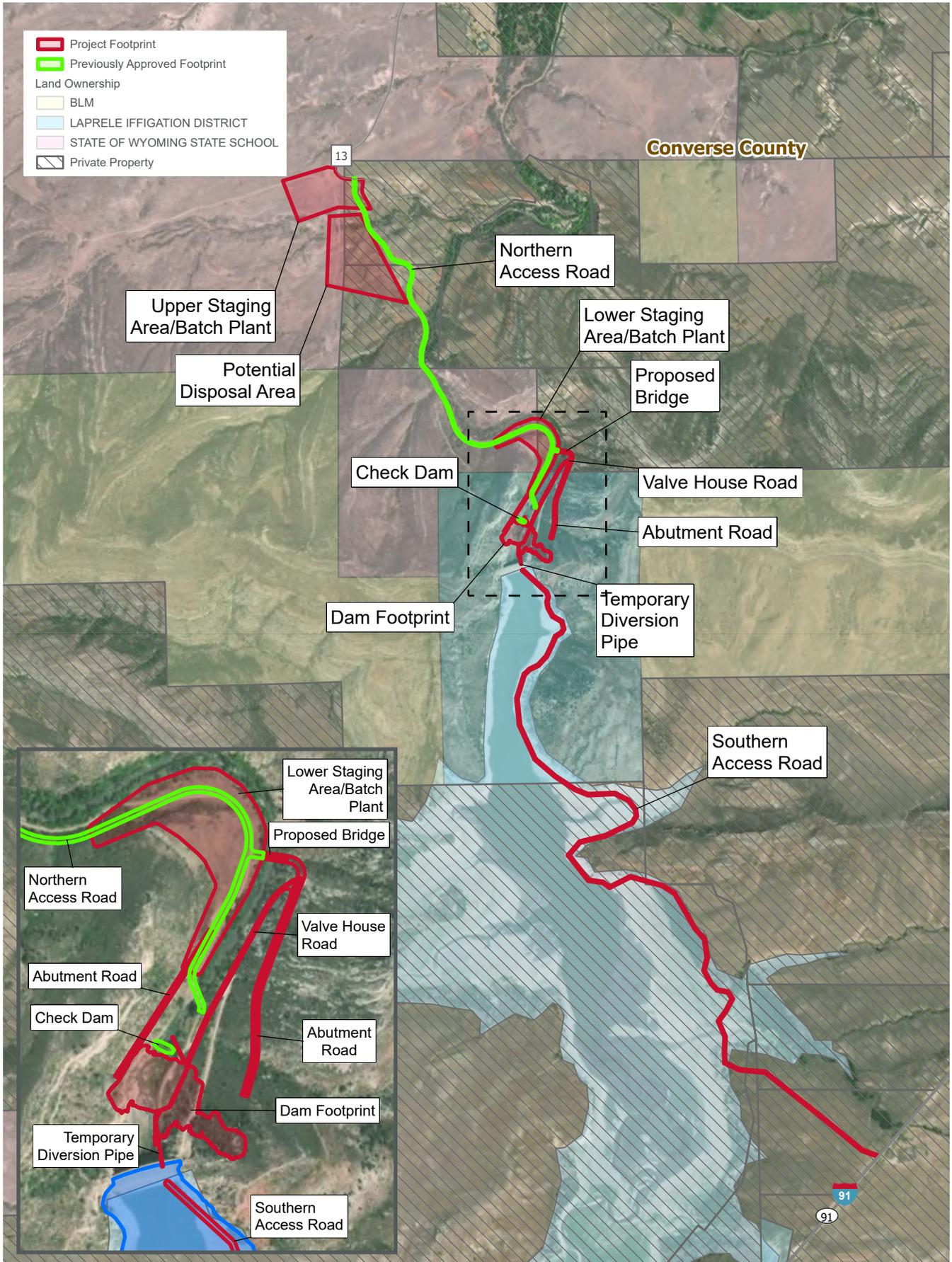
cc: LaPrele Irrigation District
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Chace Tavelli, Wyoming Water Development Office
Pete Rausch, RESPEC
Cory Foreman, HDR

ATTACHMENT: PROJECT LOCATION MAP



PROJECT LOCATION

ATTACHMENT: PROJECT OVERVIEW MAP



0 0.2 mi



PROJECT AREA OVERVIEW



July 2, 2025

Aaron Brien
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
Crow Tribe of Montana
PO Box 159
Crow Agency, MT 59022
Provided electronically to: aaron.brien@crow-nsn.gov

**SUBJECT: Cooperating Agency Invitation, LaPrele Dam Reconstruction Project
Environmental Assessment, Converse County, WY**

Dear Mr. Aaron Brien,

On behalf of the Bureau of Reclamation, your agency is invited to participate as a Cooperating Agency under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for the above-titled project. The Bureau of Reclamation has been identified as the lead federal agency for NEPA as a pass-through funding agency.

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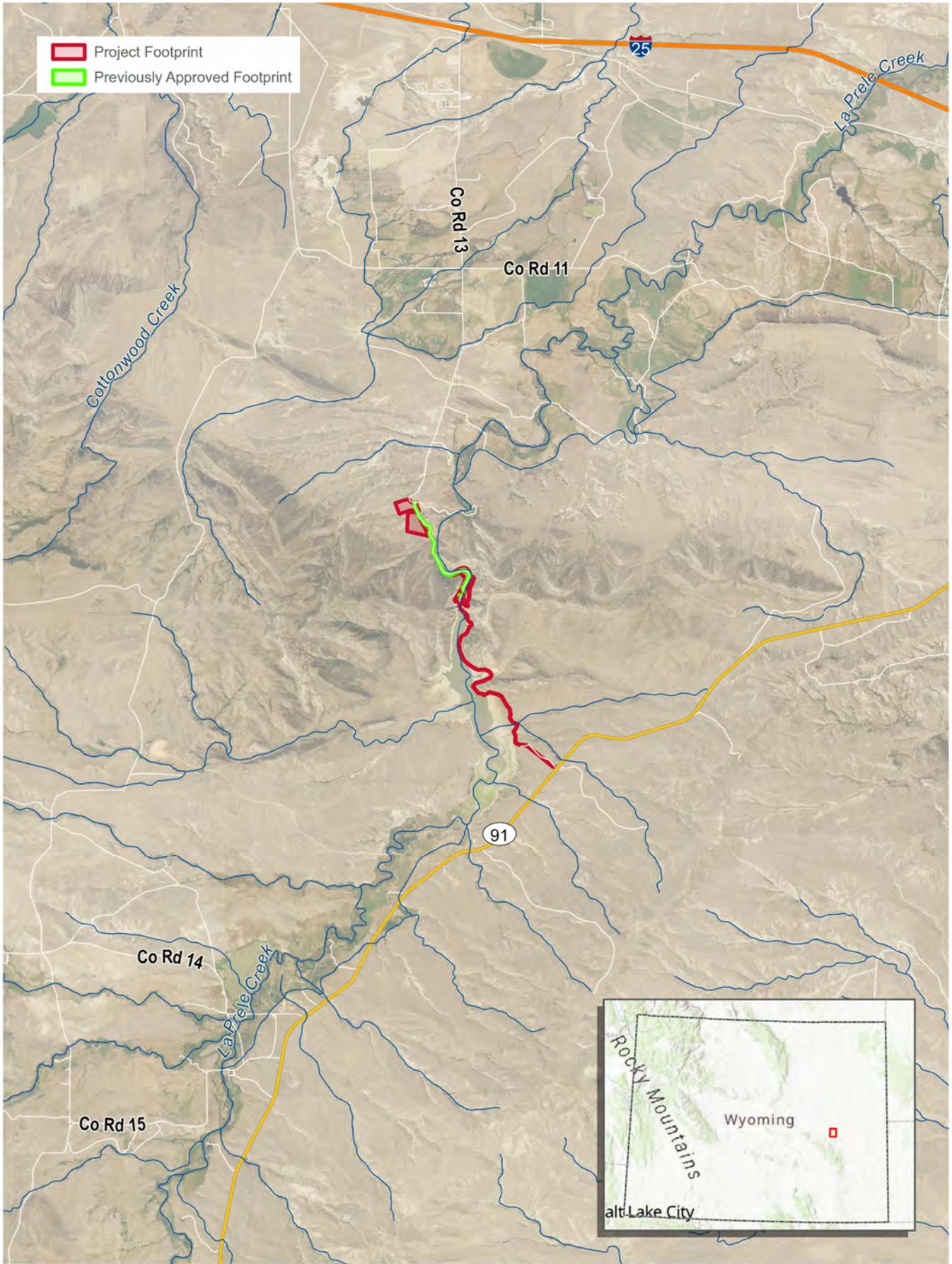
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Federal Water Lead
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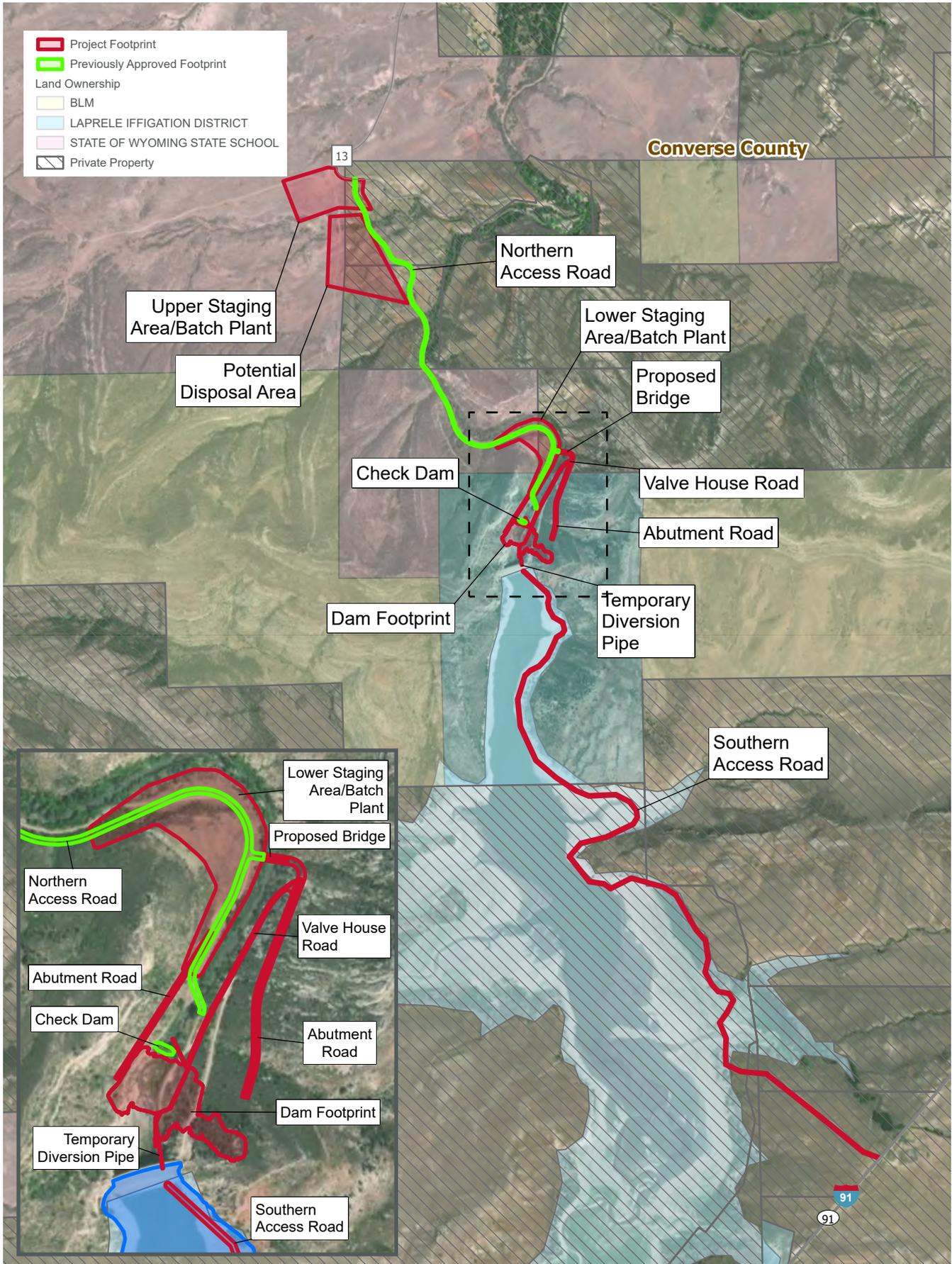
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Cory Foreman, HDR

ATTACHMENT: PROJECT LOCATION MAP



PROJECT LOCATION

ATTACHMENT: PROJECT OVERVIEW MAP



0 0.2 mi



PROJECT AREA OVERVIEW



July 2, 2025

Frank White Clay
Chairman
Crow Tribe of Montana
PO Box 159
Crow Agency, MT 59022
Provided electronically to: Frank.Whiteclay@crow-nsn.gov

**SUBJECT: Cooperating Agency Invitation, LaPrele Dam Reconstruction Project
Environmental Assessment, Converse County, WY**

Dear Chairman Frank White Clay,

On behalf of the Bureau of Reclamation, your agency is invited to participate as a Cooperating Agency under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for the above-titled project. The Bureau of Reclamation has been identified as the lead federal agency for NEPA as a pass-through funding agency.

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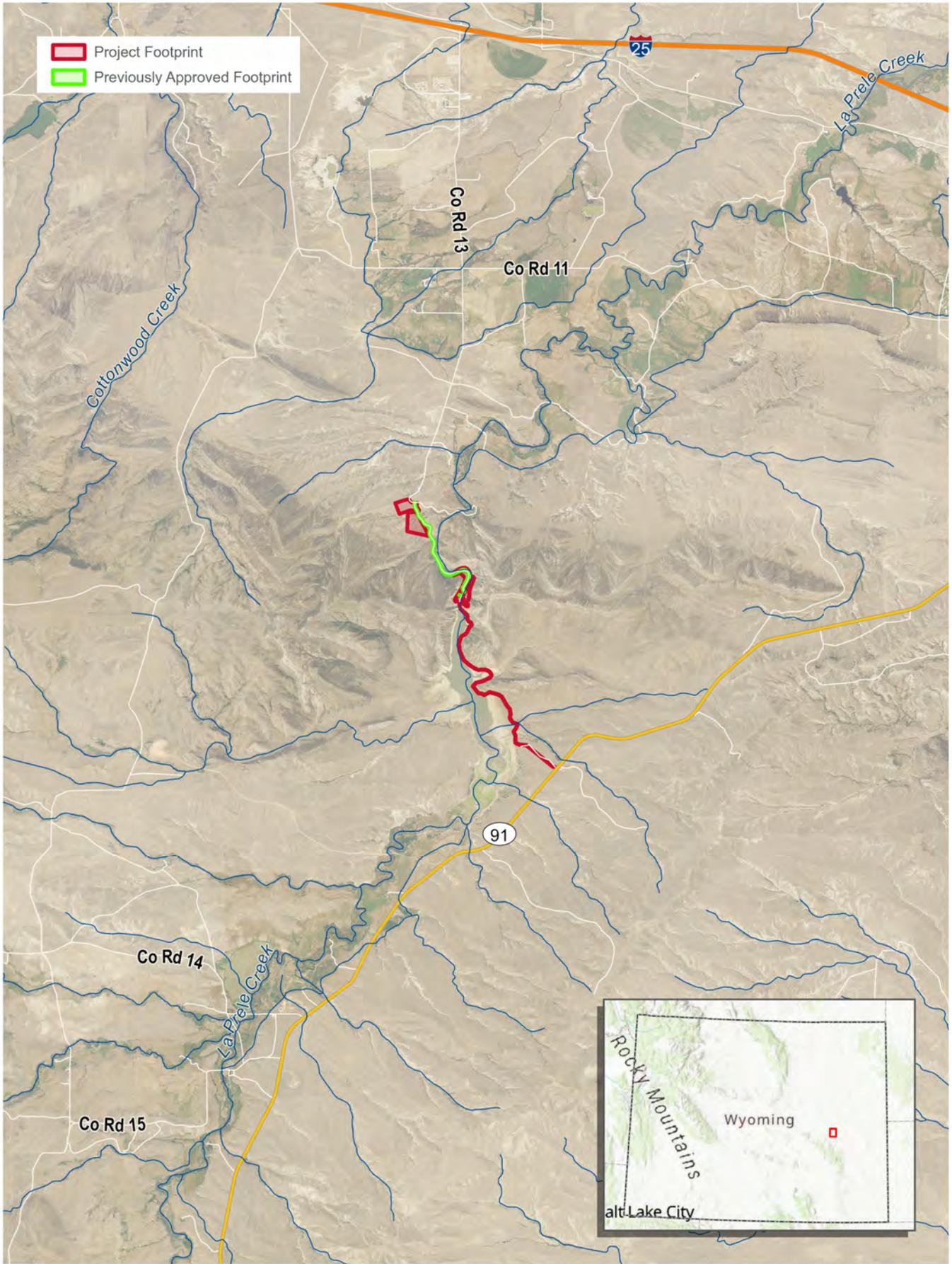
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Bradley Johnson, PhD
Federal Water Lead
HDR Engineering, Inc.

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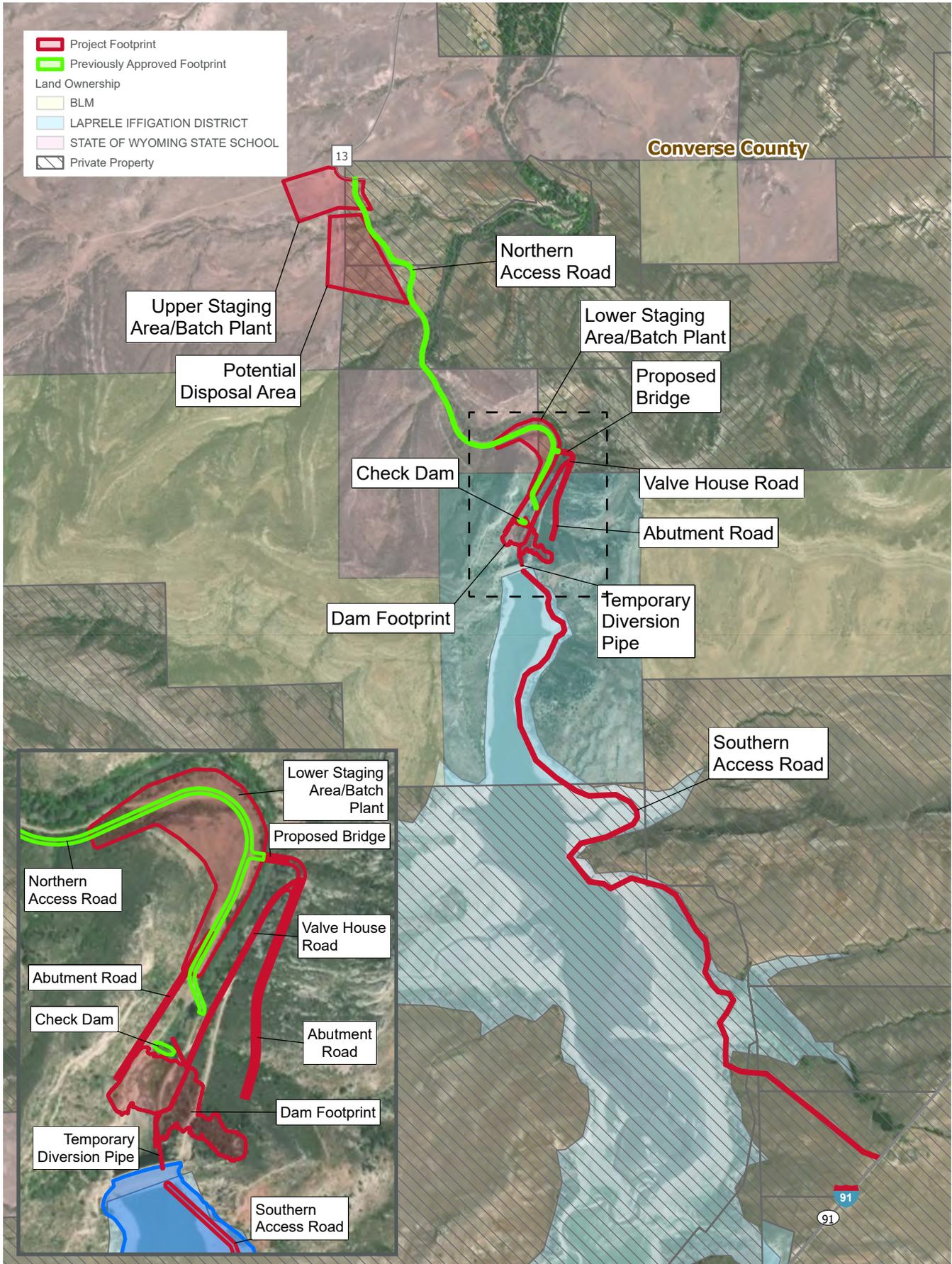


Project Footprint
Previously Approved Footprint



PROJECT LOCATION

ATTACHMENT: PROJECT OVERVIEW MAP



0 0.2 mi



PROJECT AREA OVERVIEW



July 2, 2025

Merle Marks
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
Crow Creek Sioux Tribe of the Crow Creek Reservation, South Dakota
PO Box 50
Fort Thompson, SD 57339-0050
Provided electronically to: cchistory@midstatesd.net

**SUBJECT: Cooperating Agency Invitation, LaPrele Dam Reconstruction Project
Environmental Assessment, Converse County, WY**

Dear Mr. Merle Marks,

On behalf of the Bureau of Reclamation, your agency is invited to participate as a Cooperating Agency under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for the above-titled project. The Bureau of Reclamation has been identified as the lead federal agency for NEPA as a pass-through funding agency.

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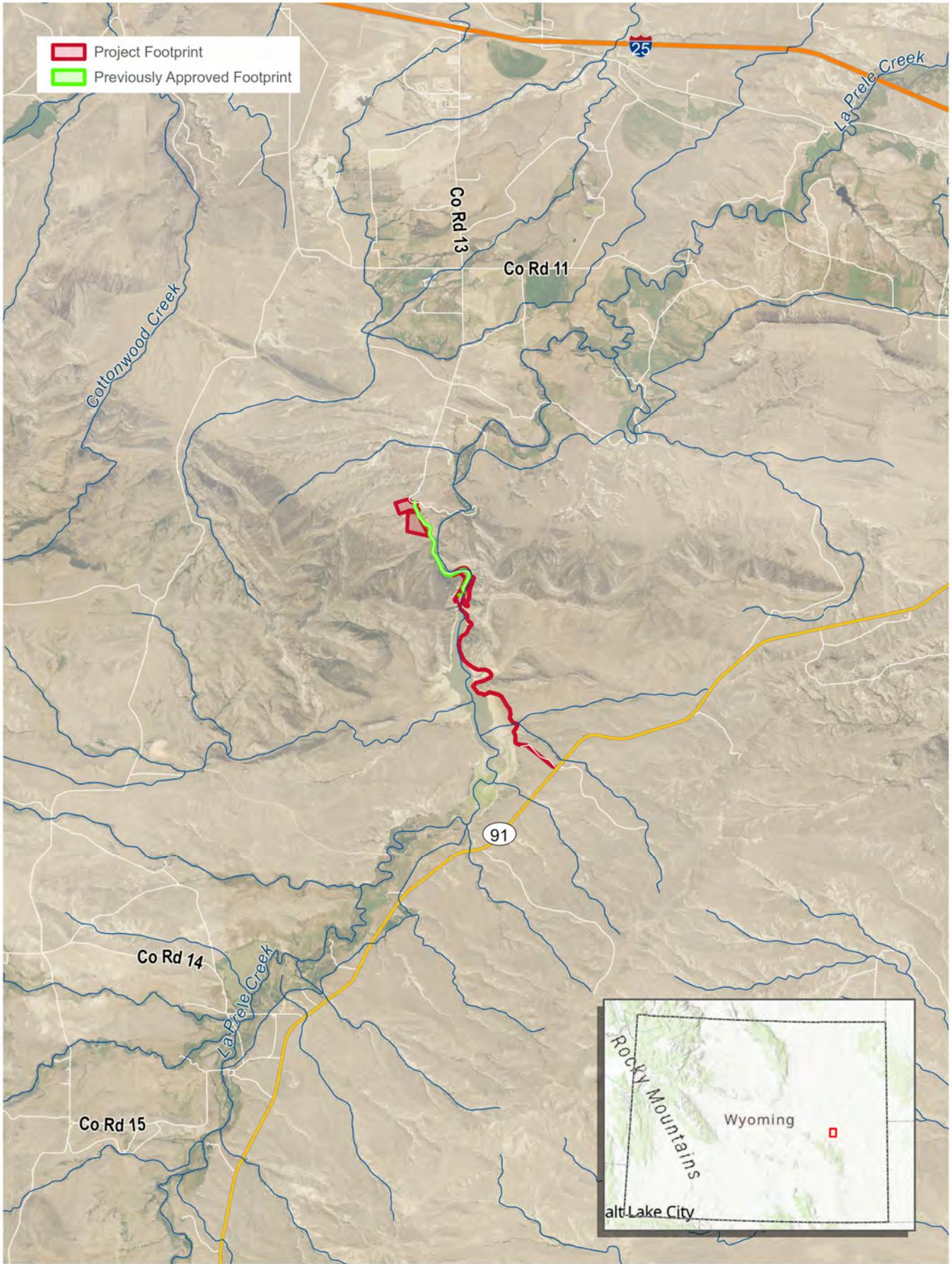
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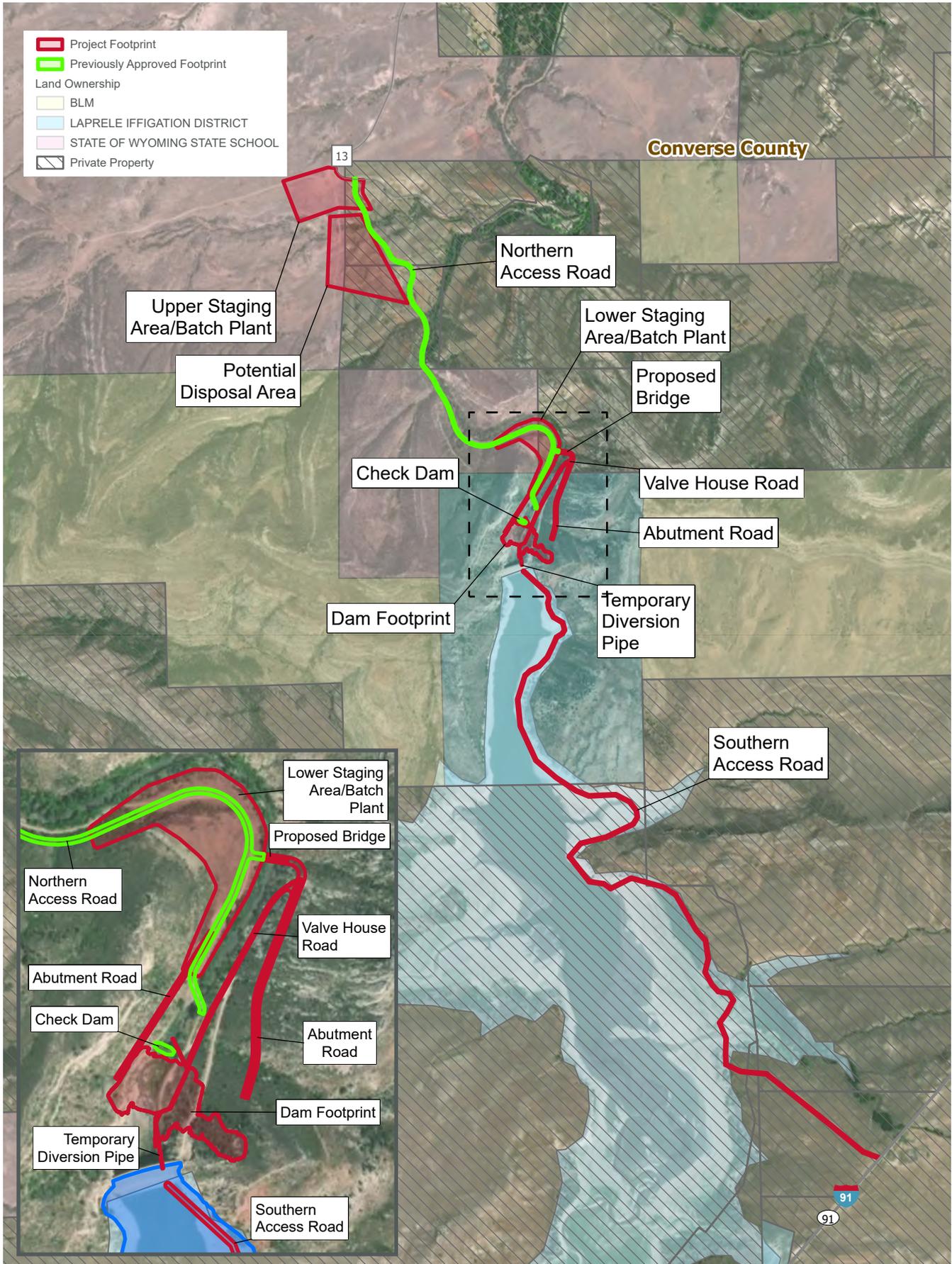
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ATTACHMENT: PROJECT LOCATION MAP



PROJECT LOCATION

ATTACHMENT: PROJECT OVERVIEW MAP



0 0.2 mi



PROJECT AREA OVERVIEW



July 2, 2025

Wayland Large
Chairman
Eastern Shoshone Tribe of the Wind River Reservation
P O Box 538
Fort Washakie, WY 82514
Provided electronically to: wlarge@easternshoshone.org

**SUBJECT: Cooperating Agency Invitation, LaPrele Dam Reconstruction Project
Environmental Assessment, Converse County, WY**

Dear Chairman Wayland Large,

On behalf of the Bureau of Reclamation, your agency is invited to participate as a Cooperating Agency under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for the above-titled project. The Bureau of Reclamation has been identified as the lead federal agency for NEPA as a pass-through funding agency.

Your agency has recognized expertise, authority, or interest in this project. A decision to forgo participation as a Cooperating Agency does not preclude participation in the NEPA process or as a participating agency with the ability to comment on the substance of the draft Environmental Assessment (EA) when released for public and agency review.

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A written response within 30 days for your participation as a Cooperating Agency can be emailed to Bradley.johnson@hdrinc.com or sent by mail to 419 Canyon Ave., Suite 316, Fort Collins, CO 80521.

If you require additional information or clarification, please contact me at 720-360-6754 or the email provided above. Thank you for your response.

Sincerely,

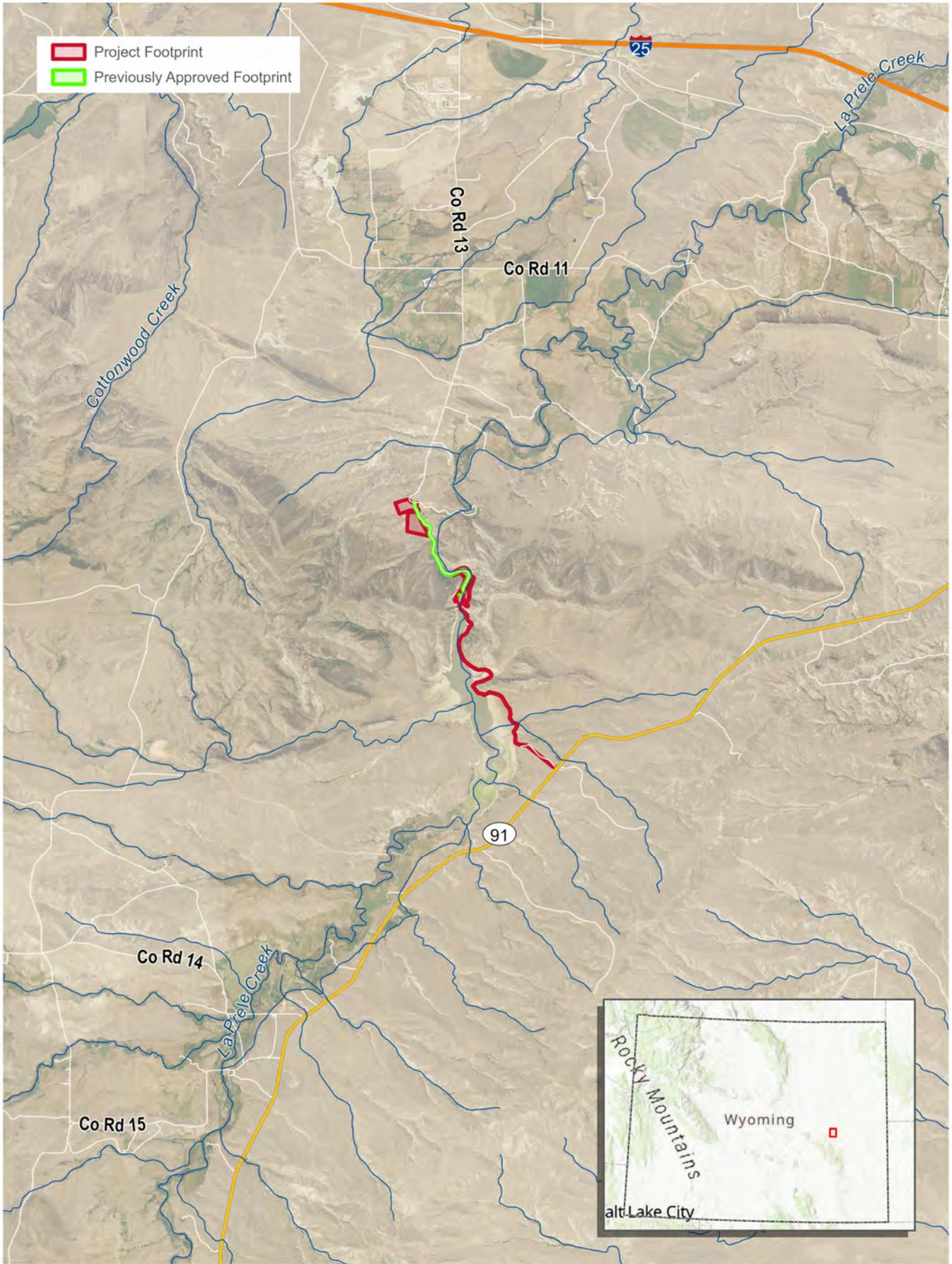
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Bradley Johnson, PhD
Federal Water Lead
HDR Engineering, Inc.

Attachment: Project Location Map; Project Overview Map

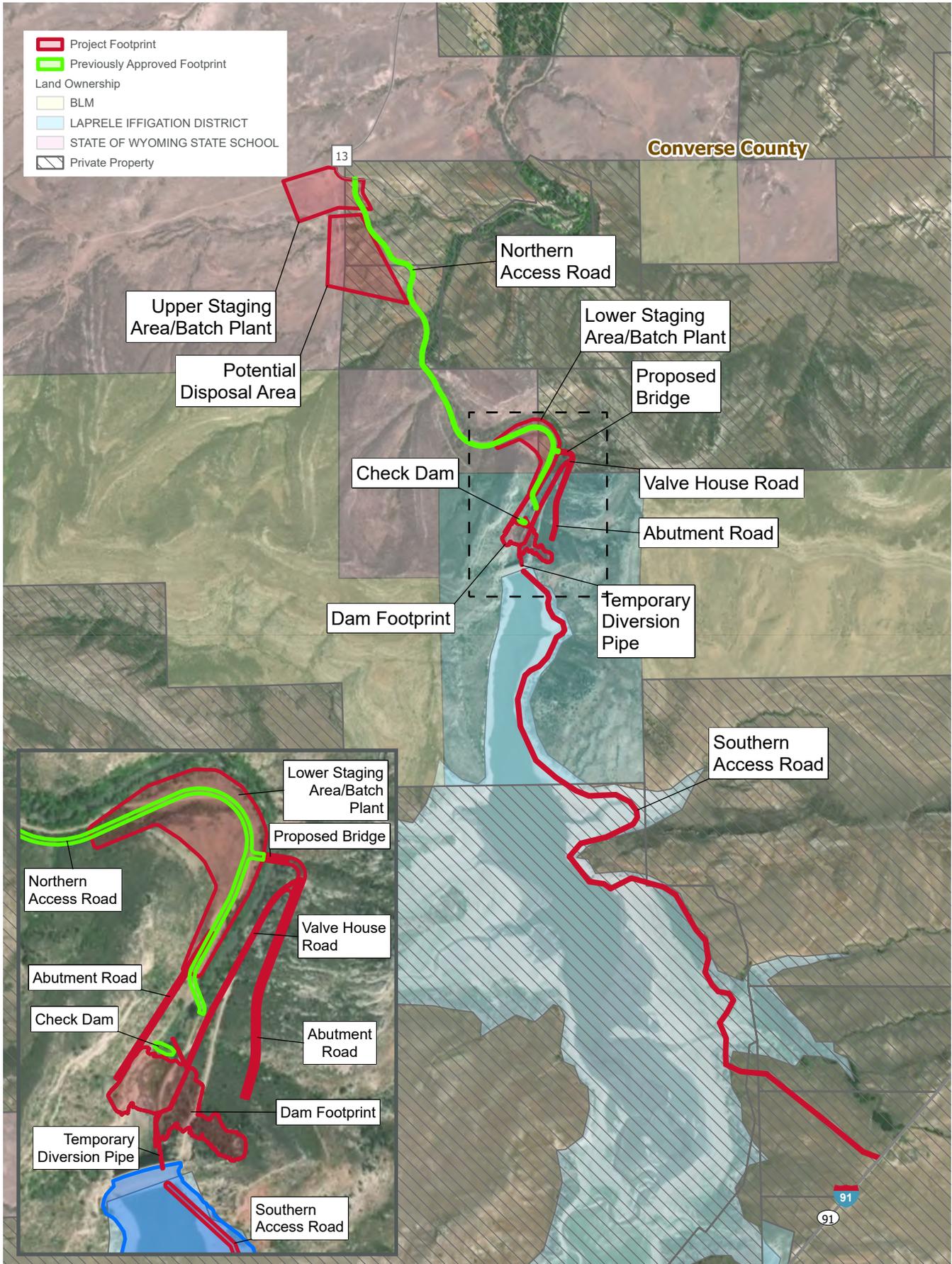
cc: LaPrele Irrigation District
Shain Wright, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
Stacey Johnston, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
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Shawn Follum, Natural Resources Conservation Service
Jason Mead, Wyoming Water Development Office
Chace Tavelli, Wyoming Water Development Office
Pete Rausch, RESPEC
Cory Foreman, HDR

ATTACHMENT: PROJECT LOCATION MAP



PROJECT LOCATION

ATTACHMENT: PROJECT OVERVIEW MAP



0 0.2 mi



PROJECT AREA OVERVIEW



July 2, 2025

Joshua Mann
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
Eastern Shoshone Tribe of the Wind River Reservation
P O Box 538
Fort Washakie, WY 82514
Provided electronically to: jmann@easternshoshone.org

**SUBJECT: Cooperating Agency Invitation, LaPrele Dam Reconstruction Project
Environmental Assessment, Converse County, WY**

Dear Mr. Joshua Mann,

On behalf of the Bureau of Reclamation, your agency is invited to participate as a Cooperating Agency under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for the above-titled project. The Bureau of Reclamation has been identified as the lead federal agency for NEPA as a pass-through funding agency.

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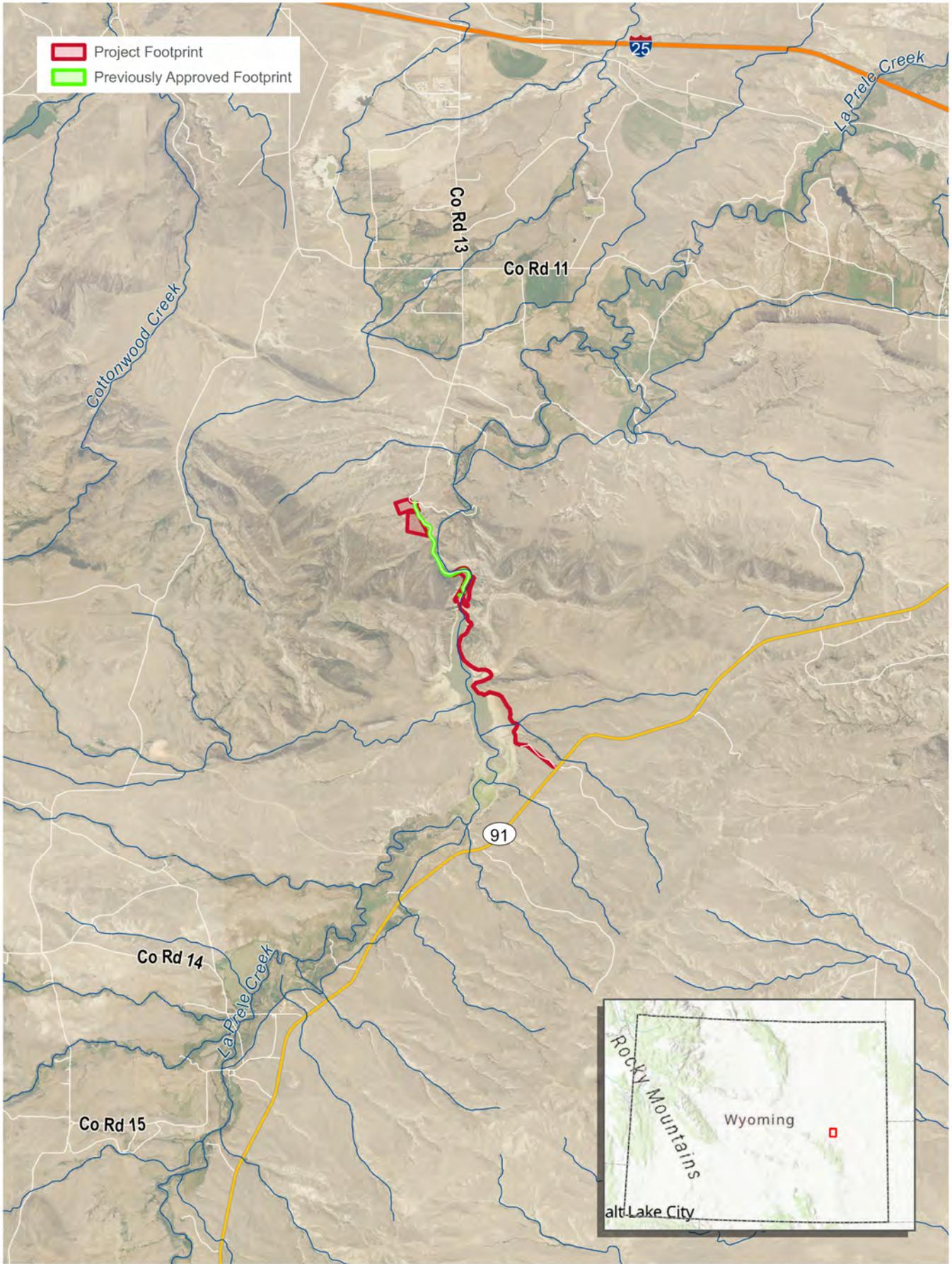
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Bradley Johnson, PhD
Federal Water Lead
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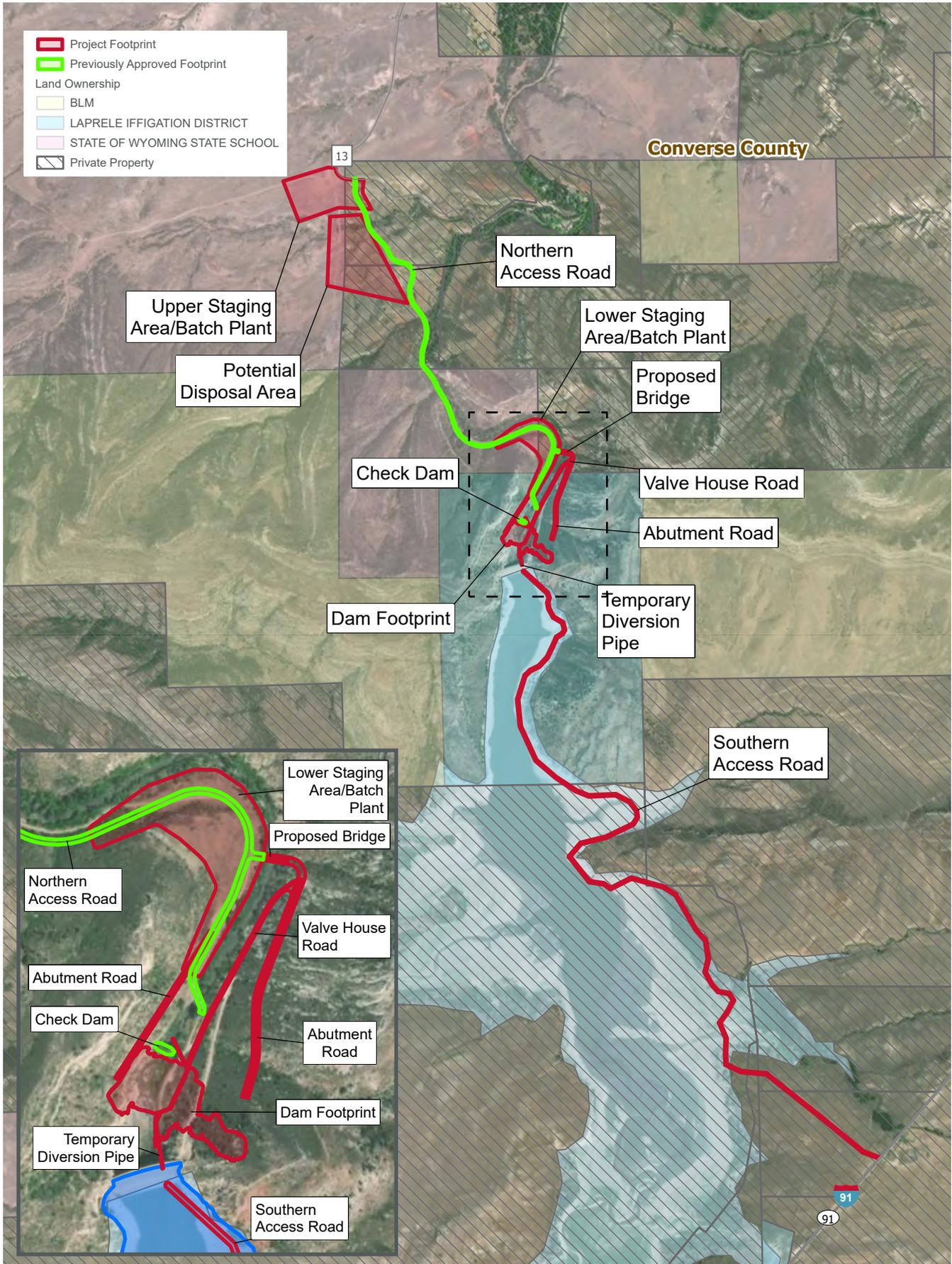
cc: LaPrele Irrigation District
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Stacey Johnston, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
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Shawn Follum, Natural Resources Conservation Service
Jason Mead, Wyoming Water Development Office
Chace Tavelli, Wyoming Water Development Office
Pete Rausch, RESPEC
Cory Foreman, HDR

ATTACHMENT: PROJECT LOCATION MAP



PROJECT LOCATION

ATTACHMENT: PROJECT OVERVIEW MAP



0 0.2 mi



PROJECT AREA OVERVIEW



July 2, 2025

Michael Black Wolf
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
Fort Belknap Indian Community of the Fort Belknap Reservation of Montana
656 Agency Main Street
Harlem, MT 59526-9455
Provided electronically to: mblackwolf@ftbelknap.org

**SUBJECT: Cooperating Agency Invitation, LaPrele Dam Reconstruction Project
Environmental Assessment, Converse County, WY**

Dear Mr. Michael Black Wolf,

On behalf of the Bureau of Reclamation, your agency is invited to participate as a Cooperating Agency under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for the above-titled project. The Bureau of Reclamation has been identified as the lead federal agency for NEPA as a pass-through funding agency.

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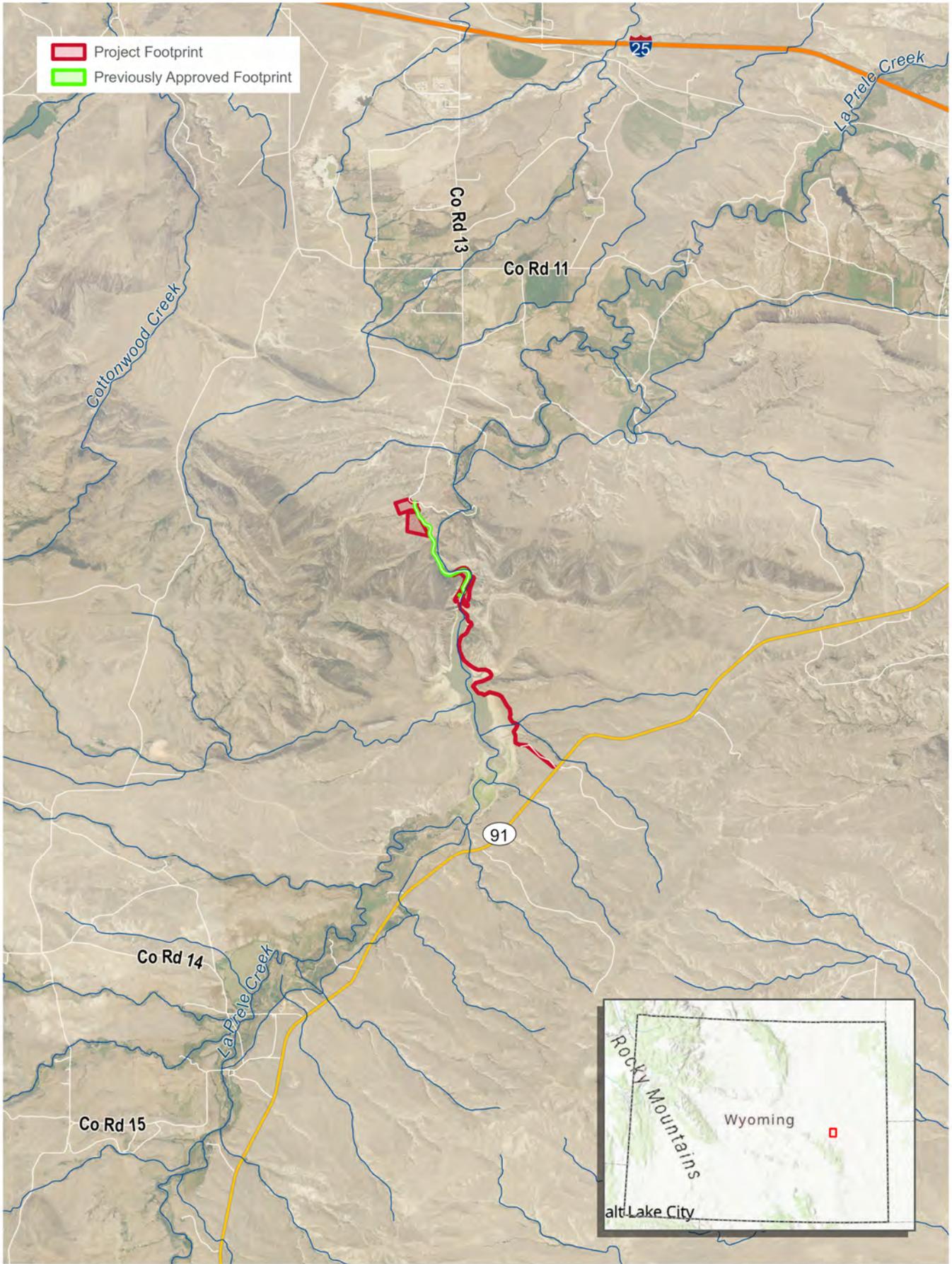
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Bradley Johnson, PhD
Federal Water Lead
HDR Engineering, Inc.

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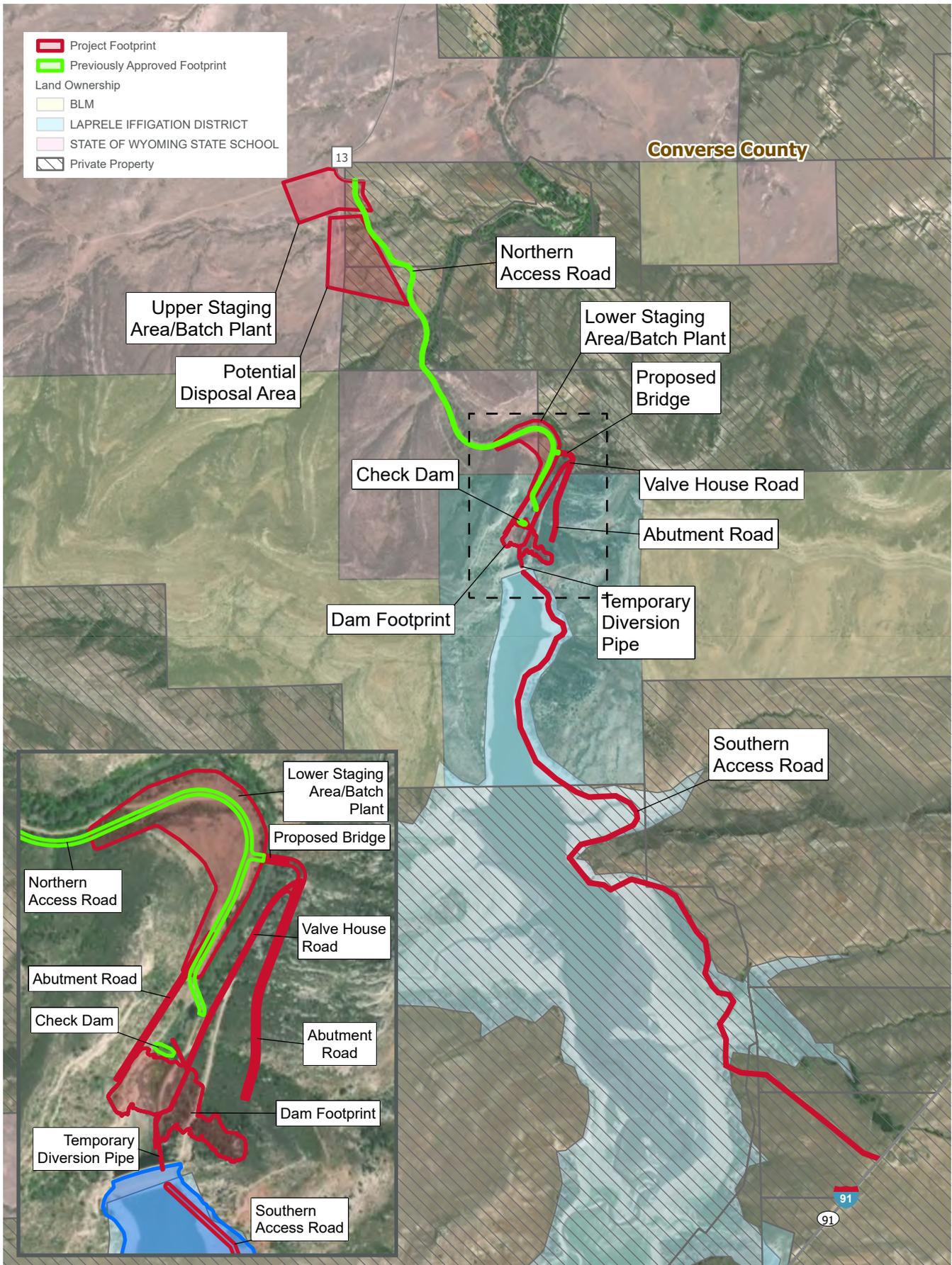


Project Footprint
Previously Approved Footprint



PROJECT LOCATION

ATTACHMENT: PROJECT OVERVIEW MAP



0 0.2 mi



PROJECT AREA OVERVIEW



July 2, 2025

Jeffrey Stiffarm
President
Fort Belknap Indian Community of the Fort Belknap Reservation of Montana
656 Agency Main Street
Harlem, MT 59526-9455
Provided electronically to: jeffrey.stiffarm@ftbelknap.org

**SUBJECT: Cooperating Agency Invitation, LaPrele Dam Reconstruction Project
Environmental Assessment, Converse County, WY**

Dear President Jeffrey Stiffarm,

On behalf of the Bureau of Reclamation, your agency is invited to participate as a Cooperating Agency under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for the above-titled project. The Bureau of Reclamation has been identified as the lead federal agency for NEPA as a pass-through funding agency.

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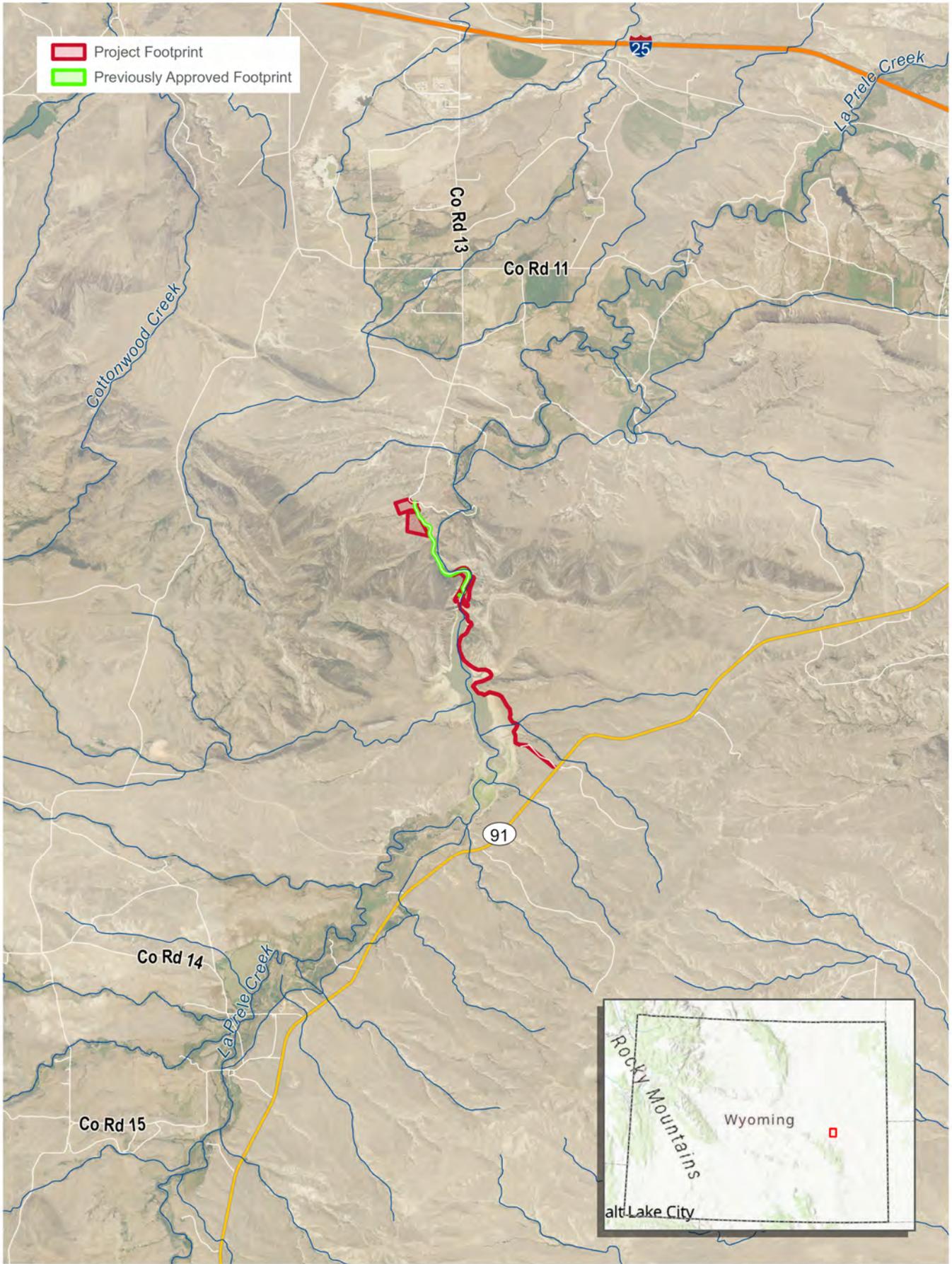
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Bradley Johnson, PhD
Federal Water Lead
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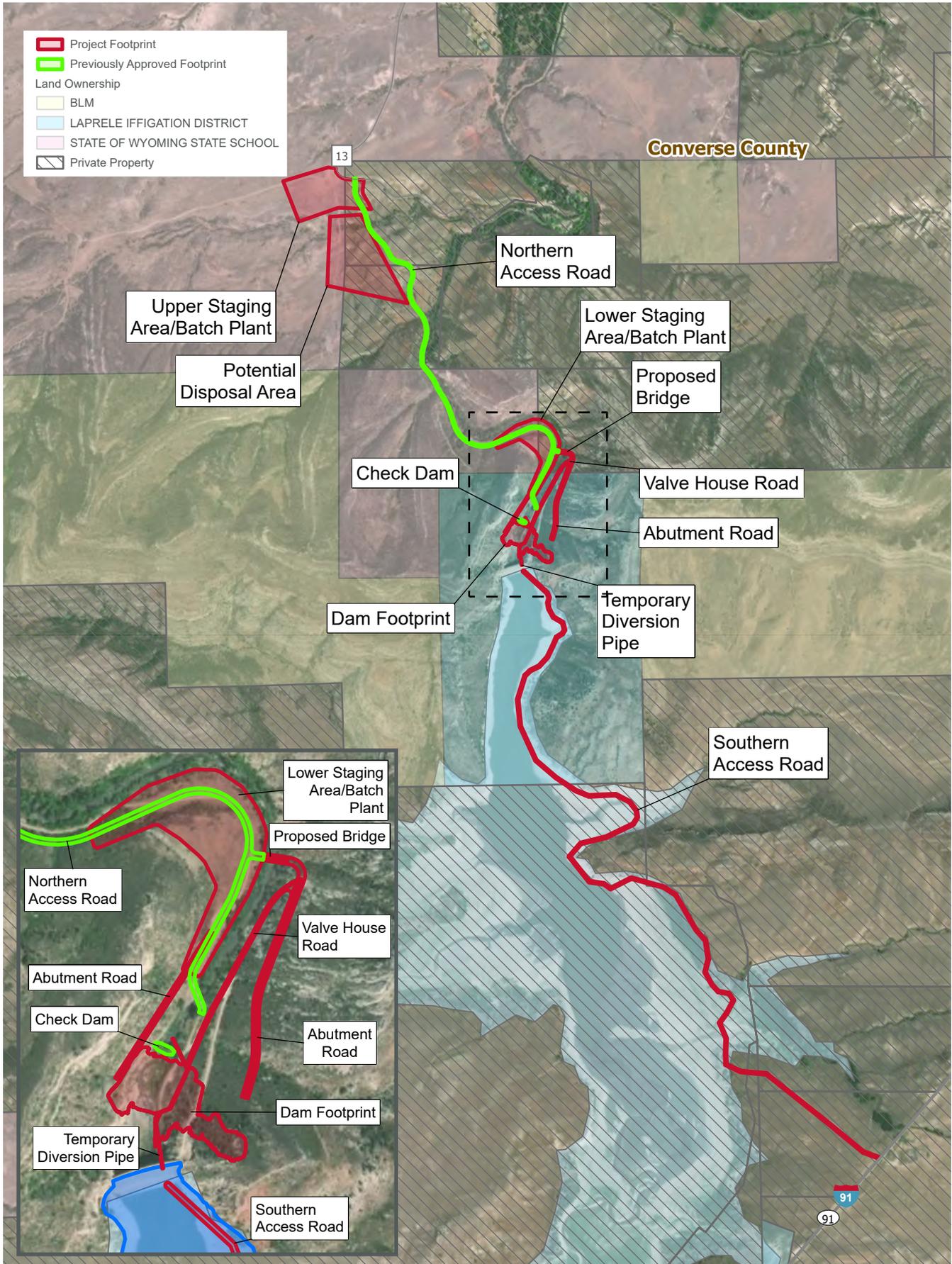
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Cory Foreman, HDR

ATTACHMENT: PROJECT LOCATION MAP



PROJECT LOCATION

ATTACHMENT: PROJECT OVERVIEW MAP



0 0.2 mi



PROJECT AREA OVERVIEW



July 2, 2025

Justin Gray Hawk Sr.
Chairman
Fort Peck Assinboine and Sioux Tribes
P O Box 1027
Poplar, MT 59255-1027
Provided electronically to: justin.grayhawk@fortpecktribes.net

**SUBJECT: Cooperating Agency Invitation, LaPrele Dam Reconstruction Project
Environmental Assessment, Converse County, WY**

Dear Chairman Justin Gray Hawk Sr.,

On behalf of the Bureau of Reclamation, your agency is invited to participate as a Cooperating Agency under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for the above-titled project. The Bureau of Reclamation has been identified as the lead federal agency for NEPA as a pass-through funding agency.

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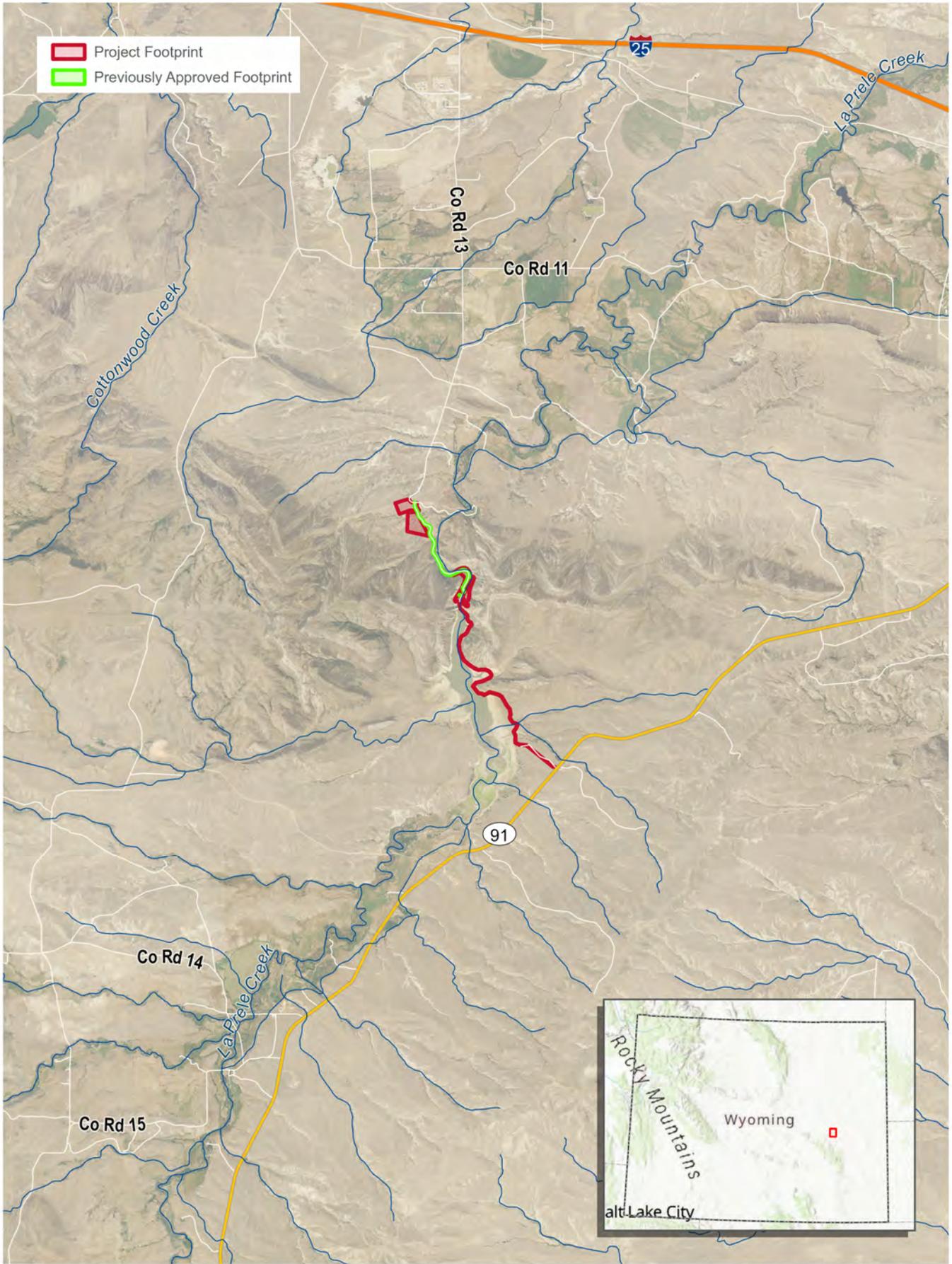
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Bradley Johnson, PhD
Federal Water Lead
HDR Engineering, Inc.

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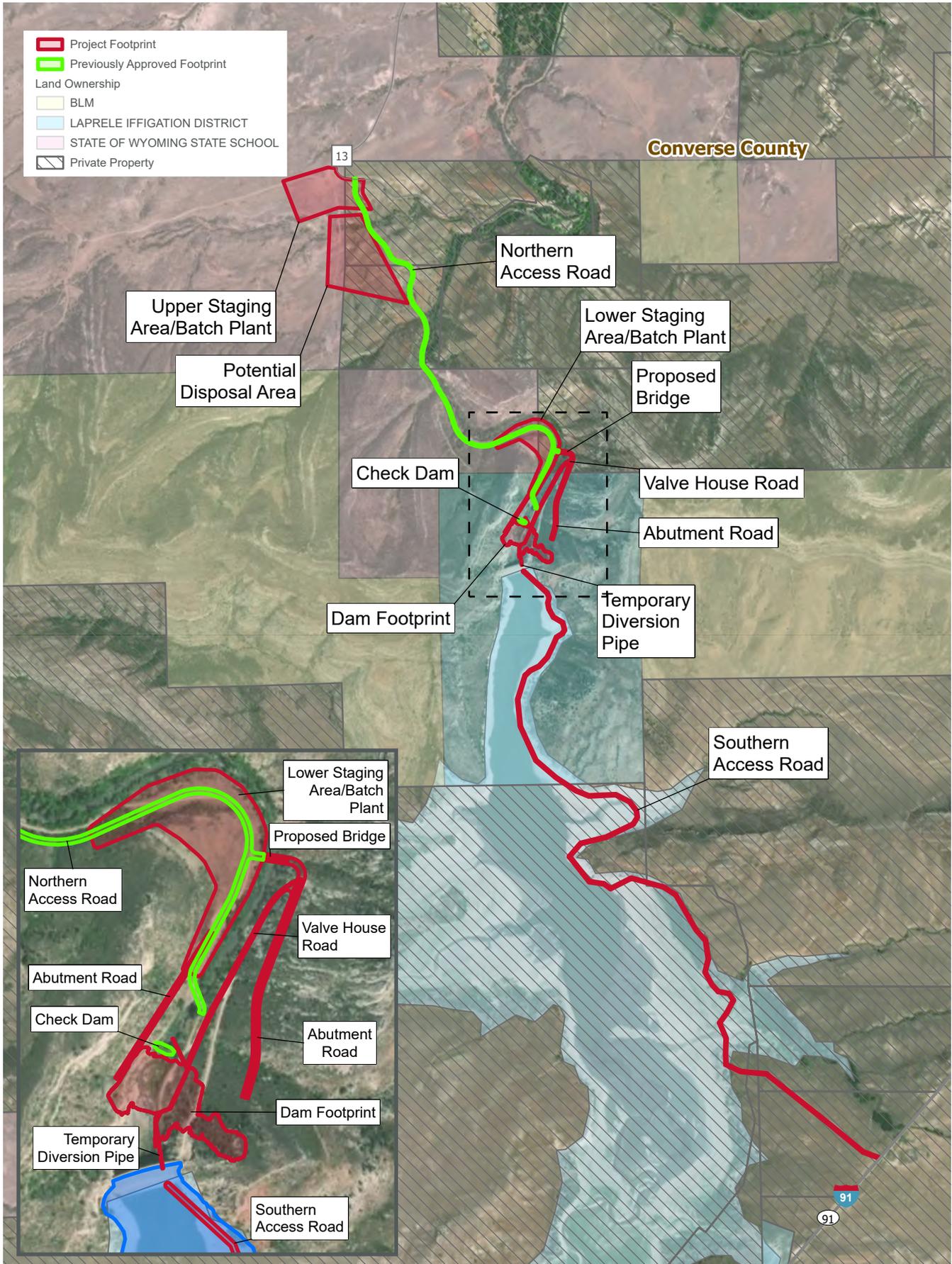
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Cory Foreman, HDR

ATTACHMENT: PROJECT LOCATION MAP



PROJECT LOCATION

ATTACHMENT: PROJECT OVERVIEW MAP



0 0.2 mi



PROJECT AREA OVERVIEW



July 2, 2025

Dyan Youpee
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
Fort Peck Assinboine and Sioux Tribes
P O Box 1027
Poplar, MT 59255-1027
Provided electronically to: d.youpee@fortpecktribes.net

**SUBJECT: Cooperating Agency Invitation, LaPrele Dam Reconstruction Project
Environmental Assessment, Converse County, WY**

Dear Mr. Dyan Youpee,

On behalf of the Bureau of Reclamation, your agency is invited to participate as a Cooperating Agency under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for the above-titled project. The Bureau of Reclamation has been identified as the lead federal agency for NEPA as a pass-through funding agency.

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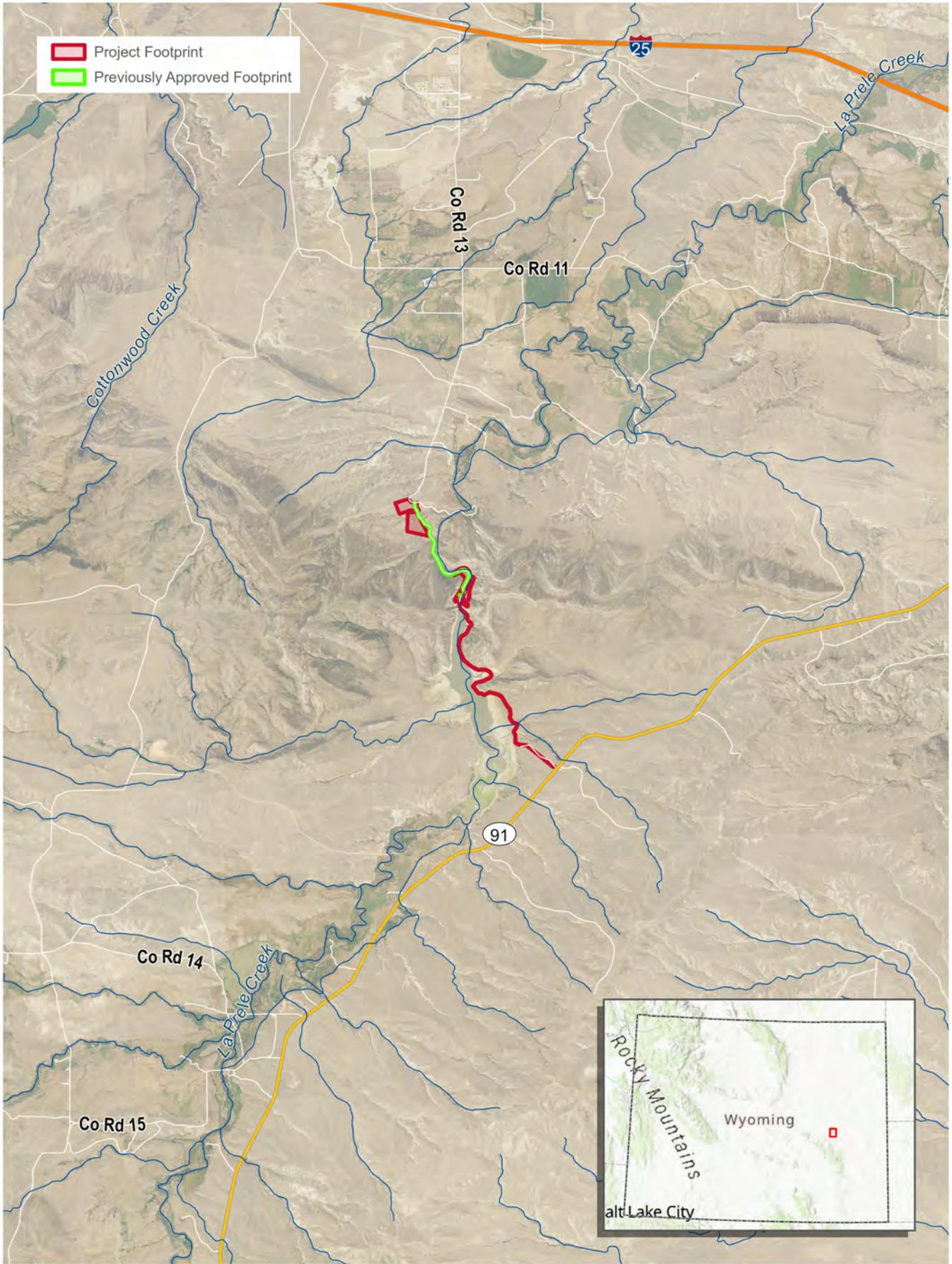
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Bradley Johnson, PhD
Federal Water Lead
HDR Engineering, Inc.

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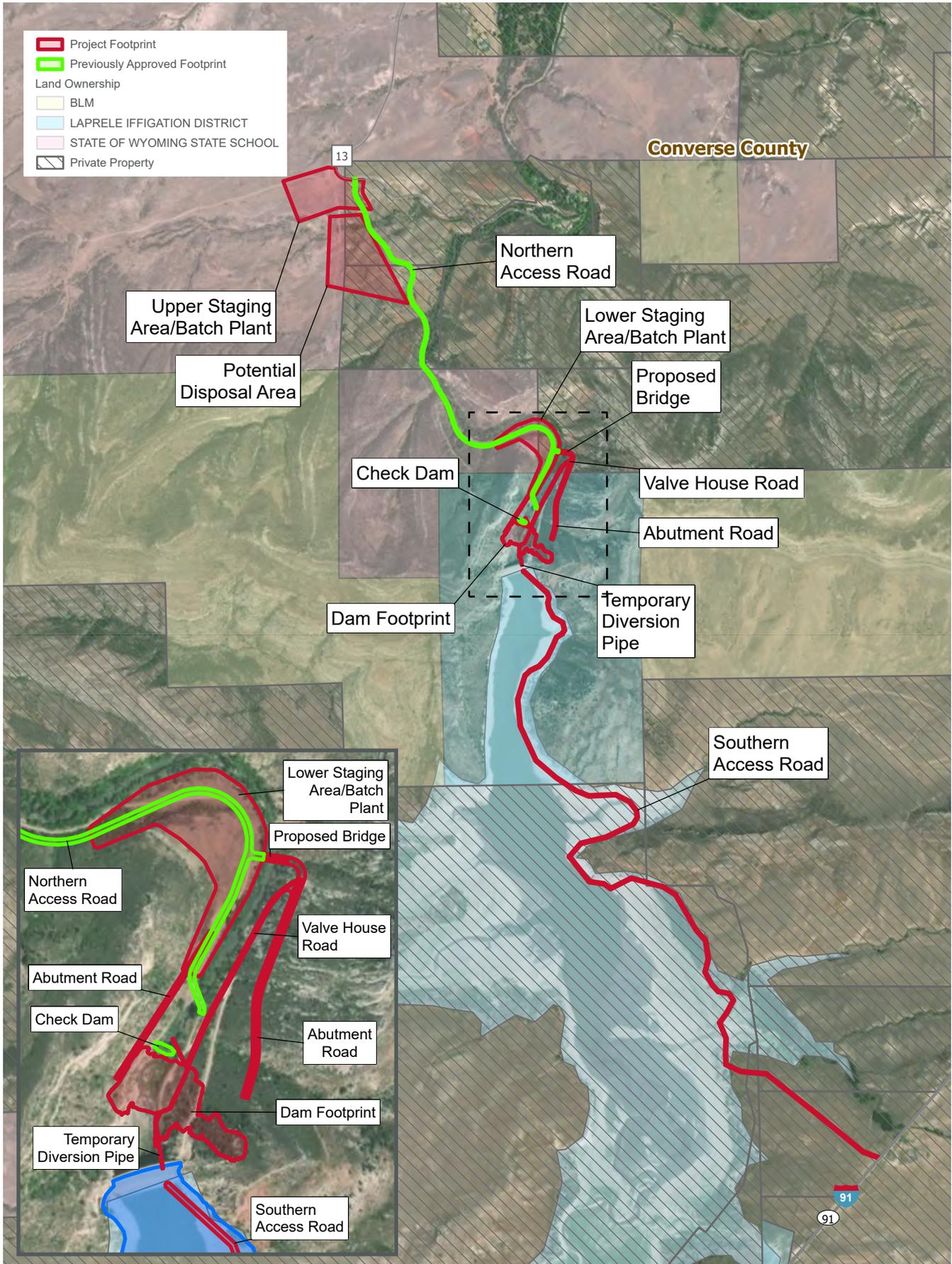


Project Footprint
Previously Approved Footprint



PROJECT LOCATION

ATTACHMENT: PROJECT OVERVIEW MAP



0 0.2 mi



PROJECT AREA OVERVIEW



July 2, 2025

Crystal C'Bearing
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
Northern Arapaho Tribe of the Wind River Reservation
PO Box 273
Riverton, WY 82501
Provided electronically to: crystal.cbearing@northernarapaho.com

**SUBJECT: Cooperating Agency Invitation, LaPrele Dam Reconstruction Project
Environmental Assessment, Converse County, WY**

Dear Ms. Crystal C'Bearing,

On behalf of the Bureau of Reclamation, your agency is invited to participate as a Cooperating Agency under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for the above-titled project. The Bureau of Reclamation has been identified as the lead federal agency for NEPA as a pass-through funding agency.

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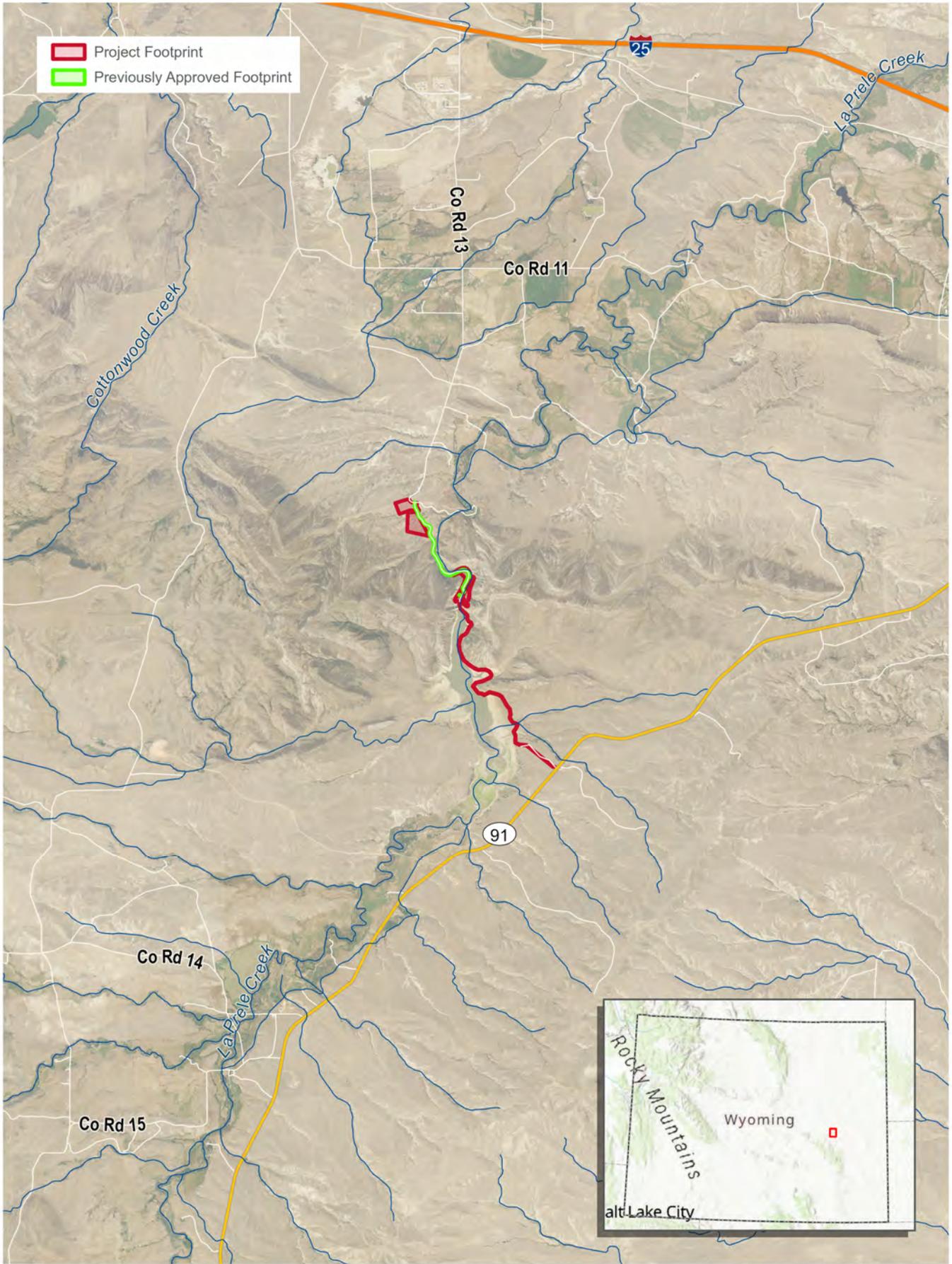
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Bradley Johnson, PhD
Federal Water Lead
HDR Engineering, Inc.

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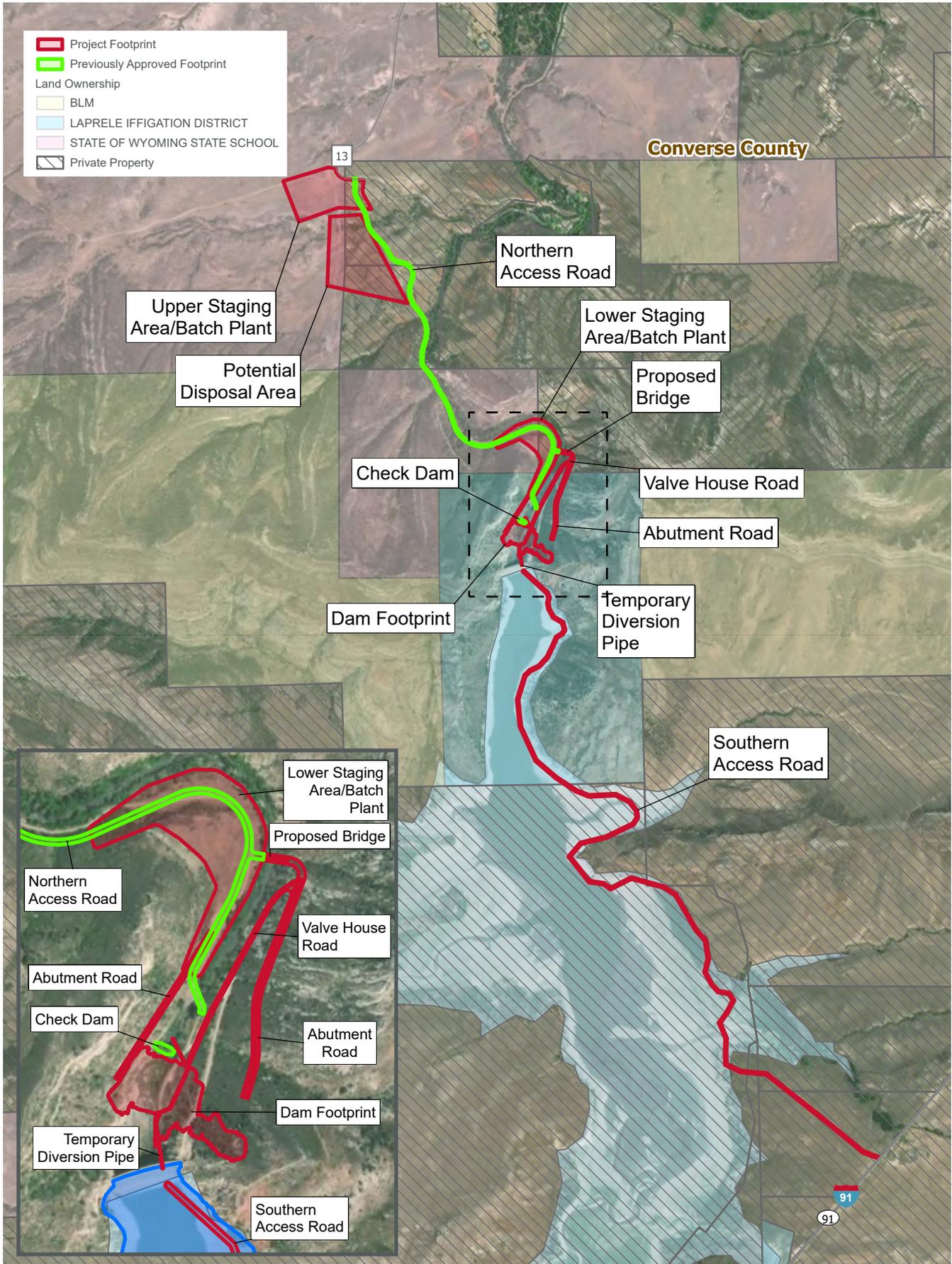


-  Project Footprint
-  Previously Approved Footprint



PROJECT LOCATION

ATTACHMENT: PROJECT OVERVIEW MAP



0 0.2 mi



PROJECT AREA OVERVIEW



July 2, 2025

Keenan Groesbeck
Chairman
Northern Arapaho Tribe of the Wind River Reservation
PO Box 329
Fort Washakie, WY 82514
Provided electronically to: northernarapaho@msn.com

**SUBJECT: Cooperating Agency Invitation, LaPrele Dam Reconstruction Project
Environmental Assessment, Converse County, WY**

Dear Chairman Keenan Groesbeck,

On behalf of the Bureau of Reclamation, your agency is invited to participate as a Cooperating Agency under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for the above-titled project. The Bureau of Reclamation has been identified as the lead federal agency for NEPA as a pass-through funding agency.

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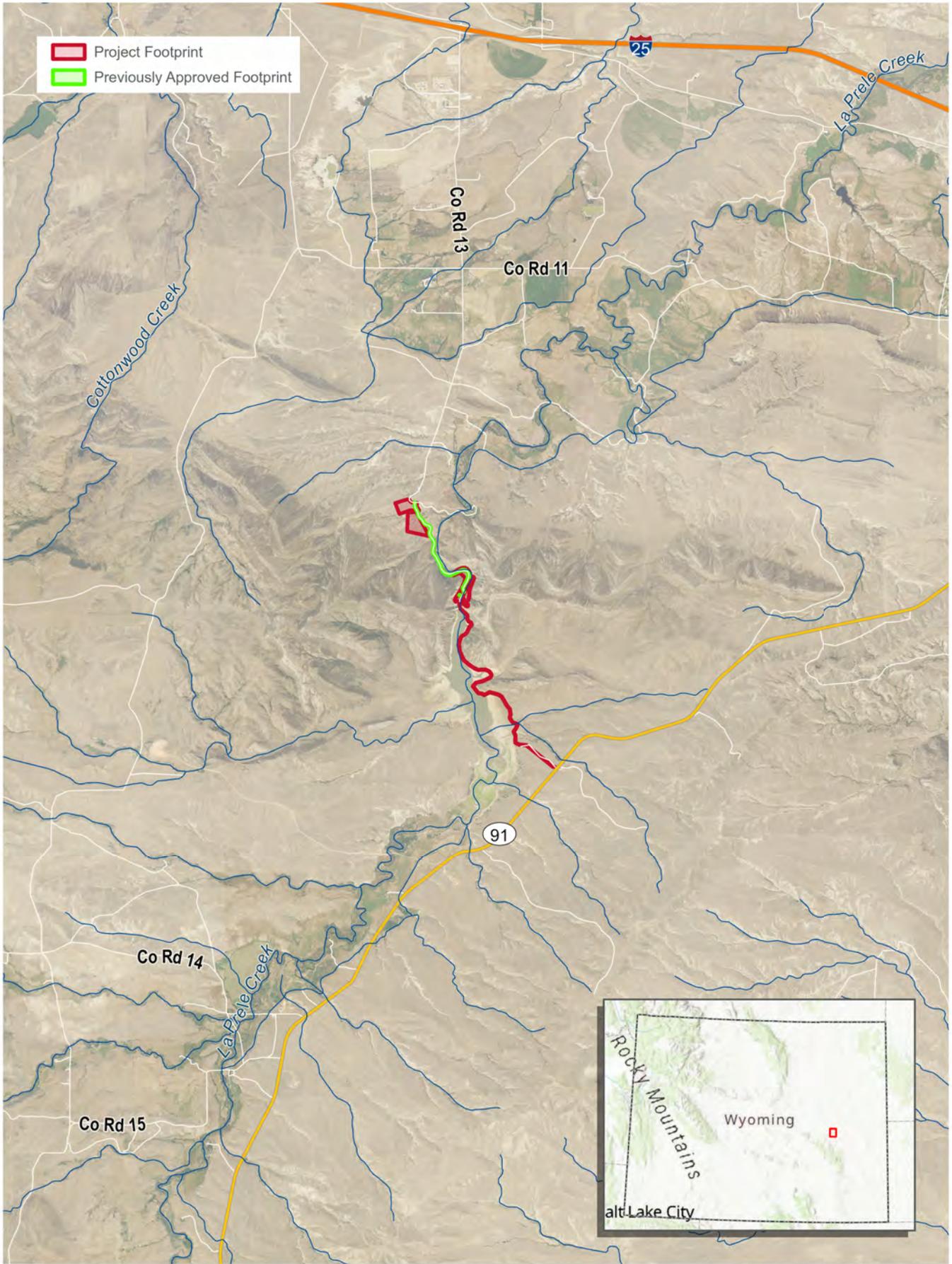
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Federal Water Lead
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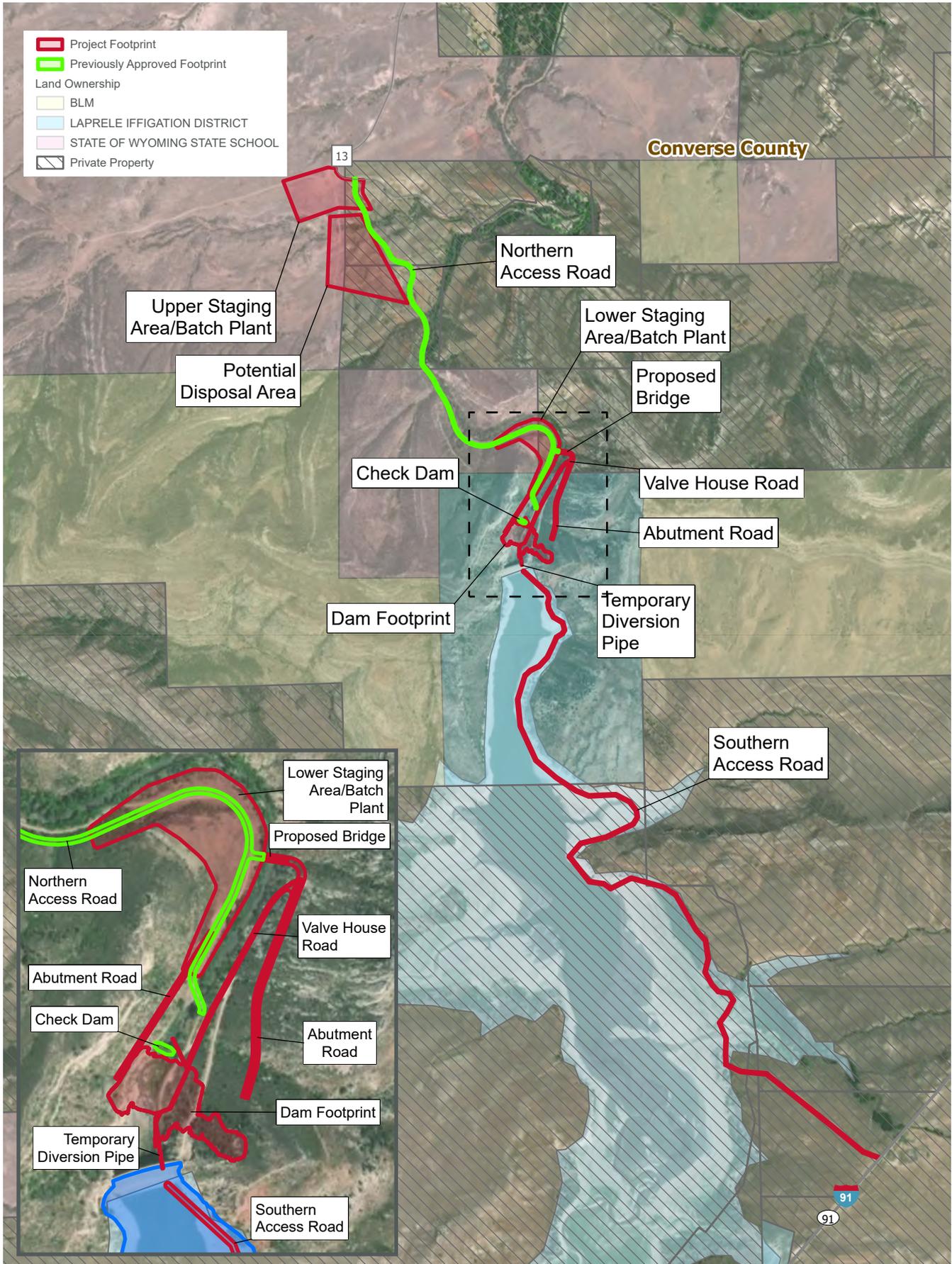
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PROJECT LOCATION

ATTACHMENT: PROJECT OVERVIEW MAP



0 0.2 mi



PROJECT AREA OVERVIEW



July 2, 2025

Teanna Limpy
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
Northern Cheyenne Tribe of the Northern Cheyenne Indian Reservation, Montana
PO Box 128
Lame Deer, MT 59043-0128
Provided electronically to: Teanna.Limpy@cheyennenation.com

**SUBJECT: Cooperating Agency Invitation, LaPrele Dam Reconstruction Project
Environmental Assessment, Converse County, WY**

Dear Ms. Teanna Limpy,

On behalf of the Bureau of Reclamation, your agency is invited to participate as a Cooperating Agency under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for the above-titled project. The Bureau of Reclamation has been identified as the lead federal agency for NEPA as a pass-through funding agency.

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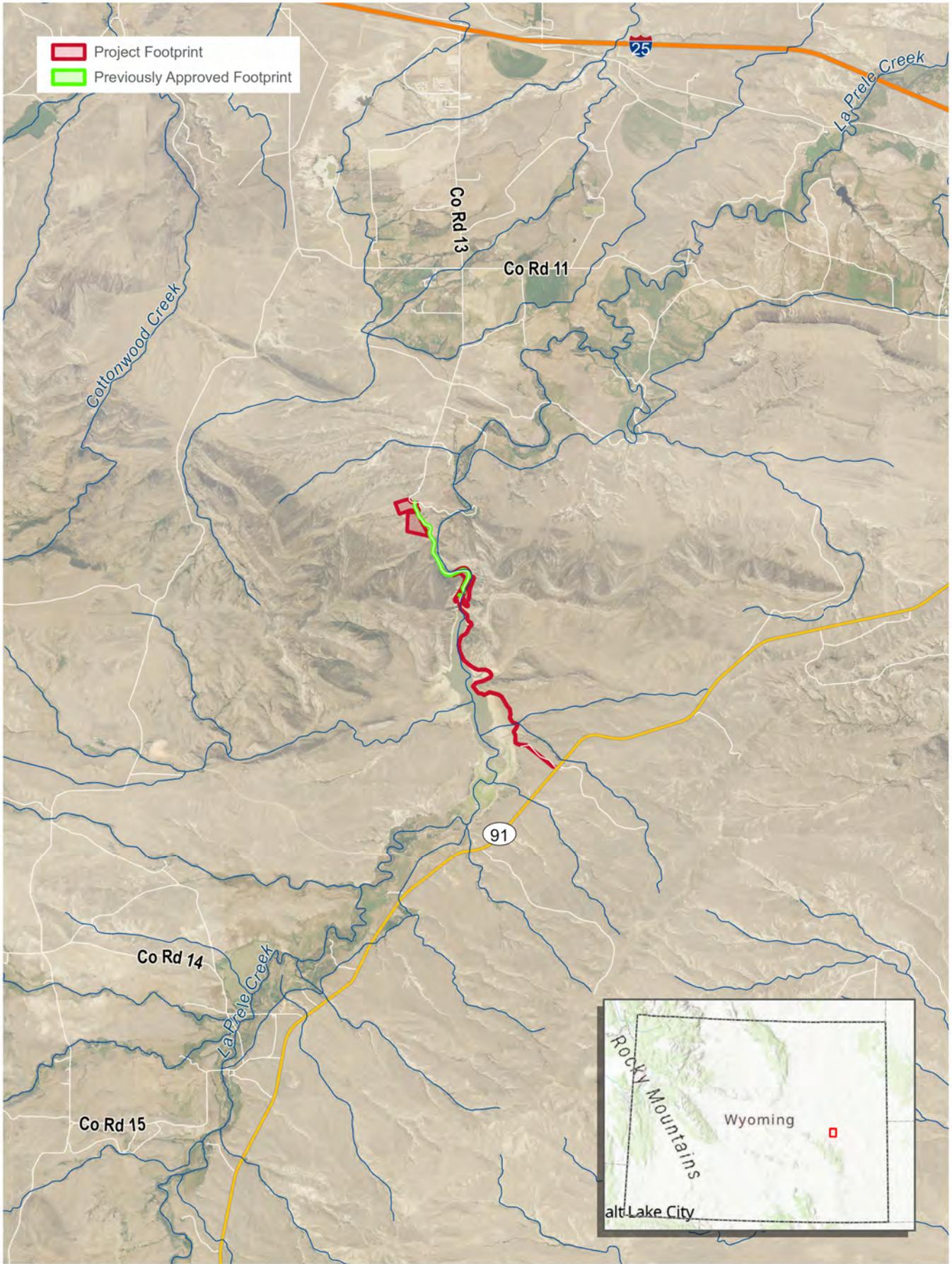
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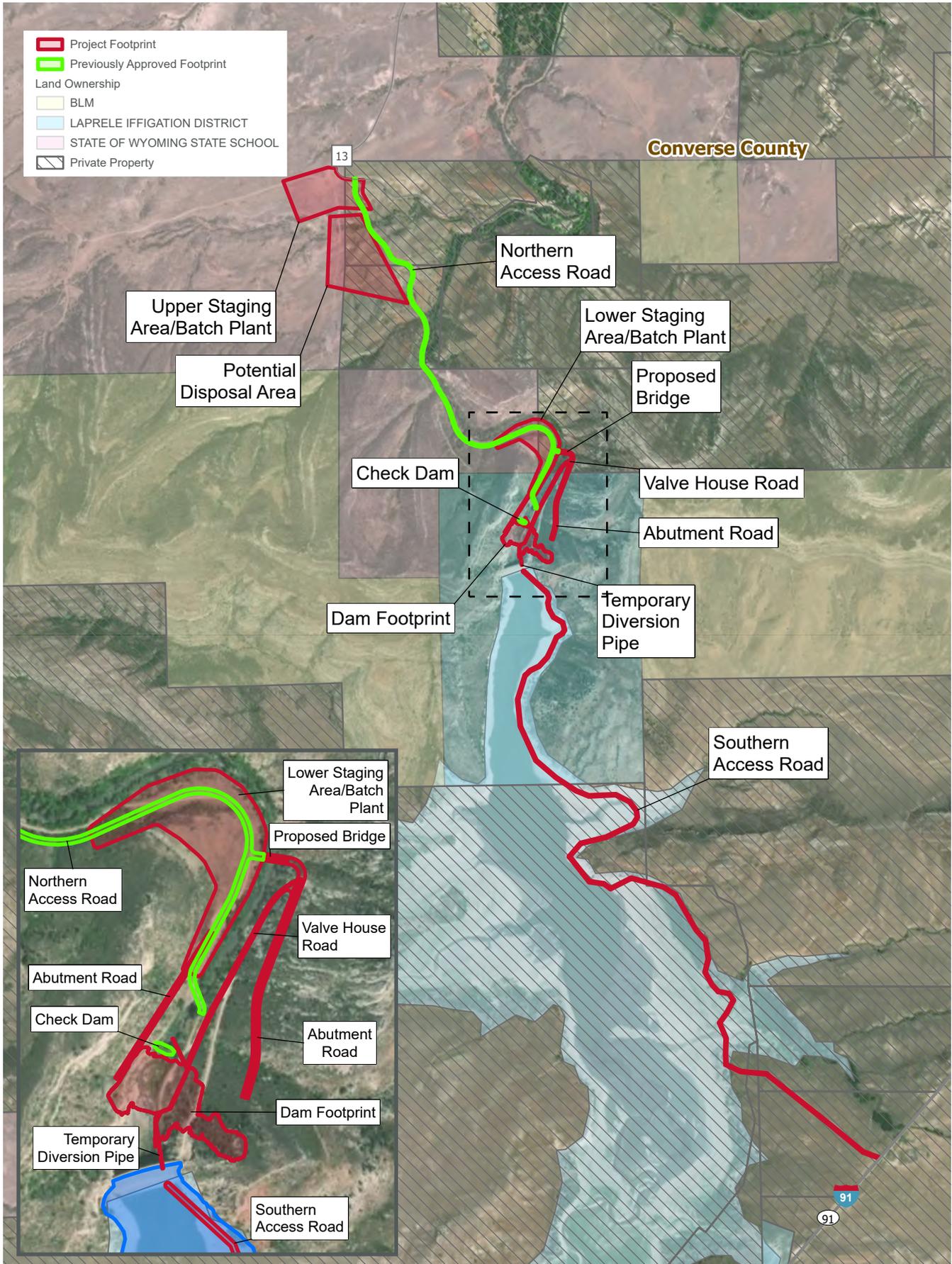
cc: LaPrele Irrigation District
Shain Wright, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
Stacey Johnston, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
Kristin Bowen, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
Paige Wolken, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Shawn Follum, Natural Resources Conservation Service
Jason Mead, Wyoming Water Development Office
Chace Tavelli, Wyoming Water Development Office
Pete Rausch, RESPEC
Cory Foreman, HDR

ATTACHMENT: PROJECT LOCATION MAP



PROJECT LOCATION

ATTACHMENT: PROJECT OVERVIEW MAP



0 0.2 mi



PROJECT AREA OVERVIEW



July 2, 2025

Gene Small
President
Northern Cheyenne Tribe of the Northern Cheyenne Indian Reservation, Montana
PO Box 128
Lame Deer, MT 59043-0128
Provided electronically to:

**SUBJECT: Cooperating Agency Invitation, LaPrele Dam Reconstruction Project
Environmental Assessment, Converse County, WY**

Dear President Gene Small,

On behalf of the Bureau of Reclamation, your agency is invited to participate as a Cooperating Agency under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for the above-titled project. The Bureau of Reclamation has been identified as the lead federal agency for NEPA as a pass-through funding agency.

Your agency has recognized expertise, authority, or interest in this project. A decision to forgo participation as a Cooperating Agency does not preclude participation in the NEPA process or as a participating agency with the ability to comment on the substance of the draft Environmental Assessment (EA) when released for public and agency review.

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A written response within 30 days for your participation as a Cooperating Agency can be emailed to Bradley.johnson@hdrinc.com or sent by mail to 419 Canyon Ave., Suite 316, Fort Collins, CO 80521.

If you require additional information or clarification, please contact me at 720-360-6754 or the email provided above. Thank you for your response.

Sincerely,

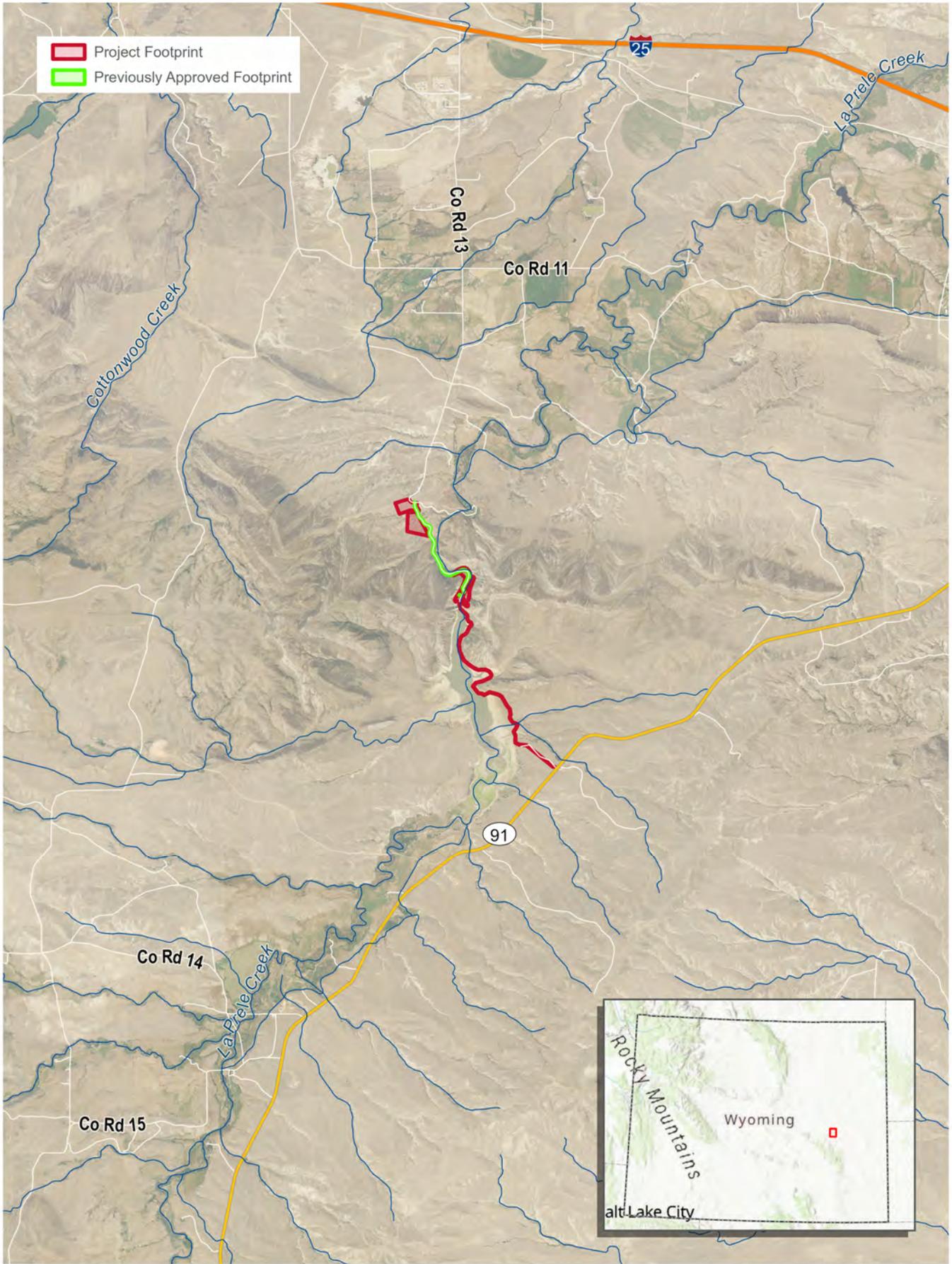
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Bradley Johnson, PhD
Federal Water Lead
HDR Engineering, Inc.

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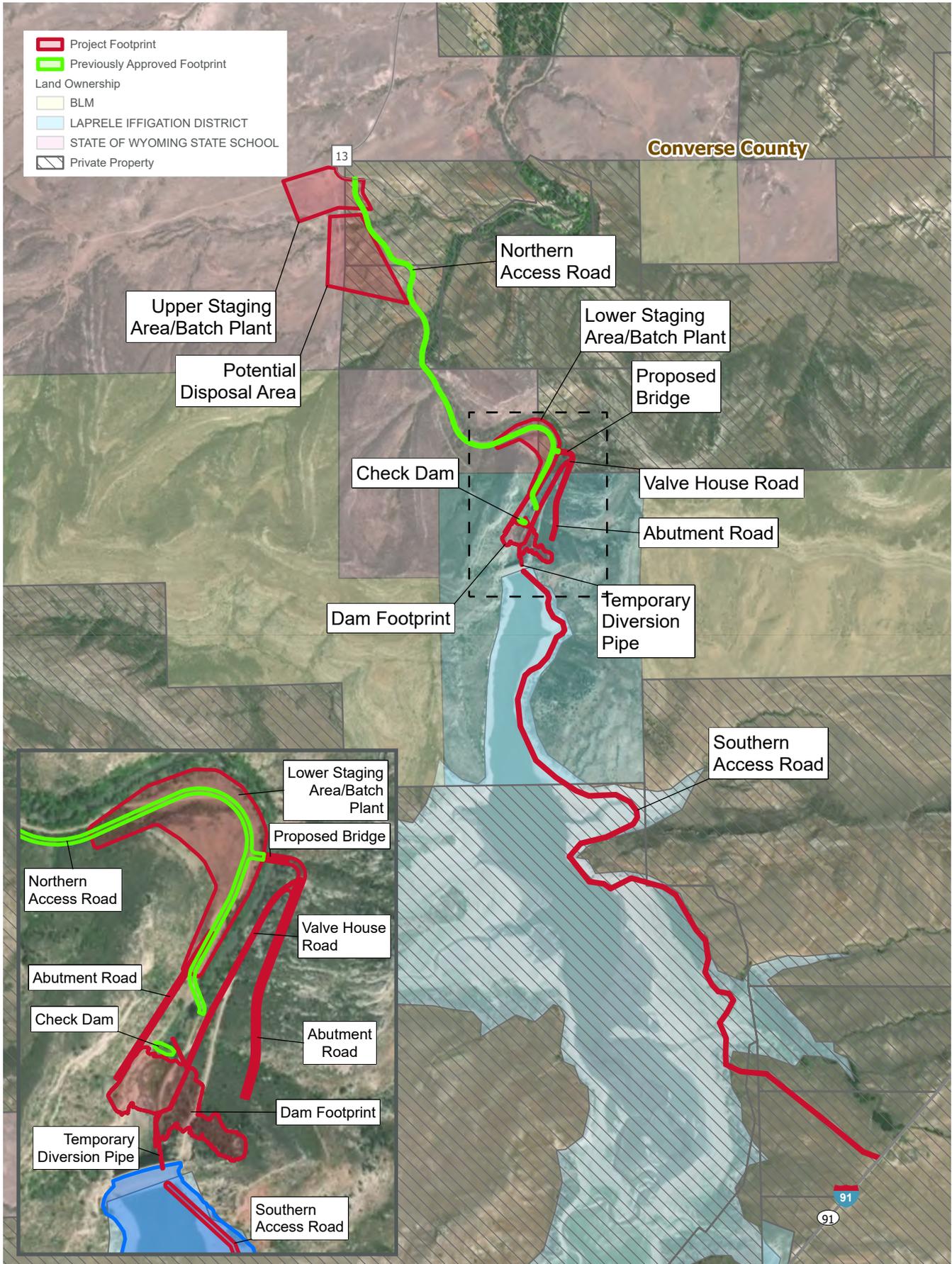
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Pete Rausch, RESPEC
Cory Foreman, HDR

ATTACHMENT: PROJECT LOCATION MAP



PROJECT LOCATION

ATTACHMENT: PROJECT OVERVIEW MAP



0 0.2 mi



PROJECT AREA OVERVIEW



July 2, 2025

Justin Pourier
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
Oglala Sioux Tribe
PO Box 129
Kyle, SD 57752
Provided electronically to: jpourier@oglala.org

**SUBJECT: Cooperating Agency Invitation, LaPrele Dam Reconstruction Project
Environmental Assessment, Converse County, WY**

Dear Mr. Justin Pourier,

On behalf of the Bureau of Reclamation, your agency is invited to participate as a Cooperating Agency under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for the above-titled project. The Bureau of Reclamation has been identified as the lead federal agency for NEPA as a pass-through funding agency.

Your agency has recognized expertise, authority, or interest in this project. A decision to forgo participation as a Cooperating Agency does not preclude participation in the NEPA process or as a participating agency with the ability to comment on the substance of the draft Environmental Assessment (EA) when released for public and agency review.

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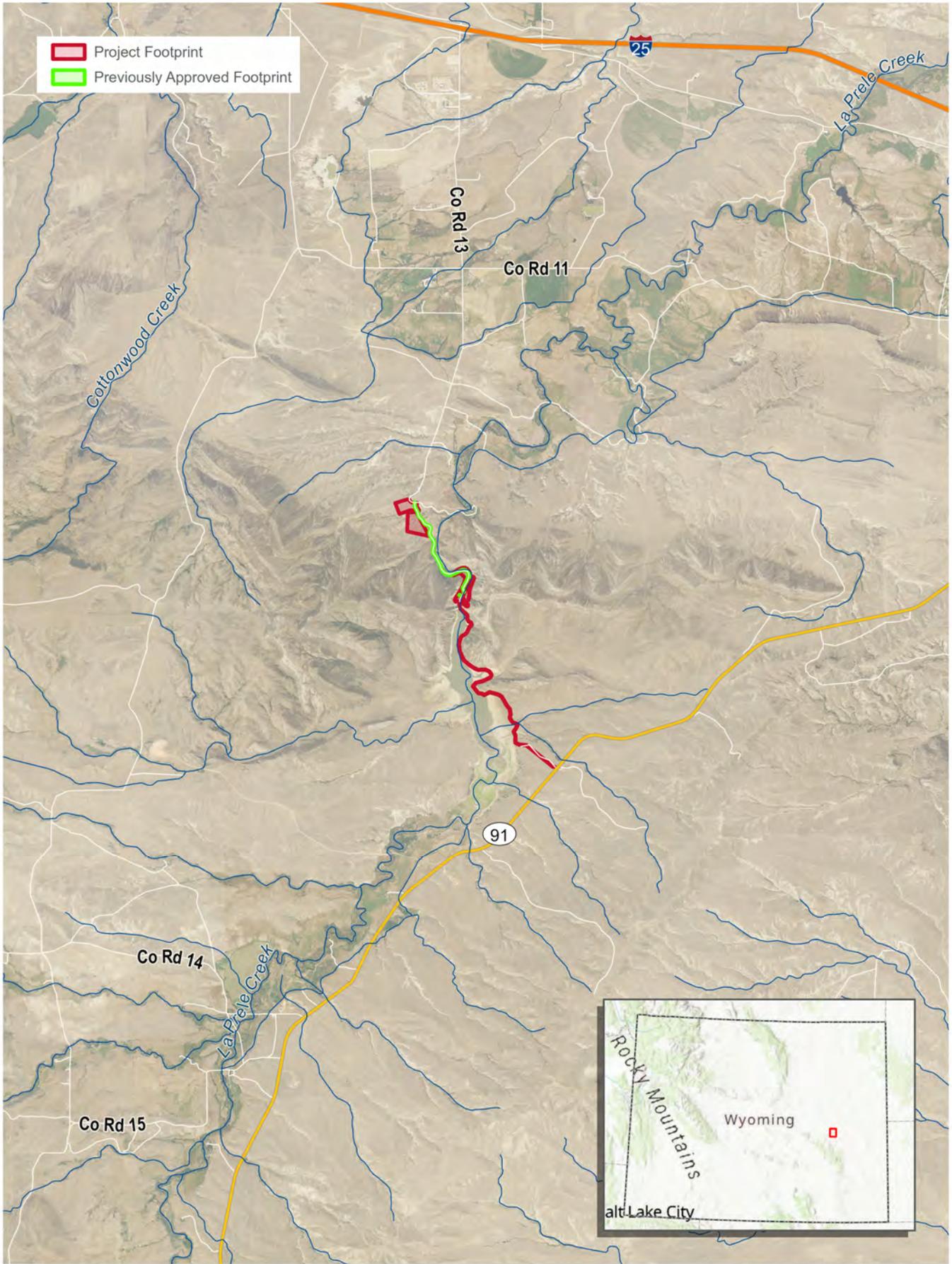
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Bradley Johnson, PhD
Federal Water Lead
HDR Engineering, Inc.

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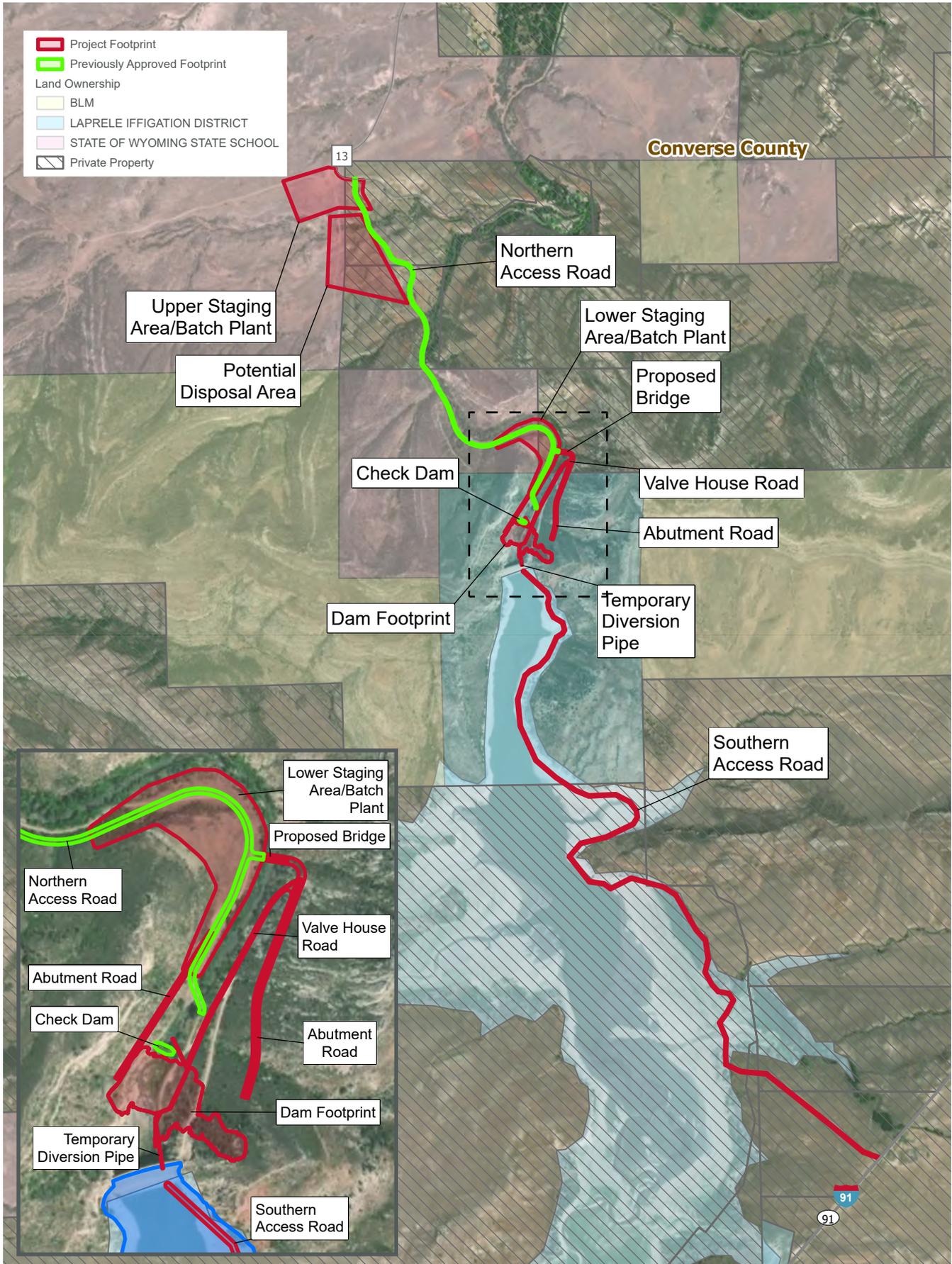
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Pete Rausch, RESPEC
Cory Foreman, HDR

ATTACHMENT: PROJECT LOCATION MAP



PROJECT LOCATION

ATTACHMENT: PROJECT OVERVIEW MAP



0 0.2 mi



PROJECT AREA OVERVIEW



July 2, 2025

Frank Star Comes Out
President
Oglala Sioux Tribe
PO Box 2070
Pine Ridge, SD 57770-2070
Provided electronically to: Fstarcomesout@ogla.org

**SUBJECT: Cooperating Agency Invitation, LaPrele Dam Reconstruction Project
Environmental Assessment, Converse County, WY**

Dear President Frank Star Comes Out,

On behalf of the Bureau of Reclamation, your agency is invited to participate as a Cooperating Agency under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for the above-titled project. The Bureau of Reclamation has been identified as the lead federal agency for NEPA as a pass-through funding agency.

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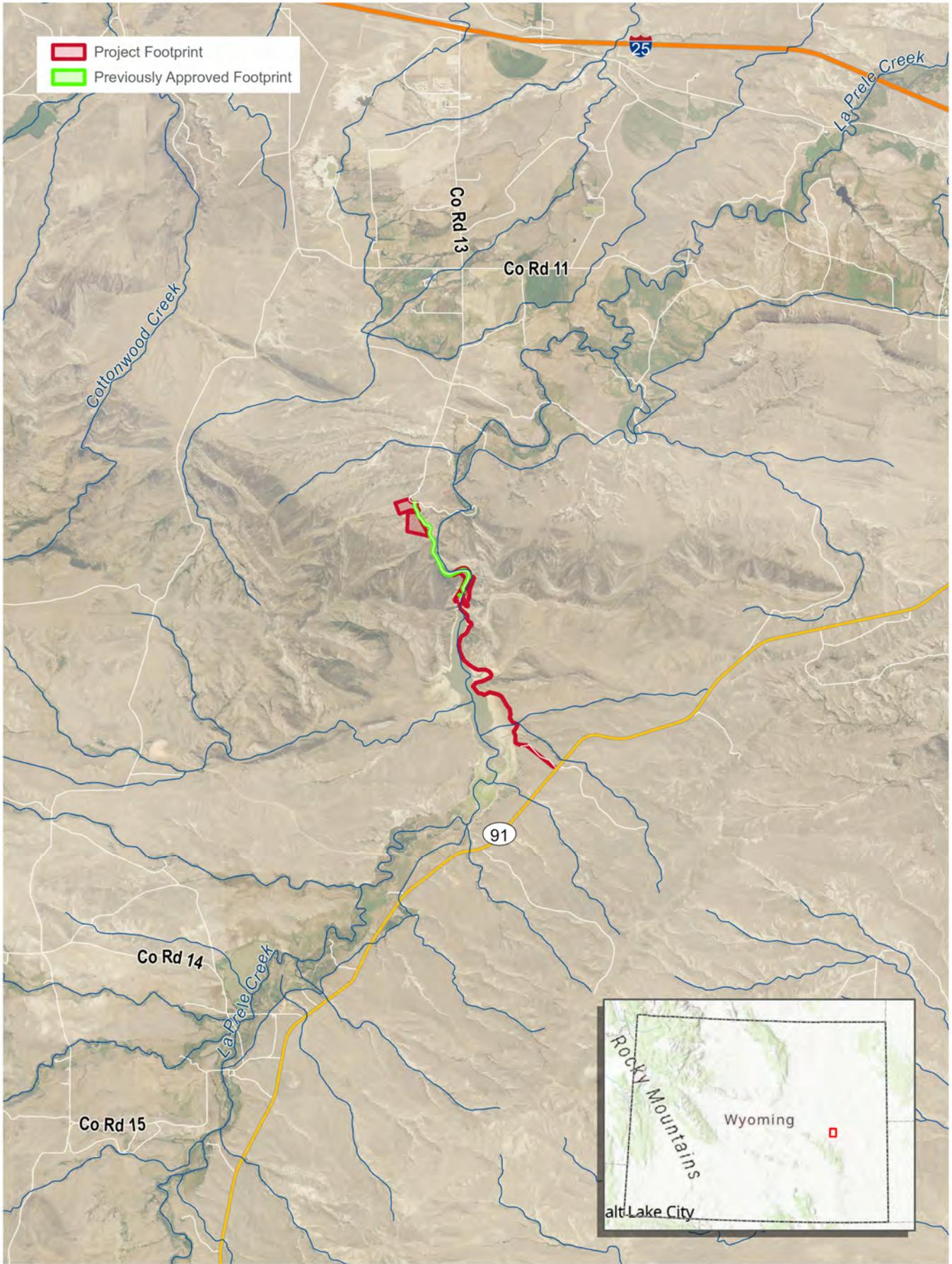
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Federal Water Lead
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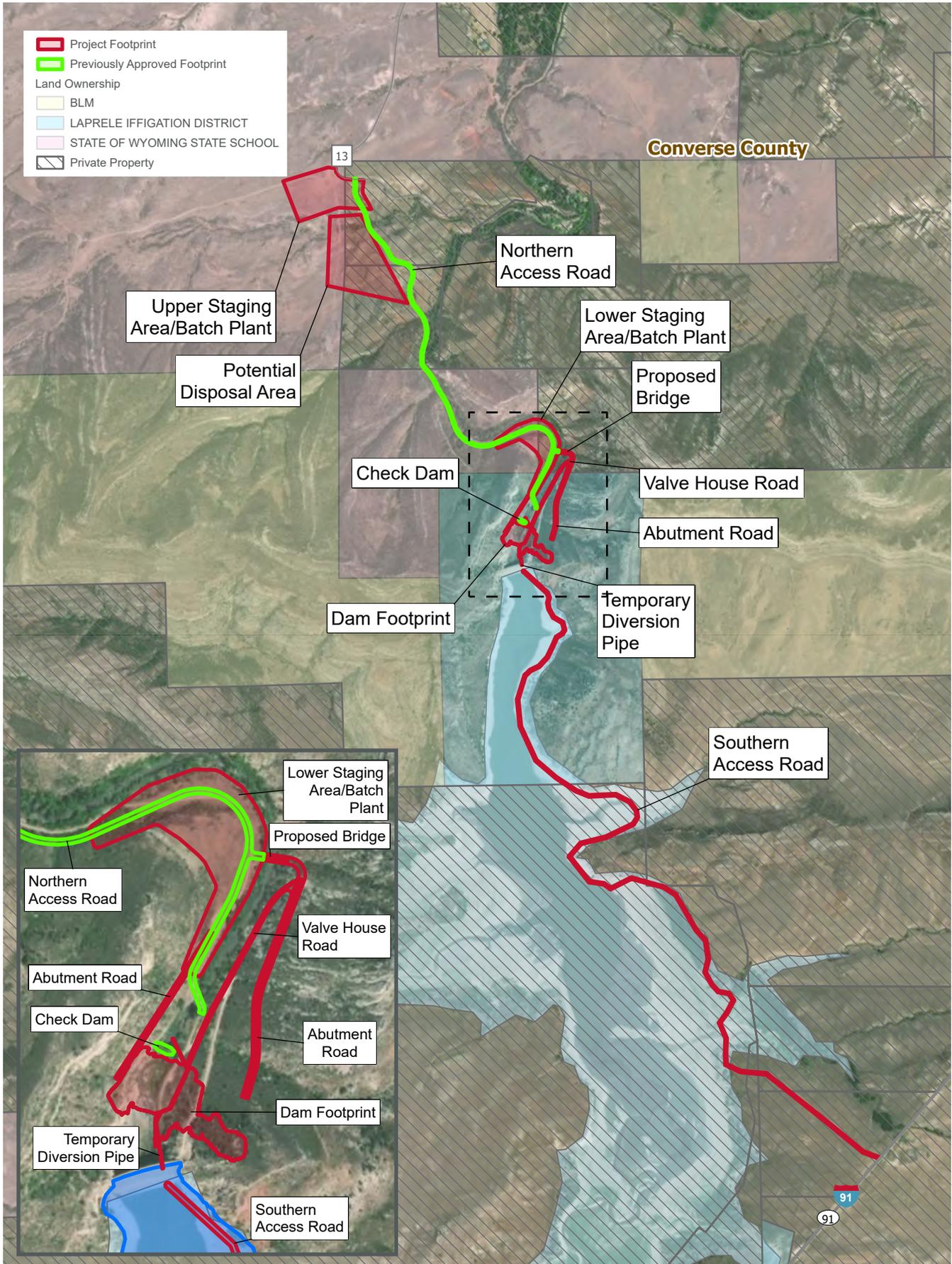
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Pete Rausch, RESPEC
Cory Foreman, HDR

ATTACHMENT: PROJECT LOCATION MAP



PROJECT LOCATION

ATTACHMENT: PROJECT OVERVIEW MAP



0 0.2 mi



PROJECT AREA OVERVIEW



July 2, 2025

Ione Quigley
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
Rosebud Sioux Tribe of the Rosebud Indian Reservation, South Dakota
PO Box 750
Rosebud, SD 57570
Provided electronically to: ione.quigley@rst-nsn.gov

**SUBJECT: Cooperating Agency Invitation, LaPrele Dam Reconstruction Project
Environmental Assessment, Converse County, WY**

Dear Ms. Ione Quigley,

On behalf of the Bureau of Reclamation, your agency is invited to participate as a Cooperating Agency under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for the above-titled project. The Bureau of Reclamation has been identified as the lead federal agency for NEPA as a pass-through funding agency.

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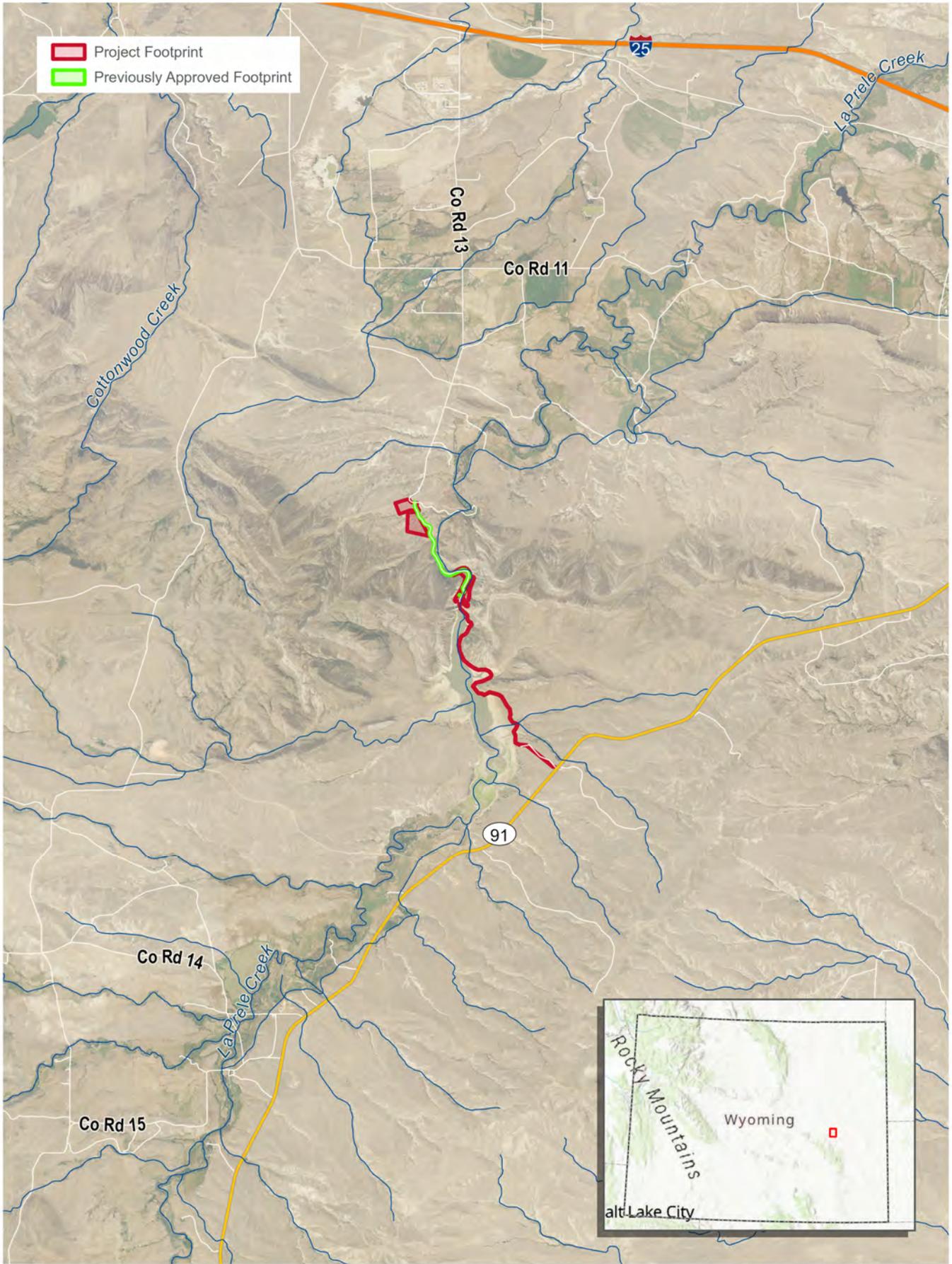
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Bradley Johnson, PhD
Federal Water Lead
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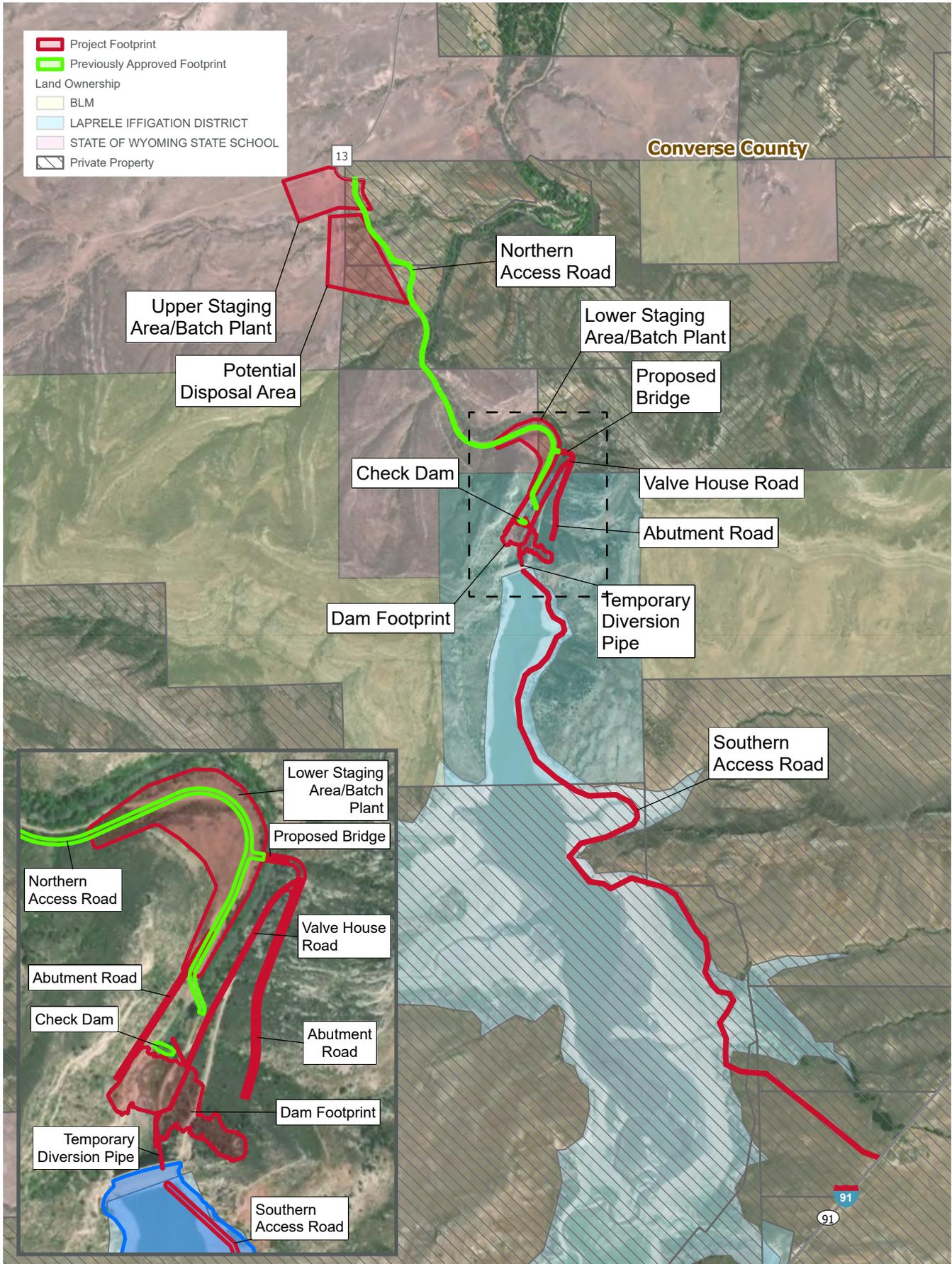
cc: LaPrele Irrigation District
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Pete Rausch, RESPEC
Cory Foreman, HDR

ATTACHMENT: PROJECT LOCATION MAP



PROJECT LOCATION

ATTACHMENT: PROJECT OVERVIEW MAP



0 0.2 mi



PROJECT AREA OVERVIEW



July 2, 2025

Kathleen Wooden Knife
President
Rosebud Sioux Tribe of the Rosebud Indian Reservation, South Dakota
PO Box 430
Rosebud, SD 57570-0430
Provided electronically to: kathleen.woodenknife@rst-nsn.gov

**SUBJECT: Cooperating Agency Invitation, LaPrele Dam Reconstruction Project
Environmental Assessment, Converse County, WY**

Dear President Kathleen Wooden Knife,

On behalf of the Bureau of Reclamation, your agency is invited to participate as a Cooperating Agency under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for the above-titled project. The Bureau of Reclamation has been identified as the lead federal agency for NEPA as a pass-through funding agency.

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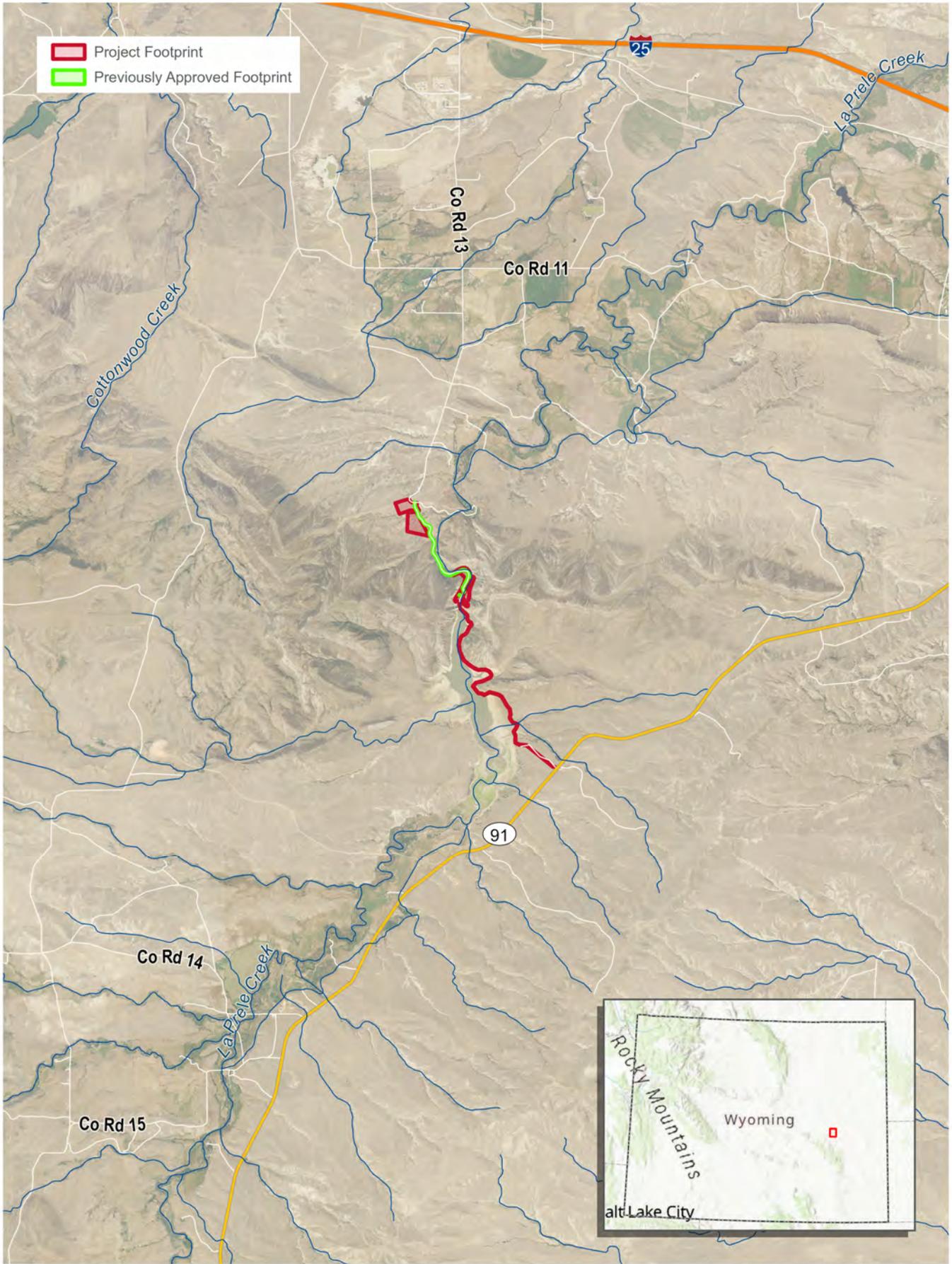
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Bradley Johnson, PhD
Federal Water Lead
HDR Engineering, Inc.

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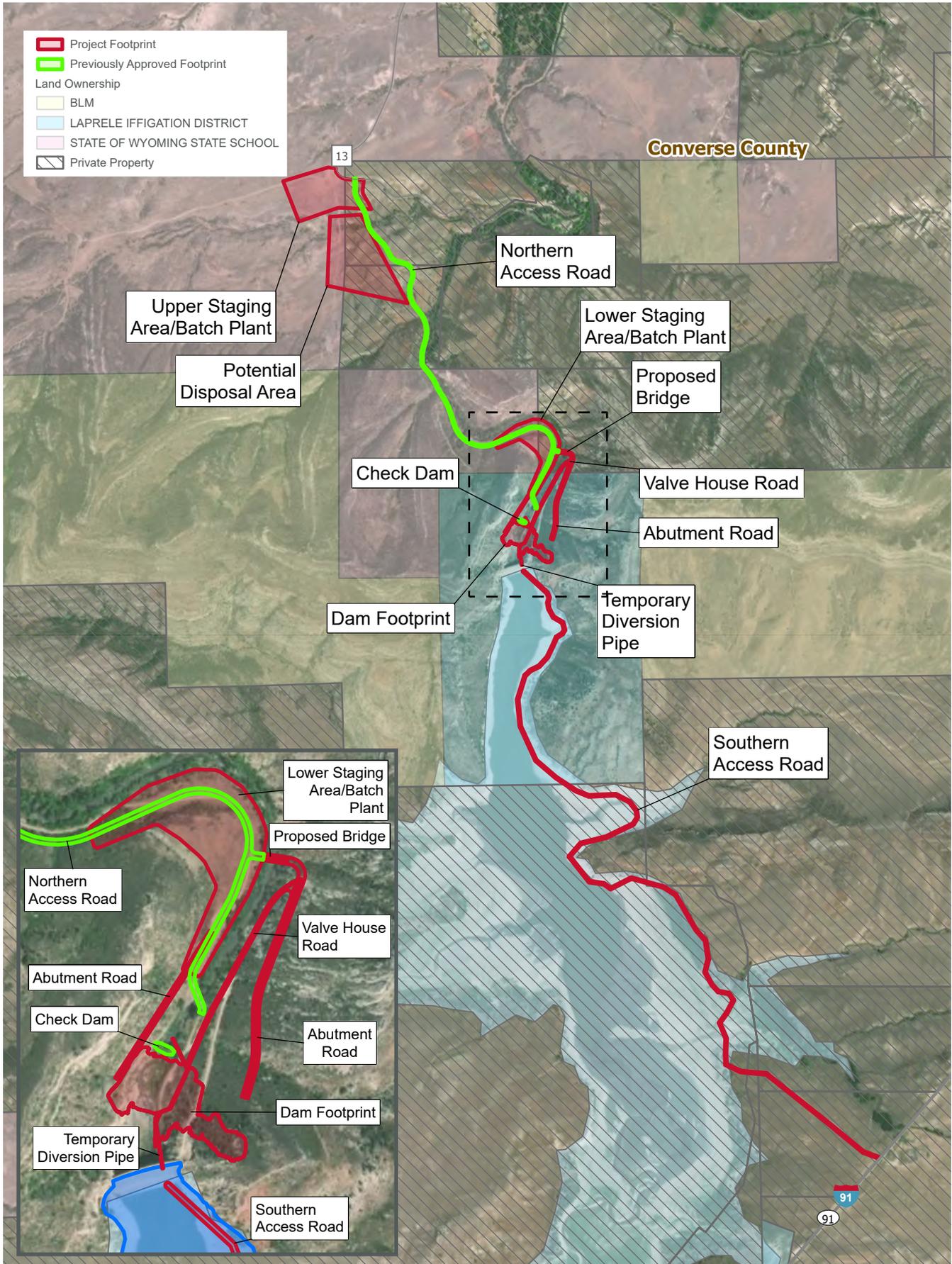
cc: LaPrele Irrigation District
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Pete Rausch, RESPEC
Cory Foreman, HDR

ATTACHMENT: PROJECT LOCATION MAP



PROJECT LOCATION

ATTACHMENT: PROJECT OVERVIEW MAP



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PROJECT AREA OVERVIEW



July 2, 2025

Alonzo Denney
Chairman
Santee Sioux Nation, Nebraska
108 Spirit Lake Ave. W
Niobrara, NE 68760
Provided electronically to: alonzo.denney@ssndakota.com

**SUBJECT: Cooperating Agency Invitation, LaPrele Dam Reconstruction Project
Environmental Assessment, Converse County, WY**

Dear Chairman Alonzo Denney,

On behalf of the Bureau of Reclamation, your agency is invited to participate as a Cooperating Agency under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for the above-titled project. The Bureau of Reclamation has been identified as the lead federal agency for NEPA as a pass-through funding agency.

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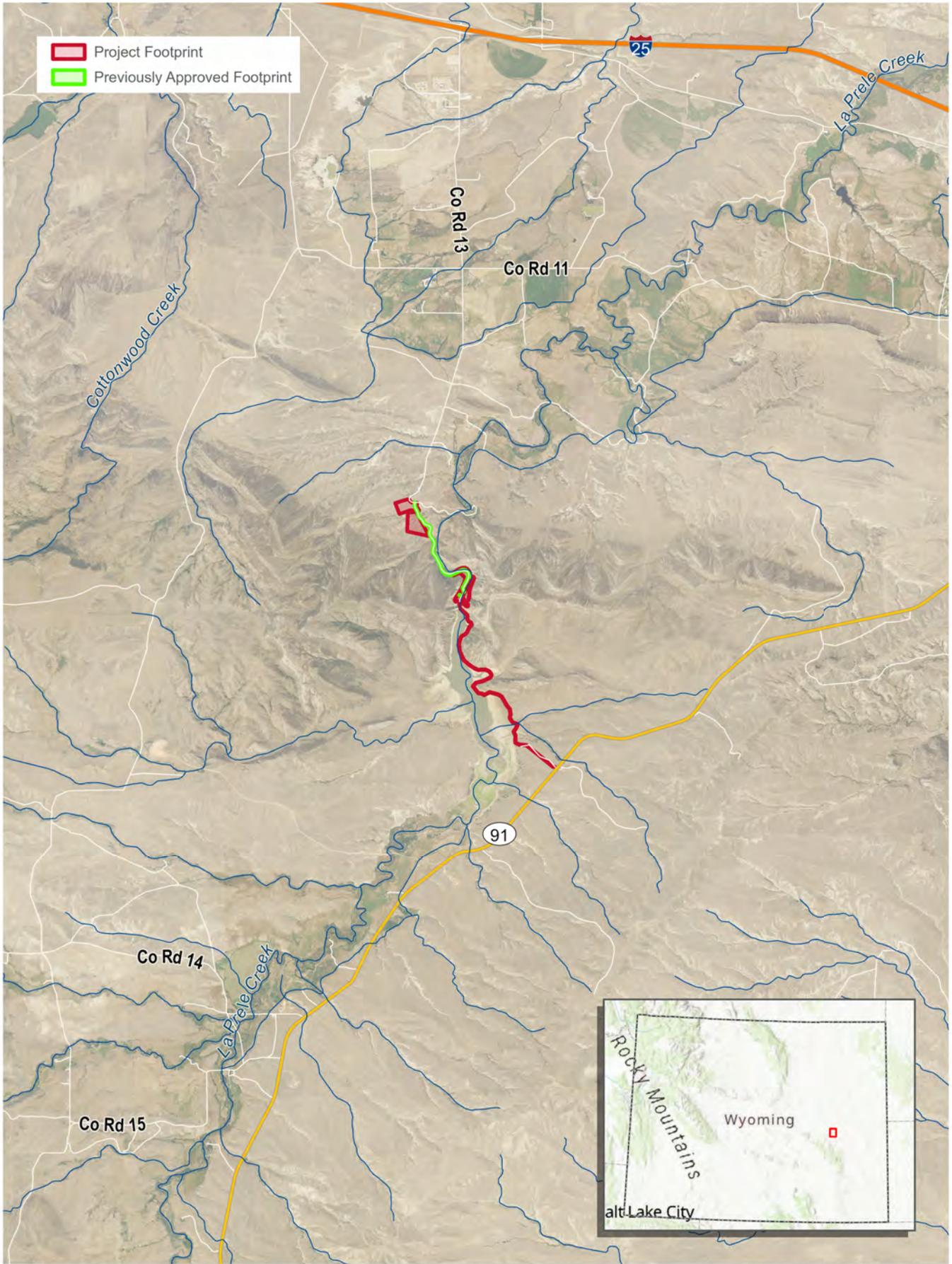
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Bradley Johnson, PhD
Federal Water Lead
HDR Engineering, Inc.

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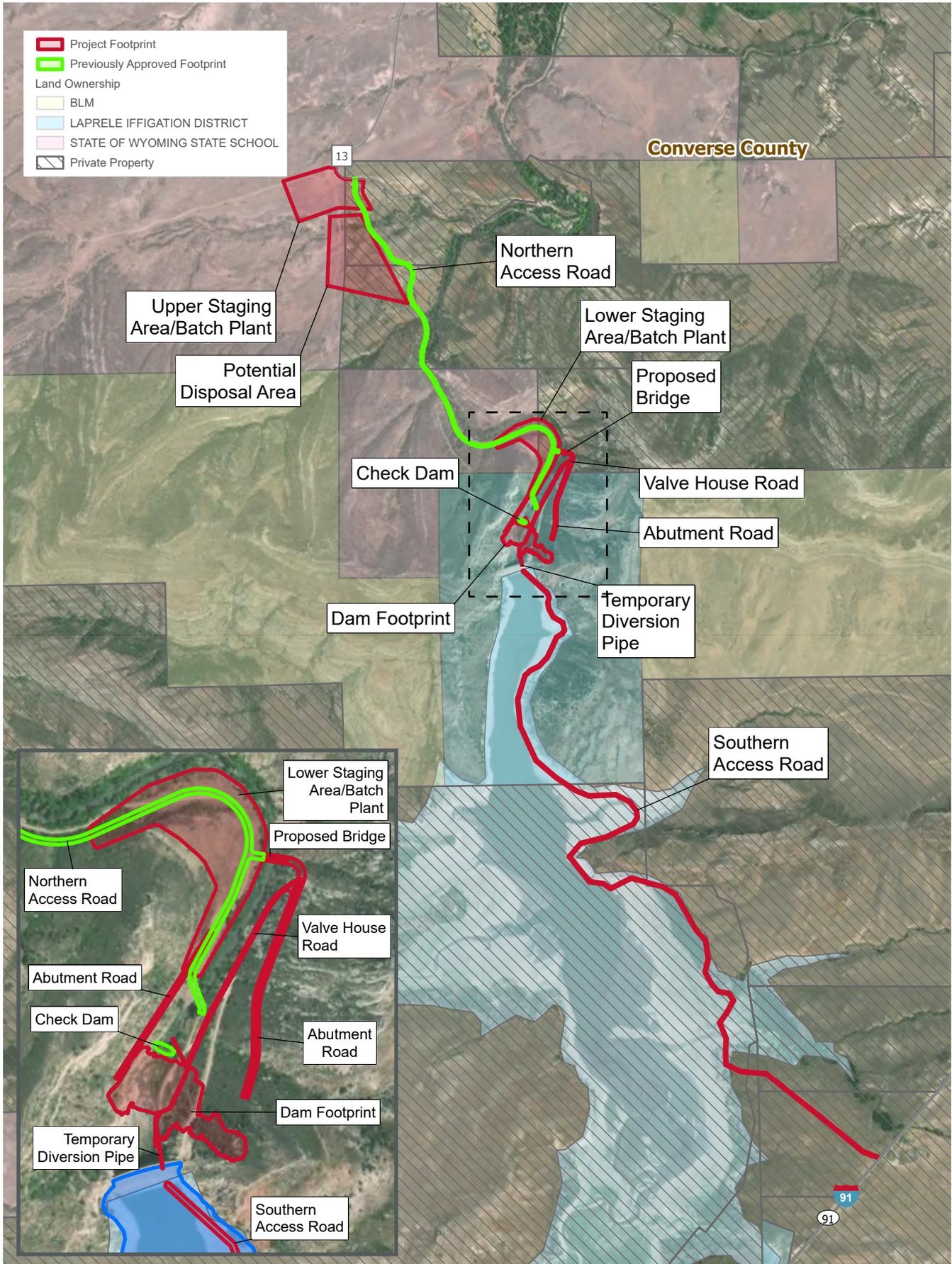
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Cory Foreman, HDR

ATTACHMENT: PROJECT LOCATION MAP



PROJECT LOCATION

ATTACHMENT: PROJECT OVERVIEW MAP



0 0.2 mi



PROJECT AREA OVERVIEW



July 2, 2025

Larry Thomas
Acting Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
Santee Sioux Nation, Nebraska
425 Frazier Ave. N. Suite 2
Niobrara, NE 68760
Provided electronically to: ssn.thpo@gmail.com

**SUBJECT: Cooperating Agency Invitation, LaPrele Dam Reconstruction Project
Environmental Assessment, Converse County, WY**

Dear Mr. Larry Thomas,

On behalf of the Bureau of Reclamation, your agency is invited to participate as a Cooperating Agency under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for the above-titled project. The Bureau of Reclamation has been identified as the lead federal agency for NEPA as a pass-through funding agency.

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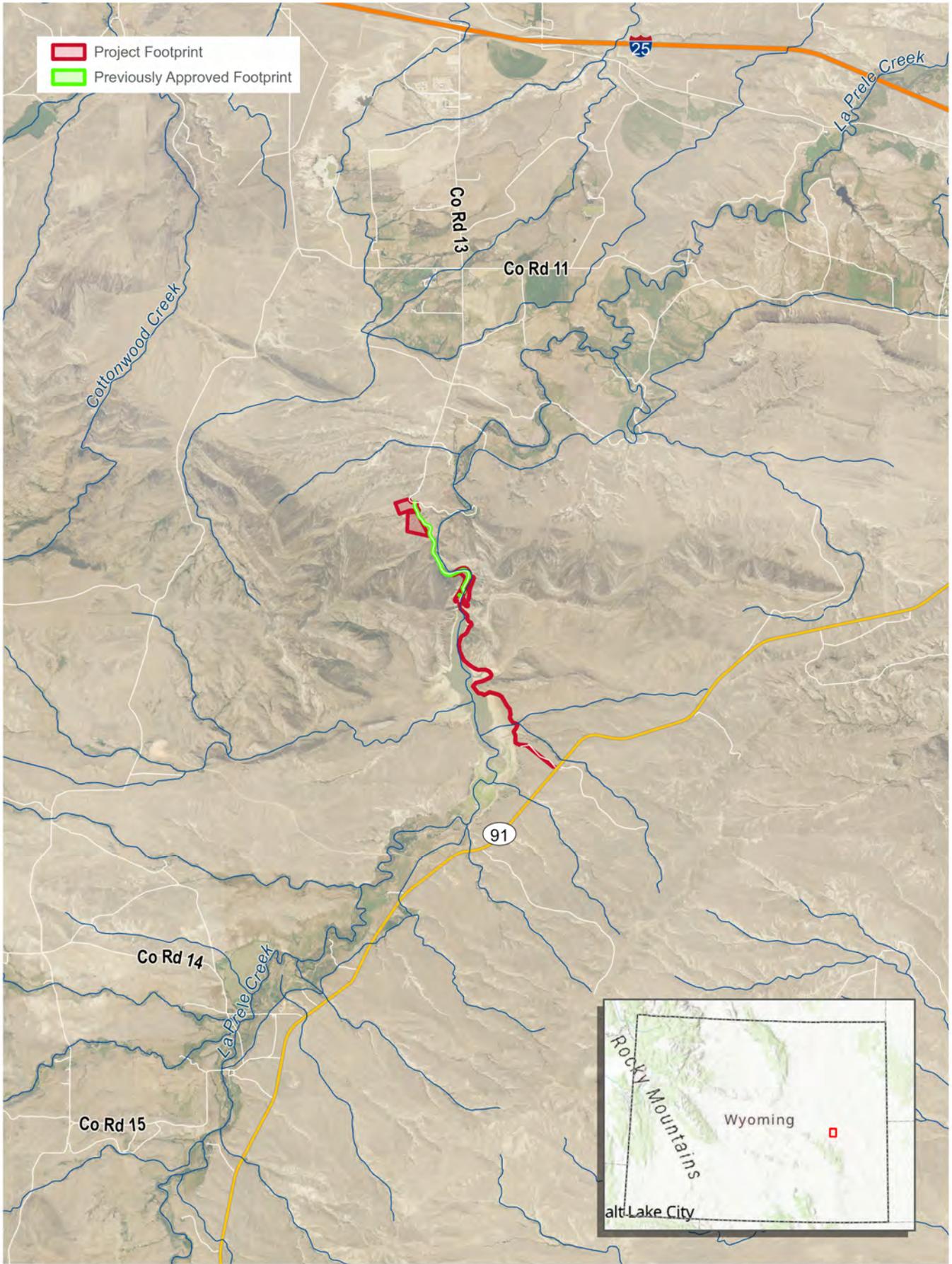
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Federal Water Lead
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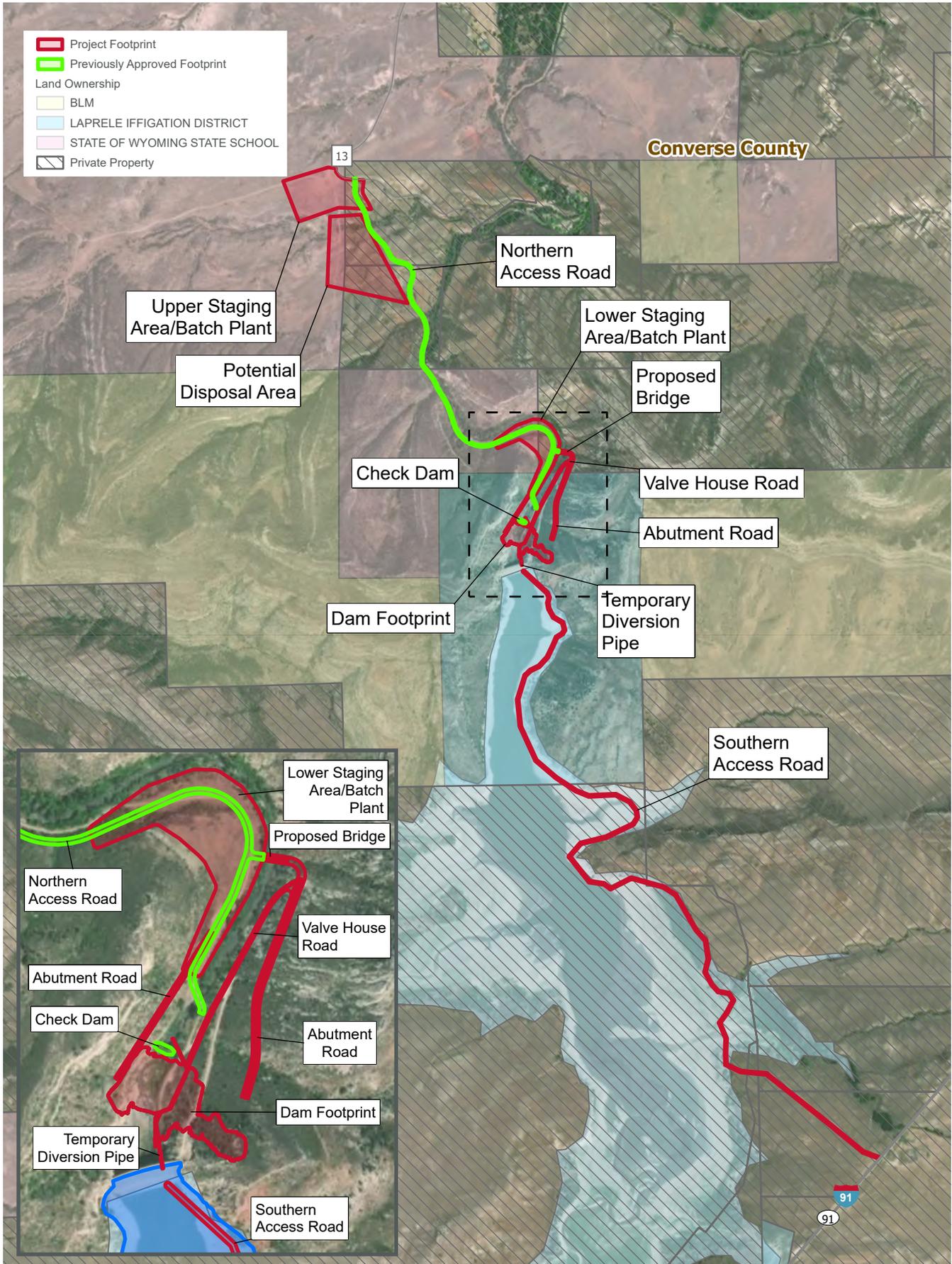
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Cory Foreman, HDR

ATTACHMENT: PROJECT LOCATION MAP



PROJECT LOCATION

ATTACHMENT: PROJECT OVERVIEW MAP



0 0.2 mi



PROJECT AREA OVERVIEW



July 2, 2025

Janet Alkire
Chairwoman
Standing Rock Sioux Tribe of North & South Dakota
1 Standing Rock Ave
Fort Yates, ND 58538
Provided electronically to: info@standingrock.org

**SUBJECT: Cooperating Agency Invitation, LaPrele Dam Reconstruction Project
Environmental Assessment, Converse County, WY**

Dear Chairwoman Janet Alkire,

On behalf of the Bureau of Reclamation, your agency is invited to participate as a Cooperating Agency under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for the above-titled project. The Bureau of Reclamation has been identified as the lead federal agency for NEPA as a pass-through funding agency.

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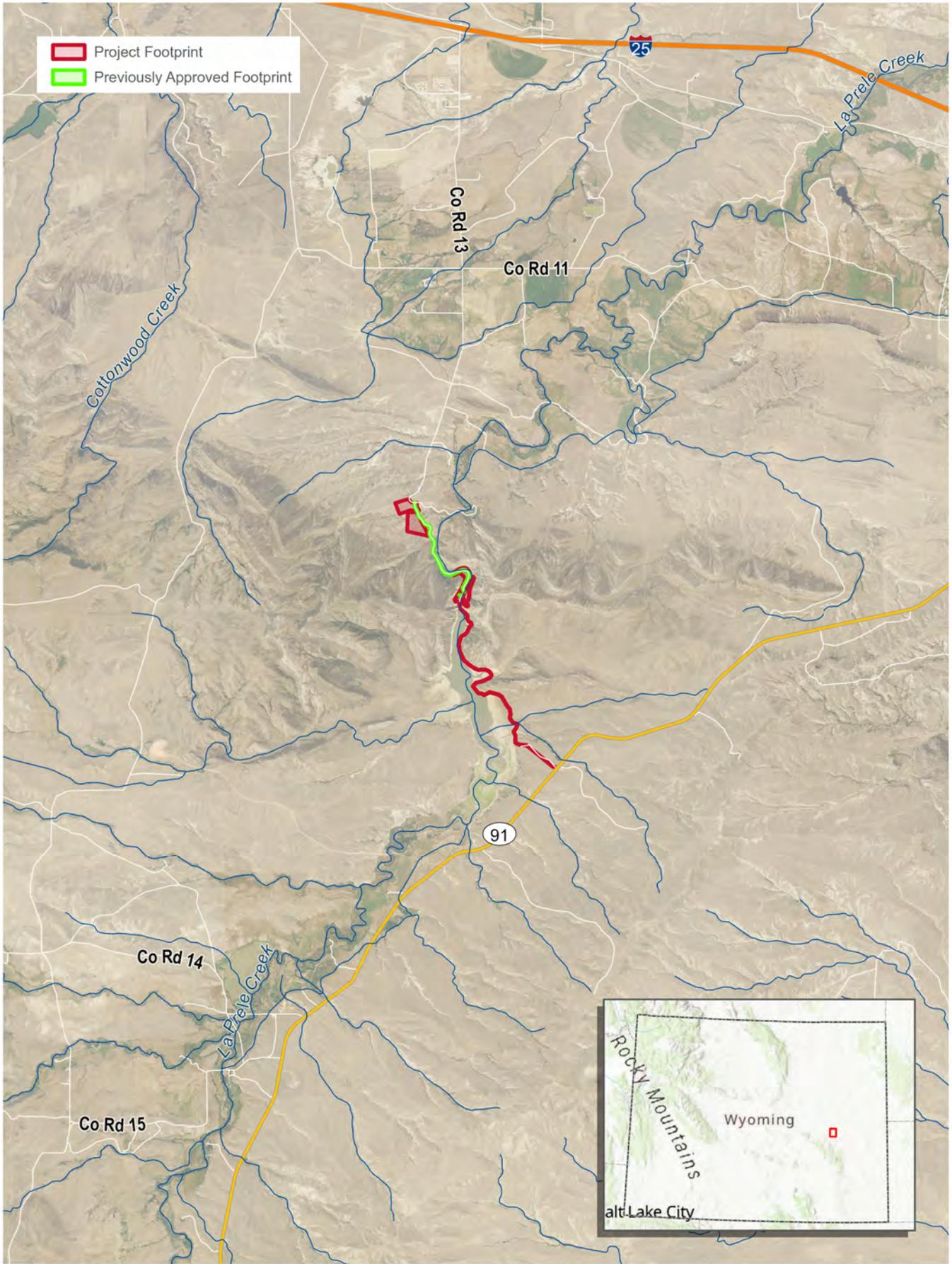
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Federal Water Lead
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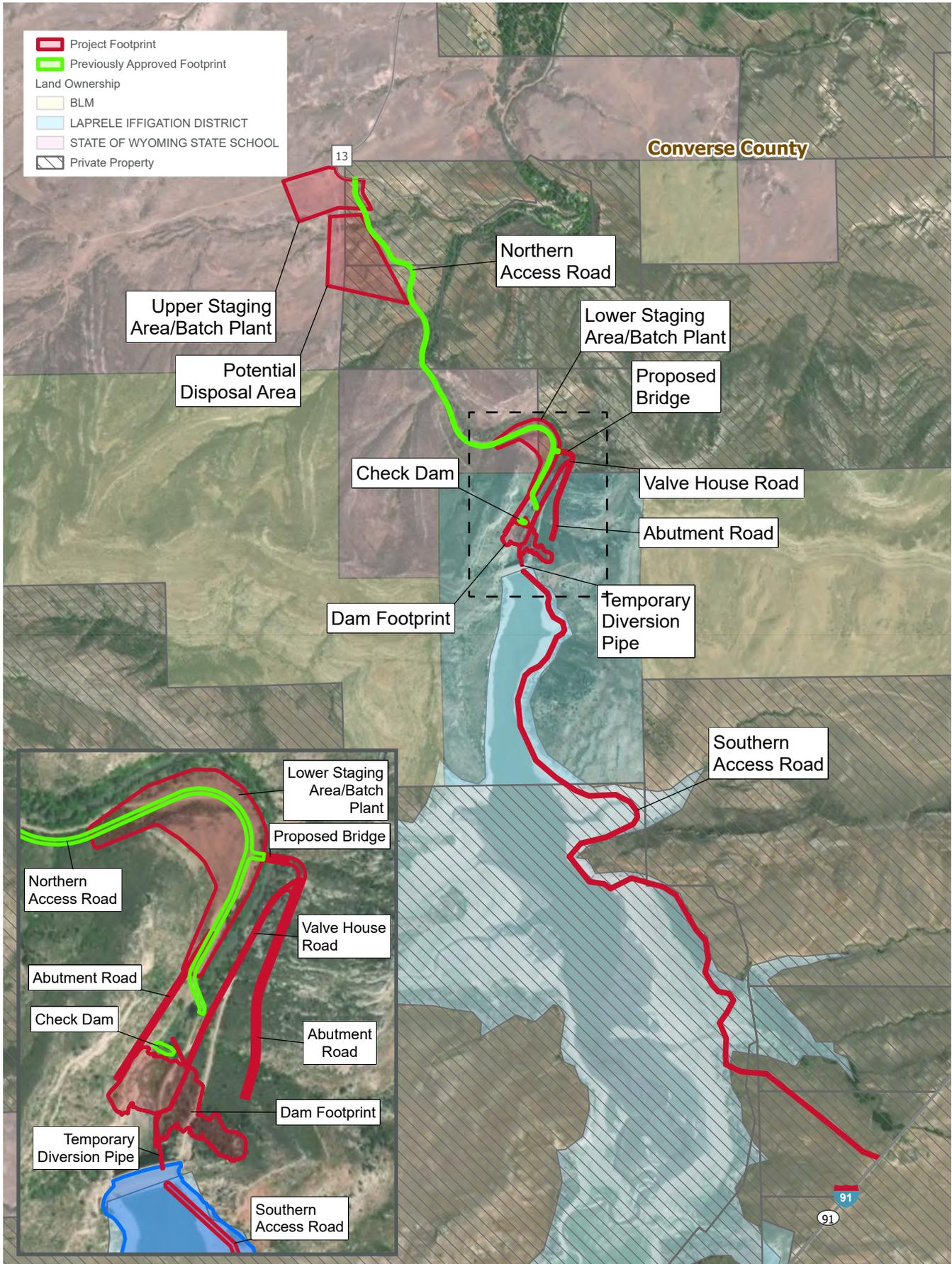
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ATTACHMENT: PROJECT LOCATION MAP



PROJECT LOCATION

ATTACHMENT: PROJECT OVERVIEW MAP



0 0.2 mi



PROJECT AREA OVERVIEW



July 2, 2025

Courtney Yellow Fat
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
Standing Rock Sioux Tribe of North & South Dakota
PO Box D
Fort Yates, ND 58538
Provided electronically to: courtneyyellowfat@standingrock.org

**SUBJECT: Cooperating Agency Invitation, LaPrele Dam Reconstruction Project
Environmental Assessment, Converse County, WY**

Dear Mr. Courtney Yellow Fat,

On behalf of the Bureau of Reclamation, your agency is invited to participate as a Cooperating Agency under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for the above-titled project. The Bureau of Reclamation has been identified as the lead federal agency for NEPA as a pass-through funding agency.

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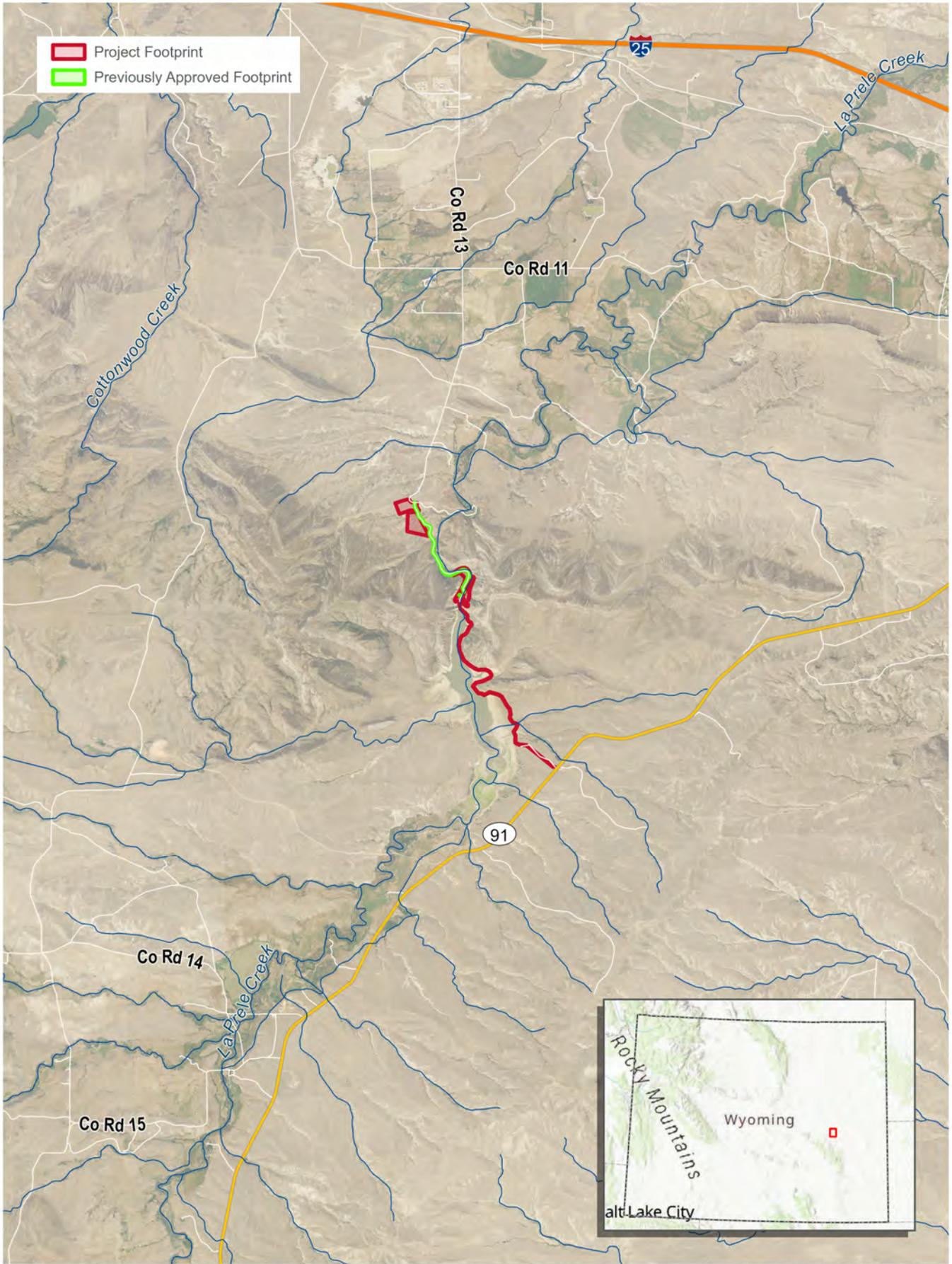
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Bradley Johnson, PhD
Federal Water Lead
HDR Engineering, Inc.

Attachment: Project Location Map; Project Overview Map

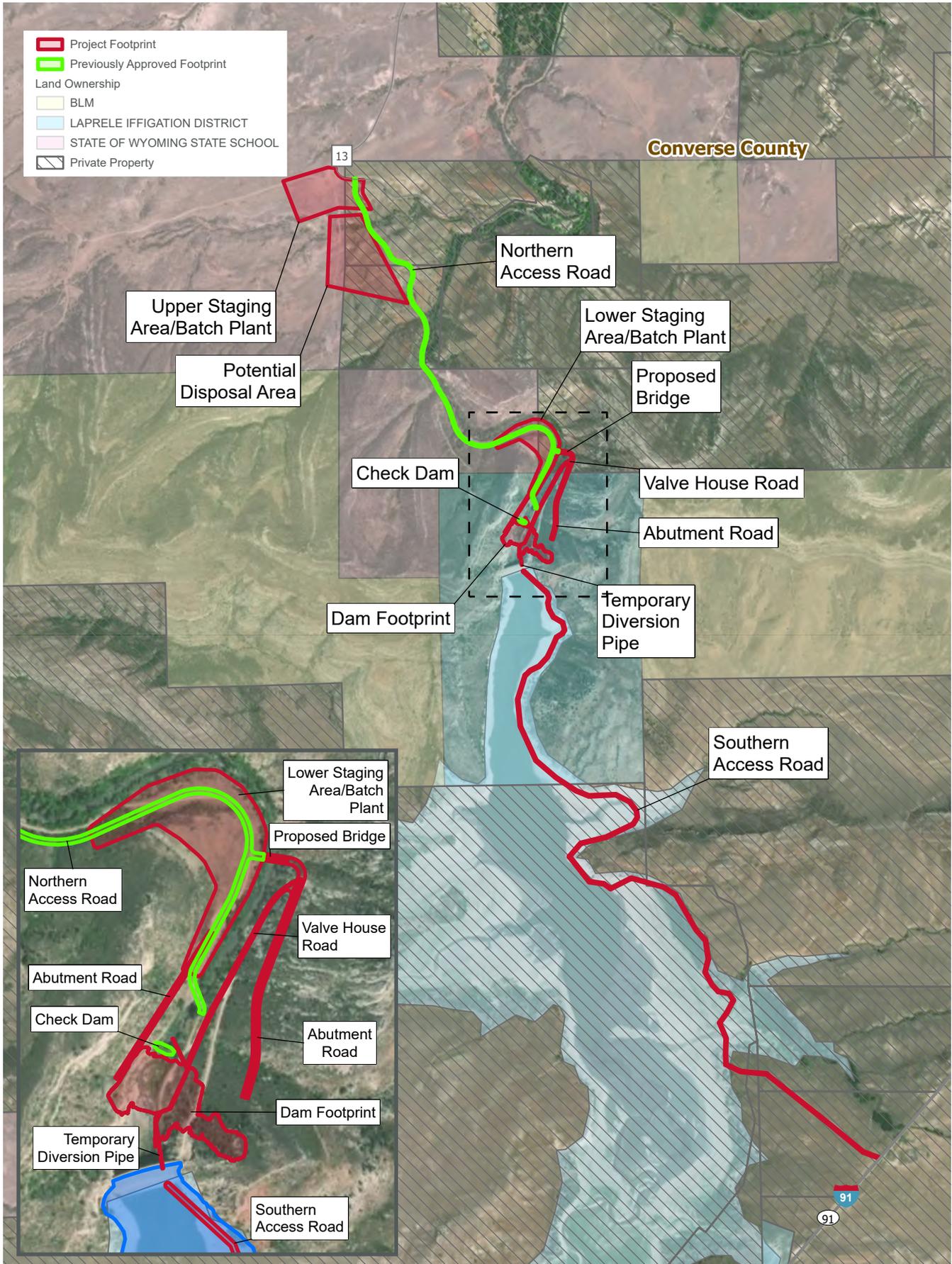
cc: LaPrele Irrigation District
Shain Wright, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
Stacey Johnston, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
Kristin Bowen, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
Paige Wolken, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Shawn Follum, Natural Resources Conservation Service
Jason Mead, Wyoming Water Development Office
Chace Tavelli, Wyoming Water Development Office
Pete Rausch, RESPEC
Cory Foreman, HDR

ATTACHMENT: PROJECT LOCATION MAP



PROJECT LOCATION

ATTACHMENT: PROJECT OVERVIEW MAP



0 0.2 mi



PROJECT AREA OVERVIEW



July 2, 2025

Gary Shatto
President
LaPrele Irrigation District
PO Box 705
Douglas, WY 82633
Provided electronically to: lapreleirrigationdistrict@gmail.com

**SUBJECT: Cooperating Agency Invitation, LaPrele Dam Reconstruction Project
Environmental Assessment, Converse County, WY**

Dear Mr. Shatto,

On behalf of the Bureau of Reclamation, your agency is invited to participate as a Cooperating Agency under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for the above-titled project. The Bureau of Reclamation has been identified as the lead federal agency for NEPA as a pass-through funding agency.

Your agency has recognized expertise, authority, or interest in this project. A decision to forgo participation as a Cooperating Agency does not preclude participation in the NEPA process or as a participating agency with the ability to comment on the substance of the draft Environmental Assessment (EA) when released for public and agency review.

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The reconstructed dam is anticipated to be located approximately two hundred feet downstream of the previous LaPrele Dam in Sections 21 and 28, Township 32N, Range 73W. A Project Location Map is attached for reference. Construction activities associated with the reconstruction of the LaPrele Dam would see the completion of the replacement dam as early as the fall of 2028. If you choose to participate as a Cooperating Agency, you will be notified when a preliminary draft of the EA is available for agency review and comment.

A written response within 30 days for your participation as a Cooperating Agency can be emailed to Bradley.johnson@hdrinc.com or sent by mail to 419 Canyon Ave., Suite 316, Fort Collins, CO 80521.

If you require additional information or clarification, please contact me at 720-360-6754 or the email provided above. Thank you for your response.

Sincerely,

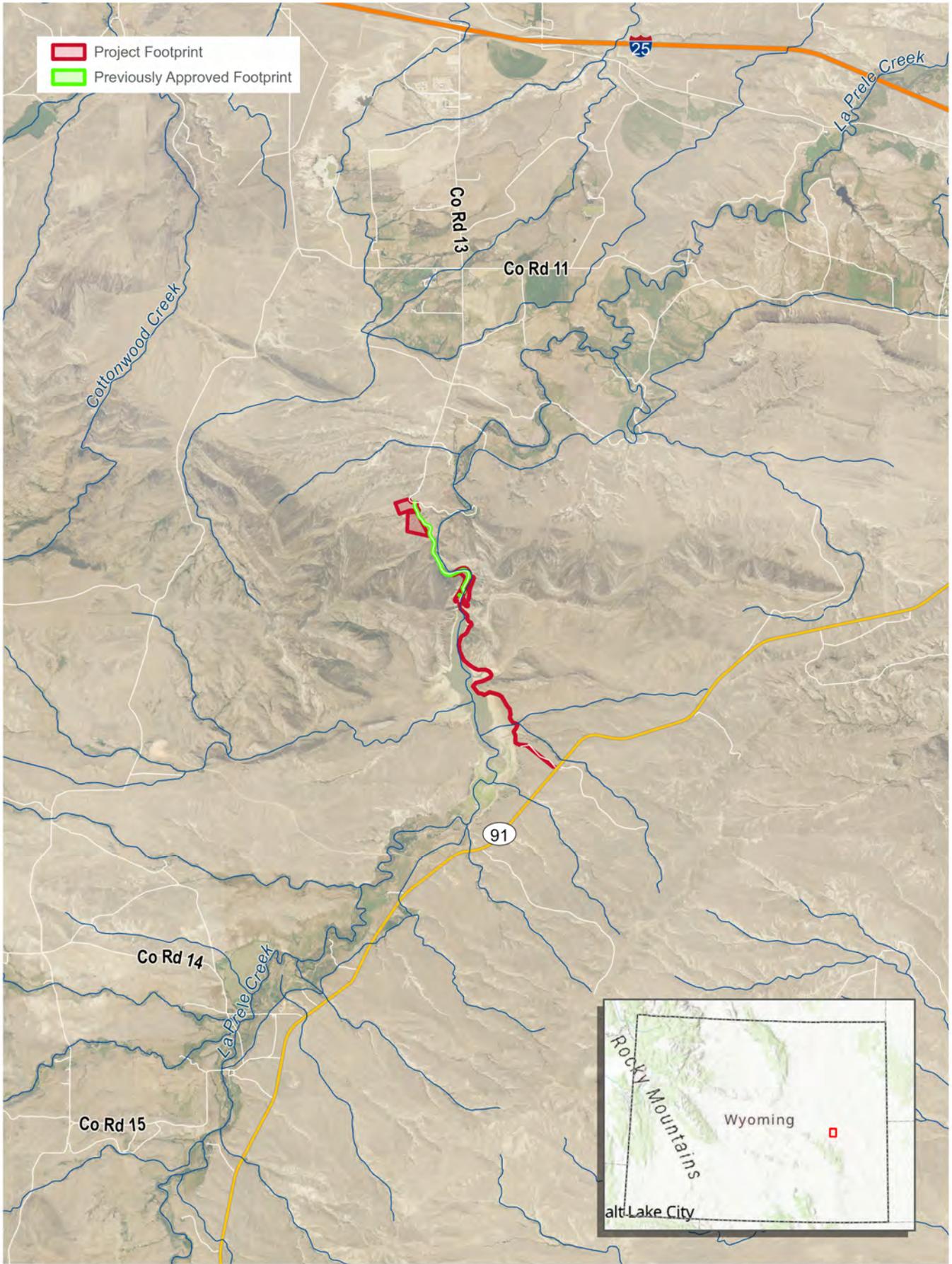
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Bradley Johnson, PhD
Federal Water Lead
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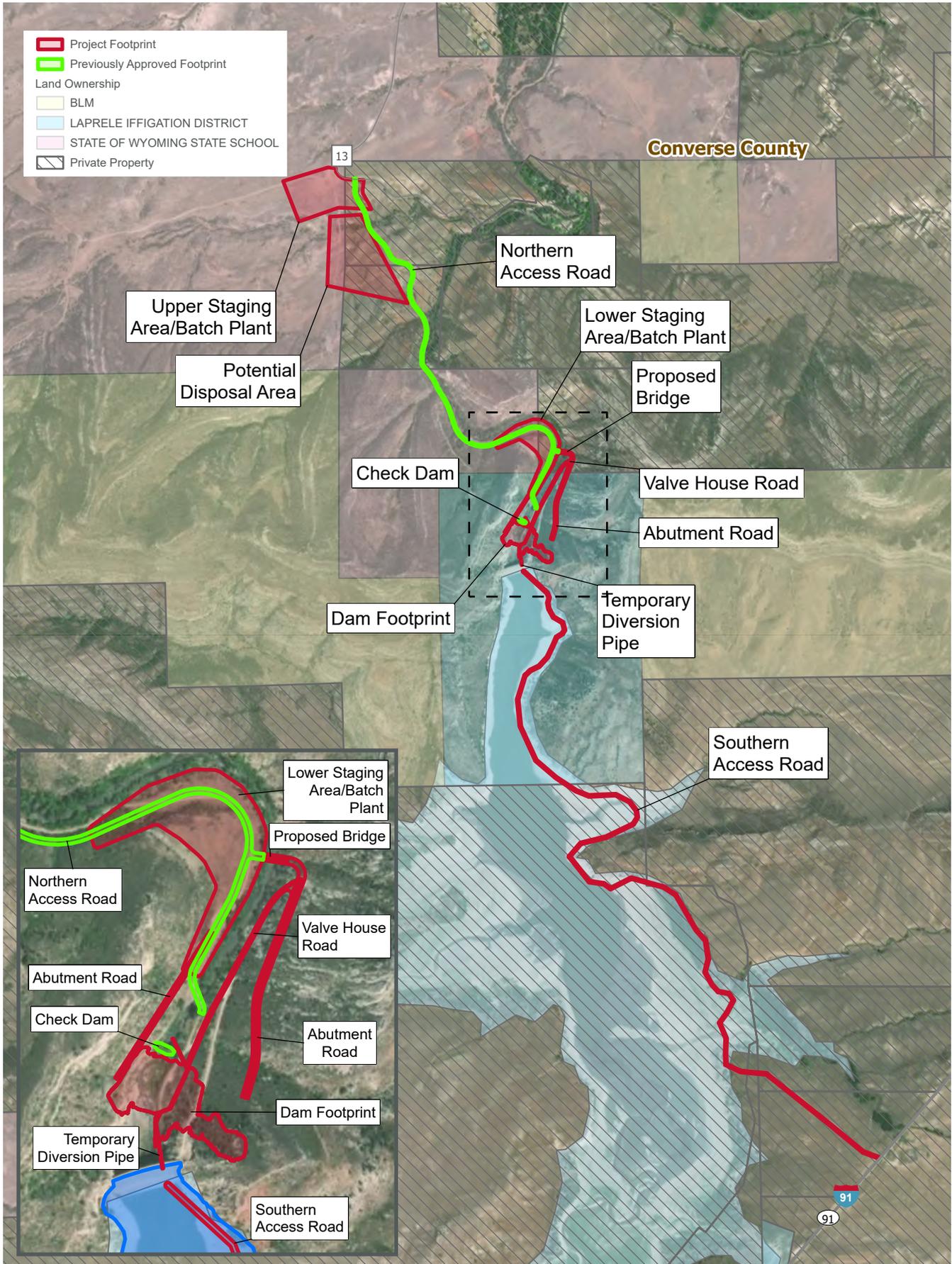
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Cory Foreman, HDR

ATTACHMENT: PROJECT LOCATION MAP



PROJECT LOCATION

ATTACHMENT: PROJECT OVERVIEW MAP



0 0.2 mi



PROJECT AREA OVERVIEW



July 2, 2025

Will Schultz
Statewide Habitat Protection Supervisor
Wyoming Game and Fish Department
5400 Bishop Boulevard
Cheyenne, WY 82006
Provided electronically to: Wgfd.hpp@wyo.gov

**SUBJECT: Cooperating Agency Invitation, LaPrele Dam Reconstruction Project
Environmental Assessment, Converse County, WY**

Dear Mr. Schultz,

On behalf of the Bureau of Reclamation, your agency is invited to participate as a Cooperating Agency under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for the above-titled project. The Bureau of Reclamation has been identified as the lead federal agency for NEPA as a pass-through funding agency.

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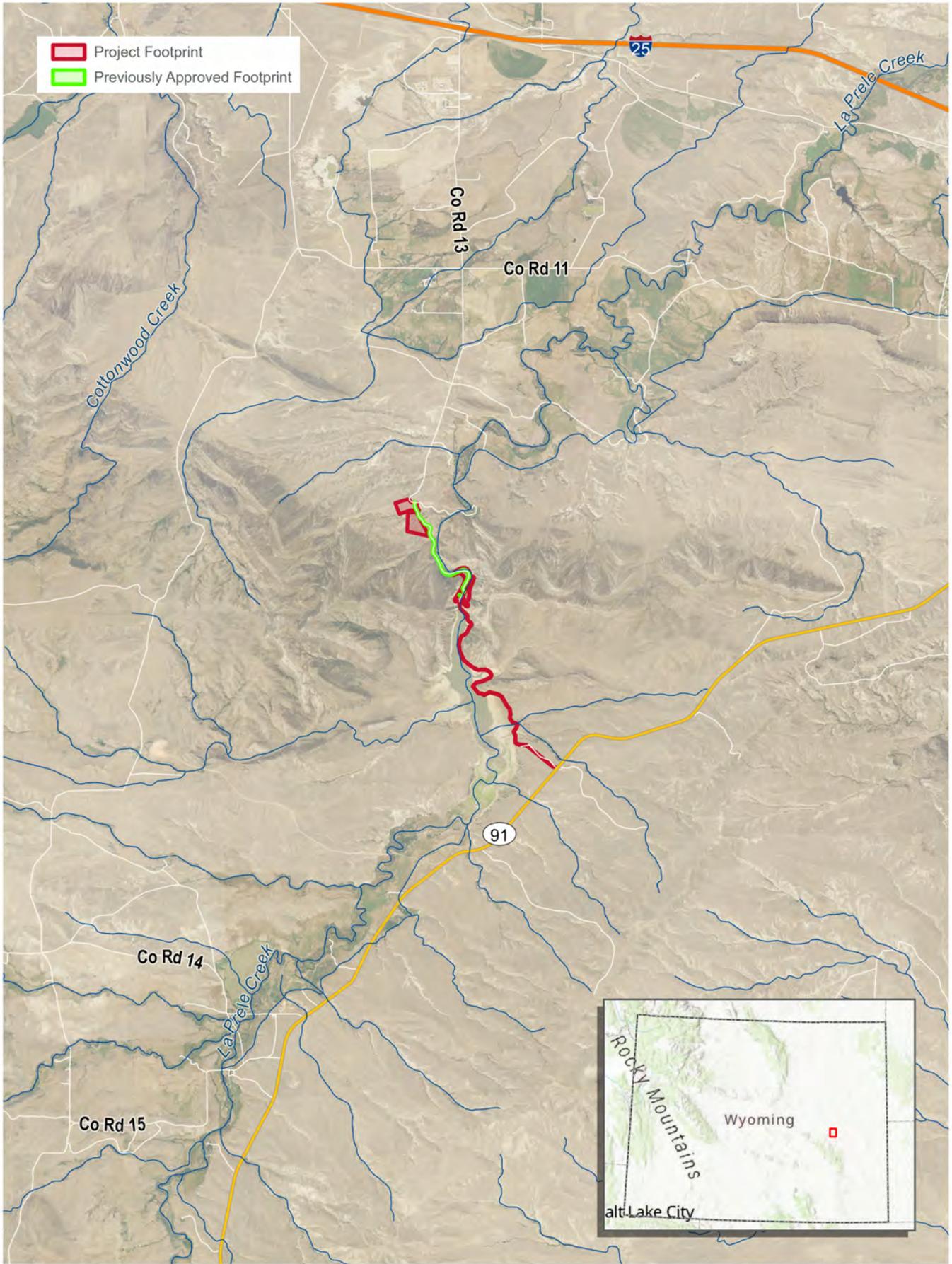
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Bradley Johnson, PhD
Federal Water Lead
HDR Engineering, Inc.

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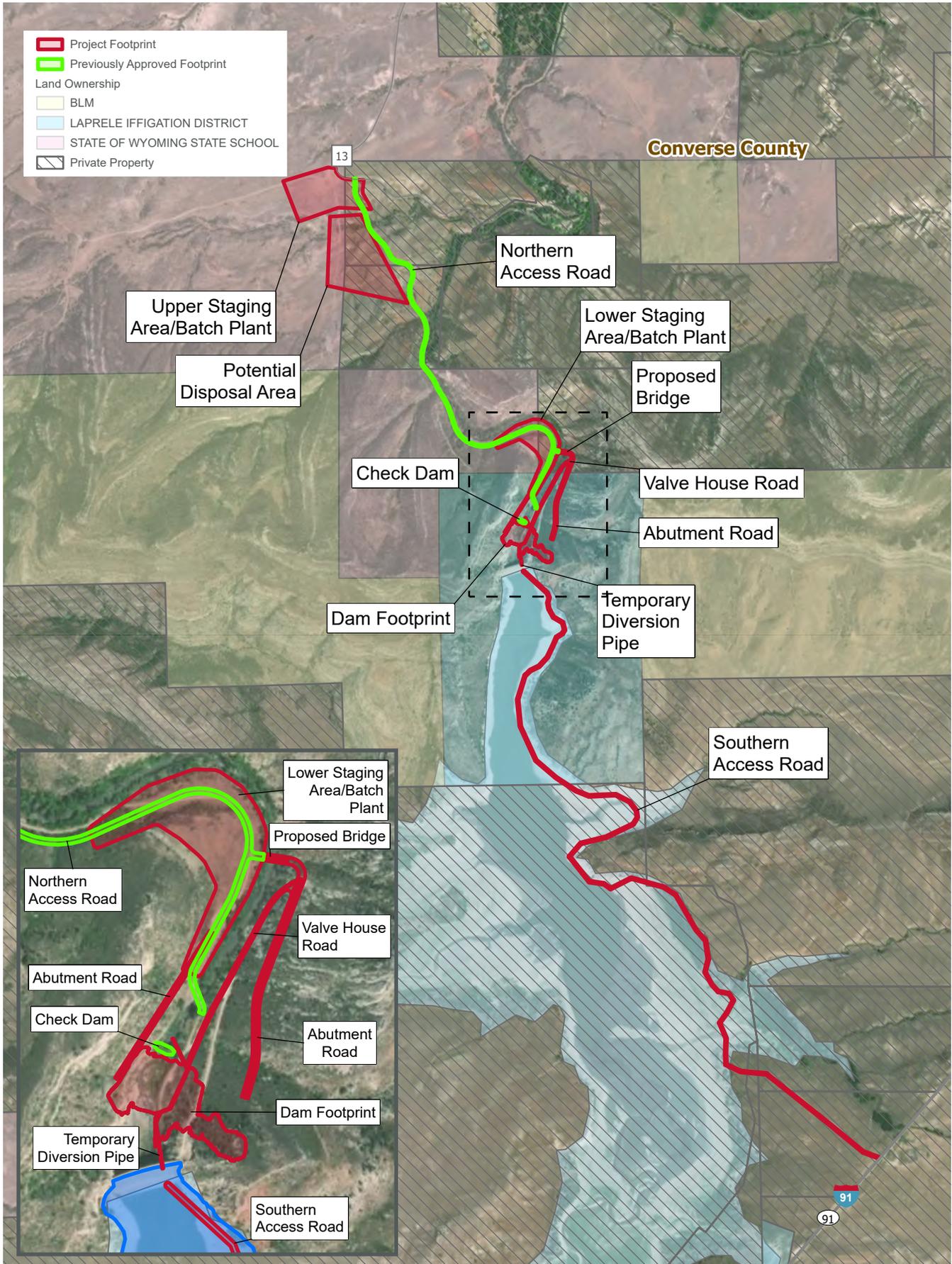


Project Footprint
Previously Approved Footprint



PROJECT LOCATION

ATTACHMENT: PROJECT OVERVIEW MAP



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PROJECT AREA OVERVIEW



Wyoming Game and Fish Department

Conserving Wildlife, Serving People

Governor Mark Gordon • Director Angi Bruce

Commissioners

Ashlee Lundvall, President

Mark Jolovich, Vice President

Rusty Bell

Bill Mai

Carlisle "Fonzy" Haskell

John Masterson

Kenneth D. Roberts

July 29, 2025

WER 14727.03

HDR

Bureau of Reclamation

Cooperating Agency Invitation

LaPrele Dam Reconstruction Project

Converse County

Megan Mueller,

Environmental Planner

HDR

1670 Broadway, Ste 3400

Denver, CO 80202

D 303-643-6707 M 303-324-9371

megan.mueller@hdrinc.com

Dear Ms. Mueller,

The staff of the Wyoming Game and Fish Department (Department) has reviewed the Cooperating Agency Invitation for the Bureau of Reclamation's LaPrele Dam Reconstruction Project. The Department is statutorily charged with managing and protecting all Wyoming wildlife (W.S. 23-1-103). Pursuant to our mission, we accept this invitation and would like to participate as a cooperating agency.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. If you have any questions or concerns please contact Angelique Curtis, Habitat Protection Biologist, at 307-777-4566.

Sincerely,

Doug Brimeyer
Deputy Director

DB/ws



July 2, 2025

Zachary Mangin
Air Quality Planning Section Supervisor
Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality
200 W. 17th St., Suite 300
Cheyenne, WY 82002
Provided electronically to: Zachary.Mangin@wyo.gov

**SUBJECT: Cooperating Agency Invitation, LaPrele Dam Reconstruction Project
Environmental Assessment, Converse County, WY**

Dear Mr. Mangin,

On behalf of the Bureau of Reclamation, your agency is invited to participate as a Cooperating Agency under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for the above-titled project. The Bureau of Reclamation has been identified as the lead federal agency for NEPA as a pass-through funding agency.

Your agency has recognized expertise, authority, or interest in this project. A decision to forgo participation as a Cooperating Agency does not preclude participation in the NEPA process or as a participating agency with the ability to comment on the substance of the draft Environmental Assessment (EA) when released for public and agency review.

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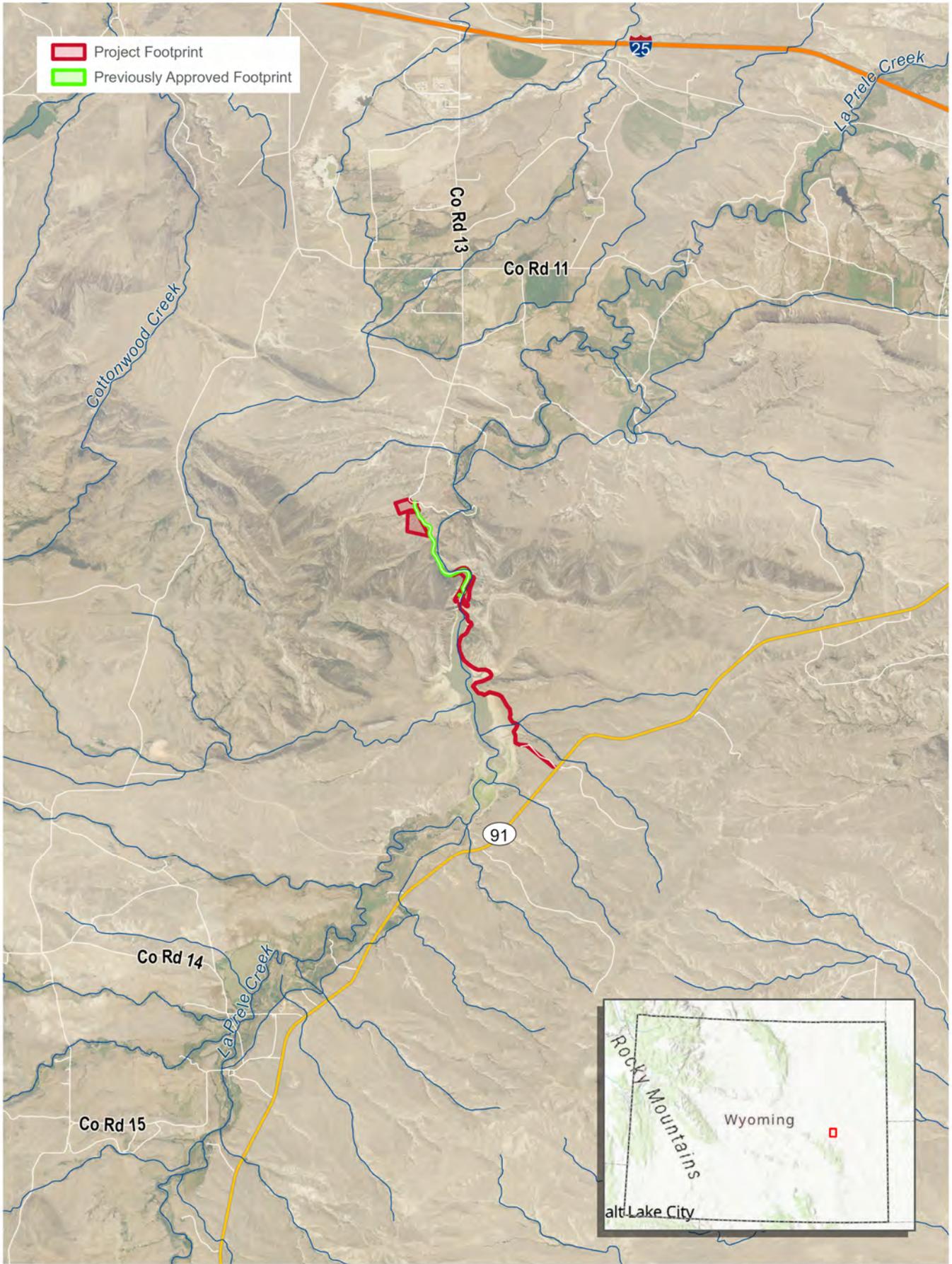
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Federal Water Lead
HDR Engineering, Inc.

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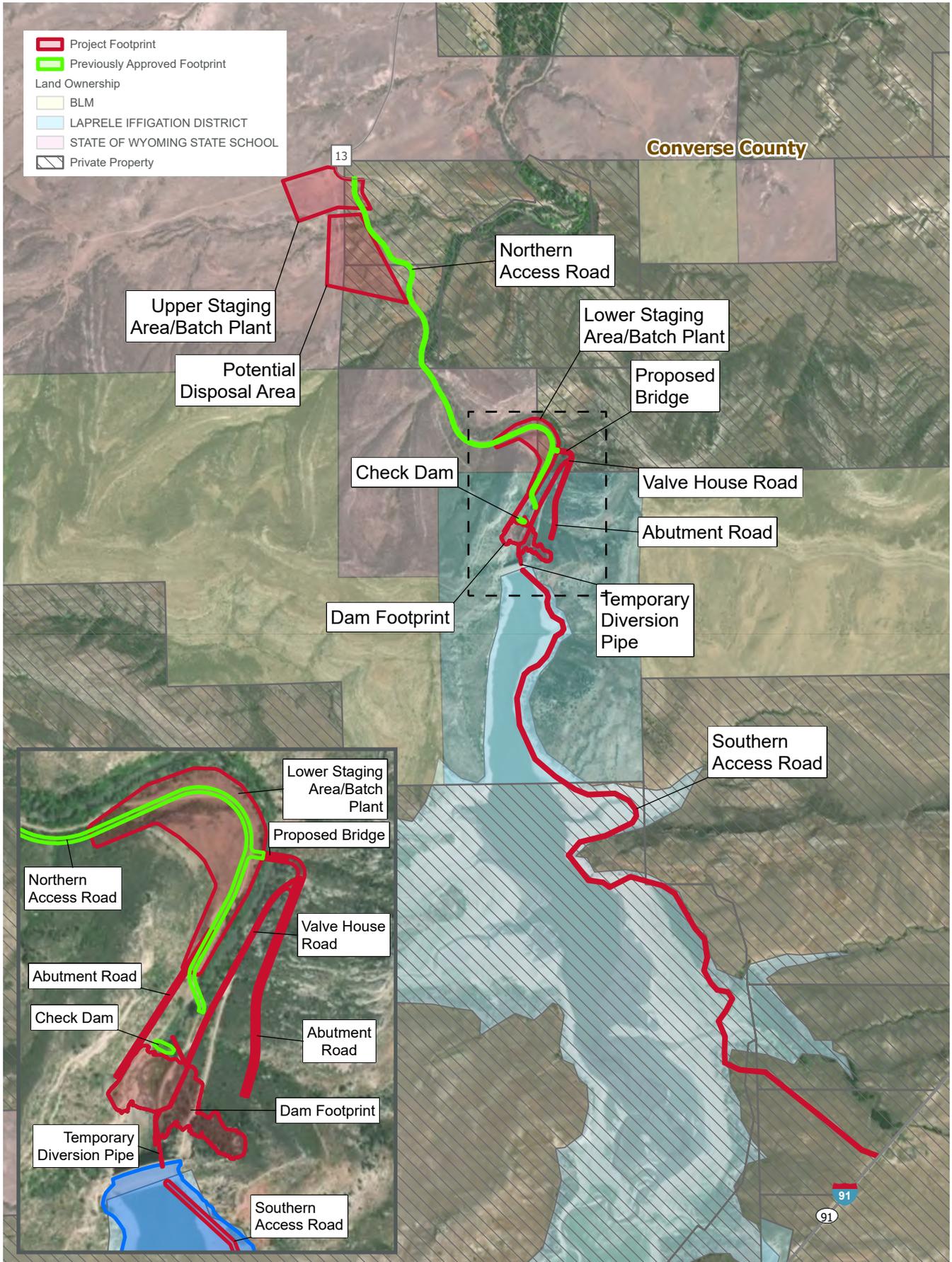
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Pete Rausch, RESPEC
Cory Foreman, HDR

ATTACHMENT: PROJECT LOCATION MAP



PROJECT LOCATION

ATTACHMENT: PROJECT OVERVIEW MAP



0 0.2 mi



PROJECT AREA OVERVIEW



Department of Environmental Quality

To protect, conserve and enhance the quality of Wyoming's environment for the benefit of current and future generations.



Mark Gordon, Governor



Todd Parfitt, Director

July 18, 2025

Bradley Johnson
419 Canyon Ave., Suite 316
Fort Collins, CO 80521

RE: LaPrele Dam Reconstruction Project Cooperating Agency Invitation

Dear Mr. Johnson,

Thank you for contacting the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality (WDEQ) inviting us to be a cooperating agency on the LaPrele Dam Reconstruction Project.

As I'm sure you're aware, WDEQ has been delegated primacy over multiple environmental programs by the federal government – water, air, solid and hazardous waste, abandoned mine land reclamation, and coal mining amongst others.

As such, WDEQ hereby requests to be included as a cooperating agency on this project as several permits will need to be obtained from WDEQ throughout this project, and there may be implications to the watershed in the project area.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact Keith Guille at 307-777-6105 or keith.guille@wyo.gov.

Sincerely,

Nancy Vehr
Deputy Director
Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality

Cc: Todd Parfitt – Director, WDEQ
Jennifer Zygmunt – Administrator, Water Quality Division
Keith Guille – Outreach Program Manager



July 2, 2025

Kim Johnson
NFIP Coordinator
Wyoming Office of Homeland Security
5500 Bishop Boulevard
Cheyenne, WY 82002
Provided electronically to: kim.johnson@wyo.gov

**SUBJECT: Cooperating Agency Invitation, LaPrele Dam Reconstruction Project
Environmental Assessment, Converse County, WY**

Dear Ms. Johnson,

On behalf of the Bureau of Reclamation, your agency is invited to participate as a Cooperating Agency under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for the above-titled project. The Bureau of Reclamation has been identified as the lead federal agency for NEPA as a pass-through funding agency.

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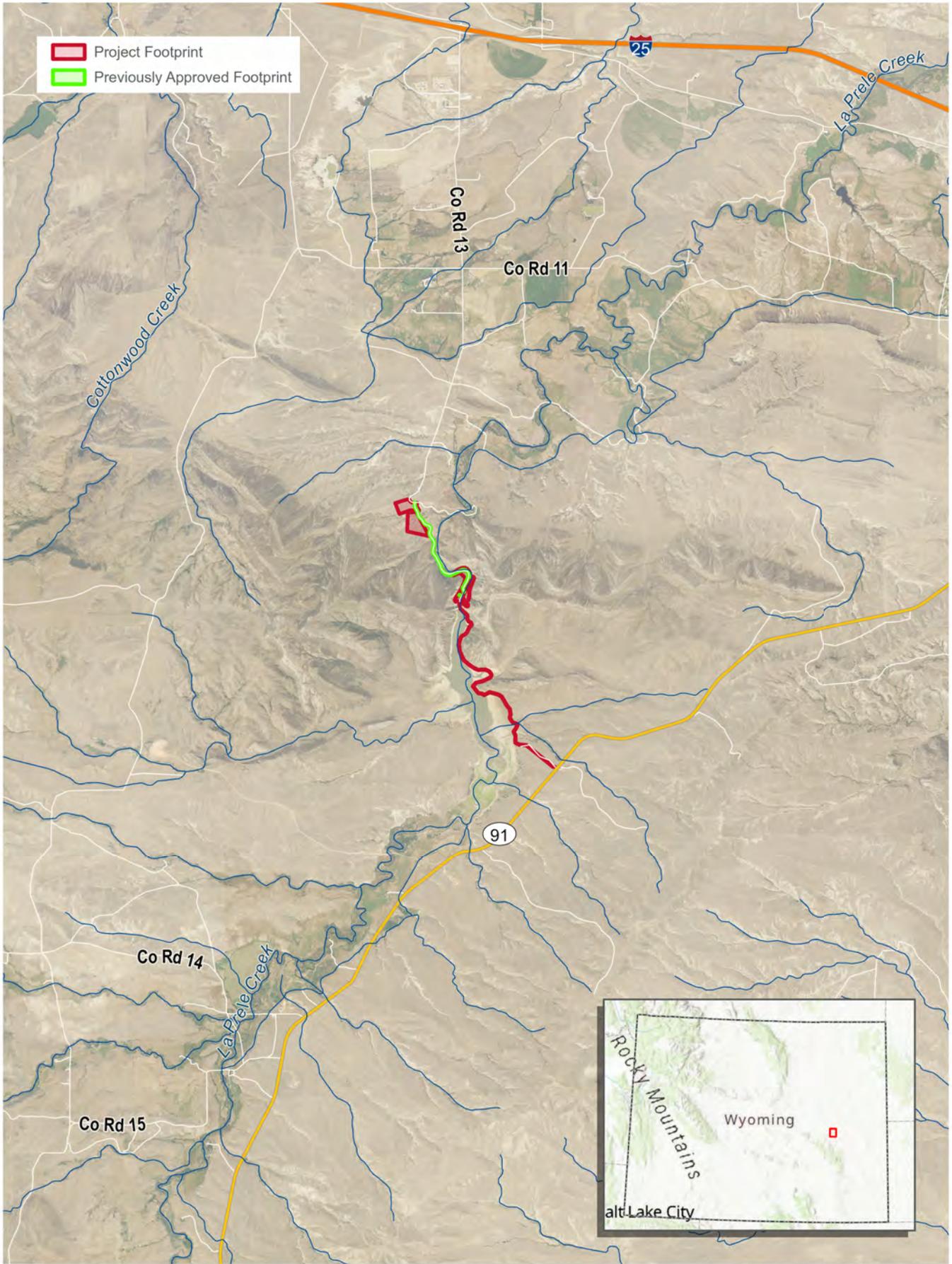
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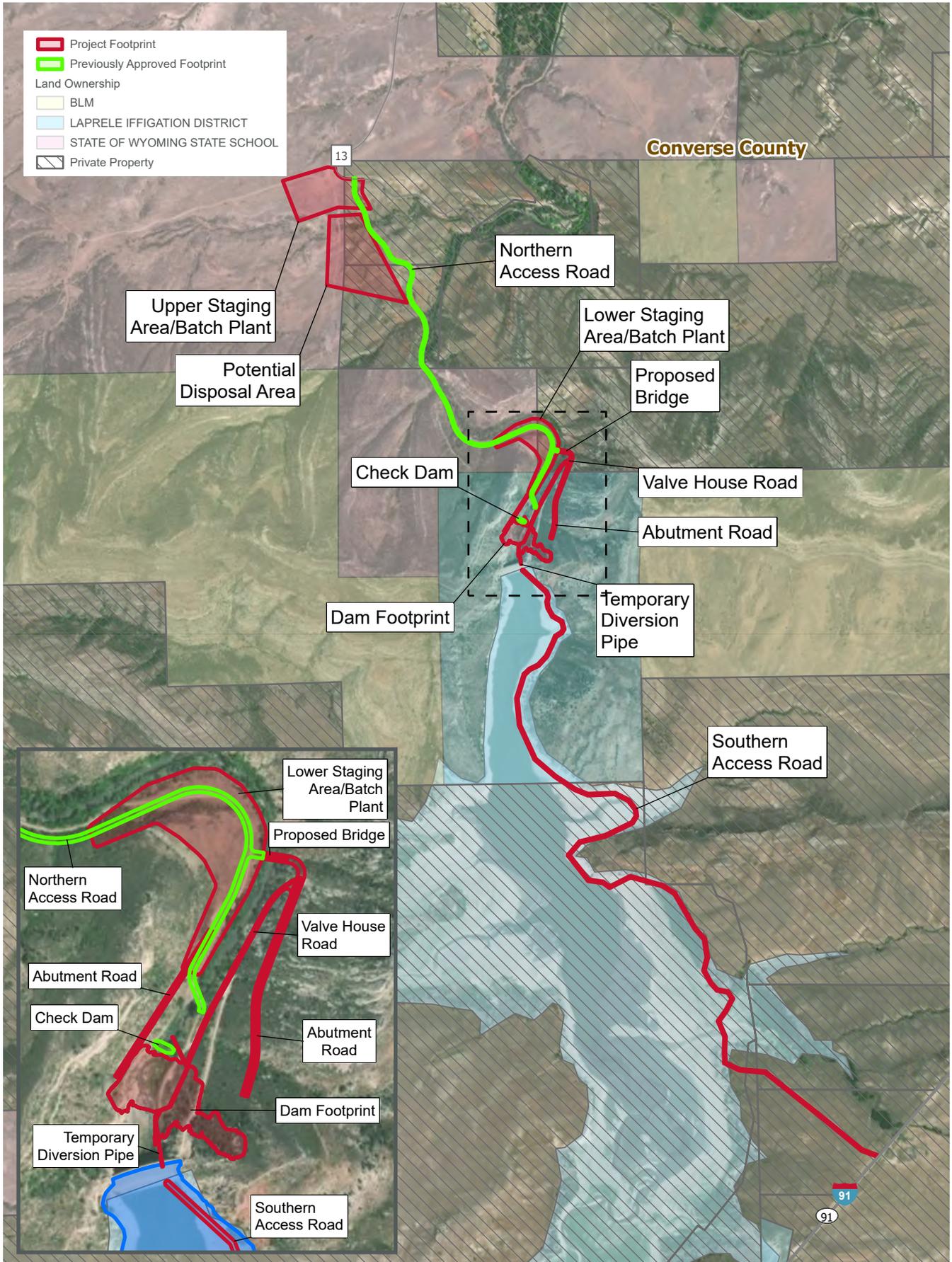
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Pete Rausch, RESPEC
Cory Foreman, HDR

ATTACHMENT: PROJECT LOCATION MAP



PROJECT LOCATION

ATTACHMENT: PROJECT OVERVIEW MAP



0 0.2 mi



PROJECT AREA OVERVIEW



July 2, 2025

Michelle Hubbard
River Basin Coordinator
Wyoming State Engineer's Office
122 West 25th Street, Herschler Building, 2nd Floor West
Cheyenne, WY 82002
Provided electronically to: michelle.hubbard@wyo.gov

**SUBJECT: Cooperating Agency Invitation, LaPrele Dam Reconstruction Project
Environmental Assessment, Converse County, WY**

Dear Ms. Hubbard,

On behalf of the Bureau of Reclamation, your agency is invited to participate as a Cooperating Agency under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for the above-titled project. The Bureau of Reclamation has been identified as the lead federal agency for NEPA as a pass-through funding agency.

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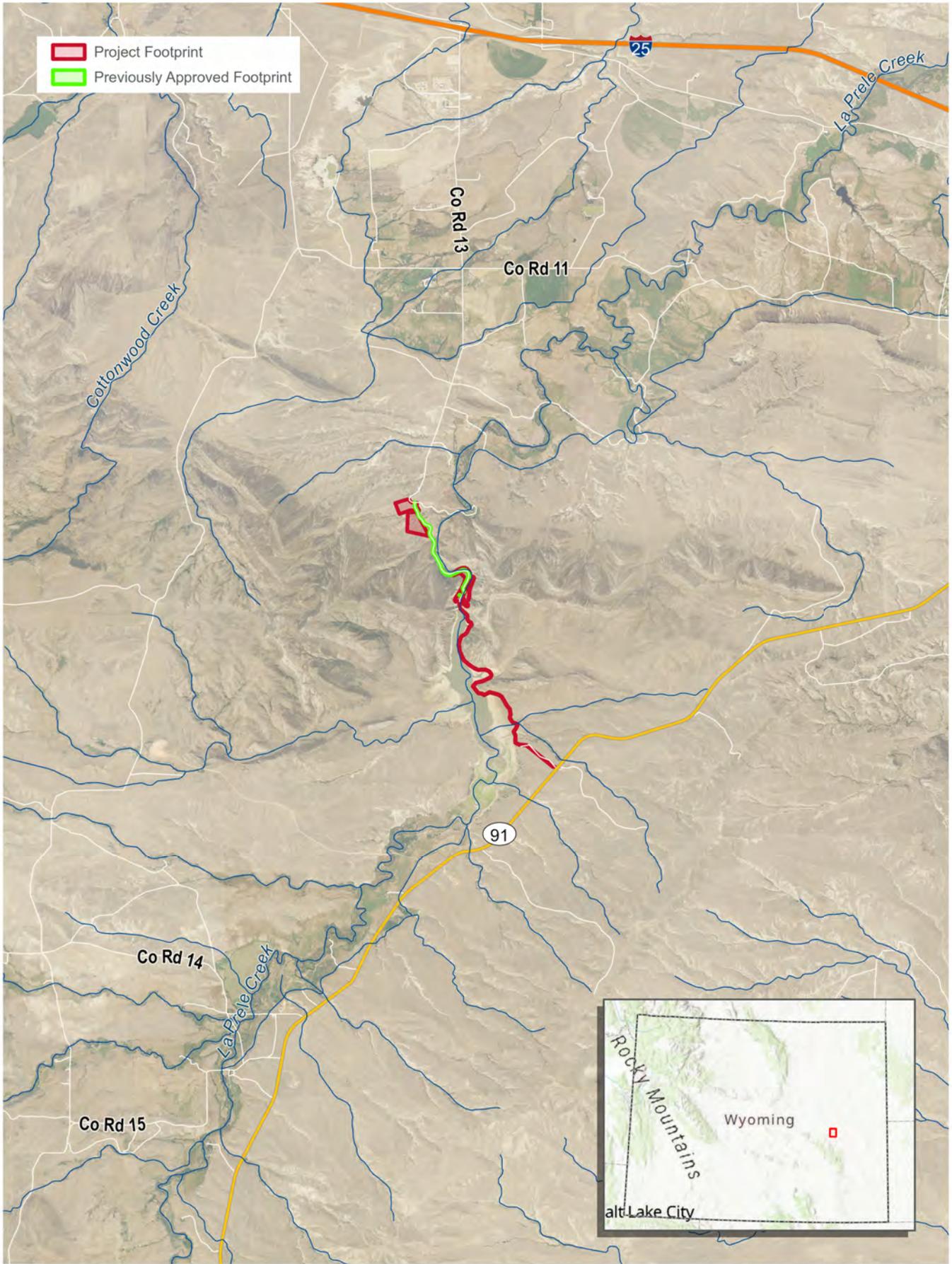
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Bradley Johnson, PhD
Federal Water Lead
HDR Engineering, Inc.

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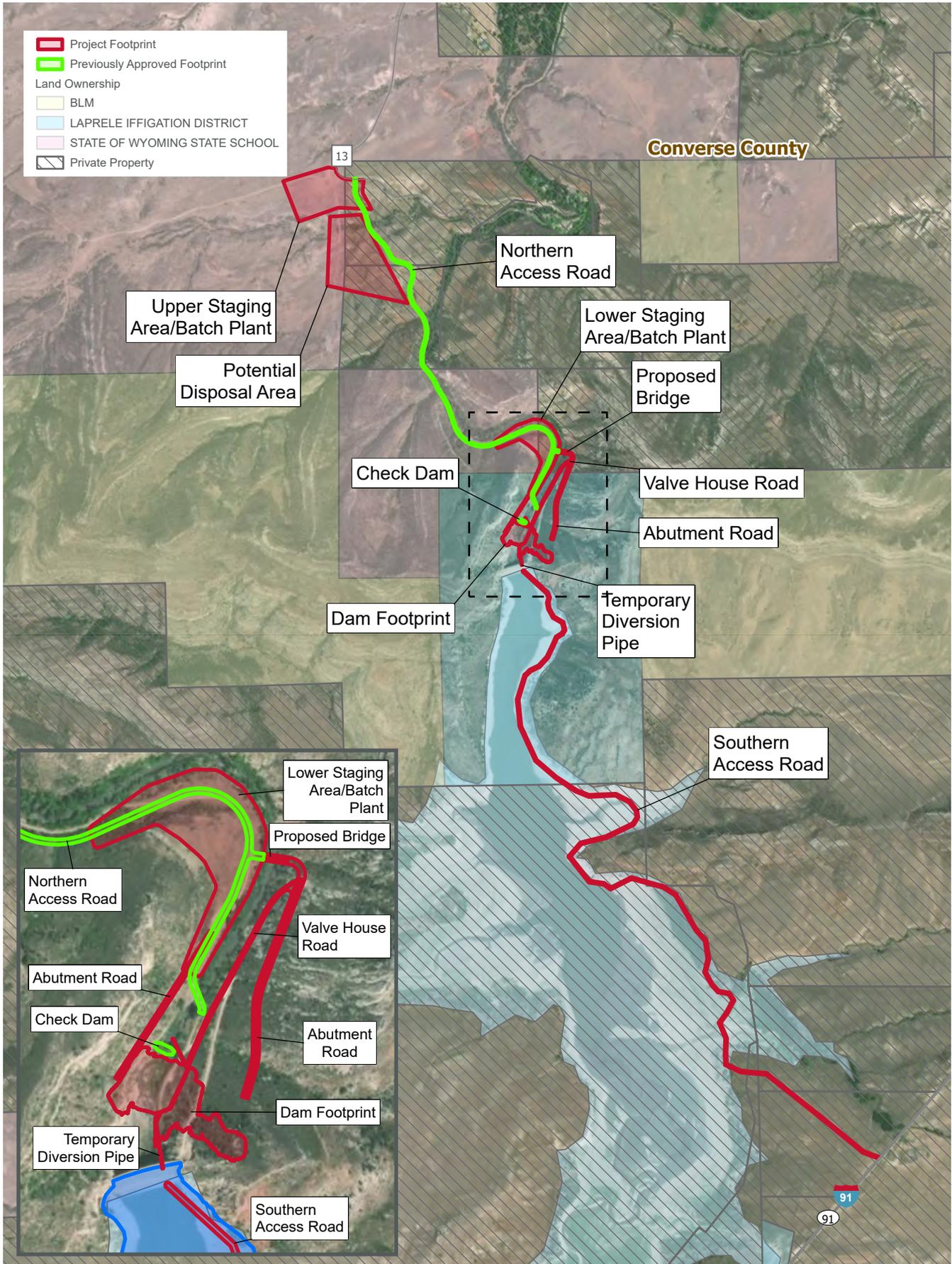


Project Footprint
Previously Approved Footprint



PROJECT LOCATION

ATTACHMENT: PROJECT OVERVIEW MAP



0 0.2 mi



PROJECT AREA OVERVIEW



State Engineer's Office

HERSCHLER BUILDING, 2 WEST
CHEYENNE, WYOMING 82002
(307) 777-6150

MARK GORDON
GOVERNOR

BRANDON GEBHART, P.E.
STATE ENGINEER

July 30, 2025

SENT VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL ONLY

Mr. Bradley Johnson
Federal Water Lead,
HDR Engineering, Inc.
419 Canyon Ave., Suite 316
Fort Collins, CO 80521
Bradley.Johnson@hdrinc.com

RE: Cooperating Agency Invitation, LaPrele Dam Reconstruction Project Environmental Assessment, Converse County, WY

Dear Mr. Johnson,

The State Engineer's Office (SEO) appreciates and accepts the invitation to become a Cooperating Agency for the Environmental Assessment of the LaPrele Dam Reconstruction Project. The role of the SEO is to provide for the general supervision of the waters of the State of Wyoming, and of its appropriation, distribution, and application to beneficial use. Listed below are the contacts to be included from the SEO:

Michelle Hubbard
River Basin Coordinator
Wyoming State Engineer's Office
122 W 25th St
Herschler Building 2W
Cheyenne, WY 82002
michelle.hubbard@wyo.gov

Jack Morey
Deputy State Engineer
Wyoming State Engineer's Office
122 W 25th St
Herschler Building 2W
Cheyenne, WY 82002
jack.morey2@wyo.gov

If any further questions or comments exist, don't hesitate to contact me at 307-777-7641 or michelle.hubbard@wyo.gov.

Sincerely,

Michelle Hubbard
North Platte River Coordinator
State Coordinator, Wyoming's Depletion Plan

CC: Brandon Gebhart, Wyoming State Engineer
Josh DeBerard, Division 1 Superintendent

Board of Control
307-777-6178

Ground Water
307-777-6163

Interstate Streams
307-777-1942

Surface Water
307-777-6475



July 2, 2025

Sara Sheen
Deputy Director/State Historic Preservation Officer
Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office
2301 Central Avenue Barrett Building, Third Floor
Cheyenne, WY 82002
Provided electronically to: sara.needles@wyo.gov

**SUBJECT: Cooperating Agency Invitation, LaPrele Dam Reconstruction Project
Environmental Assessment, Converse County, WY**

Dear Ms. Sheen,

On behalf of the Bureau of Reclamation, your agency is invited to participate as a Cooperating Agency under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for the above-titled project. The Bureau of Reclamation has been identified as the lead federal agency for NEPA as a pass-through funding agency.

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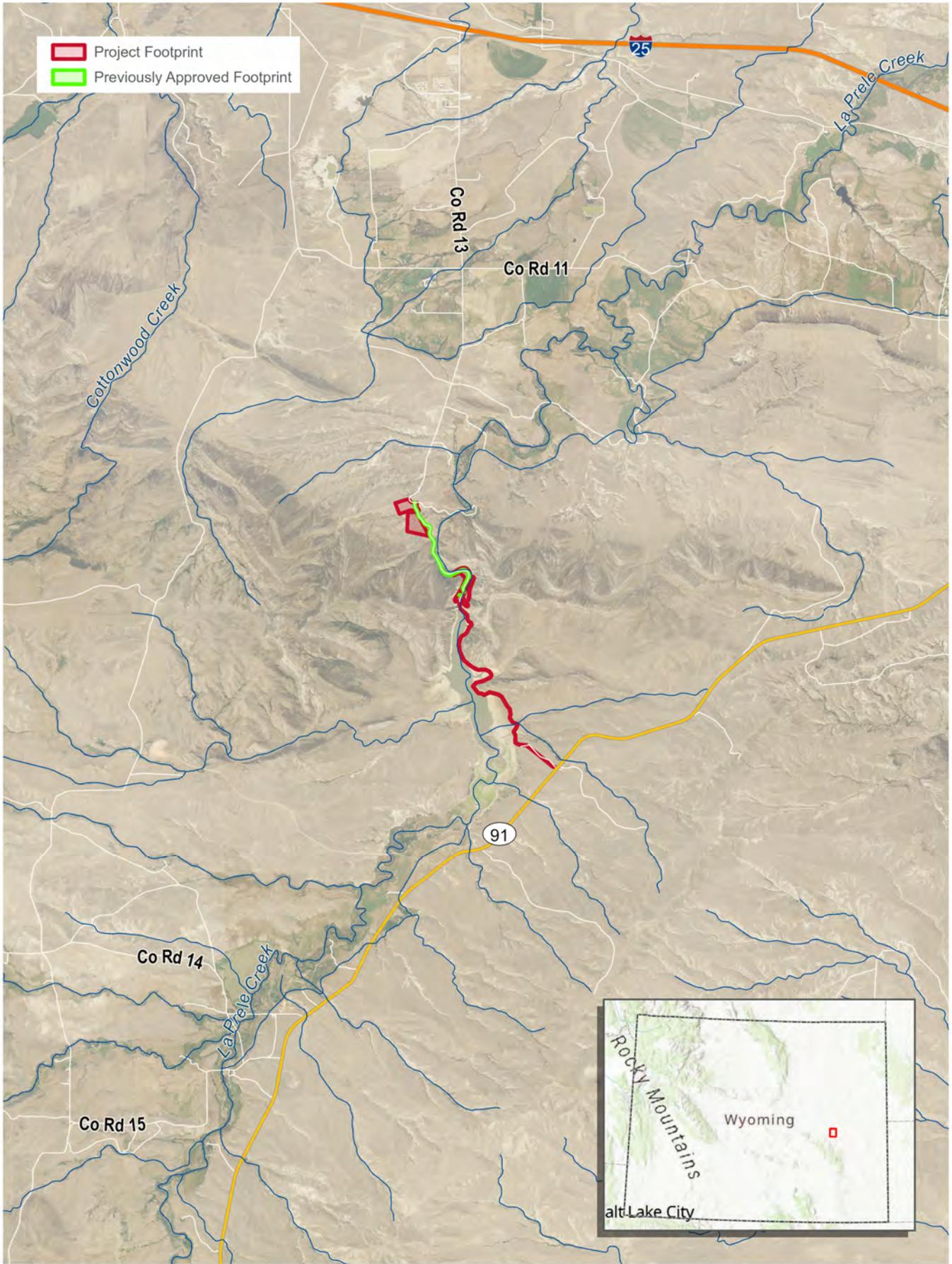
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Federal Water Lead
HDR Engineering, Inc.

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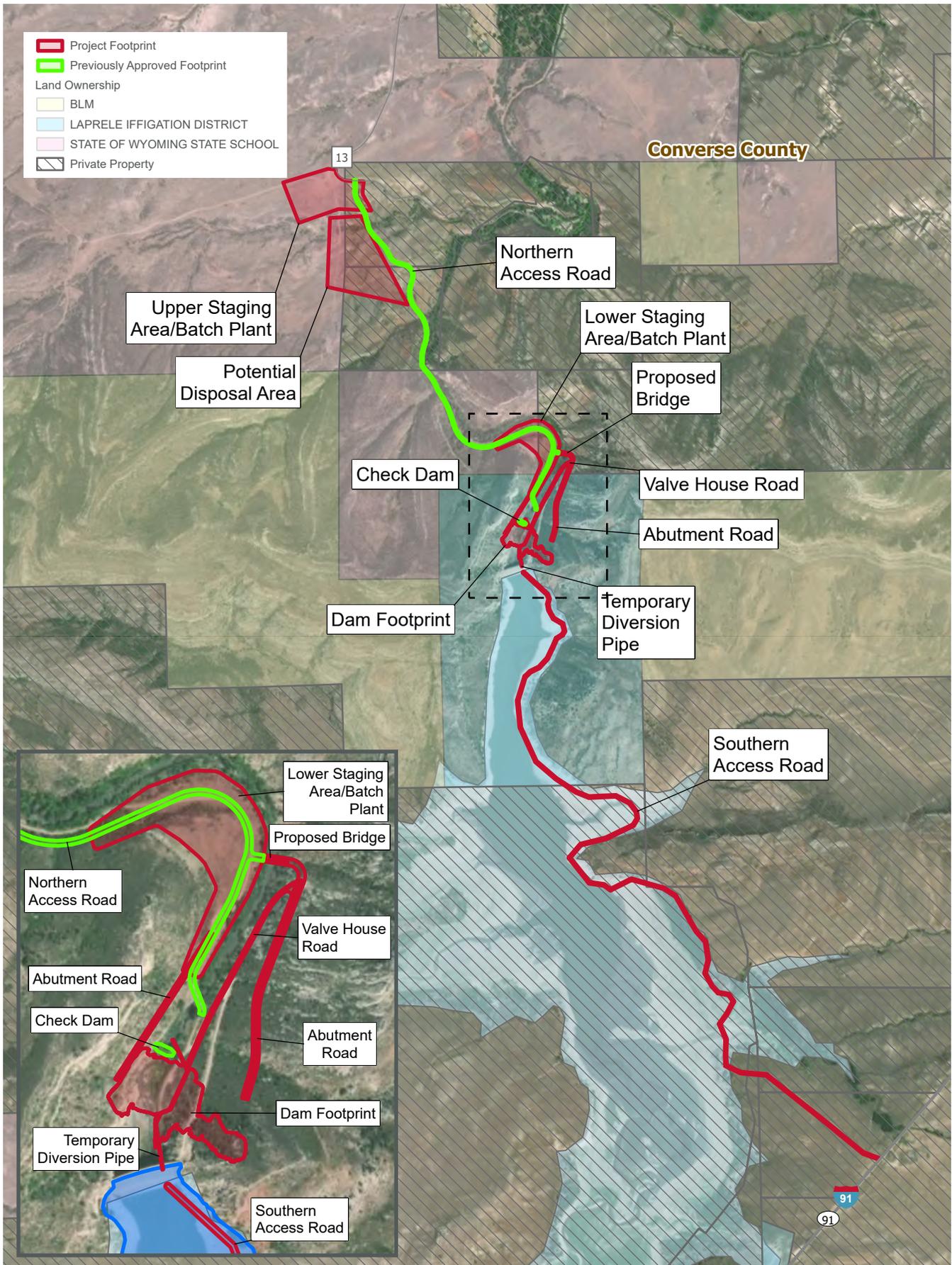
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Cory Foreman, HDR

ATTACHMENT: PROJECT LOCATION MAP



PROJECT LOCATION

ATTACHMENT: PROJECT OVERVIEW MAP



0 0.2 mi



PROJECT AREA OVERVIEW



July 2, 2025

Brian Beadles
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer
Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office
2301 Central Avenue Barrett Building, Third Floor
Cheyenne, WY 82002
Provided electronically to: brian.beadles@wyo.gov

**SUBJECT: Cooperating Agency Invitation, LaPrele Dam Reconstruction Project
Environmental Assessment, Converse County, WY**

Dear Mr. Beadles,

On behalf of the Bureau of Reclamation, your agency is invited to participate as a Cooperating Agency under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for the above-titled project. The Bureau of Reclamation has been identified as the lead federal agency for NEPA as a pass-through funding agency.

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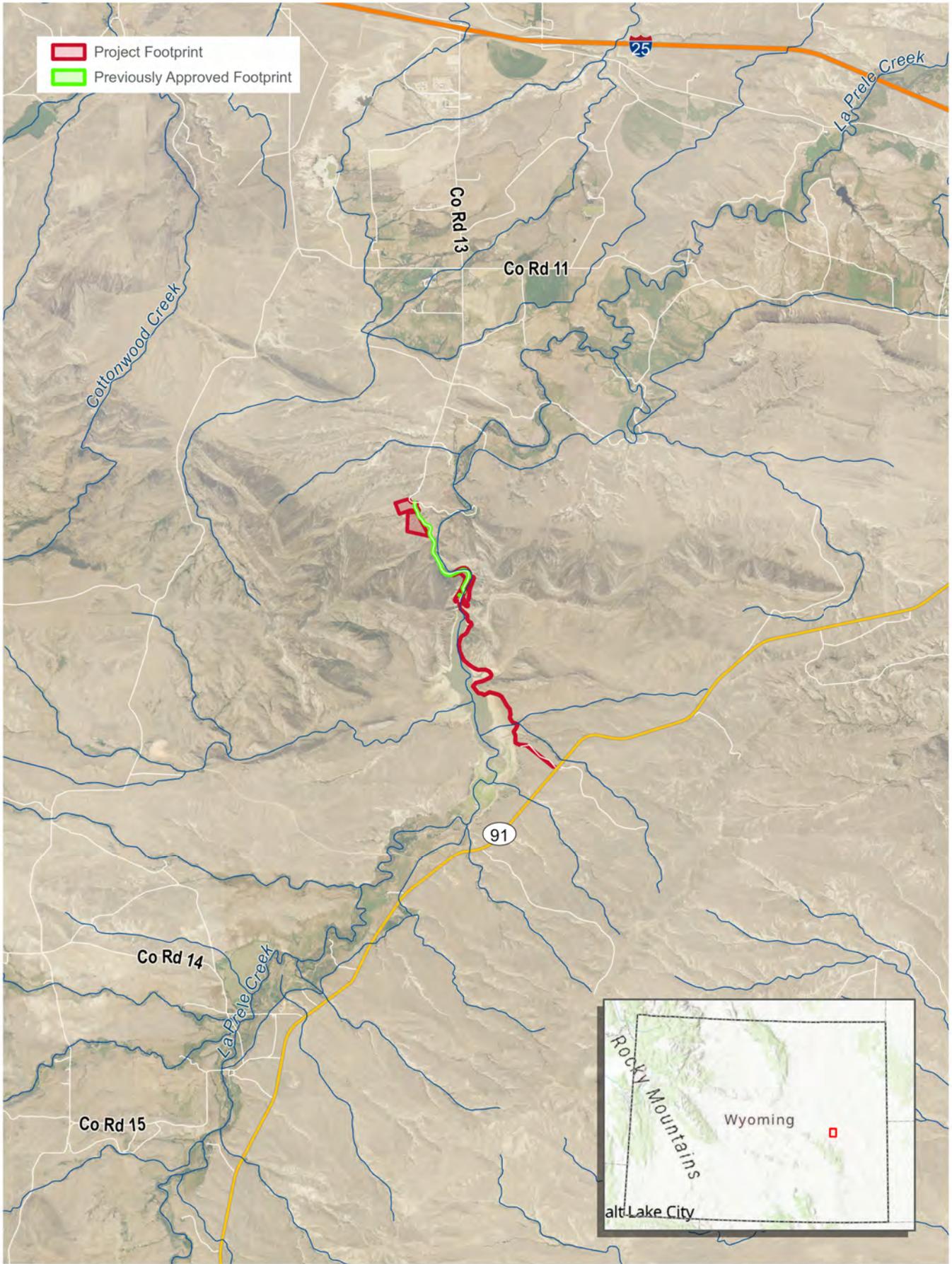
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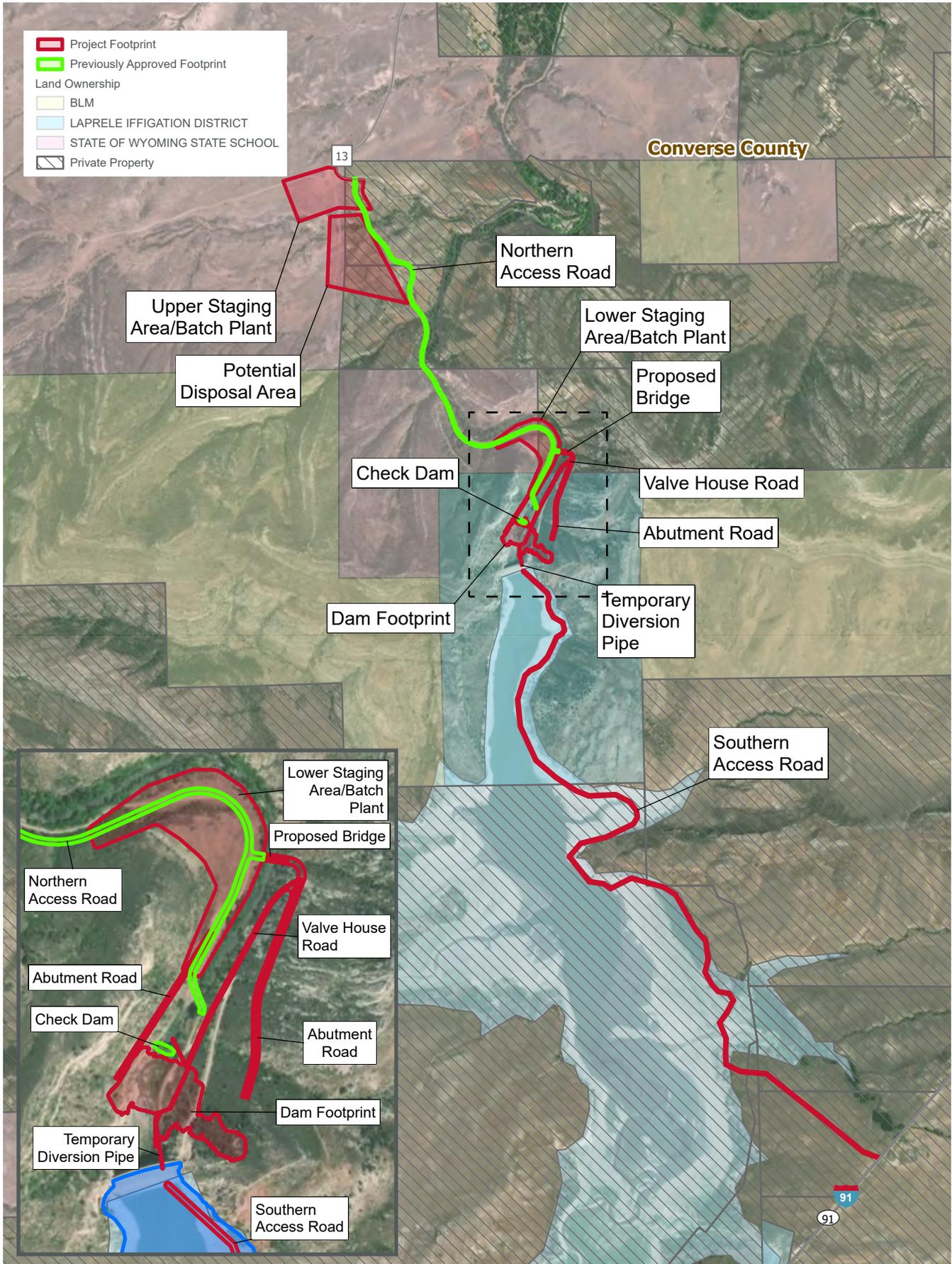
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ATTACHMENT: PROJECT LOCATION MAP



PROJECT LOCATION

ATTACHMENT: PROJECT OVERVIEW MAP



0 0.2 mi



PROJECT AREA OVERVIEW

From: [Brian Beadles](#)
To: [Mueller, Megan \(Englewood\)](#)
Cc: [Johnson, Bradley](#)
Subject: Re: LaPrele Dam Reconstruction Project EA - Cooperating Agency Invitation
Date: Tuesday, July 8, 2025 3:25:01 PM

CAUTION: [EXTERNAL] This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Bradley,

The Wyoming SHPO would like to participate as a Cooperating Agency for the La Prele Dam Reconstruction Project. Please let me know if you need any other information.

On Thu, Jul 3, 2025 at 12:17 PM Mueller, Megan (Englewood)
<Megan.Mueller@hdrinc.com> wrote:

Good afternoon Mr. Beadles,

On behalf of the Bureau of Reclamation, your agency is invited to participate as a Cooperating Agency under the National Environmental Policy Act for the LaPrele Dam Reconstruction Project. Attached is the Cooperating Agency Invitation Letter with project maps. A written response within 30 days for your participation as a Cooperating Agency can be emailed to Bradley Johnson, Bradley.johnson@hdrinc.com, or sent by mail to 419 Canyon Ave., Suite 316, Fort Collins, CO 80521. If you require additional information or clarification, please contact Bradley at 720-360-6754 or the email provided above.

Thank you,

Megan Mueller,

Environmental Planner

HDR

1670 Broadway, Ste 3400
Denver, CO 80202
D 303-643-6707 M 303-324-9371
megan.mueller@hdrinc.com

hdrinc.com/follow-us

--

Brian Beadles, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office
2301 Central Avenue; Cheyenne, WY 82002

Office: 307-777-8594

Facebook: [@WYSHPO](#) **Twitter:** [@WYOSHPO](#)



Improving Communities and Enriching Lives.

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July 2, 2025

Erin Campbell
WSGS Director and State Geologist
Wyoming State Geological Survey
P.O. Box 1347
Laramie, WY 82073
Provided electronically to: erin.campbell@wyo.gov - wsgs-info@wyo.gov

**SUBJECT: Cooperating Agency Invitation, LaPrele Dam Reconstruction Project
Environmental Assessment, Converse County, WY**

Dear Ms. Campbell,

On behalf of the Bureau of Reclamation, your agency is invited to participate as a Cooperating Agency under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for the above-titled project. The Bureau of Reclamation has been identified as the lead federal agency for NEPA as a pass-through funding agency.

Your agency has recognized expertise, authority, or interest in this project. A decision to forgo participation as a Cooperating Agency does not preclude participation in the NEPA process or as a participating agency with the ability to comment on the substance of the draft Environmental Assessment (EA) when released for public and agency review.

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A written response within 30 days for your participation as a Cooperating Agency can be emailed to Bradley.johnson@hdrinc.com or sent by mail to 419 Canyon Ave., Suite 316, Fort Collins, CO 80521.

If you require additional information or clarification, please contact me at 720-360-6754 or the email provided above. Thank you for your response.

Sincerely,

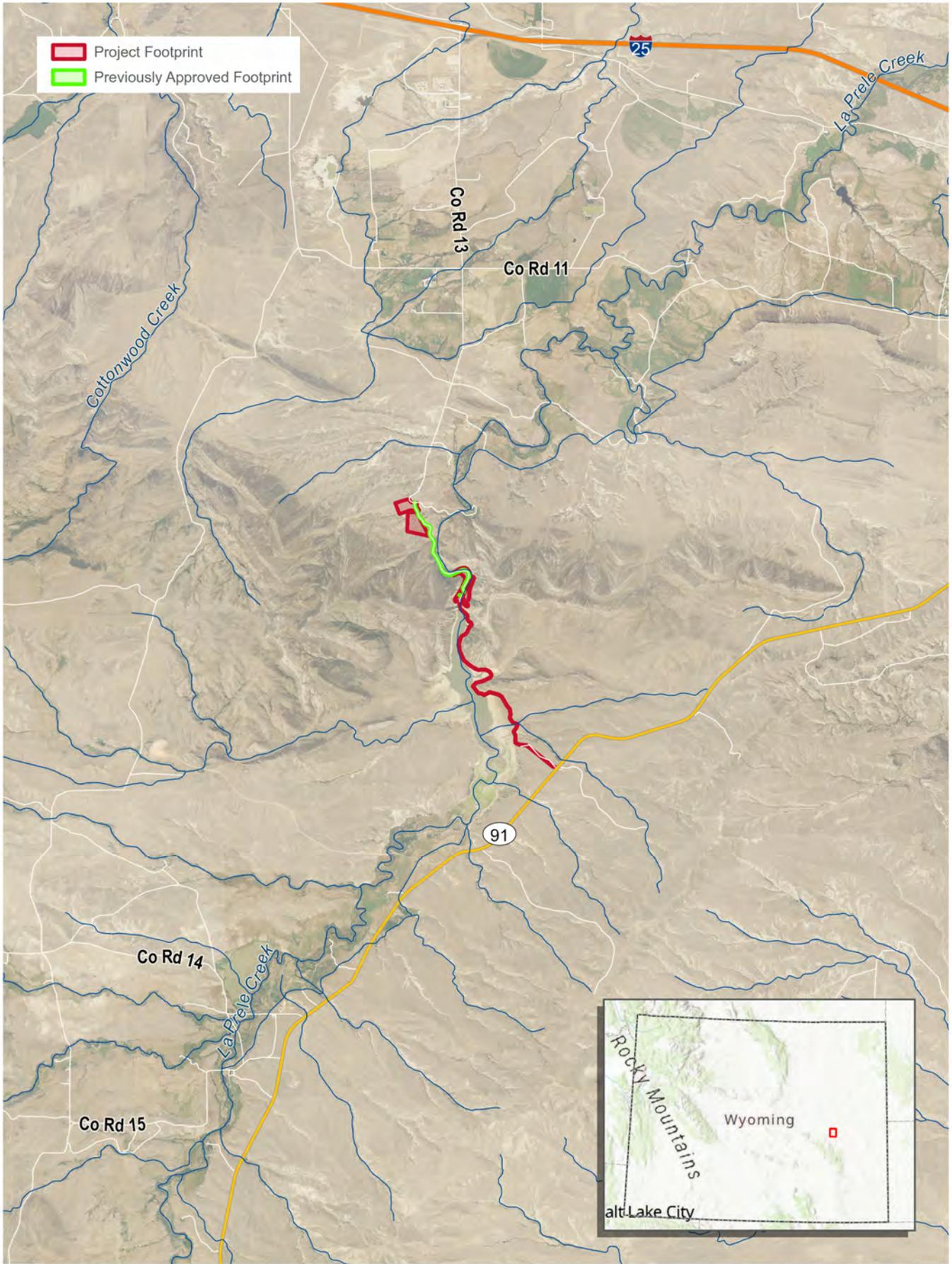
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Bradley Johnson, PhD
Federal Water Lead
HDR Engineering, Inc.

Attachment: Project Location Map; Project Overview Map

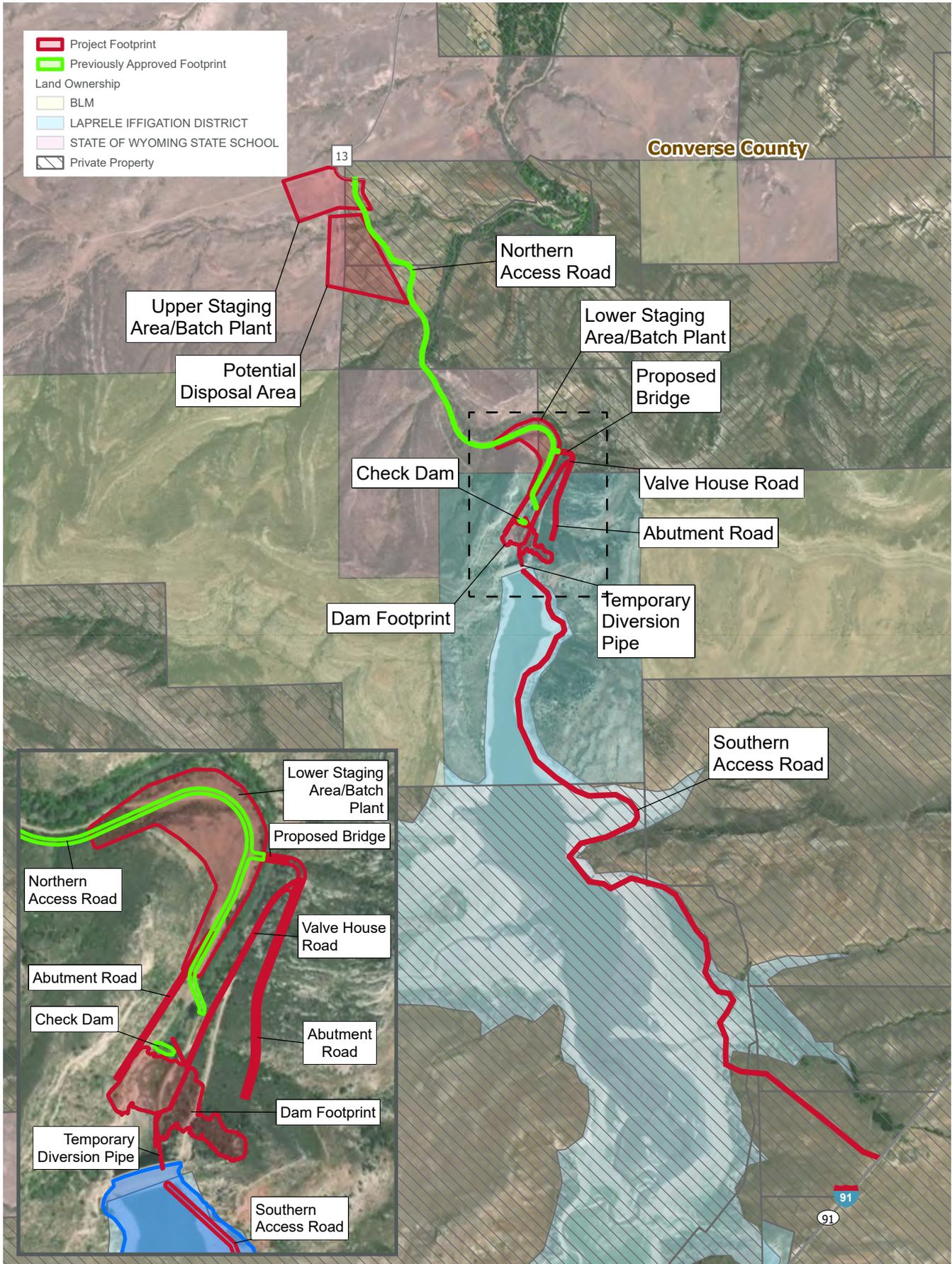
cc: LaPrele Irrigation District
Shain Wright, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
Stacey Johnston, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
Kristin Bowen, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
Paige Wolken, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Shawn Follum, Natural Resources Conservation Service
Jason Mead, Wyoming Water Development Office
Chace Tavelli, Wyoming Water Development Office
Pete Rausch, RESPEC
Cory Foreman, HDR

ATTACHMENT: PROJECT LOCATION MAP



PROJECT LOCATION

ATTACHMENT: PROJECT OVERVIEW MAP



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PROJECT AREA OVERVIEW



July 2, 2025

Stacia Berry
Director
Wyoming Office of State Lands and Investments
Herschler Building, Suite W103, 122 W. 25th Street
Cheyenne, WY 82002
Provided electronically to: stacia.berry1@wyo.gov

**SUBJECT: Cooperating Agency Invitation, LaPrele Dam Reconstruction Project
Environmental Assessment, Converse County, WY**

Dear Ms. Berry,

On behalf of the Bureau of Reclamation, your agency is invited to participate as a Cooperating Agency under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for the above-titled project. The Bureau of Reclamation has been identified as the lead federal agency for NEPA as a pass-through funding agency.

Your agency has recognized expertise, authority, or interest in this project. A decision to forgo participation as a Cooperating Agency does not preclude participation in the NEPA process or as a participating agency with the ability to comment on the substance of the draft Environmental Assessment (EA) when released for public and agency review.

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Sincerely,

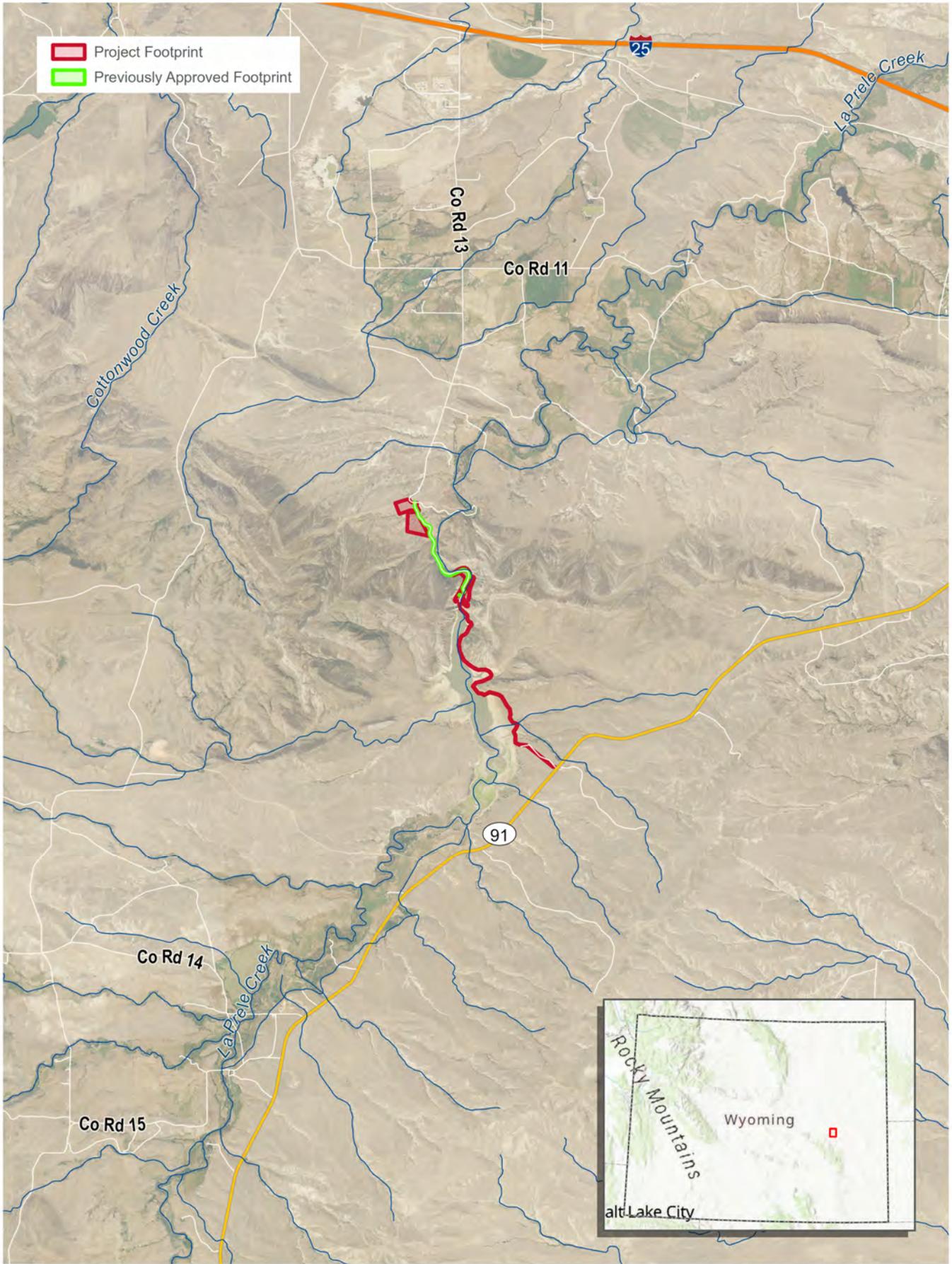
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Bradley Johnson, PhD
Federal Water Lead
HDR Engineering, Inc.

Attachment: Project Location Map; Project Overview Map

cc: LaPrele Irrigation District
Shain Wright, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
Stacey Johnston, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
Kristin Bowen, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
Paige Wolken, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Shawn Follum, Natural Resources Conservation Service
Jason Mead, Wyoming Water Development Office
Chace Tavelli, Wyoming Water Development Office
Pete Rausch, RESPEC
Cory Foreman, HDR

ATTACHMENT: PROJECT LOCATION MAP

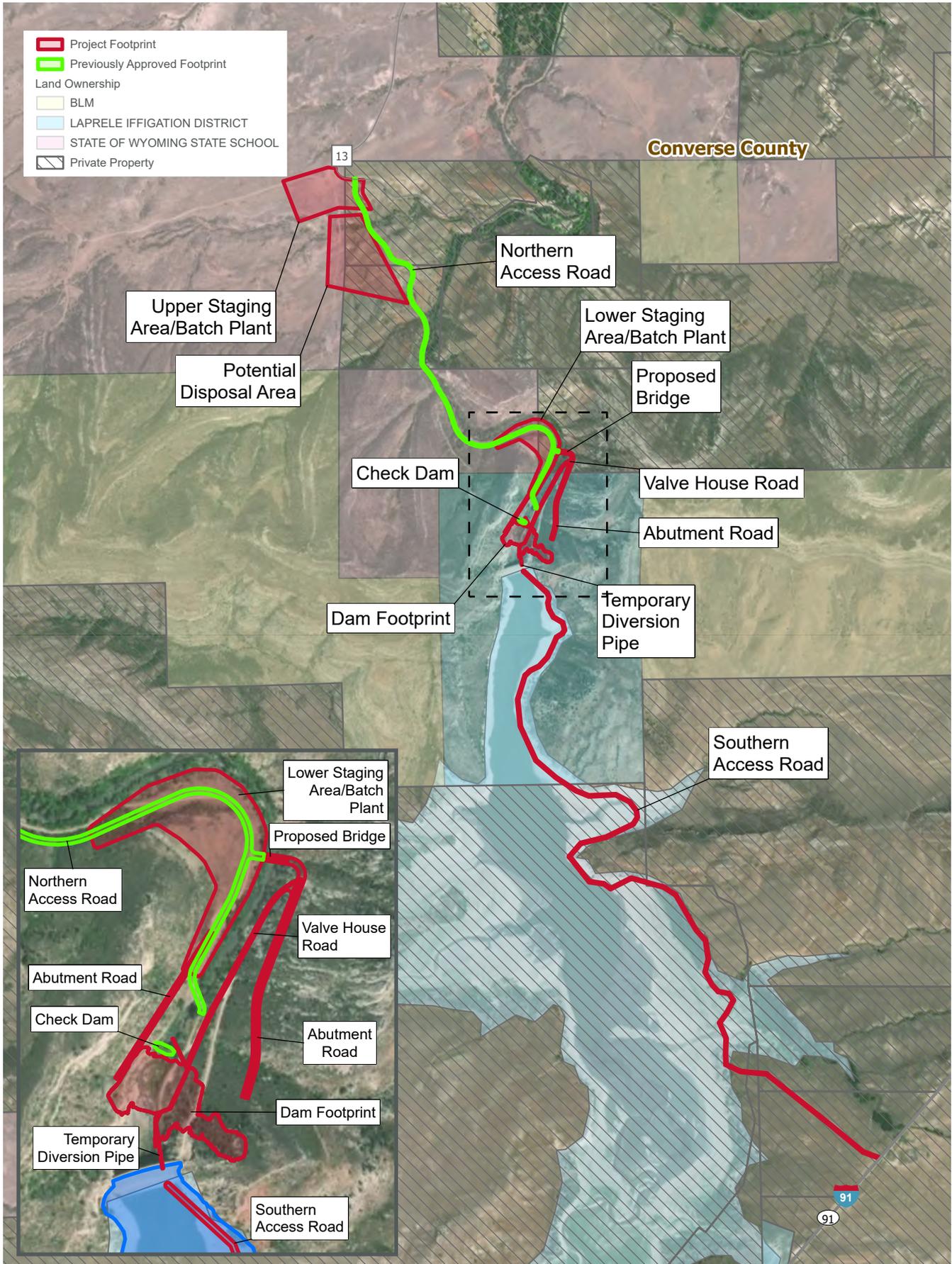


Project Footprint
Previously Approved Footprint



PROJECT LOCATION

ATTACHMENT: PROJECT OVERVIEW MAP



0 0.2 mi



PROJECT AREA OVERVIEW

From: [Benjamin Bump](#)
To: [Johnson, Bradley](#)
Cc: [Stacia Berry](#); [Mueller, Megan \(Englewood\)](#)
Subject: Re: LaPrele Dam Reconstruction Project EA - Cooperating Agency Invitation
Date: Tuesday, July 15, 2025 10:39:09 AM

You don't often get email from benjamin.bump@wyo.gov. [Learn why this is important](#)

CAUTION: [EXTERNAL] This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Bradley,

Our agency would like to accept the invitation to participate as a Cooperating Agency under the National Environmental Policy Act for the LaPrele Dam Reconstruction Project. Please send any correspondence to my attention, and let me know if there is anything else you need from our agency at this time. Thanks,

Ben Bump

Assistant Director - Field Services
Wyoming Office of State Lands & Investments
(307) 777-6545
lands.wyo.gov

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Mueller, Megan (Englewood)** <Megan.Mueller@hdrinc.com>
Date: Thu, Jul 3, 2025 at 12:08 PM
Subject: LaPrele Dam Reconstruction Project EA - Cooperating Agency Invitation
To: stacia.berry1@wyo.gov <stacia.berry1@wyo.gov>
Cc: Johnson, Bradley <Bradley.Johnson@hdrinc.com>

Good afternoon Ms. Berry,

On behalf of the Bureau of Reclamation, your agency is invited to participate as a Cooperating Agency under the National Environmental Policy Act for the LaPrele Dam Reconstruction Project. Attached is the Cooperating Agency Invitation Letter with project maps. A written response within 30 days for your participation as a Cooperating Agency can be emailed to Bradley Johnson, Bradley.johnson@hdrinc.com, or sent by mail to 419 Canyon Ave., Suite 316, Fort Collins, CO 80521. If you require additional information or clarification, please contact Bradley at 720-360-6754 or the email provided above.

Thank you,

Megan Mueller,

Environmental Planner

HDR

1670 Broadway, Ste 3400

Denver, CO 80202

D 303-643-6707 **M** 303-324-9371

megan.mueller@hdrinc.com

hdrinc.com/follow-us

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July 2, 2025

Doug Miyamoto
Director
Wyoming Department of Agriculture
2219 Carey Avenue
Cheyenne, WY 82002
Provided electronically to: wda1@wyo.gov

**SUBJECT: Cooperating Agency Invitation, LaPrele Dam Reconstruction Project
Environmental Assessment, Converse County, WY**

Dear Mr. Miyamoto,

On behalf of the Bureau of Reclamation, your agency is invited to participate as a Cooperating Agency under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for the above-titled project. The Bureau of Reclamation has been identified as the lead federal agency for NEPA as a pass-through funding agency.

Your agency has recognized expertise, authority, or interest in this project. A decision to forgo participation as a Cooperating Agency does not preclude participation in the NEPA process or as a participating agency with the ability to comment on the substance of the draft Environmental Assessment (EA) when released for public and agency review.

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If you require additional information or clarification, please contact me at 720-360-6754 or the email provided above. Thank you for your response.

Sincerely,

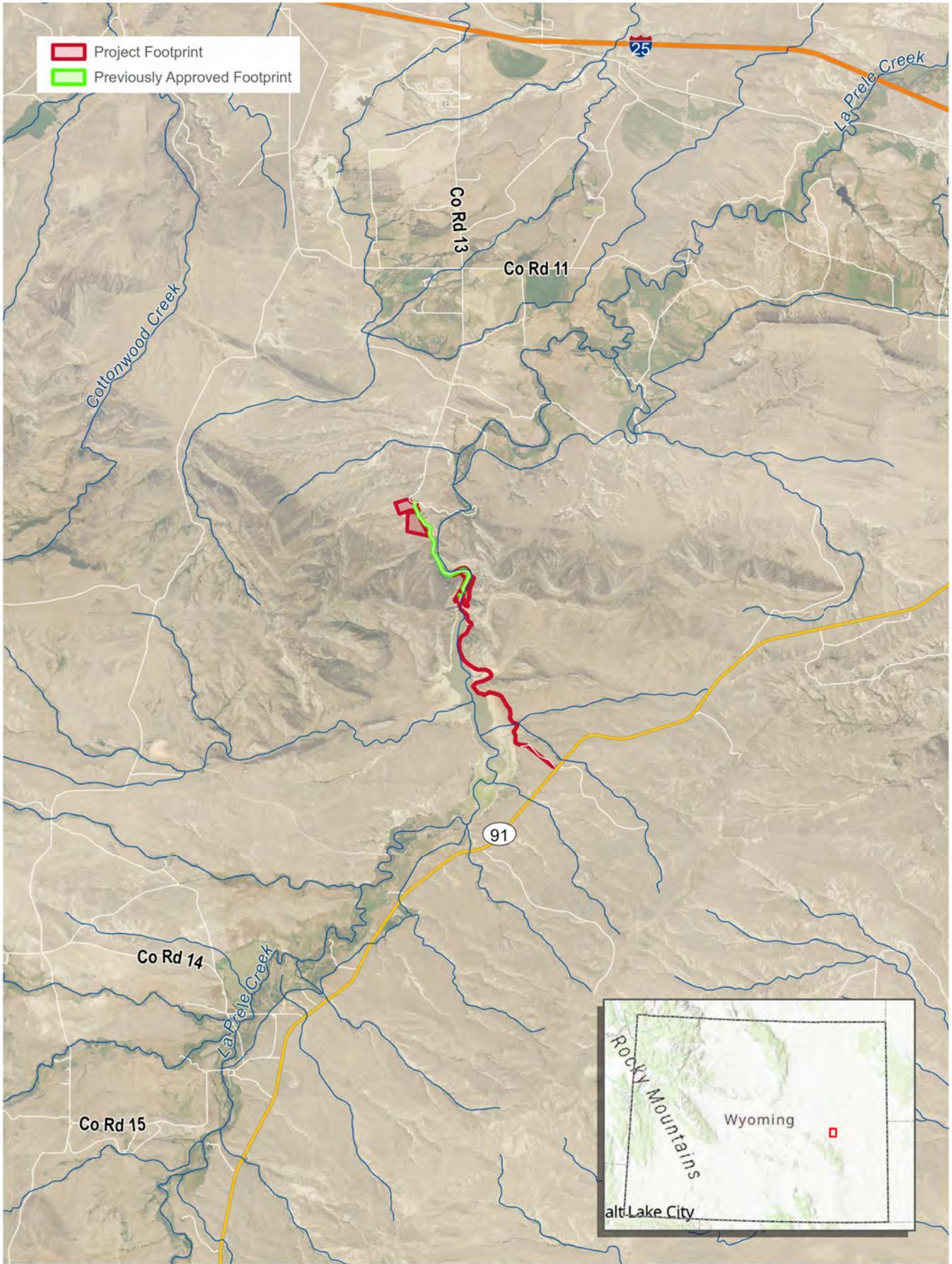
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Bradley Johnson, PhD
Federal Water Lead
HDR Engineering, Inc.

Attachment: Project Location Map; Project Overview Map

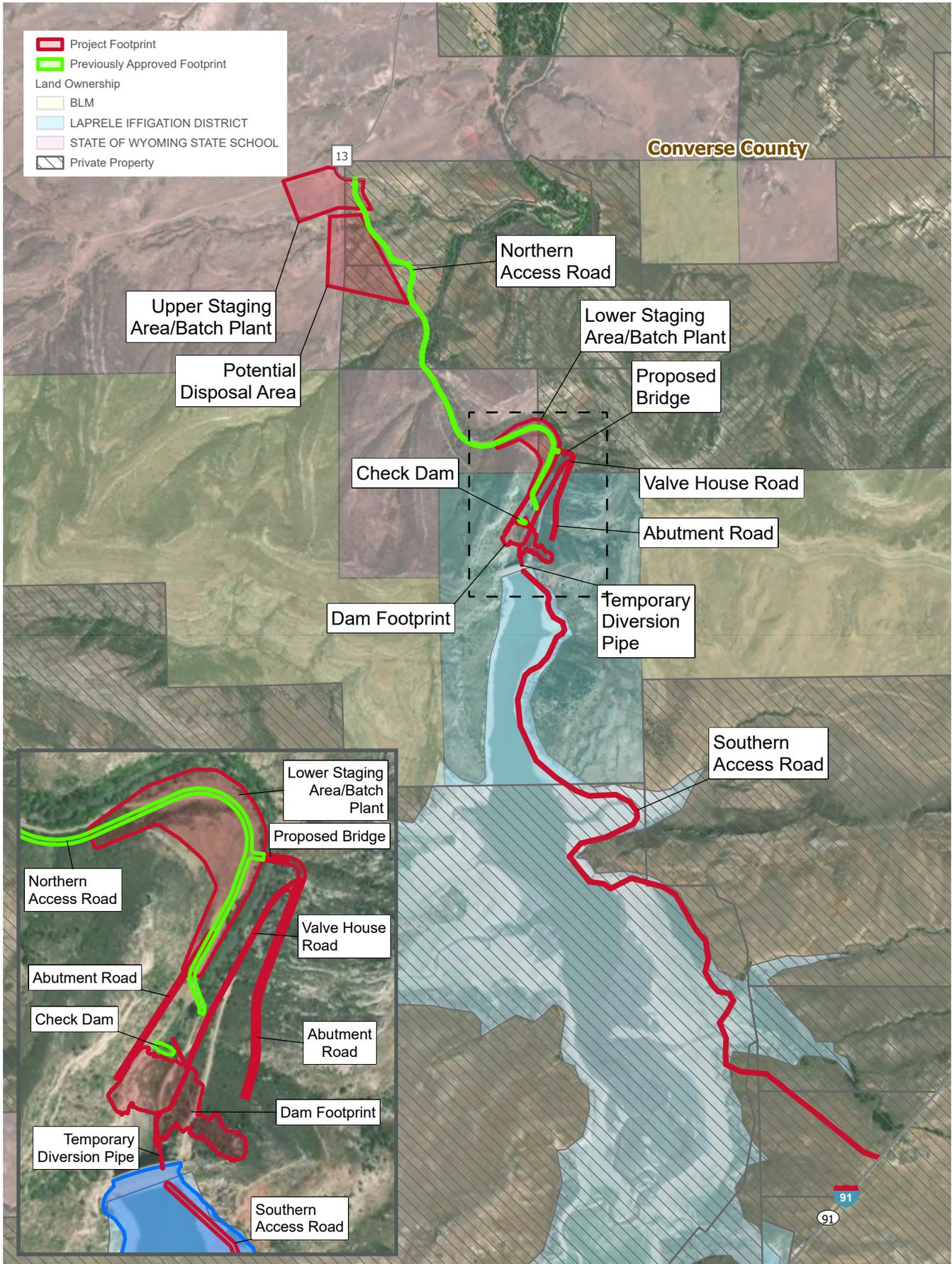
cc: LaPrele Irrigation District
Shain Wright, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
Stacey Johnston, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
Kristin Bowen, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
Paige Wolken, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Shawn Follum, Natural Resources Conservation Service
Jason Mead, Wyoming Water Development Office
Chace Tavelli, Wyoming Water Development Office
Pete Rausch, RESPEC
Cory Foreman, HDR

ATTACHMENT: PROJECT LOCATION MAP



PROJECT LOCATION

ATTACHMENT: PROJECT OVERVIEW MAP



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PROJECT AREA OVERVIEW

From: [Johnson, Bradley](#)
To: [Justin Williams](#)
Cc: [Chris Wichmann](#); [Michelle MacDonald](#); [Johnston, Stacey A](#); [Wright, Shain L](#); [Krall, Marcus](#); [Mueller, Megan \(Englewood\)](#)
Subject: RE: LaPrele Dam Reconstruction Project
Date: Monday, July 14, 2025 12:13:41 PM

Good afternoon, Mr. Williams.

Thank you for your response. We will add your office to the project as a Cooperating Agency and provide you the drafts of the NEPA documents as they become available.

I will follow up with all the Cooperating Agencies at the end of the month with the plan for the path forward on the environmental assessment as well as any meetings that may be necessary to shepherd the process along.

Thank you,

Brad

Bradley Johnson, PhD
M 720-360-6754

hdrinc.com/follow-us

Upcoming PTO: July 21-25

From: Justin Williams <justin.williams@wyo.gov>
Sent: Monday, July 14, 2025 11:44 AM
To: Johnson, Bradley <bradley.johnson@hdrinc.com>
Cc: Chris Wichmann <chris.wichmann@wyo.gov>; Michelle MacDonald <michelle.macdonald@wyo.gov>
Subject: LaPrele Dam Reconstruction Project

You don't often get email from justin.williams@wyo.gov. [Learn why this is important](#)

CAUTION: [EXTERNAL] This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi.

In response to your letter dated July 2, 2025, the Wyoming Department of Agriculture is requesting inclusion as a Cooperating Agency for the LaPrele Dam Reconstruction Project.

I will be the point of contact for this project. Feel free to reach out if you have additional questions. We look forward to the opportunity to review the preliminary EA on this project.

Thanks.

Justin

JUSTIN WILLIAMS

Senior Policy Analyst

Natural Resources & Policy Division

WY Department of Agriculture

2219 Carey Ave.

Cheyenne, WY 82002-0100

307.777.7067

Fax: 307.777.6593

E-Mail to and from me, in connection with the transaction of public business, is subject to the Wyoming Public Records Act and may be disclosed to third parties.



July 2, 2025

Dave Glenn
Acting Agency Director
Wyoming State Parks and Cultural Resources
Barrett Building 2301 Central Avenue
Cheyenne, WY 82002
Provided electronically to: Tatum.Soto2@wyo.gov

**SUBJECT: Cooperating Agency Invitation, LaPrele Dam Reconstruction Project
Environmental Assessment, Converse County, WY**

Dear Mr. Glenn,

On behalf of the Bureau of Reclamation, your agency is invited to participate as a Cooperating Agency under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for the above-titled project. The Bureau of Reclamation has been identified as the lead federal agency for NEPA as a pass-through funding agency.

Your agency has recognized expertise, authority, or interest in this project. A decision to forgo participation as a Cooperating Agency does not preclude participation in the NEPA process or as a participating agency with the ability to comment on the substance of the draft Environmental Assessment (EA) when released for public and agency review.

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If you require additional information or clarification, please contact me at 720-360-6754 or the email provided above. Thank you for your response.

Sincerely,

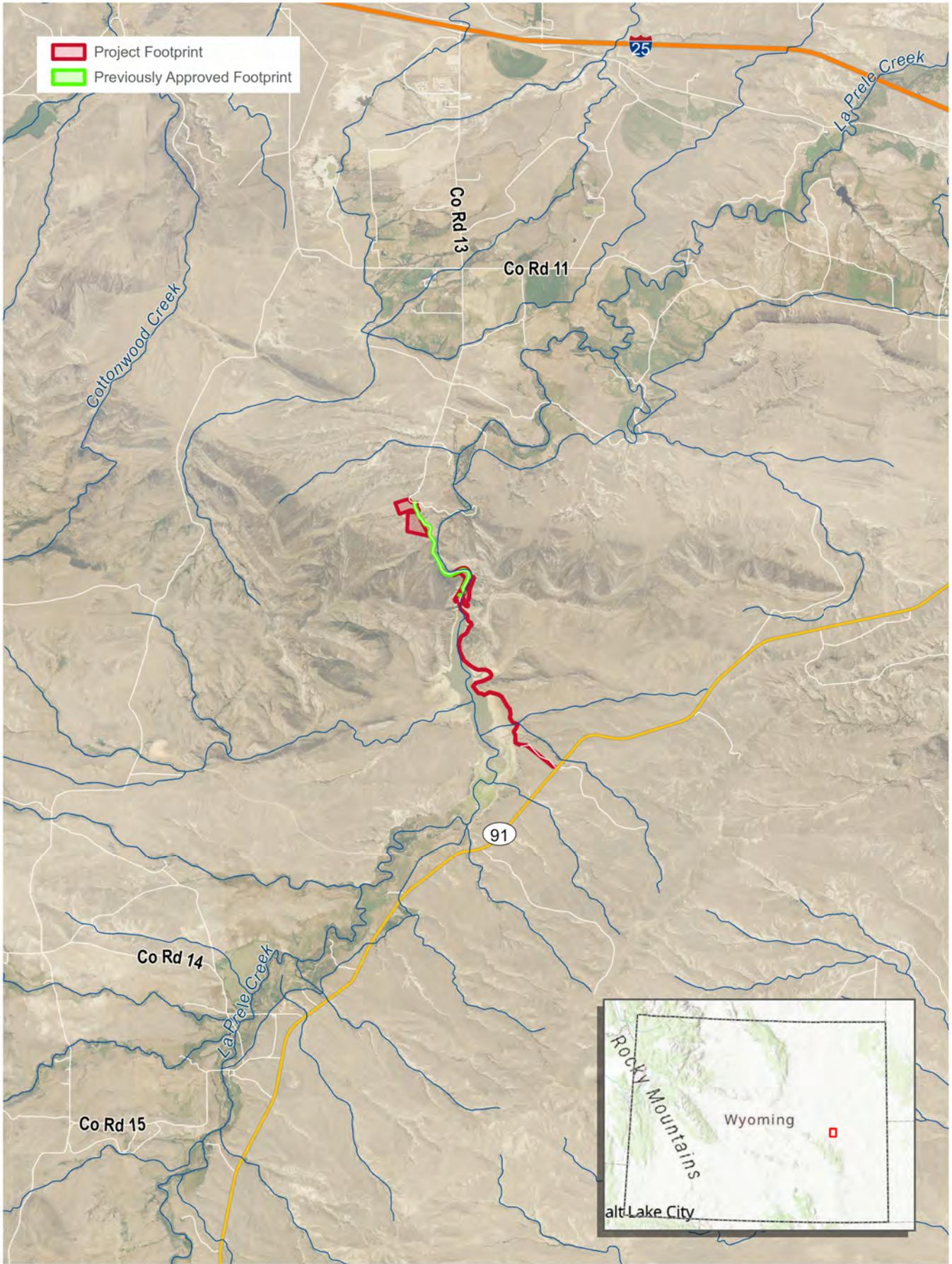
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Bradley Johnson, PhD
Federal Water Lead
HDR Engineering, Inc.

Attachment: Project Location Map; Project Overview Map

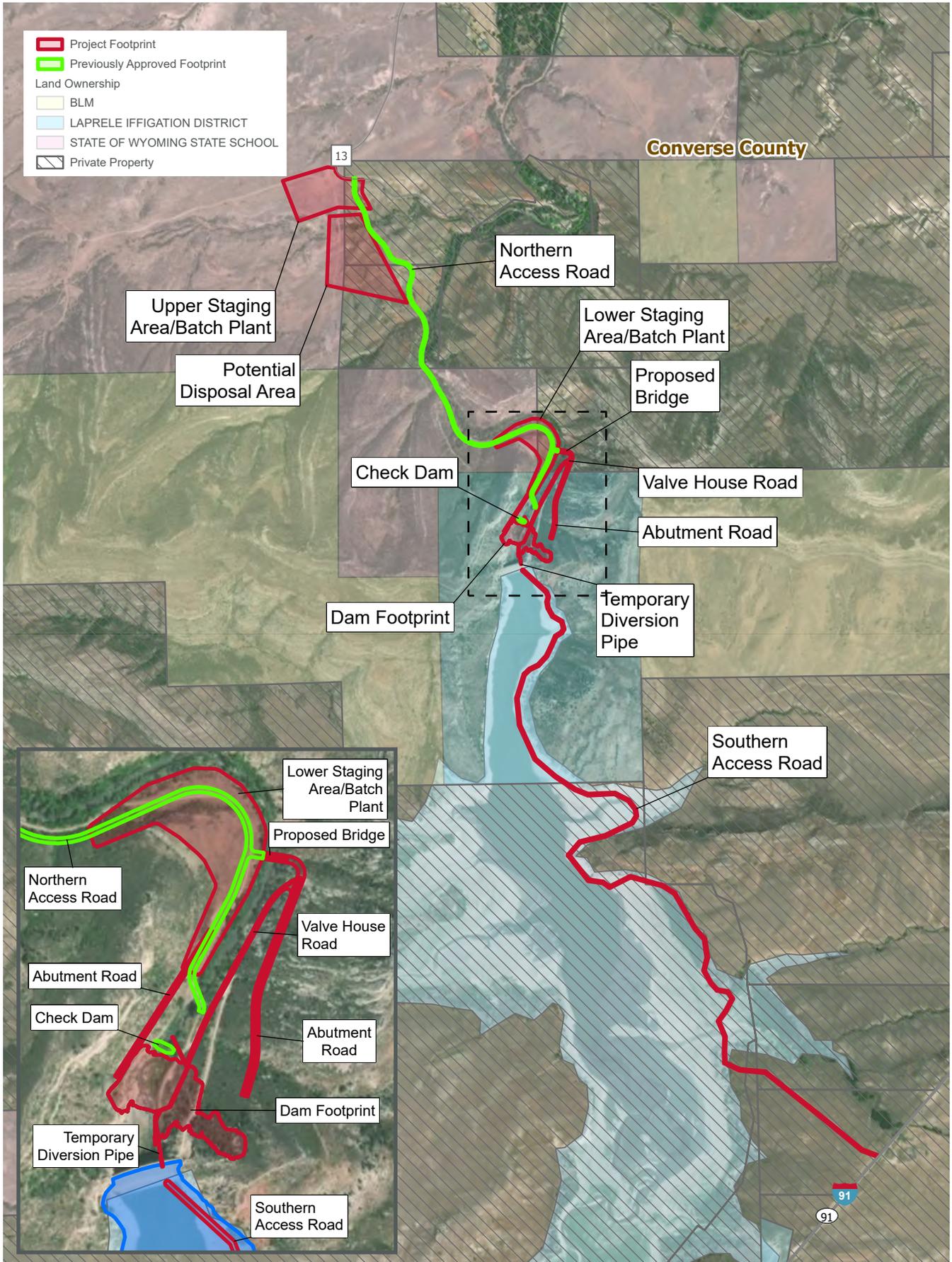
cc: LaPrele Irrigation District
Shain Wright, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
Stacey Johnston, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
Kristin Bowen, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
Paige Wolken, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Shawn Follum, Natural Resources Conservation Service
Jason Mead, Wyoming Water Development Office
Chace Tavelli, Wyoming Water Development Office
Pete Rausch, RESPEC
Cory Foreman, HDR

ATTACHMENT: PROJECT LOCATION MAP



PROJECT LOCATION

ATTACHMENT: PROJECT OVERVIEW MAP



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PROJECT AREA OVERVIEW



Bradley Johnson, PhD
Federal Water Lead
HDR Engineering, Inc.
419 Canyon Ave., Suite 316
Fort Collins, CO 80521
720-360-6754
Bradley.johnson@hdrinc.com

July 29, 2025

**Re: Cooperating Agency Invitation, LaPrele Dam Reconstruction Project
Environmental Assessment, Converse County, WY**

Dear Mr. Johnson,

The Wyoming Department of State Parks and Cultural Resources, Division of State Parks, Historic Sites, and Trails accepts the invitation to be a participating Cooperating Agency for the LaPrele Dam Reconstruction Project located in Converse County, WY.

The Wyoming Department of State Parks and Cultural Resources (SPCR) is a state government agency responsible for managing Wyoming's state parks, historic sites, and cultural institutions. Its mission is to provide memorable recreational, cultural, and educational opportunities and experiences focused on improving communities and enriching lives. The Division of Wyoming State Parks, Historic Sites, and Trails manages more than a dozen state parks, numerous historic sites, and hundreds of miles of trails to ensure continued public access to and education of natural resources and cultural landmarks.

In relation to the LaPrele Dam, we are aware of discussions around the possibility of expanding recreational access and opportunities associated with the area. Several teams within the Division work closely with local communities and organizations to further advance recreation assets around the state, making them valuable contributors to the project. The Office of Outdoor Recreation works closely with the Natrona & Converse County Outdoor Recreation Collaborative to bring community members, elected officials, conservation groups, and government agencies together to plan, prioritize, and advance sustainable outdoor recreation within the region.

Mark Gordon | Governor
Dave Glenn | Director
Nick Neylon | Deputy Director
Chris Floyd | Deputy Director



**ARTS. PARKS.
HISTORY.**
Wyoming State Parks & Cultural Resources

2301 Central Avenue • Barrett Building, 4th Floor • Cheyenne, WY 82002 • 307.777.6323 • WyoParks.Wyo.Gov

Improving Communities and Enriching Lives

The State Trails Program partners with land management agencies to maintain, create, and provide support for trail development and maintenance. Support may take the form of funding opportunities, labor, and or equipment to various organizations and agencies. The Planning Section coordinates planning, policy analysis, and data projects for the Division, working in tandem with teams within the agency's Division of Cultural Resources. They are aware of and sensitive to effects on potential cultural resources within the new area of impact.

The Wyoming Department of State Parks and Cultural Resources, Division of State Parks, Historic Sites, and Trails accepts the invitation to serve as a Cooperating Agency for the LaPrele Dam Reconstruction Project. We look forward to working closely with staff and other participating agencies to ensure a comprehensive and sufficient environmental analysis to identify potential effects, define key issues, and provide expertise in relation to our responsibilities and concerns. We designate our point of contact for this project as Carly-Ann Carruthers, Planning Manager, who can be reached at (307)777-6968 or CarlyAnn.Carruthers@wyo.gov.

We welcome any questions that you may have about our agency and would be glad to provide further comments on recreation access and opportunities to the involved entities. Please keep us informed of upcoming meetings, document review timelines, and other project milestones.

Sincerely,



Carly-Ann Carruthers
Planning Manager
307-777-6968
CarlyAnn.Carruthers@wyo.gov

Mark Gordon | Governor
Dave Glenn | Director
Nick Neylon | Deputy Director
Chris Floyd | Deputy Director



**ARTS. PARKS.
HISTORY.**
Wyoming State Parks & Commission

2301 Central Avenue • Barrett Building, 4th Floor • Cheyenne, WY 82002 • 307.777.6323 • WyoParks.Wyo.Gov

Improving Communities and Enriching Lives



July 2, 2025

Kirk Lehner
Chairman
Converse County Parks and Recreation Board
PO Box 1266
Glenrock, WY 82637
Provided electronically to: wyobait@yahoo.com

**SUBJECT: Cooperating Agency Invitation, LaPrele Dam Reconstruction Project
Environmental Assessment, Converse County, WY**

Dear Mr. Lehner,

On behalf of the Bureau of Reclamation, your agency is invited to participate as a Cooperating Agency under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for the above-titled project. The Bureau of Reclamation has been identified as the lead federal agency for NEPA as a pass-through funding agency.

Your agency has recognized expertise, authority, or interest in this project. A decision to forgo participation as a Cooperating Agency does not preclude participation in the NEPA process or as a participating agency with the ability to comment on the substance of the draft Environmental Assessment (EA) when released for public and agency review.

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Sincerely,

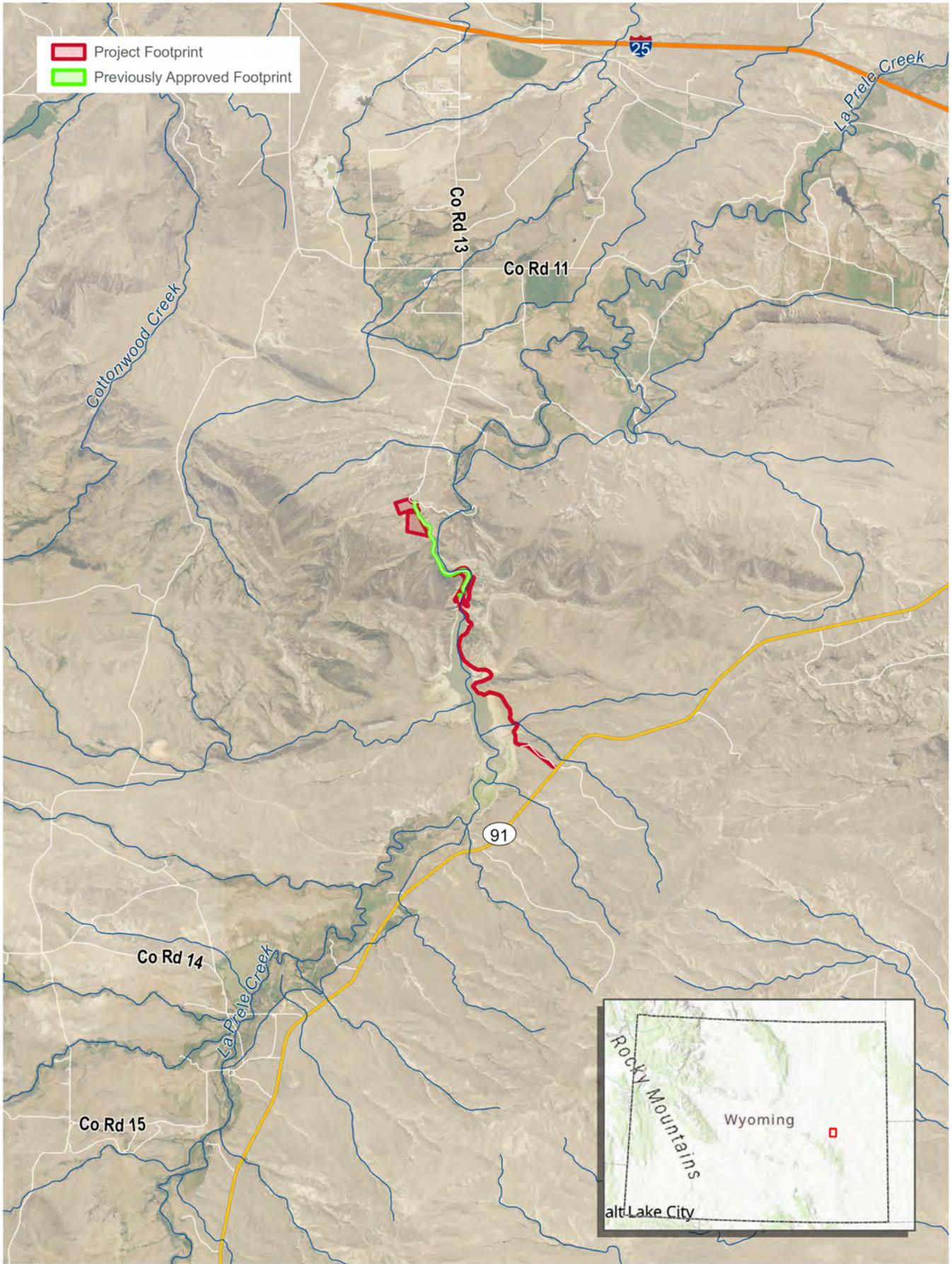
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Bradley Johnson, PhD
Federal Water Lead
HDR Engineering, Inc.

Attachment: Project Location Map; Project Overview Map

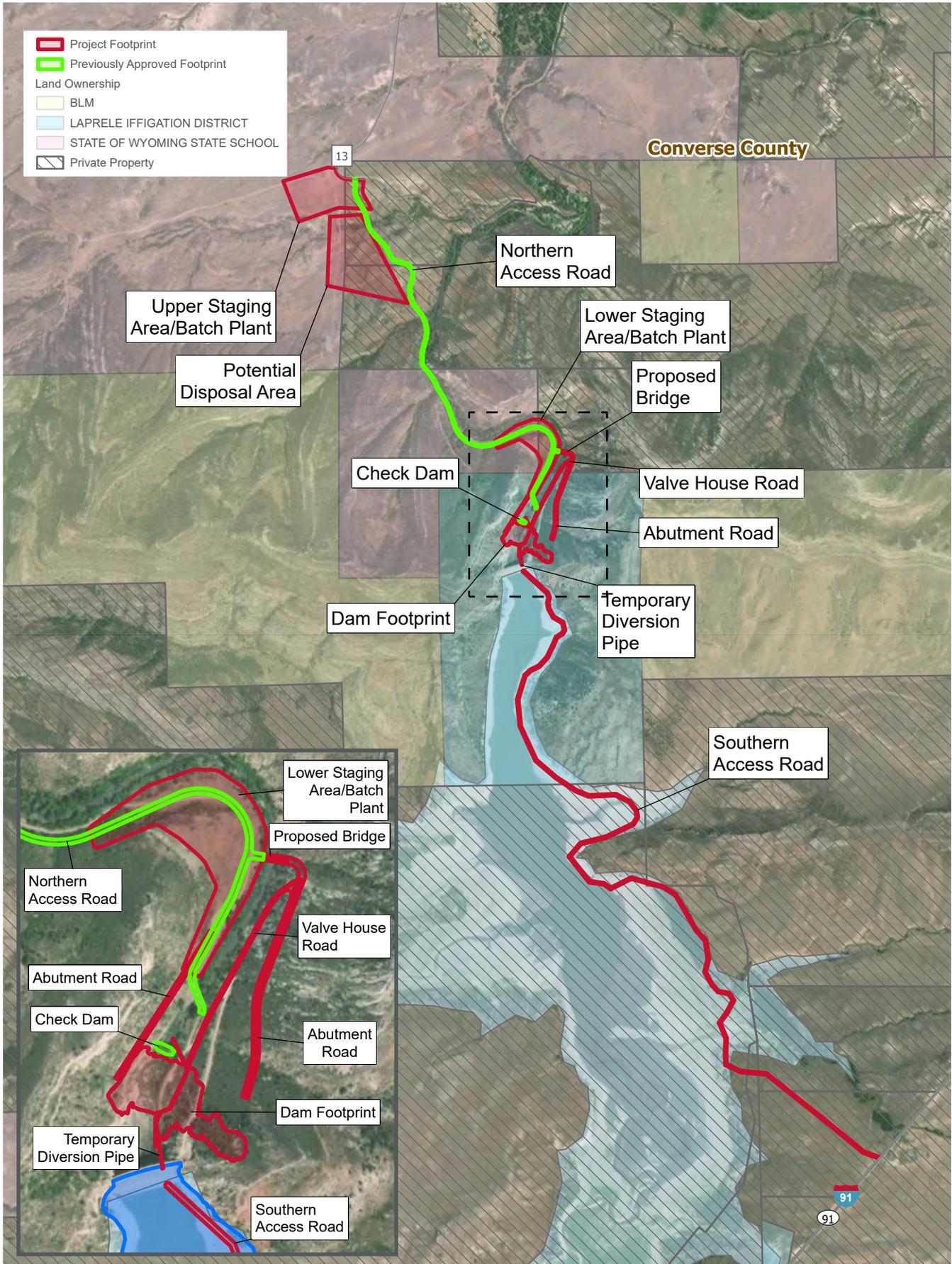
cc: LaPrele Irrigation District
Shain Wright, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
Stacey Johnston, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
Kristin Bowen, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
Paige Wolken, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Shawn Follum, Natural Resources Conservation Service
Jason Mead, Wyoming Water Development Office
Chace Tavelli, Wyoming Water Development Office
Pete Rausch, RESPEC
Cory Foreman, HDR

ATTACHMENT: PROJECT LOCATION MAP



PROJECT LOCATION

ATTACHMENT: PROJECT OVERVIEW MAP



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PROJECT AREA OVERVIEW



July 2, 2025

Sharon Lovitt
Chairman
Converse County Conservation District
911 S. Windriver Dr.
Douglas, WY 82633
Provided electronically to: michell.huntington@wy.nacdnet.net

**SUBJECT: Cooperating Agency Invitation, LaPrele Dam Reconstruction Project
Environmental Assessment, Converse County, WY**

Dear Ms. Lovitt,

On behalf of the Bureau of Reclamation, your agency is invited to participate as a Cooperating Agency under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for the above-titled project. The Bureau of Reclamation has been identified as the lead federal agency for NEPA as a pass-through funding agency.

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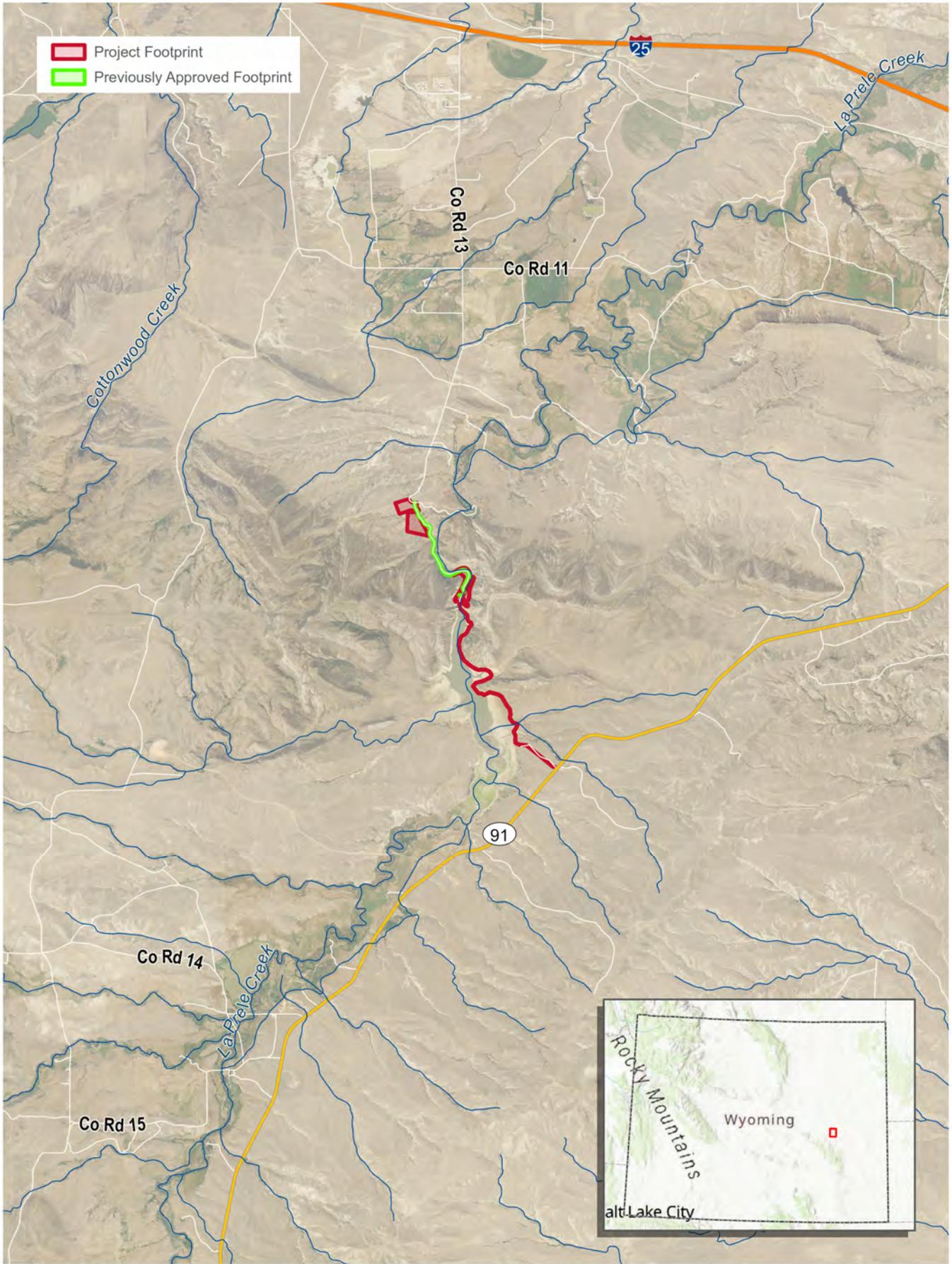
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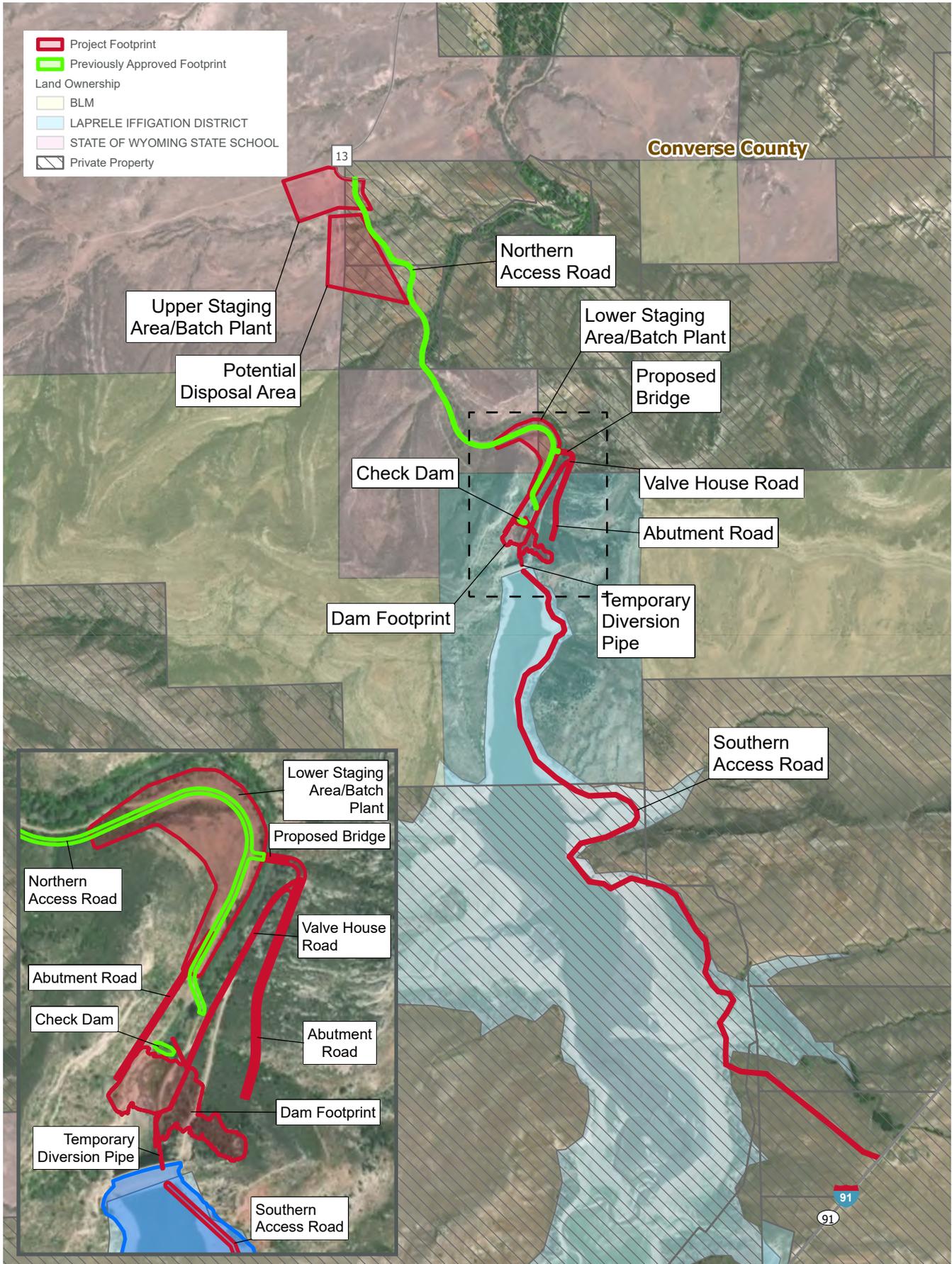
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Pete Rausch, RESPEC
Cory Foreman, HDR

ATTACHMENT: PROJECT LOCATION MAP



PROJECT LOCATION

ATTACHMENT: PROJECT OVERVIEW MAP



0 0.2 mi



PROJECT AREA OVERVIEW



July 2, 2025

Jim Willox
Chairman
Converse County Commissioners
107 N 5th Street, Suite 114
Douglas, WY 82633
Provided electronically to: jim.willox@conversecountywy.gov

**SUBJECT: Cooperating Agency Invitation, LaPrele Dam Reconstruction Project
Environmental Assessment, Converse County, WY**

Dear Mr. Willox,

On behalf of the Bureau of Reclamation, your agency is invited to participate as a Cooperating Agency under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for the above-titled project. The Bureau of Reclamation has been identified as the lead federal agency for NEPA as a pass-through funding agency.

Your agency has recognized expertise, authority, or interest in this project. A decision to forgo participation as a Cooperating Agency does not preclude participation in the NEPA process or as a participating agency with the ability to comment on the substance of the draft Environmental Assessment (EA) when released for public and agency review.

The LaPrele Irrigation District, in conjunction with the Wyoming Water Development Commission, is proposing to reconstruct the LaPrele Dam, approximately 11 miles west of Douglas, Wyoming. Originally constructed in 1909, the dam was located along LaPrele Creek and demolished in the spring of 2025 per the order of the Wyoming State Engineer's Office on November 1, 2024.

The reconstructed dam is anticipated to be located approximately two hundred feet downstream of the previous LaPrele Dam in Sections 21 and 28, Township 32N, Range 73W. A Project Location Map is attached for reference. Construction activities associated with the reconstruction of the LaPrele Dam would see the completion of the replacement dam as early as the fall of 2028. If you choose to participate as a Cooperating Agency, you will be notified when a preliminary draft of the EA is available for agency review and comment.

A written response within 30 days for your participation as a Cooperating Agency can be emailed to Bradley.johnson@hdrinc.com or sent by mail to 419 Canyon Ave., Suite 316, Fort Collins, CO 80521.

If you require additional information or clarification, please contact me at 720-360-6754 or the email provided above. Thank you for your response.

Sincerely,

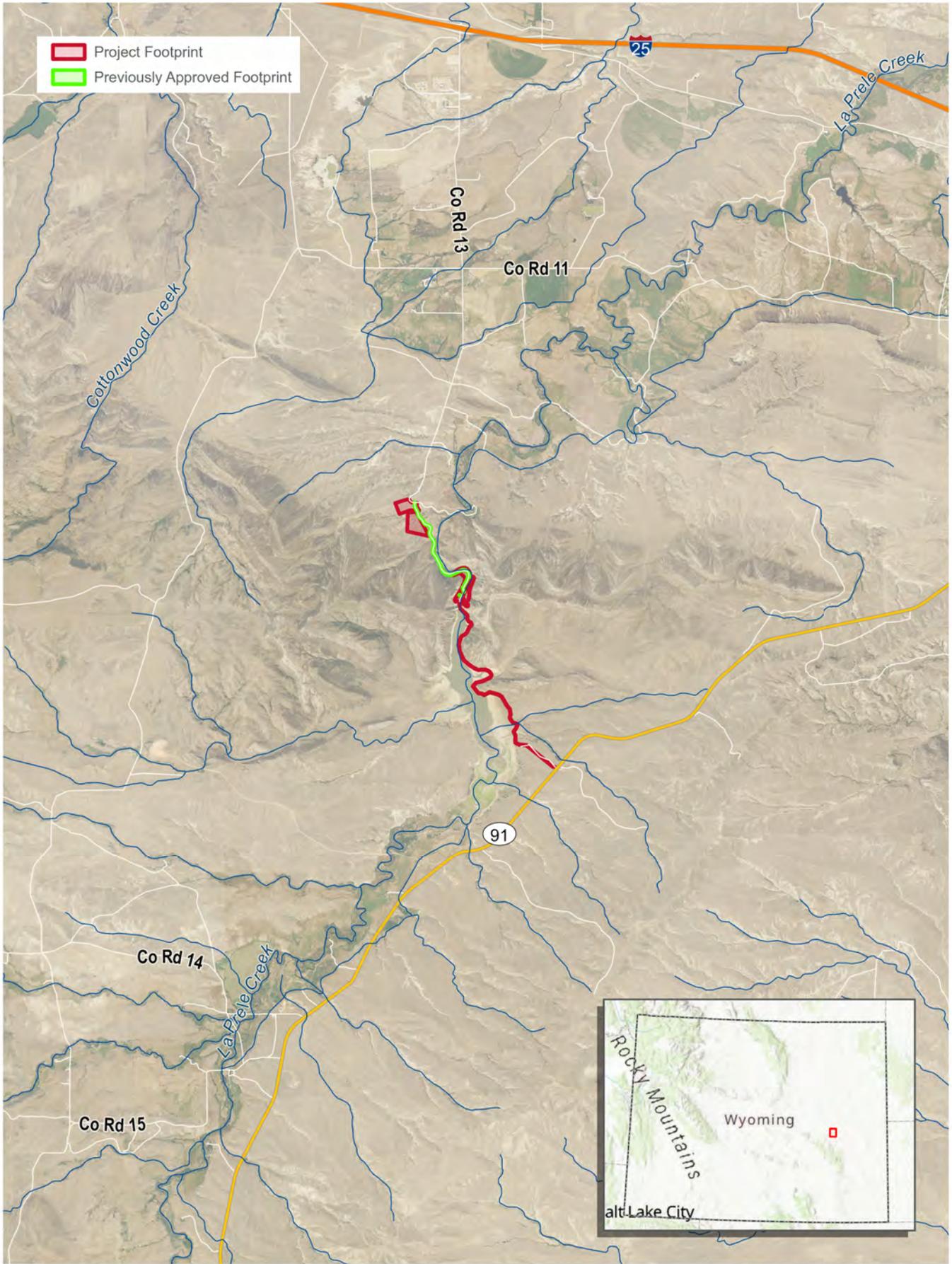
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'BJ Johnson', is centered below the word 'Sincerely,'.

Bradley Johnson, PhD
Federal Water Lead
HDR Engineering, Inc.

Attachment: Project Location Map; Project Overview Map

cc: LaPrele Irrigation District
Shain Wright, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
Stacey Johnston, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
Kristin Bowen, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
Paige Wolken, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Shawn Follum, Natural Resources Conservation Service
Jason Mead, Wyoming Water Development Office
Chace Tavelli, Wyoming Water Development Office
Pete Rausch, RESPEC
Cory Foreman, HDR

ATTACHMENT: PROJECT LOCATION MAP



Project Footprint
Previously Approved Footprint

Cottonwood Creek

Co Rd 13

Co Rd 11

La Prele Creek

Co Rd 14

La Prele Creek

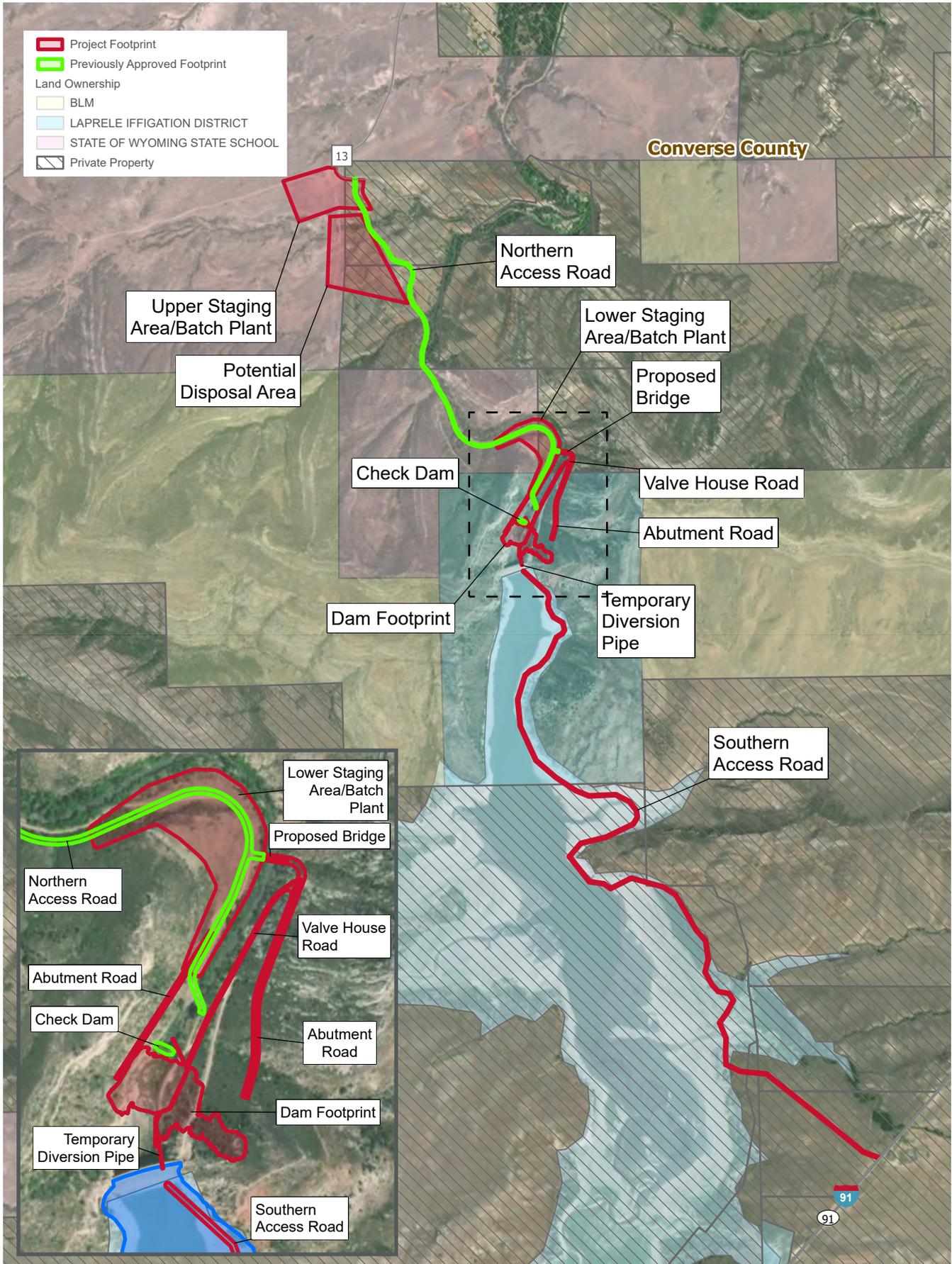
Co Rd 15

91



PROJECT LOCATION

ATTACHMENT: PROJECT OVERVIEW MAP



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PROJECT AREA OVERVIEW

**Board of Commissioners
Converse County, Wyoming**

*107 No. 5th St., Suite 114 • Douglas, WY 82633-2448 • 307-358-2244 • Fax 307-358-5998
Jim Willox, Chair • Rick Grant, Vice-Chair • Robert G. Short • Trent Kaufman • Donald Blackburn*

July 15, 2025

Bradley Johnson, PhD
Federal Water Lead
HDR Engineering, Inc.
419 Canyon Ave., Suite 316
Fort Collins, CO 80521
Email: Bradley.johnson@hdrinc.com

RE: Request for Cooperating Agency Status regarding the LaPrele Dam Reconstruction Project Environmental Assessment, Converse County, WY

Dear Mr. Johnson:

On behalf of the Converse County Board of Commissioners (County), we are formally requesting cooperating agency status to participate in the LaPrele Dam Reconstruction Project Environmental Assessment (EA) process. Converse County's economic viability is highly dependent on lands for farming and agriculture production, livestock grazing, wildlife, tourism, recreation and energy development and this EA initiated by the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) will have a significant impact on the socio economics, custom and culture of our County.

In Wyoming, counties serve as a legal arm of the state entrusted with carrying out statutory and regulatory goals at the local level. County governments are actively engaged in the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) processes to assist our federal partners to create management plans that encourage productive and enjoyable harmony between man and his environment. 42 U.S.C. §4321. Converse County takes our responsibility as a local government seriously and strives to ensure our community is an economically vibrant, safe, and healthy place to live, work, and recreate. Wyo. Stat. § 18-5-208(b).

As co-regulators, Converse County has prepared the Converse County Natural Resource Management Plan¹ to serve as the basis for communicating and coordinating with the federal government and its agencies on land and natural resource management issues. Wyo. Stat. § 18-

¹ Converse County Natural Resource Management Plan dated July 2, 2022.

<https://www.conversecountywy.gov/DocumentCenter/View/4376/FINAL-Converse-County-Natural-Resource-Plan-2022>

5-208(b). Communication, coordination, and collaboration with the BOR is vital as management decisions can significantly impact.

Further, as a "cooperating agency" in the NEPA process (40 C.F.R. § 1508.5), a local government provide special expertise in identifying appropriate scientific data, assisting with alternative development for the proposed federal action, and ensuring that the discussion of impacts to the local economy or the local citizens is accurate. The County has a significant vested interest in ensuring proper management, maintenance, and improvements of the quality of all dams and reservoirs and to preserve and ensure water resources are developed responsibly.

The LaPrele Dam plays a significant role in the County and we will continue to engage however to minimize impacts to farming and agriculture production, recreation, tourism and impacts to wildlife that are all economic drivers and are sources of revenue that rely on the Dam and its existing infrastructure. Further, the County will continue to support the State of Wyoming and applicable federal agencies to secure funding for replacement, maintenance and public safety.

The two points of contact for the County regarding this effort which should be included on your distribution list for this project and are as follows:

1. Mr. Jim Willox, Chairman
Converse County Board of Commissioners
107 N 5th Street, Suite 114
Douglas, WY 82633
Email: jim.wilcox@conversecountywy.gov
2. Mr. Rick Grant, Commissioner
Converse County Board of Commissioners
107 N 5th Street, Suite 114
Douglas, WY 82633
Email: rick.grant@conversecountywy.gov

Kindly acknowledge receipt of this request along with an outline of next steps. Should you have questions or require additional information, do not hesitate to reach out to myself or Commissioner Rick Grant.

Sincerely,



Richard C. Grant, Jr., Vice Chairman
Board of Converse County Commissioners

CC: The Honorable Governor Mark Gordon
United States Senator John Barrasso
United States Senator Cynthia Lummis

United States Congresswoman Harriet Hageman
LaPrele Irrigation District Board of Directors
Bureau of Reclamation, Wyoming Area Office



July 2, 2025

Clara Chaffin
Community Development Director
Douglas Historic Preservation Commission
PO Box 1030
Douglas, WY 82633
Provided electronically to: cchaffin@cityofdouglas.org

**SUBJECT: Cooperating Agency Invitation, LaPrele Dam Reconstruction Project
Environmental Assessment, Converse County, WY**

Dear Ms. Chaffin,

On behalf of the Bureau of Reclamation, your agency is invited to participate as a Cooperating Agency under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for the above-titled project. The Bureau of Reclamation has been identified as the lead federal agency for NEPA as a pass-through funding agency.

Your agency has recognized expertise, authority, or interest in this project. A decision to forgo participation as a Cooperating Agency does not preclude participation in the NEPA process or as a participating agency with the ability to comment on the substance of the draft Environmental Assessment (EA) when released for public and agency review.

The LaPrele Irrigation District, in conjunction with the Wyoming Water Development Commission, is proposing to reconstruct the LaPrele Dam, approximately 11 miles west of Douglas, Wyoming. Originally constructed in 1909, the dam was located along LaPrele Creek and demolished in the spring of 2025 per the order of the Wyoming State Engineer's Office on November 1, 2024.

The reconstructed dam is anticipated to be located approximately two hundred feet downstream of the previous LaPrele Dam in Sections 21 and 28, Township 32N, Range 73W. A Project Location Map is attached for reference. Construction activities associated with the reconstruction of the LaPrele Dam would see the completion of the replacement dam as early as the fall of 2028. If you choose to participate as a Cooperating Agency, you will be notified when a preliminary draft of the EA is available for agency review and comment.

A written response within 30 days for your participation as a Cooperating Agency can be emailed to Bradley.johnson@hdrinc.com or sent by mail to 419 Canyon Ave., Suite 316, Fort Collins, CO 80521.

If you require additional information or clarification, please contact me at 720-360-6754 or the email provided above. Thank you for your response.

Sincerely,

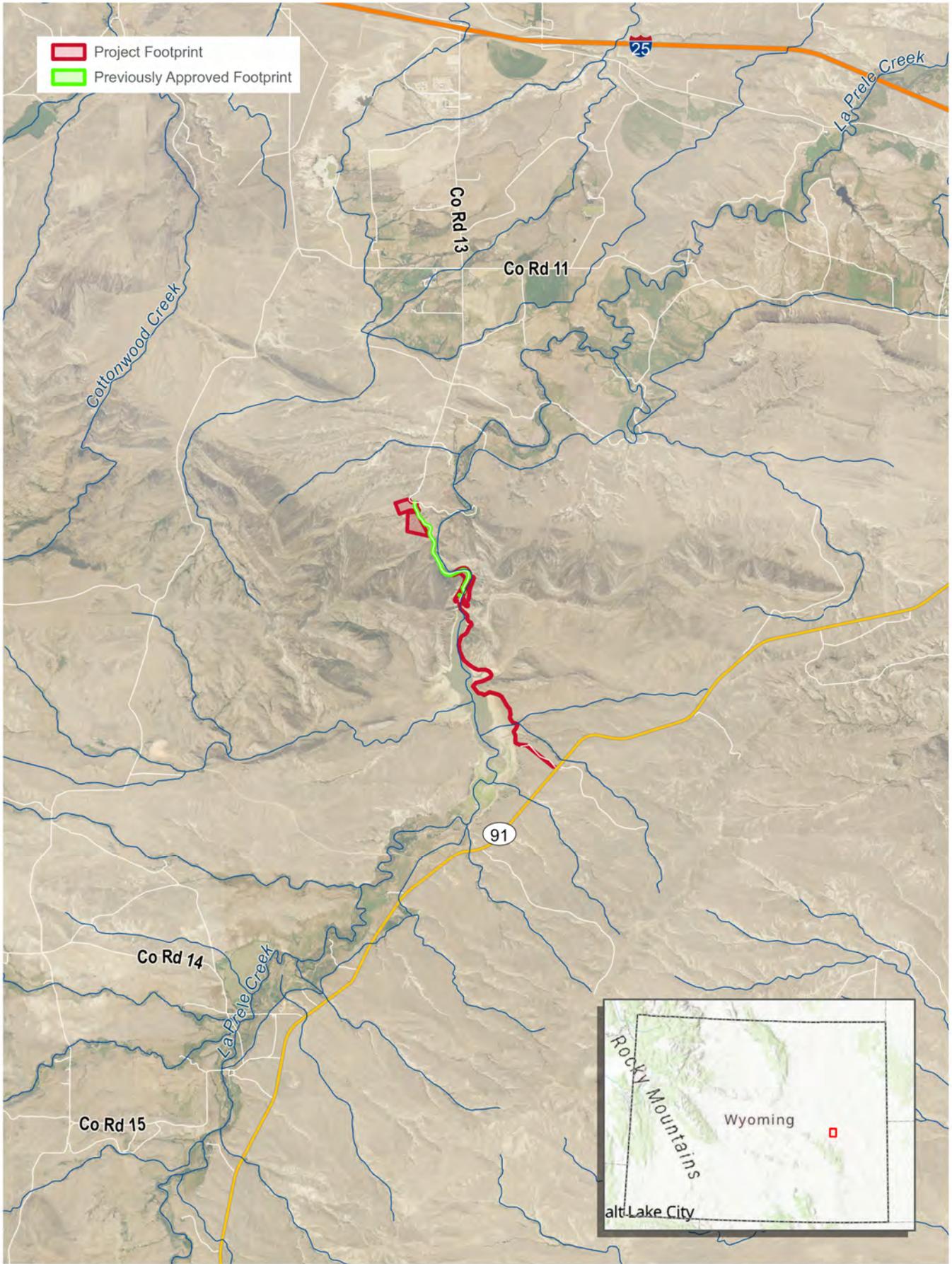
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Bradley Johnson, PhD
Federal Water Lead
HDR Engineering, Inc.

Attachment: Project Location Map; Project Overview Map

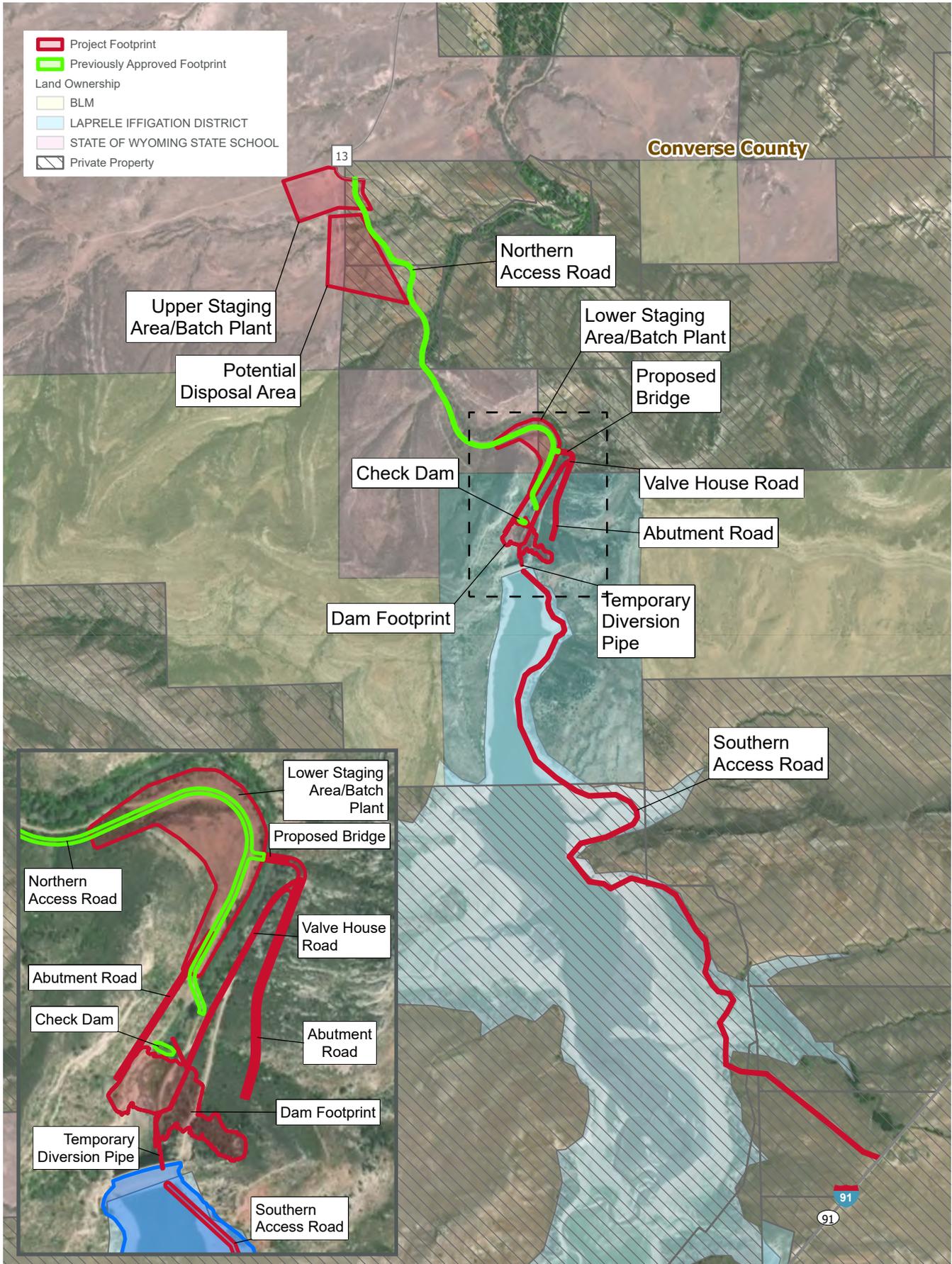
cc: LaPrele Irrigation District
Shain Wright, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
Stacey Johnston, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
Kristin Bowen, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
Paige Wolken, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Shawn Follum, Natural Resources Conservation Service
Jason Mead, Wyoming Water Development Office
Chace Tavelli, Wyoming Water Development Office
Pete Rausch, RESPEC
Cory Foreman, HDR

ATTACHMENT: PROJECT LOCATION MAP



PROJECT LOCATION

ATTACHMENT: PROJECT OVERVIEW MAP



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PROJECT AREA OVERVIEW



July 2, 2025

Heidi McCullough
Board Member
Douglas Historic Preservation Commission
PO Box 1030
Douglas, WY 82633
Provided electronically to: hmccullough@cityofdouglas.org

**SUBJECT: Cooperating Agency Invitation, LaPrele Dam Reconstruction Project
Environmental Assessment, Converse County, WY**

Dear Ms. McCullough,

On behalf of the Bureau of Reclamation, your agency is invited to participate as a Cooperating Agency under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for the above-titled project. The Bureau of Reclamation has been identified as the lead federal agency for NEPA as a pass-through funding agency.

Your agency has recognized expertise, authority, or interest in this project. A decision to forgo participation as a Cooperating Agency does not preclude participation in the NEPA process or as a participating agency with the ability to comment on the substance of the draft Environmental Assessment (EA) when released for public and agency review.

The LaPrele Irrigation District, in conjunction with the Wyoming Water Development Commission, is proposing to reconstruct the LaPrele Dam, approximately 11 miles west of Douglas, Wyoming. Originally constructed in 1909, the dam was located along LaPrele Creek and demolished in the spring of 2025 per the order of the Wyoming State Engineer's Office on November 1, 2024.

The reconstructed dam is anticipated to be located approximately two hundred feet downstream of the previous LaPrele Dam in Sections 21 and 28, Township 32N, Range 73W. A Project Location Map is attached for reference. Construction activities associated with the reconstruction of the LaPrele Dam would see the completion of the replacement dam as early as the fall of 2028. If you choose to participate as a Cooperating Agency, you will be notified when a preliminary draft of the EA is available for agency review and comment.

A written response within 30 days for your participation as a Cooperating Agency can be emailed to Bradley.johnson@hdrinc.com or sent by mail to 419 Canyon Ave., Suite 316, Fort Collins, CO 80521.

If you require additional information or clarification, please contact me at 720-360-6754 or the email provided above. Thank you for your response.

Sincerely,

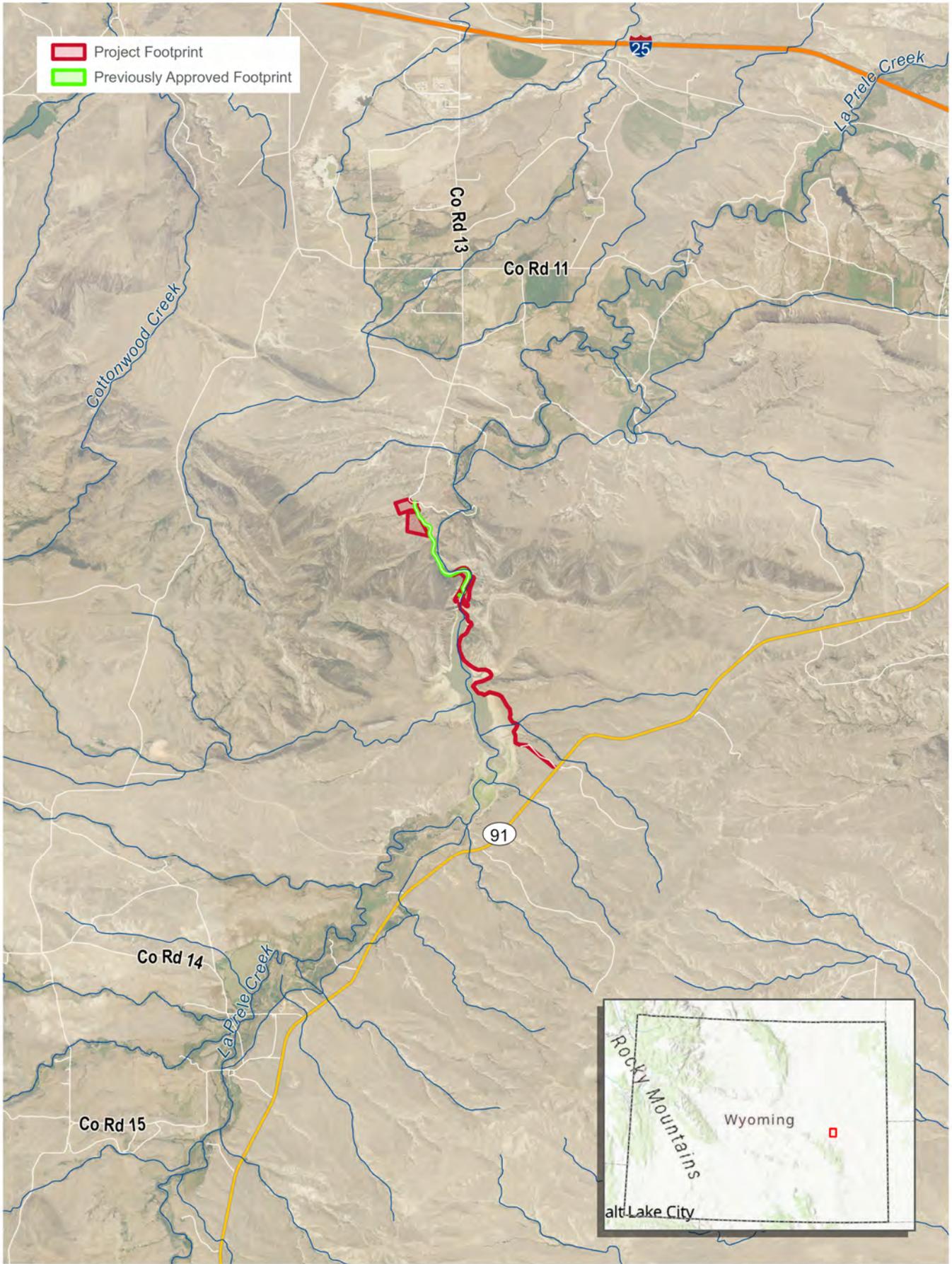
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Bradley Johnson, PhD
Federal Water Lead
HDR Engineering, Inc.

Attachment: Project Location Map; Project Overview Map

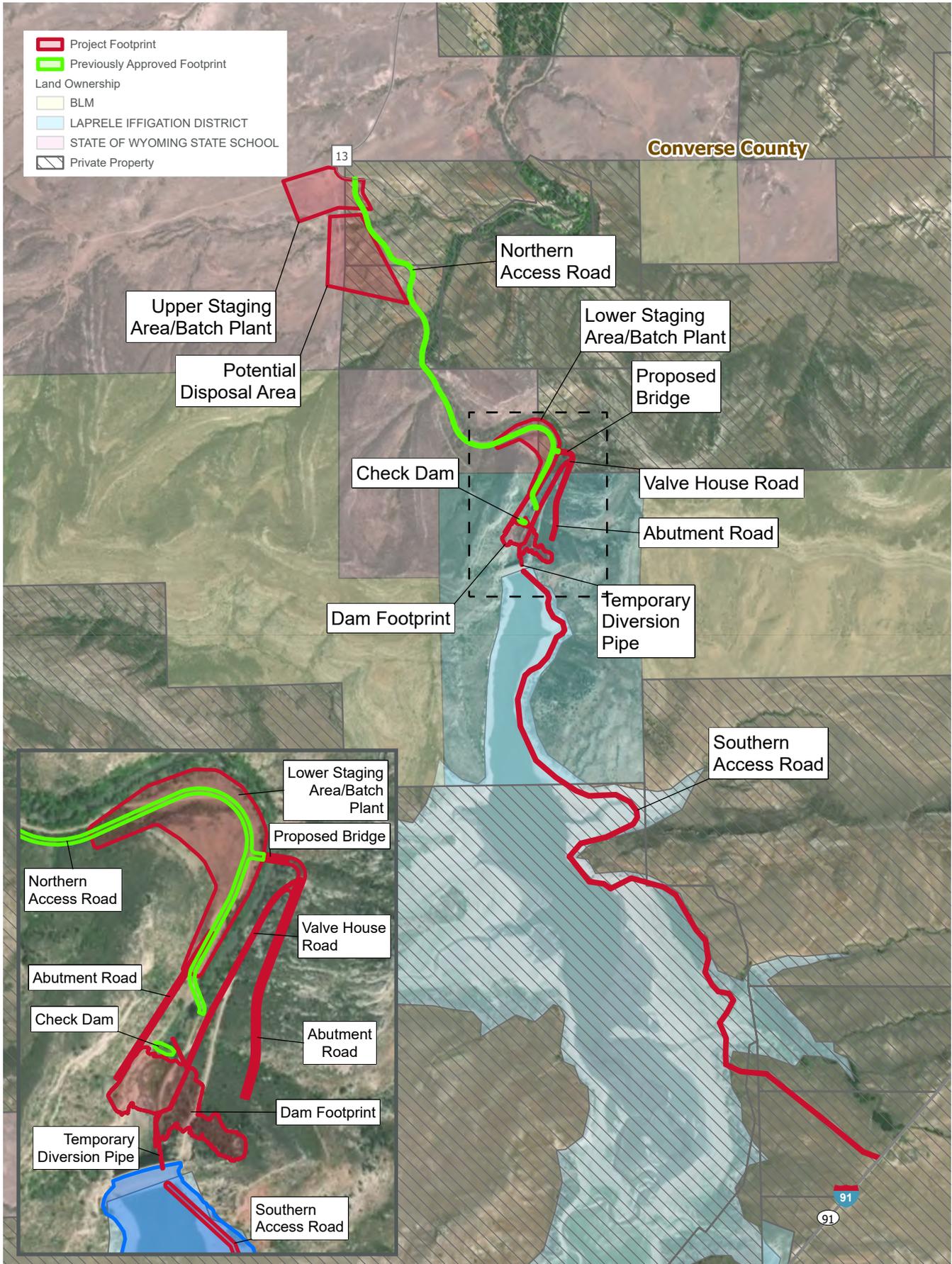
cc: LaPrele Irrigation District
Shain Wright, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
Stacey Johnston, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
Kristin Bowen, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
Paige Wolken, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Shawn Follum, Natural Resources Conservation Service
Jason Mead, Wyoming Water Development Office
Chace Tavelli, Wyoming Water Development Office
Pete Rausch, RESPEC
Cory Foreman, HDR

ATTACHMENT: PROJECT LOCATION MAP



PROJECT LOCATION

ATTACHMENT: PROJECT OVERVIEW MAP



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PROJECT AREA OVERVIEW



Appendix B. ESA Compliance Documentation



United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
Missouri Basin Region
Wyoming Area Office
P.O. Box 1630
Mills, WY 82644-1630

IN REPLY REFER TO:

WY-4302
2.1.4.17

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL ONLY

Mr. Tyler Abbot – Field Supervisor
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Wyoming Ecological Services Office
WyomingES@fws.gov

Subject: Section 7 Endangered Species Act Consultation - LaPrele Dam Reconstruction Project,
Converse County, Wyoming

Dear Mr. Abbot,

The Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) requests a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) review pertaining to the LaPrele Dam Reconstruction (Project) located in Converse County, WY. The purpose of this project is to reconstruct the LaPrele Dam approximately 200 feet downstream of the original dam's location. The Project is further detailed in the attached Technical Memorandum (Exhibit A).

Exhibit A includes the list of federally listed threatened and endangered species (TES) or their habitat identified by the USFWS Information for Planning and Conservation (IPaC) database. IPaC identified species which are currently listed, proposed for listing, or are candidates for listing, under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) that may occur within or near the Project Area.

Reclamation requests that USFWS concur that the project is anticipated to have no effect on the piping plover, whooping crane, pallid sturgeon, Ute Ladies'-tresses, and western prairie fringed orchid. Additionally, it is anticipated that the project would not jeopardize the continued existence of the monarch butterfly or Suckley's cuckoo bumble bee, as proposed. With USFWS review and concurrence, Reclamation will complete an Environmental Assessment (EA) to meet National Environmental Compliance Act (NEPA) requirements.

If you have questions regarding this request, please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Shain Wright at slwright@usbr.gov or call 307-261-5664. If you are deaf, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability, please dial 7-1-1 to access telecommunications to relay services.

Sincerely,

LYLE MYLER Digitally signed by LYLE MYLER
Date: 2025.07.30 17:03:25 -06'00'

Lyle D. Myler
Area Manager

Attachment

cc: Bradley Johnson (bradley.johnson@hdrinc.com)
Cory Foreman (cory.foreman@hdrinc.com)

Memorandum

Date: Monday, July 21, 2025

Project: LaPrele Dam Reconstruction Project

To: Bureau of Reclamation

From: HDR

Subject: Endangered Species Act Documentation

Introduction

The LaPrele Irrigation District is proposing to reconstruct the LaPrele Dam approximately 200 feet downstream of the original dam's location. The Wyoming State Engineer's Office determined that the original LaPrele Dam was an imminent threat to life and property and issued a Breach Order on November 1, 2024. The Breach Order required that the dam be removed to an elevation of 5,400 feet by no later than April 1, 2025, when inflows from spring runoff could exceed the dam's ability to pass inflows and result in filling of the reservoir. The proposed reconstruction project is located in Township 32N, Range 73W, Sections 20, 21, 28, 33, and 34 in Converse County, Wyoming.

The Bureau of Reclamation has been identified as the lead federal agency for the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process and action agency under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA). The anticipated level of NEPA analysis for the project is an Environmental Assessment.

This memorandum has been prepared to document the consideration of effects to species listed as threatened and endangered species under the ESA as well as species proposed for listing and designated critical habitat.

Action Area

The action area is defined as all areas to be affected directly or indirectly by construction activities. For the purposes of this assessment, the action area consists of the footprint of the proposed new dam and the associated construction area as well as all potential access roads, concrete batch plant locations, and staging areas (Attachment A).

Threatened, Endangered, and Proposed Species that May Occur in the Action Area

The Official Species List generated using the Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) planning tool¹ (July 09, 2025) identified seven species which are currently listed or proposed for listing under the ESA that may occur within or near the action area. However, based on the species' range and habitat requirements, the monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*) is the only

¹ U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 2025. Information for Planning and Consultation (#2025-0101589). Available online at: <https://ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov>.

species with potential to occur in the action area. The seven species and their potential to occur within the action area are discussed below.

Piping Plover (*Charadrius melodus*)

This species has not been previously recorded within the action area². The action area is outside of the current range of the northern Great Plains population³. Piping plovers are a shorebird that typically seek out rocky sandbars within riverine systems for nesting purposes. Suitable habitat may be found downstream along the North Platte River and LaPrele Creek, but it is unlikely that piping plovers would occur in the vicinity of the action area. Any minor fluctuations in water quality due to the construction of the dam will not impact downstream suitable habitat that occurs within the Platte River. The dam will regulate the conveyance of water downstream. Given that the action area is well outside the known range of the northern Great Plains population of piping plovers and because any temporary downstream impacts would not affect suitable habitat for the piping plover, the proposed action would have **no effect** on the piping plover.

Whooping Crane (*Grus americana*)

Whooping cranes are known to use a variety of habitats, including coastal marshes and estuaries, inland marshes, lakes, open ponds, shallow bays, salt marsh and sand or tidal flats, upland swales, wet meadows and rivers, and pastures and agricultural fields⁴. This species breeds in Wood-Buffalo National Park in Canada but migrate across the central United States (North/South). Whooping cranes migrate through a narrow corridor of the Great Plains, going through Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas, Nebraska, South Dakota, North Dakota, and eastern Montana. Their migration corridor could potentially include the southeastern edge of Wyoming and individuals could potentially pass through the general area during migration. However, they are unlikely to stop over within the action area due to lack of suitable habitat. It is possible that an individual whooping crane could be found near LaPrele Creek due to its proximity to the North Platte River and associated floodplains. Construction activities, which would include the presence of workers and heavy equipment, may deter individuals in the unlikely event that they do stopover in or near the action area. However, the broader landscape provides ample stopover opportunities if a whooping crane were to travel through the area. Due to lack of suitable habitat within the action area and documented observations within the general area, the Proposed Action would have **no effect** on the whooping crane.

Pallid Sturgeon (*Scaphirhynchus albus*)

The pallid sturgeon is typically found within large, deep river channels with murky waters and firm sand or gravel beds. The pallid sturgeon is currently found along the Missouri River and the lower reaches of the North Platte River within 30 miles of their confluence. The pallid sturgeon's current range is more than 450 miles downstream of the confluence between LaPrele Creek and the North Platte River³. Any minor fluctuations in water quality due to the construction of the dam will

² Wyoming Natural Diversity Database, 2025. Data Explorer Map View. Available online at: https://wyndd.org/portal/apps/data_explorer/pro/map.

³ Platte River Recover Implementation Program, 2025. Target Species – Piping Plover and Pallid Sturgeon. Available online at: <https://platteriverprogram.org/target-species/>.

⁴ U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 2025. Species: Whooping Crane. Available online at: <https://www.fws.gov/species/whooping-crane-grus-americana>.

not impact the suitable habitat that occurs within the Missouri River and the lower reaches of the Platte River. Additionally, the dam will regulate the conveyance of water downstream. Therefore, the proposed action would have **no effect** on this species.

Monarch Butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*)

The action area is within summer breeding and fall migration range for the monarch butterfly⁵. Additionally, monarch butterflies have been documented within the general area in recent years⁶. Vegetation removal and ground disturbance may cause the removal of nectarous flowers that migrating adults could feed on. However, removal of these important vegetative species is anticipated to be minimal due to the lack of flowering species and milkweed within the action area. High-quality habitat for the monarch is available along both the North Platte and Laramie River corridors near the action area. Ground and vegetation disturbance within the action area would be reclaimed following project completion and the proposed action is not anticipated to contribute to short- or long-term impacts on the monarch butterfly population or habitat within the region. Because the monarch butterfly is not yet listed under the ESA, the effect determination would be made under conference and would include a jeopardy determination. Therefore, the project **will not jeopardize the continued existence** of the monarch butterfly.

Suckley's Cuckoo Bumble Bee (*Bombus suckleyi*)

Suckley's cuckoo bumble bees were once found in northwestern North America from Alaska to Colorado and Oregon to South Dakota. However, their numbers have declined throughout their range, and they have not been detected in Wyoming since 2012⁷. They are known to occupy a wide range of habitat types including prairies, grasslands, meadows, and woodlands within elevations ranging from sea level to 10,500 feet. They require pollen and nectar from native flowering plants for nutrition like other species of bees. However, they are also an obligate social parasite of social bumble bees in the genus *Bombus*. Female Suckley's cuckoo bumble bees usurp the nest of a suitable host colony, and the host workers take care of her young⁷. Because Suckley's cuckoo bumble bees are not yet listed under the ESA, the effect determination would be made under conference and would include a jeopardy determination. Given that they have not been detected in Wyoming since 2012 and impacts to suitable habitat are not anticipated, the project **will not jeopardize the continued existence** of Suckley's cuckoo bumble bee.

Ute Ladies'-Tresses (*Spiranthes diluvialis*)

The Ute ladies'-tresses is a perennial species known to occur in a variety of moist-soil settings (moist meadows associated with perennial stream terraces, floodplains, oxbows, seasonally flooded river terraces, subirrigated or spring-fed abandoned stream channels and valleys, lakeshores, etc.⁸. This species has been previously documented along human-made structures

⁵ Monarch Joint Venture, 2025. About Monarchs. Available online at: <https://monarchjointventure.org/monarch-biology/monarch-migration>.

⁶ Wyoming Natural Diversity Database, 2025. Data Explorer Map View. Available online: https://wyndd.org/portal/apps/data_explorer/pro/map.

⁷ U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 2024. Suckley's Cuckoo Bumble Bee (*Bombus suckleyi*) Species Status Assessment. Available online at: <https://iris.fws.gov/APPS/ServCat/DownloadFile/263505>.

⁸ U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 2025. Environmental Conservation Online System (ECOS): Ute ladies'-tresses (*Spiranthes diluvialis*). Available online at: <https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/2159>.

such as irrigation canals. The nearest regularly occupied range and documentation of the species to the action area is more than 40 miles north of the Project in Converse County, Wyoming⁹.

The preferred elevation for this species in Wyoming appears to be 4,650 to 5,420 feet¹⁰. The action area is within this range but likely lacks the moist soil conditions this species prefers except for areas directly adjacent to LaPrele Creek. Three years of surveys for this species have been conducted in the areas surrounding LaPrele Dam that potentially provide suitable habitat conditions, and no individuals have been detected. Due to these factors, it is unlikely that the Ute ladies'-tresses would be found within the action area, and the Proposed Action would have **no effect** on the species.

Western Prairie Fringed Orchid (*Platanthera praeclara*)

The western prairie fringed orchid is a species often found in most tallgrass prairies and sedge meadows which are often undisturbed or lightly disturbed¹¹. The action area is outside of this species' known range and there have been no documented observations in the vicinity of the action area. It is also likely that the action area lacks the fine, moist soils and undisturbed habitat that is required for this species to thrive. The substrate of LaPrele Creek downstream of the dam consists largely of cobble and gravel. Disturbance from the decommissioning of the dam as well as historic maintenance of the original dam and access roads, cattle grazing, and other factors are likely to limit the ability of the orchid to thrive within the action area. Due to the lack of suitable habitat and the action area being outside of this species' known range, the proposed action will have **no effect** on the western prairie fringed orchid.

Conclusion

The project is anticipated to have **no effect** on the piping plover, whooping crane, pallid sturgeon, Ute Ladies'-tresses, and western prairie fringed orchid. Additionally, it is anticipated that the project **would not jeopardize the continued existence of** the monarch butterfly or Suckley's cuckoo bumble bee, as proposed. Proposed effect determinations are summarized in Table 1.

⁹ Wyoming Natural Diversity Database, 2025. Data Explorer Map View. Available online: https://wyndd.org/portal/apps/data_explorer/pro/map.

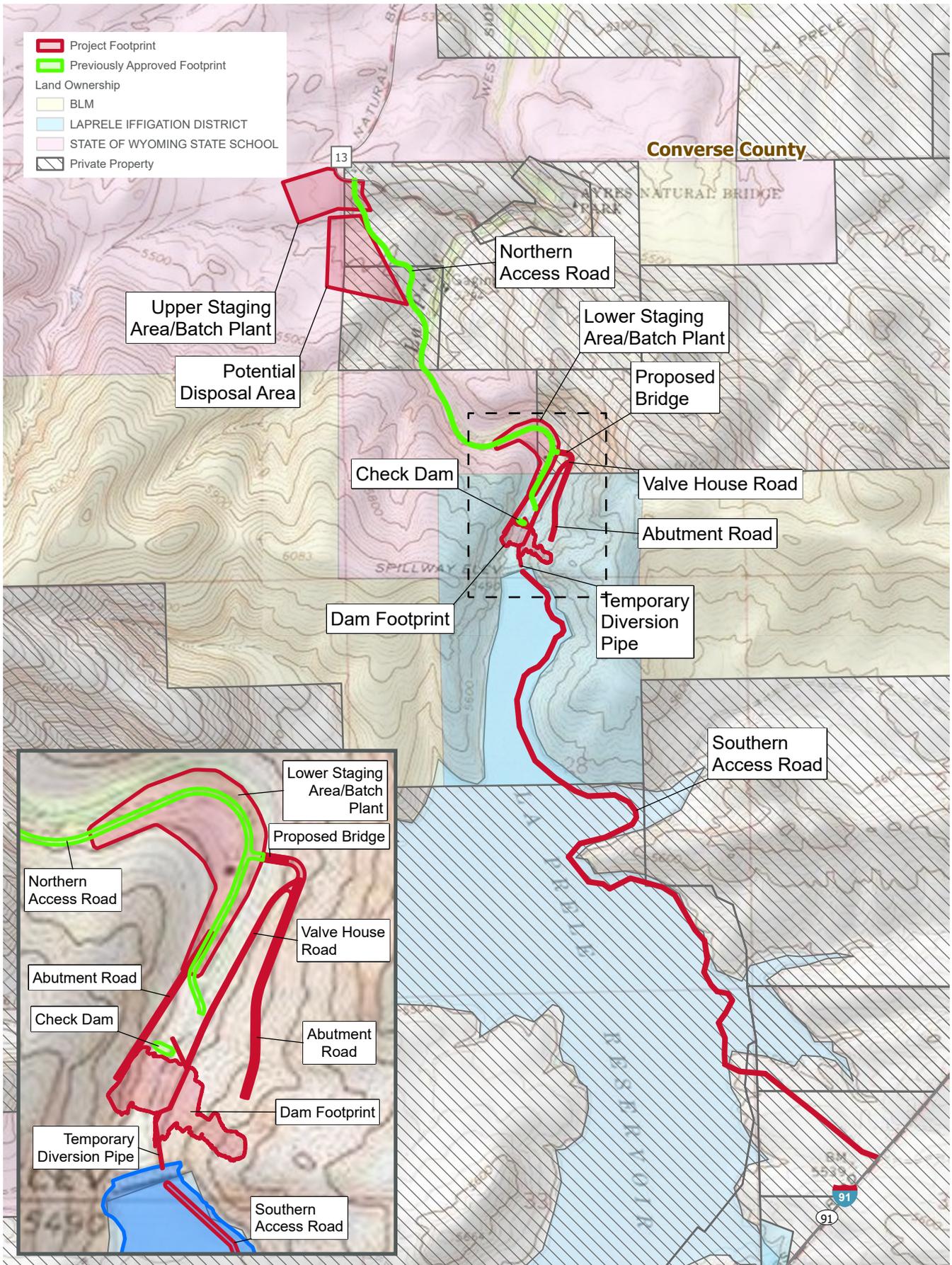
¹⁰ Heidel, B, 2007. Survey of *Spiranthes diluvialis* (Ute ladies'-tresses) in eastern Wyoming (Campbell, Converse, Goshen, Laramie, Niobrara, and Platte Counties) 2005-2006. Available online at: https://www.uwyo.edu/wyndd/_files/docs/reports/wynddreports/u07hei04wyus.pdf.

¹¹ U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 2025. Species: Western Prairie Fringed Orchid. Available online at: <https://www.fws.gov/species/western-prairie-fringed-orchid-platanthera-praeclara>.

Table 1. Proposed Effect Determinations for ESA-listed Threatened, Endangered, and Proposed Species that May Occur in or near the Action Area or be affected by the proposed action.

Species	Listing Status	Critical Habitat	Proposed Effect Determination
Ute Ladies'-tresses <i>Spiranthes diluvialis</i>	Threatened	Final critical habitat does not intersect action area	No effect
Pallid Sturgeon <i>Scaphirhynchus albus</i> (Platte River Species)	Endangered	None designated	No effect
Piping Plover <i>Charadrius melodus</i> (Platte River Species)	Threatened	Final critical habitat does not intersect action area	No effect
Whooping Crane <i>Grus americana</i> (Platte River Species)	Endangered	Final critical habitat does not intersect action area	No effect
Western Prairie Fringed Orchid <i>Platanthera praeclara</i>	Threatened	None designated	No effect
Monarch Butterfly <i>Danaus plexippus</i>	Proposed Threatened	Proposed critical habitat does not intersect action area	Not likely to jeopardize
Suckley's cuckoo bumble bee <i>Bombus suckleyi</i>	Proposed Endangered	None designated	Not likely to jeopardize

Attachment A



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PROJECT AREA OVERVIEW



United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Wyoming Ecological Services Field Office
334 Parsley Boulevard
Cheyenne, WY 82007-4178
Phone: (307) 772-2374 Fax: (307) 772-2358
Email Address: wyominges@fws.gov

In Reply Refer To:
Project Code: 2025-0101589
Project Name: LaPrele Dam Reconstruction Project

07/09/2025 20:06:38 UTC

Subject: List of threatened and endangered species that may occur in your proposed project location or may be affected by your proposed project

To Whom It May Concern:

The enclosed species list identifies threatened, endangered, proposed and candidate species, as well as proposed and final designated critical habitat that may occur within the boundary of the proposed project and / or may be affected by the proposed project. This species list fulfills requirements under section 7(c) of the [Endangered Species Act of 1973](#), as amended (ESA; 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*).

New or updated information based on surveys, changes in the abundance and / or distribution of species, changed habitat conditions, or other factors could change this species list. Note that under 50 CFR 402.12(e) of the regulations implementing section 7 of the ESA, the accuracy of this species list should be verified after 90 days. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) recommends that verification be completed by visiting the [IPaC website](#) at regular intervals during project planning and implementation for updates to species lists and information. An updated list can be requested through the IPaC tool by completing the same process used to receive the enclosed list.

The purpose of the ESA is to provide a means whereby threatened and endangered species and the ecosystems upon which they depend may be conserved. Under sections 7(a)(1) and 7(a)(2) of the ESA and its implementing regulations (50 CFR 402 *et seq.*), federal agencies are required to utilize their authorities to carry out programs for the conservation of threatened and endangered species and to determine whether projects they authorize, fund, carry out, in whole or in part may affect listed and proposed species as well as proposed and final designated critical habitat.

A biological assessment is required for construction projects (or other undertakings having similar physical impacts) that are major federal actions significantly affecting the quality of the human environment as defined in the National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 4332(2)(c)). For projects other than major construction activities, a biological evaluation similar to a biological assessment should be prepared to determine whether the project may affect listed or proposed species as well as proposed and final designated critical habitat. The necessary contents of a biological assessment for consultation are described at 50 CFR 402.14.

If the federal agency determines that proposed or listed species and / or designated critical habitat may be affected by the

proposed project, the federal agency is required to support that determination and consult with the Service pursuant to the ESA implementing regulations at 50 CFR 402. More information on the regulations and procedures for section 7 consultation, including the role of designated non-federal representatives, can be found in the [1998 Endangered Species Consultation Handbook](#).

We appreciate your efforts to ensure the conservation of endangered, threatened, proposed and candidate species. Contact our office for more information and / or assistance regarding potential impacts to federally proposed, listed, candidate species, or proposed and final designated critical habitat at (307) 772-2374 or visit the [Wyoming Ecological Services website](#). **Please include the IPaC Project Code, located in the header of this letter, with any request for consultation or correspondence about your project that you submit to our office using our WyomingES@fws.gov email address.**

Attachment(s):

- Official Species List
- USFWS National Wildlife Refuges and Fish Hatcheries
- Bald & Golden Eagles
- Migratory Birds
- Wetlands

OFFICIAL SPECIES LIST

This list is provided pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, and fulfills the requirement for Federal agencies to "request of the Secretary of the Interior information whether any species which is listed or proposed to be listed may be present in the area of a proposed action".

This species list is provided by:

Wyoming Ecological Services Field Office
334 Parsley Boulevard
Cheyenne, WY 82007-4178
(307) 772-2374

PROJECT SUMMARY

Project Code: 2025-0101589

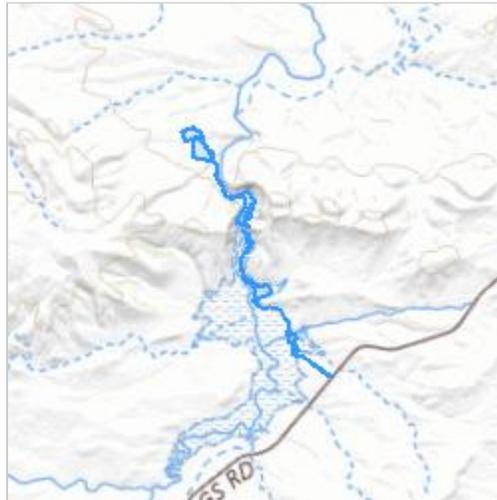
Project Name: LaPrele Dam Reconstruction Project

Project Type: Dam - New Construction

Project Description: The proposed project is the reconstruction of LaPrele Dam, which was demolished in early 2025 due to the WY State Engineer's Office determining that it was an immediate threat to life and property. The new RCC dam would be constructed approximately 200 feet downstream of the old dam. Contingent on project approval, construction on the dam would begin fall 2025 with excavation of rock in preparation for the dam foundation. Activities during 2026 would include setting up the concrete batch plants, placing a grout curtain for the dam foundation, and other activities that need to take place before concrete can be laid. The concrete work for the dam would be carried out in 2027, and the dam would be completed and put in use by spring 2028.

Project Location:

The approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: <https://www.google.com/maps/@42.7326437,-105.62128858531207,14z>



Counties: Converse County, Wyoming

ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT SPECIES

There is a total of 7 threatened, endangered, or candidate species on this species list.

Species on this list should be considered in an effects analysis for your project and could include species that exist in another geographic area. For example, certain fish may appear on the species list because a project could affect downstream species. Note that 1 of these species should be considered only under certain conditions.

IPaC does not display listed species or critical habitats under the sole jurisdiction of NOAA Fisheries¹, as USFWS does not have the authority to speak on behalf of NOAA and the Department of Commerce.

See the "Critical habitats" section below for those critical habitats that lie wholly or partially within your project area under this office's jurisdiction. Please contact the designated FWS office if you have questions.

-
1. [NOAA Fisheries](#), also known as the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), is an office of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration within the Department of Commerce.

BIRDS

NAME	STATUS
Piping Plover <i>Charadrius melodus</i> Population: [Atlantic Coast and Northern Great Plains populations] - Wherever found, except those areas where listed as endangered. There is final critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/6039	Threatened
Whooping Crane <i>Grus americana</i> Population: Wherever found, except where listed as an experimental population There is final critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/758	Endangered

FISHES

NAME	STATUS
Pallid Sturgeon <i>Scaphirhynchus albus</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. This species only needs to be considered under the following conditions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Water use or contamination may adversely affect the species. Within the Platte River basin, depletions may adversely affect the species. These affects must be considered even outside occupied range. See local FWS office for more information. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/7162	Endangered

INSECTS

NAME	STATUS
Monarch Butterfly <i>Danaus plexippus</i> There is proposed critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9743	Proposed Threatened
Suckley's Cuckoo Bumble Bee <i>Bombus suckleyi</i> Population: No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/10885	Proposed Endangered

FLOWERING PLANTS

NAME	STATUS
Ute Ladies'-tresses <i>Spiranthes diluvialis</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/2159	Threatened
Western Prairie Fringed Orchid <i>Platanthera praeclara</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1669	Threatened

CRITICAL HABITATS

THERE ARE NO CRITICAL HABITATS WITHIN YOUR PROJECT AREA UNDER THIS OFFICE'S JURISDICTION.

YOU ARE STILL REQUIRED TO DETERMINE IF YOUR PROJECT(S) MAY HAVE EFFECTS ON ALL ABOVE LISTED SPECIES.

USFWS NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE LANDS AND FISH HATCHERIES

Any activity proposed on lands managed by the [National Wildlife Refuge](#) system must undergo a 'Compatibility Determination' conducted by the Refuge. Please contact the individual Refuges to discuss any questions or concerns.

THERE ARE NO REFUGE LANDS OR FISH HATCHERIES WITHIN YOUR PROJECT AREA.

BALD & GOLDEN EAGLES

Bald and Golden Eagles are protected under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act ² and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) ¹. Any person or organization who plans or conducts activities that may result in impacts to Bald or Golden Eagles, or their habitats, should follow appropriate regulations and consider implementing appropriate avoidance and minimization measures, as described in the various links on this page.

-
1. The [Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act](#) of 1940.
 2. The [Migratory Birds Treaty Act](#) of 1918.
 3. 50 C.F.R. Sec. 10.12 and 16 U.S.C. Sec. 668(a)

There are Bald Eagles and/or Golden Eagles in your [project](#) area.

Measures for Proactively Minimizing Eagle Impacts

For information on how to best avoid and minimize disturbance to nesting bald eagles, please review the [National Bald Eagle Management Guidelines](#). You may employ the timing and activity-specific distance recommendations in this document when designing your project/activity to avoid and minimize eagle impacts. For bald eagle information specific to Alaska, please refer to [Bald Eagle Nesting and Sensitivity to Human Activity](#).

The FWS does not currently have guidelines for avoiding and minimizing disturbance to nesting Golden Eagles. For site-specific recommendations regarding nesting Golden Eagles, please consult with the appropriate Regional [Migratory Bird Office](#) or [Ecological Services Field Office](#).

If disturbance or take of eagles cannot be avoided, an [incidental take permit](#) may be available to authorize any take that results from, but is not the purpose of, an otherwise lawful activity. For assistance making this determination for Bald Eagles, visit the [Do I Need A Permit Tool](#). For

assistance making this determination for golden eagles, please consult with the appropriate Regional [Migratory Bird Office](#) or [Ecological Services Field Office](#).

Ensure Your Eagle List is Accurate and Complete

If your project area is in a poorly surveyed area in IPaC, your list may not be complete and you may need to rely on other resources to determine what species may be present (e.g. your local FWS field office, state surveys, your own surveys). Please review the [Supplemental Information on Migratory Birds and Eagles](#), to help you properly interpret the report for your specified location, including determining if there is sufficient data to ensure your list is accurate.

For guidance on when to schedule activities or implement avoidance and minimization measures to reduce impacts to bald or golden eagles on your list, see the "Probability of Presence Summary" below to see when these bald or golden eagles are most likely to be present and breeding in your project area.

NAME	BREEDING SEASON
Bald Eagle <i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i> This is not a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) in this area, but warrants attention because of the Eagle Act or for potential susceptibilities in offshore areas from certain types of development or activities. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1626	Breeds Dec 1 to Aug 31
Golden Eagle <i>Aquila chrysaetos</i> This is not a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) in this area, but warrants attention because of the Eagle Act or for potential susceptibilities in offshore areas from certain types of development or activities. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1680	Breeds Dec 1 to Aug 31

PROBABILITY OF PRESENCE SUMMARY

The graphs below provide our best understanding of when birds of concern are most likely to be present in your project area. This information can be used to tailor and schedule your project activities to avoid or minimize impacts to birds. Please make sure you read "[Supplemental Information on Migratory Birds and Eagles](#)", specifically the FAQ section titled "Proper Interpretation and Use of Your Migratory Bird Report" before using or attempting to interpret this report.

Probability of Presence (■)

Green bars; the bird's relative probability of presence in the 10km grid cell(s) your project overlaps during that week of the year.

Breeding Season (■)

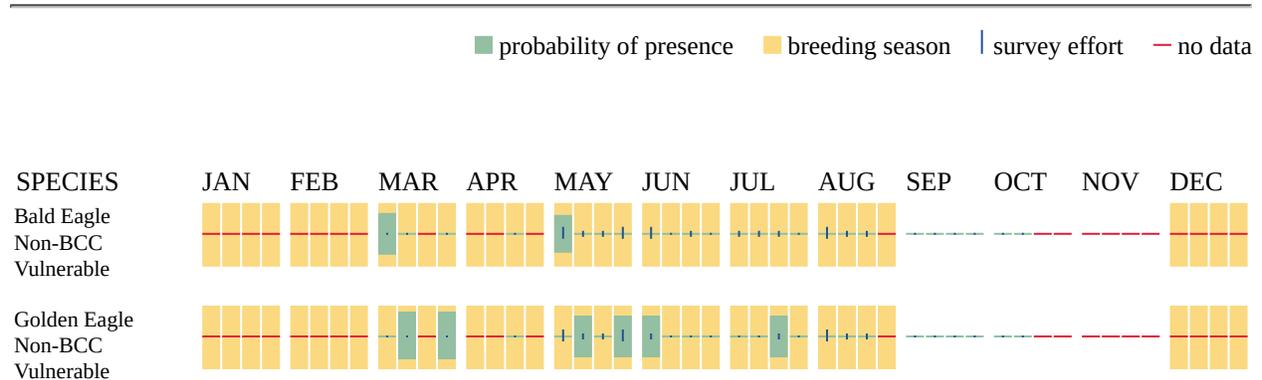
Yellow bars; liberal estimate of the timeframe inside which the bird breeds across its entire range.

Survey Effort (|)

Vertical black lines; the number of surveys performed for that species in the 10km grid cell(s) your project area overlaps.

No Data (-)

A week is marked as having no data if there were no survey events for that week.



Additional information can be found using the following links:

- Eagle Management <https://www.fws.gov/program/eagle-management>
- Measures for avoiding and minimizing impacts to birds <https://www.fws.gov/library/collections/avoiding-and-minimizing-incident-take-migratory-birds>
- Nationwide avoidance and minimization measures for birds <https://www.fws.gov/sites/default/files/documents/nationwide-standard-conservation-measures.pdf>
- Supplemental Information for Migratory Birds and Eagles in IPaC <https://www.fws.gov/media/supplemental-information-migratory-birds-and-bald-and-golden-eagles-may-occur-project-action>

MIGRATORY BIRDS

The Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) ¹ prohibits the take (including killing, capturing, selling, trading, and transport) of protected migratory bird species without prior authorization by the Department of Interior U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service).

1. The [Migratory Birds Treaty Act](#) of 1918.
2. The [Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act](#) of 1940.
3. 50 C.F.R. Sec. 10.12 and 16 U.S.C. Sec. 668(a)

For guidance on when to schedule activities or implement avoidance and minimization measures to reduce impacts to migratory birds on your list, see the "Probability of Presence Summary" below to see when these birds are most likely to be present and breeding in your project area.

NAME	BREEDING SEASON
Bald Eagle <i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i> This is not a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) in this area, but warrants attention because of the Eagle Act or for potential susceptibilities in offshore areas from certain types of development or activities. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1626	Breeds Dec 1 to Aug 31
Broad-tailed Hummingbird <i>Selasphorus platycercus</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/11935	Breeds May 25 to Aug 21
Cassin's Finch <i>Haemorhous cassinii</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9462	Breeds May 15 to Jul 15
Golden Eagle <i>Aquila chrysaetos</i> This is not a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) in this area, but warrants attention because of the Eagle Act or for potential susceptibilities in offshore areas from certain types of development or activities. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1680	Breeds Dec 1 to Aug 31
Olive-sided Flycatcher <i>Contopus cooperi</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/3914	Breeds May 20 to Aug 31

PROBABILITY OF PRESENCE SUMMARY

The graphs below provide our best understanding of when birds of concern are most likely to be present in your project area. This information can be used to tailor and schedule your project activities to avoid or minimize impacts to birds. Please make sure you read "[Supplemental Information on Migratory Birds and Eagles](#)", specifically the FAQ section titled "Proper Interpretation and Use of Your Migratory Bird Report" before using or attempting to interpret this report.

Probability of Presence (■)

Green bars; the bird's relative probability of presence in the 10km grid cell(s) your project overlaps during that week of the year.

Breeding Season (■)

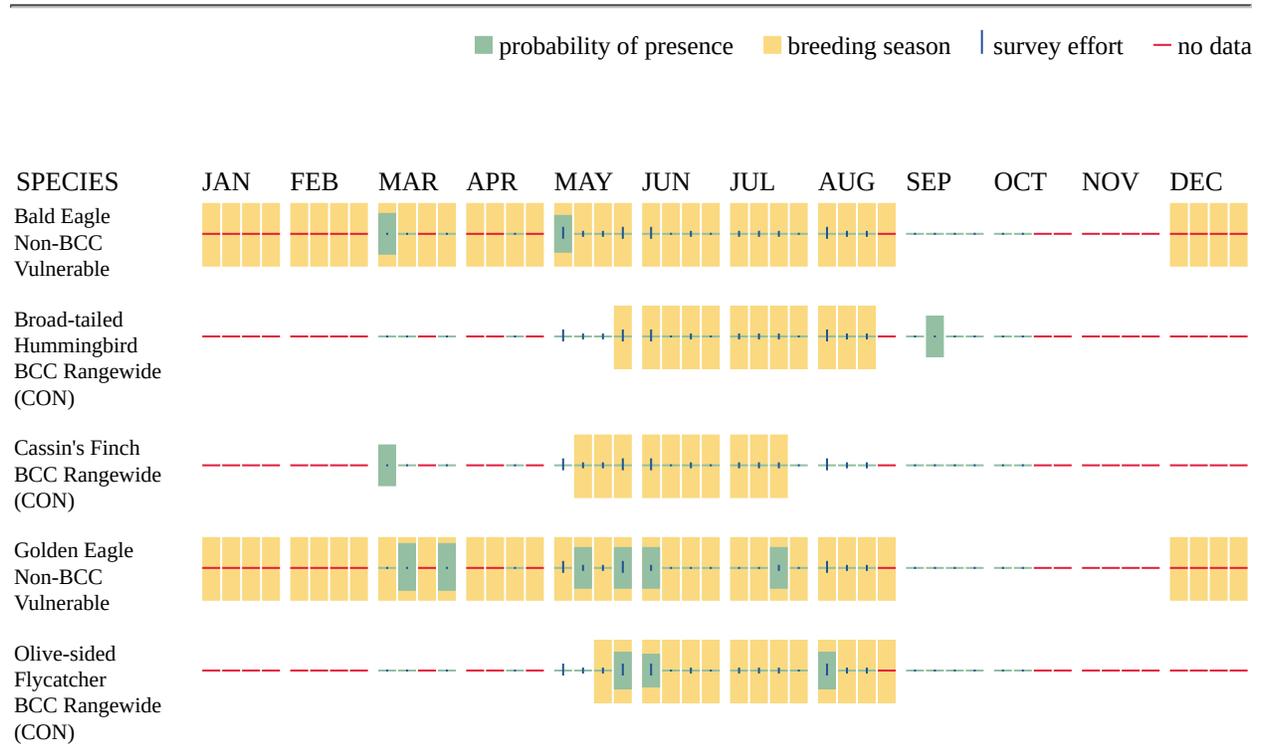
Yellow bars; liberal estimate of the timeframe inside which the bird breeds across its entire range.

Survey Effort (|)

Vertical black lines; the number of surveys performed for that species in the 10km grid cell(s) your project area overlaps.

No Data (-)

A week is marked as having no data if there were no survey events for that week.



Additional information can be found using the following links:

- Eagle Management <https://www.fws.gov/program/eagle-management>
- Measures for avoiding and minimizing impacts to birds <https://www.fws.gov/library/collections/avoiding-and-minimizing-incident-take-migratory-birds>
- Nationwide avoidance and minimization measures for birds
- Supplemental Information for Migratory Birds and Eagles in IPaC <https://www.fws.gov/media/supplemental-information-migratory-birds-and-bald-and-golden-eagles-may-occur-project-action>

WETLANDS

Impacts to [NWI wetlands](#) and other aquatic habitats may be subject to regulation under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, or other State/Federal statutes.

For more information please contact the Regulatory Program of the local [U.S. Army Corps of Engineers District](#).

Please note that the NWI data being shown may be out of date. We are currently working to update our NWI data set. We recommend you verify these results with a site visit to determine the actual extent of wetlands on site.

FRESHWATER EMERGENT WETLAND

- PEM1Ch
- PEM1Ah
- PEM1C

RIVERINE

- R5UBH
- R4SBC
- R3UBH

LAKE

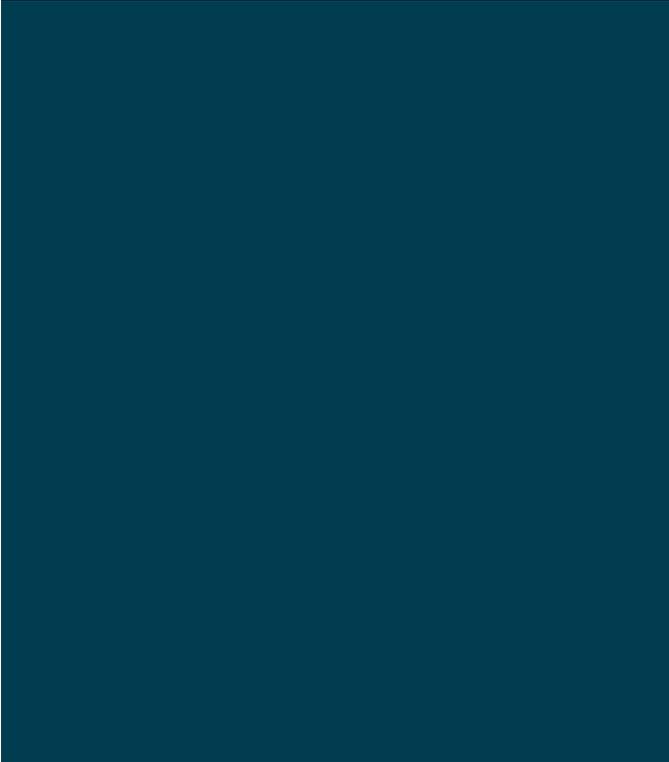
- L2USCh
- L1UBHh

IPAC USER CONTACT INFORMATION

Agency: HDR
Name: Erin Bailey
Address: 1670 Broadway
Address Line 2: Ste 3400
City: Denver
State: CO
Zip: 80202
Email: erin.bailey@hdrinc.com
Phone: 3033194287

LEAD AGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

Lead Agency: Bureau of Reclamation



Appendix C. Cultural Resource Compliance Documentation



United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
Missouri Basin Region
Wyoming Area Office
P.O. Box 1630
Mills, WY 82644-1630

IN REPLY REFER TO:

WY-4301
2.1.1.04

VIA ELECTRONIC UPLOAD ONLY

Ms. Sara Sheen
State Historic Preservation Officer
Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office
2301 Central Avenue
Barrett Building, Third Floor
Cheyenne, Wyoming 82002

Subject: Section 106 Consultation on the LaPrele Dam Reconstruction Project (Wyoming)

Dear Ms. Sheen:

In compliance with Title 36, Code of Federal Regulation, Part 800, that implement Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, and all other laws, regulations and directives that are pertinent to this proposed undertaking, the Bureau of Reclamation Wyoming Area Office is consulting with you regarding the LaPrele Dam Reconstruction Project (Project) in Converse County, Wyoming. In addition, all supporting documentation has been uploaded to WyoTrack (DBI_WY_2024_665 and DBI_WY_2025_430).

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED UNDERTAKING

The LaPrele Irrigation District (District) is proposing reconstruction of the LaPrele Dam in Township 32 North, Range 73 West, Sections 20, 21, 28, 33, and 34, 6th PM. The purpose of the LaPrele Dam reconstruction is to replace the now removed unsafe dam structure and renew storage of senior water rights in LaPrele Reservoir. The proposed Project involves construction of a new dam across LaPrele Creek and includes the following elements: northern access road, southern access road, upper staging area/batch plant, lower staging area/batch plant, potential disposal area, check dam, dam footprint, temporary diversion pipe, valve house road, abutment road, and proposed bridge. Reclamation is the lead agency for 106 due to Reclamation's funding assistance to the District for implementation of the Project.

Previous surveys related to the removal and reconstruction of LaPrele Dam (DBI_WY_2020_619, DBI_WY_2020_766, and DBI_WY_2023_693) cover portions of the current undertakings Area of Potential Effect (APE). In 2024, a survey was done of the proposed southern access route and this report is being submitted at this time: *A Class III Cultural Resource Investigation of the Proposed LaPrele Dam Southern Access Reroute in Converse County, Wyoming* (DBI_WY_2024_665). In 2025, a slight addition was made to the project, a desire to have a batch plant added to the side of the northern access road. HDR surveyed this area and additional discontinuous small areas throughout the current undertaking so there would be a full 100 ft buffer coverage of all proposed project elements, and this is reported in: *A*

Supplementary Class III Cultural Resource Survey for the LaPrele Dam Reconstruction Project, Converse County, Wyoming (DBI_WY_2025_430).

AREA OF POTENTIAL EFFECT

The APE for the Project was determined by placing a 100-foot buffer around the following project elements: northern access road, southern access road, upper staging area/batch plant, lower staging area/batch plant, potential disposal area, check dam, dam footprint, temporary diversion pipe, valve house road, abutment road, and proposed bridge. Between the various surveys there is full coverage of the undertakings APE other than a few acres of extreme slope that could not be surveyed safely – see survey coverage maps in DBI_WY_2025_430. The APE is approximately 149 acres and includes private property and Wyoming State Trust Lands.

SITE ELIGIBILITIES

The following sites in Table 1 are documented in the different reports as being in the project APE.

: Table 1: Documented cultural resources mapped within the project APE

Site Number	Site Type	Description	NRHP Eligibility	Recommendation
48CO845 - LaPrele Dam	Historic	Dam	Eligible (demolished)	None
48CO1789 - LaPrele Irrigation System Historic District	Historic	Irrigation System	Eligible	No Further Work – (Final APE and site boundary do not overlap)
48CO3267	Prehistoric	Lithic Scatter	Not Eligible	No Further Work
48CO3478	Prehistoric	Lithic Scatter	Not Eligible	No Further Work
48CO4159	Historic	Wood Stave Pipe	Not Eligible	No Further Work
48CO4160	Historic	Foundations, Depressions and Historic Artifact Scatter	Not Eligible	No Further Work
48CO4218	Prehistoric	Lithic Scatter	Not Eligible	No Further Work
48CO4219	Unknown	Cairn	Unevaluated	Avoid
48CO4223	Prehistoric	Lithic Scatter	Not Eligible	No Further Work
48CO4229	Historic	Concrete Structure	Not Eligible	No Further Work
48CO4231	Unknown	Cairn	Unevaluated	Avoid
48CO4263	Multicomponent	Lithic scatter, Stone Circles, Artifact Scatter	Eligible	Avoid, Fence
48CO4264	Multicomponent	Lithic Scatter and Stone Circles	Eligible	Avoid, Fence
48CO4265	Prehistoric	Lithic Scatter and Stone Circles	Eligible	Avoid, Fence
48CO4266	Multicomponent	Stone Features	Not Eligible	No Further Work – (Final APE and site boundary do not overlap)
48CO4267	Prehistoric	Lithic Scatter	Eligible	Avoid, Fence (Final APE and site boundary do not overlap)
48CO4268	Prehistoric	Stone Circle	Eligible	Avoid, Fence

Site Number	Site Type	Description	NRHP Eligibility	Recommendation
				(Final APE and site boundary do not overlap)
48CO4277 County Road to Douglas	Historic	Road	Not Eligible	No Further Work
48CO4289	Prehistoric	Lithic Scatter	Not Eligible	No Further Work
48CO4290	Prehistoric	Lithic Scatter	Not Eligible	No Further Work

Report DBI_WY_2024_665 documented sites 48CO4263, 48CO4264, 48CO4265, 48CO4266, 48CO4267, 42CO4268, and 42CO 4277. Reclamation has determined sites 48CO4266 and 48CO4277 are Not Eligible to the National Register of Historic Places, and sites 48CO4263, 48CO4264, 48CO4265, 48CO42667, and 48CO4268 are Eligible. Report DBI_WY_2025_430 documented sites 48CO4218, 48CO4289, and 48CO4290. Reclamation has determined sites 48CO4218, 48CO4289, and 48CO4290 are Not Eligible.

EFFECT DETERMINATION

All proposed activities related to the reconstruction of La Prelle Dam avoid historic properties, other than the designated site boundary of LaPrele Dam 48CO845, which has been demolished. Unevaluated sites 48CO4219 and 48CO4231 will be avoided naturally by topography. Reclamation is requiring avoidance fence be constructed around the following cultural resources: 48CO4263, 48CO4264, 48CO4265, 48CO4267, and 48CO4268 to assure avoidance. These five historic properties are located along the southern access routes to the dam and the fencing will ensure site boundaries are avoided. A qualified archaeologist will supervise the installation of the fences to ensure no cultural materials are disturbed.

If there is an inadvertent discovery of cultural materials, construction around the discovery will be halted and Reclamation will be contacted. The inadvertent discovery of human remains on private and state lands is covered under Wyoming State Law WS-7-4-106.

Reclamation has determined a finding of No Adverse Effect under 36 CFR 800.5(b). We request your concurrence on our determinations of eligibility and effect for this undertaking. We understand no comment from your office within 30 days will constitute concurrence with our determination. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please contact Missouri Basin Regional Archaeologist Kristin Bowen at (970) 403-2832, or by email at KBowen@usbr.gov. If you are deaf, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability, please dial 7-1-1 to access telecommunication relay services.

Sincerely,

LYLE MYLER Digitally signed by LYLE MYLER
Date: 2025.10.14 07:28:10 -06'00'

Lyle D. Myler
Area Manager

Attachment



October 31, 2025

Lyle Myler, Area Manager
 United States Department of the Interior (USDI)
 Bureau of Reclamation (BOR)
 Missouri Basin Region
 Wyoming Area Office
 P.O. Box 1630
 Mills, Wyoming 82644-1630

Re: DBI_WY_2024_665 and DBI_WY_2025_430 Section 106 Consultation on the LaPrele Dam Reconstruction Project, Wyoming

Dear Lyle Myler,

Thank you for consulting with the Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) regarding DBU_WY_2025_1033, DBI_WY_2024_665, and DBI_WY_2025_430. We have reviewed the associated report and find the documentation meets the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Archaeology and Historic Preservation (48 FR 44716-42). We concur with your finding that no historic properties, as defined in 36 CFR § 800.16(l)(1), will be affected by the undertaking as planned.

We concur with your finding that the following sites are not eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) and no further work or protective measures are necessary;

Smithsonian Number	Site Name	Current Eligibility	Effect
CO 3267	-	Not Eligible	No Effect
CO 3478	-	Not Eligible	No Effect
CO 4159	-	Not Eligible	No Effect
CO 4160	-	Not Eligible	No Effect
CO 4218	S-001	Not Eligible	No Effect
CO 4223	-	Not Eligible	No Effect
CO 4229	-	Not Eligible	No Effect
CO 4266	RW-LPS-004	Not Eligible	No Effect
CO 4277	County Road to Douglas	Not Eligible	No Effect
CO 4289	HDR-001	Not Eligible	No Effect
CO 4290	HDR-002	Not Eligible	No Effect

We concur that the following sites are eligible for listing in the NRHP but will not be affected by the undertaking as planned;

Mark Gordon | Governor
 Dave Glenn | Director
 Sara Sheen | SHPO Officer



ARTS. PARKS. HISTORY.
 Wyoming State Parks & Cultural Resources



Smithsonian Number	Site Name	Current Eligibility	Effect
CO 845	LaPrele Dam	Eligible (No Longer Extent)	No Effect
CO 1789	LaPrele Irrigation System Historic District	Eligible	No Effect

We concur that the following sites are eligible for listing in the NRHP but will not be adversely affected by the undertaking as planned;

Smithsonian Number	Site Name	Current Eligibility	Effect
CO 4263	ZD-LPS-001	Eligible	No Adverse Effect
CO 4264	RW-LPS-001	Eligible	No Adverse Effect
CO 4265	RW-LPS-002	Eligible	No Adverse Effect
CO 4267	ZD-LPS-002	Eligible	No Adverse Effect
CO 4268	RW-LPS-003	Eligible	No Adverse Effect

We concur that the following sites are unevaluated for listing in the NRHP but will be avoided by the undertaking as planned and will have no effect;

Smithsonian Number	Site Name	Current Eligibility	Effect
CO 4219	-	Unevaluated	No Effect
CO 4231	-	Unevaluated	No Effect

We recommend the BOR - Mills allow the undertaking to proceed in accordance with state and federal laws subject to the following stipulations: If any cultural materials are discovered during construction, work in the area shall halt immediately, the federal agency must be contacted, and the materials evaluated by an archaeologist or historian meeting the Secretary of the Interior’s Professional Qualification Standards (48 FR 22716, Sept. 1983).

This letter should be retained in your files as documentation of a SHPO concurrence with your finding of no historic properties adversely affected. Please refer to SHPO project DBU_WY_2025_1033, DBI_WY_2024_665, and DBI_WY_2025_430 on any future correspondence regarding this undertaking. If you have any questions, please contact me at 307-777-3424.

Sincerely,

Mark Gordon | Governor
 Dave Glenn | Director
 Sara Sheen | SHPO Officer



ARTS. PARKS. HISTORY.
 Wyoming State Parks & Cultural Resources



Nathan May, Archaeologist

Mark Gordon | *Governor*
Dave Glenn | *Director*
Sara Sheen | *SHPO Officer*



**ARTS. PARKS.
HISTORY.**
Wyoming State Parks & Cultural Resources



United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
Missouri Basin Region
Wyoming Area Office
P.O. Box 1630
Mills, WY 82644-1630

IN REPLY REFER TO:

WY-4301
2.1.1.04

VIA ELECTRONIC UPLOAD ONLY

Ms. Sara Sheen
State Historic Preservation Officer
Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office
2301 Central Avenue
Barrett Building, Third Floor
Cheyenne, Wyoming 82002

Subject: Section 106 Consultation on the LaPrele Dam Reconstruction Project (Wyoming)

Dear Ms. Sheen:

In compliance with Title 36, Code of Federal Regulation, Part 800, that implement Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, and all other laws, regulations and directives that are pertinent to this proposed undertaking, the Bureau of Reclamation Wyoming Area Office is consulting with you regarding the LaPrele Dam Reconstruction Project (Project) in Converse County, Wyoming. In addition, all supporting documentation has been uploaded to WyoTrack (DBI_WY_2024_665 and DBI_WY_2025_430).

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED UNDERTAKING

The LaPrele Irrigation District (District) is proposing reconstruction of the LaPrele Dam in Township 32 North, Range 73 West, Sections 20, 21, 28, 33, and 34, 6th PM. The purpose of the LaPrele Dam reconstruction is to replace the now removed unsafe dam structure and renew storage of senior water rights in LaPrele Reservoir. The proposed Project involves construction of a new dam across LaPrele Creek and includes the following elements: northern access road, southern access road, upper staging area/batch plant, lower staging area/batch plant, potential disposal area, check dam, dam footprint, temporary diversion pipe, valve house road, abutment road, and proposed bridge. Reclamation is the lead agency for 106 due to Reclamation's funding assistance to the District for implementation of the Project.

Previous surveys related to the removal and reconstruction of LaPrele Dam (DBI_WY_2020_619, DBI_WY_2020_766, and DBI_WY_2023_693) cover portions of the current undertakings Area of Potential Effect (APE). In 2024, a survey was done of the proposed southern access route and this report is being submitted at this time: *A Class III Cultural Resource Investigation of the Proposed LaPrele Dam Southern Access Reroute in Converse County, Wyoming* (DBI_WY_2024_665). In 2025, a slight addition was made to the project, a desire to have a batch plant added to the side of the northern access road. HDR surveyed this area and additional discontinuous small areas throughout the current undertaking so there would be a full 100 ft buffer coverage of all proposed project elements, and this is reported in: *A*

Supplementary Class III Cultural Resource Survey for the LaPrele Dam Reconstruction Project, Converse County, Wyoming (DBI_WY_2025_430).

AREA OF POTENTIAL EFFECT

The APE for the Project was determined by placing a 100-foot buffer around the following project elements: northern access road, southern access road, upper staging area/batch plant, lower staging area/batch plant, potential disposal area, check dam, dam footprint, temporary diversion pipe, valve house road, abutment road, and proposed bridge. Between the various surveys there is full coverage of the undertakings APE other than a few acres of extreme slope that could not be surveyed safely – see survey coverage maps in DBI_WY_2025_430. The APE is approximately 149 acres and includes private property and Wyoming State Trust Lands.

SITE ELIGIBILITIES

The following sites in Table 1 are documented in the different reports as being in the project APE.

: Table 1: Documented cultural resources mapped within the project APE

Site Number	Site Type	Description	NRHP Eligibility	Recommendation
48CO845 - LaPrele Dam	Historic	Dam	Eligible (demolished)	None
48CO1789 - LaPrele Irrigation System Historic District	Historic	Irrigation System	Eligible	No Further Work – (Final APE and site boundary do not overlap)
48CO3267	Prehistoric	Lithic Scatter	Not Eligible	No Further Work
48CO3478	Prehistoric	Lithic Scatter	Not Eligible	No Further Work
48CO4159	Historic	Wood Stave Pipe	Not Eligible	No Further Work
48CO4160	Historic	Foundations, Depressions and Historic Artifact Scatter	Not Eligible	No Further Work
48CO4218	Prehistoric	Lithic Scatter	Not Eligible	No Further Work
48CO4219	Unknown	Cairn	Unevaluated	Avoid
48CO4223	Prehistoric	Lithic Scatter	Not Eligible	No Further Work
48CO4229	Historic	Concrete Structure	Not Eligible	No Further Work
48CO4231	Unknown	Cairn	Unevaluated	Avoid
48CO4263	Multicomponent	Lithic scatter, Stone Circles, Artifact Scatter	Eligible	Avoid, Fence
48CO4264	Multicomponent	Lithic Scatter and Stone Circles	Eligible	Avoid, Fence
48CO4265	Prehistoric	Lithic Scatter and Stone Circles	Eligible	Avoid, Fence
48CO4266	Multicomponent	Stone Features	Not Eligible	No Further Work – (Final APE and site boundary do not overlap)
48CO4267	Prehistoric	Lithic Scatter	Eligible	Avoid, Fence (Final APE and site boundary do not overlap)
48CO4268	Prehistoric	Stone Circle	Eligible	Avoid, Fence

Site Number	Site Type	Description	NRHP Eligibility	Recommendation
				(Final APE and site boundary do not overlap)
48CO4277 County Road to Douglas	Historic	Road	Not Eligible	No Further Work
48CO4289	Prehistoric	Lithic Scatter	Not Eligible	No Further Work
48CO4290	Prehistoric	Lithic Scatter	Not Eligible	No Further Work

Report DBI_WY_2024_665 documented sites 48CO4263, 48CO4264, 48CO4265, 48CO4266, 48CO4267, 42CO4268, and 42CO 4277. Reclamation has determined sites 48CO4266 and 48CO4277 are Not Eligible to the National Register of Historic Places, and sites 48CO4263, 48CO4264, 48CO4265, 48CO42667, and 48CO4268 are Eligible. Report DBI_WY_2025_430 documented sites 48CO4218, 48CO4289, and 48CO4290. Reclamation has determined sites 48CO4218, 48CO4289, and 48CO4290 are Not Eligible.

EFFECT DETERMINATION

All proposed activities related to the reconstruction of La Prelle Dam avoid historic properties, other than the designated site boundary of LaPrele Dam 48CO845, which has been demolished. Unevaluated sites 48CO4219 and 48CO4231 will be avoided naturally by topography. Reclamation is requiring avoidance fence be constructed around the following cultural resources: 48CO4263, 48CO4264, 48CO4265, 48CO4267, and 48CO4268 to assure avoidance. These five historic properties are located along the southern access routes to the dam and the fencing will ensure site boundaries are avoided. A qualified archaeologist will supervise the installation of the fences to ensure no cultural materials are disturbed.

If there is an inadvertent discovery of cultural materials, construction around the discovery will be halted and Reclamation will be contacted. The inadvertent discovery of human remains on private and state lands is covered under Wyoming State Law WS-7-4-106.

Reclamation has determined a finding of No Adverse Effect under 36 CFR 800.5(b). We request your concurrence on our determinations of eligibility and effect for this undertaking. We understand no comment from your office within 30 days will constitute concurrence with our determination. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please contact Missouri Basin Regional Archaeologist Kristin Bowen at (970) 403-2832, or by email at KBowen@usbr.gov. If you are deaf, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability, please dial 7-1-1 to access telecommunication relay services.

Sincerely,

LYLE MYLER Digitally signed by LYLE MYLER
Date: 2025.10.14 07:28:10 -06'00'

Lyle D. Myler
Area Manager

Attachment



October 31, 2025

Lyle Myler, Area Manager
 United States Department of the Interior (USDI)
 Bureau of Reclamation (BOR)
 Missouri Basin Region
 Wyoming Area Office
 P.O. Box 1630
 Mills, Wyoming 82644-1630

Re: DBI_WY_2024_665 and DBI_WY_2025_430 Section 106 Consultation on the LaPrele Dam Reconstruction Project, Wyoming

Dear Lyle Myler,

Thank you for consulting with the Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) regarding DBU_WY_2025_1033, DBI_WY_2024_665, and DBI_WY_2025_430. We have reviewed the associated report and find the documentation meets the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Archaeology and Historic Preservation (48 FR 44716-42). We concur with your finding that no historic properties, as defined in 36 CFR § 800.16(l)(1), will be affected by the undertaking as planned.

We concur with your finding that the following sites are not eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) and no further work or protective measures are necessary;

Smithsonian Number	Site Name	Current Eligibility	Effect
CO 3267	-	Not Eligible	No Effect
CO 3478	-	Not Eligible	No Effect
CO 4159	-	Not Eligible	No Effect
CO 4160	-	Not Eligible	No Effect
CO 4218	S-001	Not Eligible	No Effect
CO 4223	-	Not Eligible	No Effect
CO 4229	-	Not Eligible	No Effect
CO 4266	RW-LPS-004	Not Eligible	No Effect
CO 4277	County Road to Douglas	Not Eligible	No Effect
CO 4289	HDR-001	Not Eligible	No Effect
CO 4290	HDR-002	Not Eligible	No Effect

We concur that the following sites are eligible for listing in the NRHP but will not be affected by the undertaking as planned;

Mark Gordon | Governor
 Dave Glenn | Director
 Sara Sheen | SHPO Officer



ARTS. PARKS. HISTORY.
 Wyoming State Parks & Cultural Resources



Smithsonian Number	Site Name	Current Eligibility	Effect
CO 845	LaPrele Dam	Eligible (No Longer Extent)	No Effect
CO 1789	LaPrele Irrigation System Historic District	Eligible	No Effect

We concur that the following sites are eligible for listing in the NRHP but will not be adversely affected by the undertaking as planned;

Smithsonian Number	Site Name	Current Eligibility	Effect
CO 4263	ZD-LPS-001	Eligible	No Adverse Effect
CO 4264	RW-LPS-001	Eligible	No Adverse Effect
CO 4265	RW-LPS-002	Eligible	No Adverse Effect
CO 4267	ZD-LPS-002	Eligible	No Adverse Effect
CO 4268	RW-LPS-003	Eligible	No Adverse Effect

We concur that the following sites are unevaluated for listing in the NRHP but will be avoided by the undertaking as planned and will have no effect;

Smithsonian Number	Site Name	Current Eligibility	Effect
CO 4219	-	Unevaluated	No Effect
CO 4231	-	Unevaluated	No Effect

We recommend the BOR - Mills allow the undertaking to proceed in accordance with state and federal laws subject to the following stipulations: If any cultural materials are discovered during construction, work in the area shall halt immediately, the federal agency must be contacted, and the materials evaluated by an archaeologist or historian meeting the Secretary of the Interior’s Professional Qualification Standards (48 FR 22716, Sept. 1983).

This letter should be retained in your files as documentation of a SHPO concurrence with your finding of no historic properties adversely affected. Please refer to SHPO project DBU_WY_2025_1033, DBI_WY_2024_665, and DBI_WY_2025_430 on any future correspondence regarding this undertaking. If you have any questions, please contact me at 307-777-3424.

Sincerely,

Mark Gordon | Governor
 Dave Glenn | Director
 Sara Sheen | SHPO Officer



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 Wyoming State Parks & Cultural Resources



Nathan May, Archaeologist

Mark Gordon | *Governor*
Dave Glenn | *Director*
Sara Sheen | *SHPO Officer*



**ARTS. PARKS.
HISTORY.**
Wyoming State Parks & Cultural Resources

From: Bowen, Kristin L <kbowen@usbr.gov>
Sent: Monday, December 1, 2025 10:32 AM
To: Johnston, Stacey A <SJohnston@usbr.gov>; Johnson, Bradley <Bradley.johnson@hdrinc.com>;
Wright, Shain L <slwright@usbr.gov>
Subject: Fw: [EXTERNAL] LaPrele Dam Reconstruction Consultation Initiation

CAUTION: [EXTERNAL] This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

This concurrence with no adverse effect came in from the Northern Cheyenne last week

Kristin Bowen, M.A., RPA
Regional Archaeologist
Bureau of Reclamation
Missouri Basin and Arkansas-Rio Grande-Texas Gulf Regions
2021 4th Ave. N.
Billings, MT 59101
970-403-2832 (cell)
406-247-7751 (office)

From: gary.lafranier@cheyennenation.com <gary.lafranier@cheyennenation.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 25, 2025 1:49 PM
To: Bowen, Kristin L <kbowen@usbr.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] LaPrele Dam Reconstruction Consultation Initiation

This email has been received from outside of DOI - Use caution before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding.

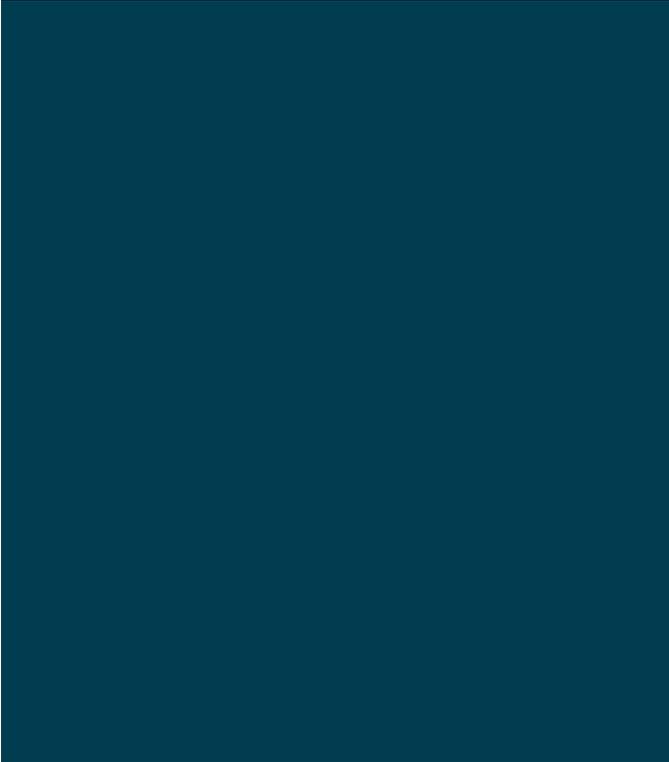
Good Afternoon,

Northern Cheyenne concurs with findings of No Adverse Effect.

Thank You,

Gary LaFranier

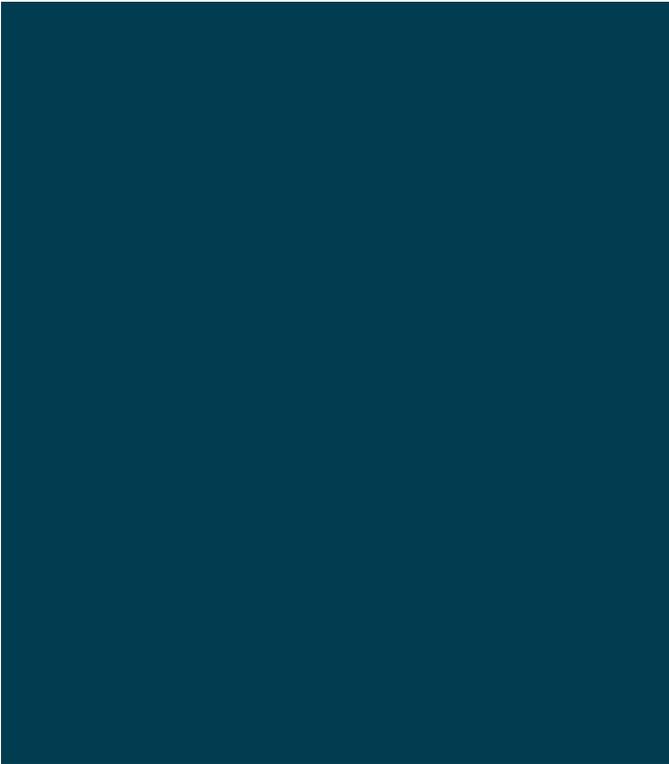
106/NAGPRA Coordinator
(406) 477-8113
Lame Deer, MT. 59043



Appendix D. Equipment List

	General Construction	Batch Plants/Staging
Excavator - Caterpillar 320E L	x	
Excavator - Komatsu PC360LC-11	x	
Excavator - Deere 85G	x	
Excavator - Komatsu PC210LCI-11	x	
Excavator - Komatsu PC490LCI-11	x	
Excavator - Komatsu PC490LCI-11	x	
Excavator - Komatsu PC800LC-8	x	
Crawler Dozer - Caterpillar D8R	x	
Crawler Dozer - Deere 750K XLT	x	
Crawler Dozer - Komatsu D71EXI-24	x	
Crawler Dozer - Deere 872G	x	
Skid Steer - Caterpillar 289D3	x	
Wheel Loader - Deere 644J	x	x
Wheel Loader - Deere 644 P-TIER	x	x
Wheel Loader - Deere 824 P-TIER	x	
Wheel Loader - Deere 744k	x	
Wheel Loader - Caterpillar 966k	x	
Off-Road Haul Trucks - Articulated Rear Dump - Caterpillar D250E	x	
Off-Road Haul Trucks - Articulated Rear Dump - Caterpillar 725	x	
Off-Road Haul Trucks - Articulated Rear Dump - Deere 460E	x	
Off-Road Haul Trucks - Articulated Rear Dump - Deere 460E	x	
Off-Road Haul Trucks - Crawler Rotate Rear Dump - Prinoth T14R	x	
Concrete Mixer Truck - Kenworth W900	x	
Concrete Mixer Truck - Kenworth W900	x	
Concrete Mixer Truck - Kenworth W900	x	
Telebelt Truck Mount - Putzmeister BSF32.15H	x	
Cranes & Lifts - Telescoping RT Lift JLG 534D9-45	x	
Cranes & Lifts - Telescoping RT Lift Gehl DL11-55	x	
Cranes & Lifts - RT Hydraulic Cranes Terex RT780	x	
250t Crane	x	
Larger Generator Set - Caterpillar XQ100	x	
Single Vibratory Compactor - Hamm H16l	x	
Conveyor Delivery System	x	
Grout Mixer	x	

Rock Drill Rig and Grout Plant	X	
Dewatering Pumps	X	
On road haul trucks	X	
Water Truck	X	
Mobile Air Compressors	X	
Mini Excavator	X	
Manlift	X	
Office Trailers		X
Larger Generator Set - Caterpillar XQ200		X
Conventional Concrete Mobile Batch Plant		X
Storage Connexs		X
RCC Twin Shaft Batch Plant		X



Appendix E. Clean Water Act Section 404(b)(1) Considerations

Clean Water Act Section 404(b)(1) Considerations

This appendix has been prepared to address, in part, to comments received by the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers (USACE), a Cooperating Agency for the EA. The narrative below addresses briefly many of the considerations related to the public interest review under 33 CFR Part 320.4. This narrative supports USACE's practicable alternatives review. USACE will need to permit the least environmentally damaging practicable alternative(LEDPA). Based on a review of the No Action Alternative, Proposed Action and consideration of practicable alternatives under Section 404(b)(1), the Proposed Action is likely the LEDPA.

Wetlands

Potential impacts to wetlands are assessed as a component of the aquatic resources analysis in section 3.4 of the EA. There are anticipated to be direct impacts to wetlands that are anticipated to require mitigation to offset the losses.

Water Supply and Conservation

Water supply on LaPrele Creek and downstream to the North Platte River is partially addressed in EA section 3.2: Water Rights and Use.

Property Ownership

Outside of the property rights held through water right and that are addressed in EA section 3.2 impacts to property ownership is not anticipated. Easements and rights-of-way for both public and private lands have been obtained to allow for access and specific construction activities, specifically road building and upgrades and the establishment of staging areas.

Land Uses

The majority of irrigated agricultural along LaPrele Creek produces alfalfa hay. It is anticipated that without access to irrigation water that agricultural production will shift from current production values to dryland grazing with short and long-term economic impacts to the local and regional economy.

Recreation

Impacts related to recreation are addressed in EA section 3.9: Public Recreation. Currently, as a result of land ownership, there is no public recreation as a component of the project. The Wyoming Governor communicated to the Wyoming Legislature that he would direct the Office of State Lands and Investment to investigate future opportunities for recreation related to the project. Those efforts would occur outside the current NEPA analysis.

Transportation

Transportation impacts as a result of the project are partially addressed in EA section 3.6: Access, Transportation, and Safety.

Food and Fiber Production

Food and fiber consideration are in part considered in EA section 3.17 Socioeconomics. The majority of irrigated agricultural along LaPrele Creek produces alfalfa hay. It is anticipated that in the continued absence of access to stored agricultural water that grazing will replace irrigated agricultural with both short-term and long-term economic impacts.

Energy Needs

It is not anticipated that the reconstruction of LaPrele Dam will have any impacts on energy needs. The dam will not provide hydropower and will require energy needs for its operations similar to the energy required to power the facility before the decommissioning of the former LaPrele Dam.

Mineral Needs

The project is not anticipated to have any impacts on mineral needs beyond the utilization of aggregate material necessary for the construction of the proposed dam, road improvements, and staging areas, were necessary.

Fish and Wildlife Resources

Fish and wildlife resource are addressed in EA section 3.13: Wildlife Resources and section 3.4: Aquatic resources. The EA has also integrated comments received from the Wyoming Game and Fish Department into the document.

Cultural Resources

Cultural resources are addressed in EA section 3.15: Cultural Resources.

Water Quality

Water quality is addressed in EA Section 3.3: Water Quality.

Floodplains

Potential impacts to the floodplain downstream of LaPrele Dam were considered during the decommissioning of the dam in a technical memo related to creek geomorphology (HDR 2024). The memo reviewed potential impacts related to both erosion and sedimentation following the decommissioning of LaPrele Dam.

Flood Hazards

Flood hazards have been considered insofar as they are articulated in the HDR (2024) technical memo on LaPrele Creek Geomorphology that reviews flood events at the 2, 10, and 20-year interval. It is anticipated that a rebuilt LaPrele will serve to attenuate flood events within LaPrele Creek as the now decommissioned dam did for more than one century.

Stream Channel Stability

In the HDR (2024) technical memo on geomorphology prepared for the decommissioning of LaPrele Dam a handful of flood events and their potential impacts were modeled. These include 2, 10, and 20-year floods. Figures 8-11 of the memo depict flood depths associated with each of the flood events, additional narrative related to low and high energy reaches accompanies the figures.

Conservation

The purpose and need for the proposed project does not encompass the conservation of aquatic or terrestrial resources. No comments related to conservation have been received from Cooperating Agencies on the project.

Economics

The majority of irrigated agricultural along LaPrele Creek produces alfalfa hay. It is anticipated that in the continued absence of access to stored agricultural water that grazing will replace irrigated agricultural with both short-term and long-term economic impacts to the local and regional economy.

Aesthetic

Aesthetics are considered in the EA section 3.8 Visual Resources.

Public Safety

Partially addressed in EA section 3.6: Access, Transportation, and Safety

Historic Properties

The LaPrele Dam reconstruction study area has been fully surveyed for cultural resources and Reclamation is completing the Section 106 process. Five historic properties were identified in the study area along the proposed southern access road and include the following: 48CO4263, 48CO4264, 48CO4265, 48CO4267, and 48CO4268. All five historic properties are precontact sites that are eligible for inclusion in the NRHP. None of these historic properties are within the proposed limits of disturbance or other proposed project elements and will be further avoided using fencing. The proposed project will have “no adverse effects” on historic properties.

Indian Tribes and Treaties

During the Section 106 process, the Bureau of Reclamation has consulted with the following Tribes and state agencies:

- Blackfeet Nation
- Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes, Oklahoma
- Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe of the Cheyenne River Reservation, South Dakota
- Chippewa Cree Tribe of the Rocky Boy's Reservation
- Comanche Nation, Oklahoma
- Crow Creek Sioux Tribe of the Crow Creek Reservation, South Dakota
- Crow Tribe of Montana
- Eastern Shoshone Tribe of the Wind River Reservation
- Fort Belknap Indian Community of the Fort Belknap Reservation of Montana

- Fort Peck Assinboine and Sioux Tribes
- Northern Arapaho Tribe of the Wind River Reservation
- Northern Cheyenne Tribe of the Northern Cheyenne Indian Reservation, Montana
- Oglala Sioux Tribe
- Rosebud Sioux Tribe of the Rosebud Indian Reservation, South Dakota
- Santee Sioux Nation, Nebraska
- Standing Rock Sioux Tribe of North & South Dakota
- Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office
- State of Wyoming Archaeologist

In 1851 most of the southeast corner of Wyoming, including lands in the vicinity of the project, was ceded to the United States government in the Treaty of Fort Laramie with Sioux, Cheyenne, Arapaho, Crow, Assiniboin, Gros Ventre, Mandan and Arikara, signed September 17, 1851. The lands in the vicinity of the project were also ceded in the 1861 Fort Wise Treaty with the Arapaho and Cheyenne, signed February 18, 1861, and the 1865 Revised Treaty of Fort Laramie with Sioux, Cheyenne, Arapaho, Crow, Assiniboin, Gros Ventre, Mandan and Arikara, signed November 14, 1865.