Finding of No Significant Impact

Final Environmental Assessment

Rainey Park Stream Restoration and Wetland Creation Project

Bannock County, Idaho

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation
Columbia-Pacific Northwest Region
Snake River Area Office

CPN FONSI # 2025-7

Introduction

The Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) has prepared this Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) to comply with the Council on Environmental Quality regulations[1] for implementing procedural provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act. This document briefly describes the Proposed Action, other alternatives considered, the scoping process, Reclamation's consultation and coordination activities, and Reclamation's finding. The Final Environmental Assessment (EA) fully documents the analyses of the potential environmental effects of implementing the changes proposed.

Location and Background

The proposed project is on the Portneuf River, a 124-mile-long tributary to the Snake River that flows through the city of Pocatello in southeastern Idaho. The entire Portneuf watershed drains

[1] Executive Order 14154, *Unleashing American Energy* (Jan. 20, 2025), and a Presidential Memorandum, *Ending Illegal Discrimination and Restoring Merit-Based Opportunity* (Jan. 21, 2025), require the Department to strictly adhere to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), 42 U.S.C. §§ 4321 et seq. Further, such Order and Memorandum repeal Executive Orders 12898 (Feb. 11, 1994) and 14096 (Apr. 21, 2023). Because Executive Orders 12898 and 14096 have been repealed, complying with such Orders is a legal impossibility. Reclamation verifies that it has complied with the requirements of NEPA, including the Department's regulations and procedures implementing NEPA at 43 C.F.R. Part 46 and Part 516 of the Departmental Manual, consistent with the President's January 2025 Order and Memorandum. Reclamation has also voluntarily considered the Council on Environmental Quality's rescinded regulations implementing NEPA, previously found at 40 C.F.R. Parts 1500–1508, as guidance to the extent appropriate and consistent with the requirements of NEPA and Executive Order 14154.

850,290 acres (3,441.0 km^2) in southeastern Idaho and is bounded by Malad Summit to the south, the Bannock Range to the west, the Portneuf Range to the southeast, and the Chesterfield Range to the northeast. Marsh Creek is the only major tributary to the Portneuf River. The proposed project is located within the Portneuf River Flood Risk Reduction Project (FRRP), a federally constructed project authorized under the Columbia River Basin Plan by the Flood Control Act of 1950. Constructed between 1967-1968, the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) straightened the Portneuf River and contained it within levees on both banks. The levees run 4.6 miles on both sides of the river and end just north of the proposed project area where a 1.6-mile concrete channel runs north from the river. Development of the FRRP reduced natural stream function and aquatic habitat, including wetlands. The FRRP is operated and maintained by the City of Pocatello, which is currently the local sponsor of the proposed project. The proposed project area is all on public land and sits between two public city parks in Pocatello, Centennial Park to the southwest and Rainey Park to the northeast. The project area is surrounded by mainly residential area as well as a local charter school.

Centennial Park currently consists of large grassy fields with a playground, covered pavilion, restrooms and benches. Rainey Park consists mainly of an unused grass ballfield that sits on the north end of the park. These parks serve as a final take-out spot for a well-known three-mile floating stretch of the Portneuf River.

This proposed project is part of a larger Portneuf River Vision Study that was developed in 2016 by the City of Pocatello and USACE. The study includes a wide range of environmental goals to rehabilitate the Portneuf River ecosystem including improving hydrologic functions by increasing floodplain, wetland, and riparian habitat areas, as well as improving water quality.

Purpose and Need

Reclamation's purpose and need for the proposed action is to fulfill the WaterSMART grant allowing the City of Pocatello to perform a river restoration and wetland creation project. The health of the Portneuf River has been altered by these flood protection levees and concrete channels which reduced floodplains and aquatic habitats including wetlands. The WaterSMART grant project would improve urban river health and access by creating a wetland with a side channel making needed habitat for invertebrates, amphibians, bird, fish and small mammals, as well as a storm water pond to capture sediment.

Alternatives Considered

The range of alternatives developed for analysis of this Proposed Action was based on the purpose and need for the project, and on the issues raised during internal, external, and Tribal scoping. The alternatives analyzed include a No Action alternative (Alternative A) and the Proposed Action (Alternative B). The No Action alternative does not meet the defined purpose and need for action but was evaluated because it provides an appropriate baseline.

Summary of Environmental Effects

The following summarizes the effects that the preferred alternative – the Proposed Action (Alternative B) – would have on each resource category analyzed in the EA. Chapter 3 of the EA provides a full analysis and explanation of how each resource was evaluated.

Hydrology

The resulting water surface elevations at the project site would be similar to the pre-project water surface elevations. When high-flow events pass through the project reach, water surface elevations may be marginally lower, but not significantly lower due to the river downstream with existing levee alignment downstream. At low-flow conditions, some minor sedimentation may occur, which would help meet the desired outcome of the project to rehabilitate the Portneuf River ecosystem. Subsequent high flows would clean out deposited sediment.

Combined Effects

In combination with other actions in the vicinity of the project area (discussed in Section 2.6 of the Final EA), the Proposed Action would further maximize the overall restoration of hydrologic functions in this reach of the Portneuf River and improve flood risk management capability. The Proposed Action, additive to other actions considered for combined effects, would beneficially contribute to the overall long-term effectiveness of restoration activities in this reach of the Portneuf River.

Water Quality

Proposed actions potentially affecting water quality are adjustment to the levee, wetland creation, and stormwater pond creation. Effects from these actions are separated into "Construction" and "Post Construction" effects and are described below. It is assumed that the City of Pocatello would have all necessary permits, such as 404 Dredge and Fill permit from USACE, 401 Certification from Idaho Department of Environmental Quality, Stream Channel Alteration permit from Idaho Department of Water Resources, and any other required permits before construction is initiated.

Construction Effects

Coffer Dam: Coffer dam construction and use in the Portneuf River would likely contribute to initial turbidity and sediment increases. These would be short-term in duration, but depending on river flow, could approach turbidity standards of 50 Nephelometric Turbidity Units above background levels. The higher the flows, the more diluted the turbidity impacts would be. The proposed use of a floating silk curtain would aid in preventing direct erosional effects from the river and riverbank runoff, reducing sedimentation and turbidity and should sustain water quality standards. Additionally, the proposed use of biodegradable erosion control fabric on the side channels would also control streambank erosion until riparian/wetland vegetation is established. Excavation and transport of topsoil is unlikely to affect sedimentation because the soils would likely be moist and not likely to create fugitive dust during transport.

Stormwater Pond, River Access, and Bike Path: Other proposed construction projects that could affect water quality include creation of the stormwater pond, a river access point, and a walking/biking trail with associated bridge and boardwalk over the proposed wetland. Stormwater pond construction poses no direct affects to water quality, mostly due to its distance (approximately 650 feet away from the river). There could be a possibility of fugitive dust blowing into and settling in the river during excavation, but with the proper Best Management Practices (BMPs) such as wetting the soils during construction would minimize this issue.

Construction of the river access could introduce and disturb sediment in the river and increase turbidity. This disturbance would be short-term, likely only occurring during the access construction, and any sediment/turbidity would dissipate quickly with river flow. BMPs like erosion barriers would be used to prevent sediments from inadvertently eroding into to river from the surrounding area.

Biking/walking path construction should pose little risk to water quality because it is a distance from the river. Like the stormwater pond construction, there could be a possibility of fugitive dust blowing into and settling in the river during excavation, but with the proper BMPs such as wetting the soils during construction would minimize this issue.

Staging Areas: The entire proposed project area can be used for equipment and material staging. The closer equipment and or material is placed near the river, the higher the likelihood to introduce sediments and other contaminates such as oil, grease, hydraulic fluid, and fuel. Standard operations near water requires contaminant containment usually for fuel, but also could oil, grease, and hydraulic fluid. Also, due to the extent of bare soil from active construction in the staging areas, excess sediment could enter the river either by fugitive dust or by runoff from a storm event. The area would need some sort of dust abatement plan and stormwater pollution prevention plan (SWPPP), which are typically required before construction can begin. These plans identify specific BMPs such as periodically wetting the surface soils to prevent fugitive dust and sediment barriers to prevent runoff from rain events to flow into the river. These actions are specific to the site and construction techniques to protect the adjacent water quality. Minor if any effects to Portneuf River water quality are expected due to these actions.

Post-Construction Effects

River and wetland restoration would have long-term beneficial effects for Portneuf River water quality. The newly constructed gravel-cobble gradation in the river along with the riprap strategically placed in areas of high velocity would decrease channel erosion within that area. Restoration of one acre of wetland with willow plantings and emergent wetland seedings would also improve several water quality parameters. The riparian/wetland plantings would hold the soil together through their extensive root systems, increasing riverbank and wetland stability at high flows and shading the river; this would decrease sedimentation, erosion, and overall water temperatures should improve.

The biking/walking trail would be paved with asphalt, which could contribute oil/petroleum to the river and or wetland. However, the bufferstrip of vegetation between the path and the river/wetland would prevent any path contaminants flowing into the respective waterbodies.

Stormwater pond purpose is to direct sediment laden runoff from 450 acres of City streets and infiltrate it underground. Currently, a 48-inch stormwater pipe discharges this runoff directly into the Portneuf River. This pond would directly decrease contaminants such as sediments, oil and petroleum, and other local chemicals from being discharged into the river.

Water quality effects would include an overall decrease in sediment load from surrounding riverbanks, decreases in other contaminants such as oil, petroleum products, increased/improved aquatic habitat, and lowered water temperatures due to shading from the riparian vegetation. These effects are in line with moving towards meeting the TMDLs in the Portneuf River.

Combined Effects

Future projects that could have combined effects with this proposed project's water quality effects are: the Community Change S. 5th Complete Streets and Sewering, 1st Street stormwater, and the Portneuf River Oxbow project. Other future projects identified in Chapter 2 would likely not have combined water quality effects with the proposed project.

- Community Change S. 5th Complete Streets and Sewering is a continuation of this project that includes parking lot and park improvements just as tree, shrub, and grass planting. Water quality effects from this project include possible short-term sediment/turbidity in the river due to construction either through fugitive dust or direct erosion into the river. This could be additive to the proposed construction activities (Alternative B) if actual construction occurs at the same time, and conversely, effects are not additive if construction doesn't occur at the same time. The same BMPs would likely be used such as wetting the soils and having a SWPPP would minimize water quality effects. In the long term, effects from this project post-construction when combined with post-construction effects of the proposed action would benefit water quality by creating more green areas that could act as bufferstrips preventing direct flows into the river and directing stormwater drainage so that it doesn't flow directly into the river. These effects would contribute to improving the Portneuf River water quality and move towards meeting established Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs).

- 1st Street Stormwater project includes the replacement/addition of stormwater line from 1st Avenue from Center south to Halliday Street. The construction effects to water quality would be the same as those identified for the proposed stormwater pond detailed above. No combined construction effects to water quality are expected. Post-construction effects of this project and Alternative B effects combined would be beneficial to water quality. Upgrading and adding stormwater drainage so that it doesn't flow directly into the river would be an additive effect to preventing contaminants such as oil, petroleum products, and household chemicals. These effects would contribute to improving the Portneuf River water quality and move towards meeting established TMDLs.

- Portneuf River Oxbow project purpose is to reactivate a section of the Portneuf River's historic floodplain, capture excess silt in the river, restore wetlands in the Portneuf River valley at the south end of the City of Pocatello, and recharge the Lower Portneuf Valley Aquifer. The water quality effects, when combined with the proposed Alternative B water

quality effects would be beneficial to the river water quality. Specifically, combined effects of removing sediment and silt along with other contaminants that can be trapped in the wetland would contribute to improving the Portneuf River water quality and move towards meeting established TMDLs.

Public Safety and Property

Under Alternative B, Reclamation would fulfill a WaterSmart grant to the City of Pocatello to perform a river restoration and wetland creation project at the proposed project site. This action, by federal requirement, must maintain a similar or greater level of protection and not impair the usefulness of the FRRP. Operation and Maintenance plans would need to be updated to account for the change in condition. Construction would need to be timed to low water seasons to reduce risk of flooding during until the new levee segments are complete.

Recreation

Under the proposed alternative, effects of this project would be noticeable in both the short, medium, and long-term. Construction of the project would, in the short term, affect the accessibility of the project area for those wishing to recreate there, and those who use the parking area to access the Greenway. Construction equipment and parking limitations may impact parking availability for the charter school if recreators still wish to access the Greenway there. This affect should be minimal if the project area and access to the Greenway is closed to the public during construction. The presence of other access points upstream for the Greenway may see higher recreational use, but due to several access points this effect should be manageable. Closures of the area for public safety would be needed, and closures after construction may be needed to protect any planted vegetation from disturbance that may inhibit growth. With the nature of the area and its current use, these closures would likely have a minimal impact on the public's use of the area. However, the removal of the ball field would directly affect those that use the field. Those who use the field for sporting activity would be displaced to find fields elsewhere, such as Ross Park that is upstream, which may place more demand on other parks' use, and scheduling constraints.

Disturbance and removal of materials for the creation of the side channel would likely involve temporarily introducing some amount of excess sediment into downstream flows, but this should have minimal, or no impact on any recreation that may occur downstream due to the long stretch of restricted river access for recreators. After construction of the side channel and the creation of the riparian area, if the parking area is to be completed at a later stage, recreation may be limited to any available parking areas along Terry, Arthur, and Putnam Street. Care should be taken to examine what the impact may be to the area if the parking lot for Rainy Park would be completed later of the park itself.

In the medium to long-term, the project's overall impact to recreation and recreation opportunities would most likely be positive in almost every regard. Introduction of a restored area of riparian habitat that the public can access easily would create many opportunities for recreators, and the local population who live adjacent to the project area. The general population would have the opportunity to be involved in recreation activities such as fishing, wild-life viewing, sight-seeing, floating, etc.

Long-term effects and impact to recreation from the project would be beneficial to recreators who use the area, as well as the community as recreational use of the park grows. Long-term effects and demand on the area's amenities may include a desire to utilize the storm-water pond as a small fishery, and the partners may need to strictly label the pond as a storm-water pond to avoid public confusion on the pond's existence, and its important purpose of diverting city runoff water into the ground, versus the river itself. Maintenance of the amenities at Rainy Park would require continual management by the city, which is well equipped to maintain. Overall, long-term effects on recreation are likely very positive.

Combined Impacts

Total combined impacts of this alternative are broad as the alternative's goals seek to continually improve the ecological, environmental, recreational, and overall quality of the Portneuf River Watershed. The project's physical footprint, small as it relates to the total watershed, would likely have a positive impact that could affect water quality downstream, as well as possibly enhancing fisheries that extend to the Fort Hall bottoms. This impact, over the long term, would have a combined impact that likely positively enhances the ecological health of the watershed, which would accentuate recreators' interest in the river and watershed as a whole. Combined impacts of this alternative as it relates to recreation that would occur within the park itself are also broad and include many tertiary effects. These effects include the public's perception and sense of community that would be improved from the local investment in the park, the use that the park would receive from recreators, and the enhancement of natural features that would be restored to the urban area. These combined effects would likely extend into the future if the park, side channel, and riparian habitat are monitored and maintained.

Biological Resources – Vegetation, Wetlands, Fish and Wildlife

The Rainey Park Stream Restoration and Wetland Creation project would produce benefits to riparian and upland vegetation as well as to fish and wildlife using the area. The proposed project would re-create a healthy riparian wetland, providing habitat for invertebrates, amphibians, birds, fish and small mammals. It is likely to get use from area mule deer and moose as well. There is currently little structural diversity within the levees or concrete channel to slow down water or provide quality habitat for fish and other aquatic life. The proposed action would result in an additional acre of wetland habitat, which would be wetted year-round and would be a net gain under the Clean Water Act and cause no issues with Executive Order 11990. The project is engineered to slow down the water within the Portneuf River and improve habitat for all species in the area while providing a scenic and useful benefit to people.

Aquatic organisms would benefit greatly from this project in many ways. Improved vigor of riparian wetlands and streambank vegetation boosts abundance of terrestrial invertebrate prey to aquatic organisms which would increase the population and growth of local fish. Healthy riparian vegetation strains sediment and chemicals from adjacent streams and lands entering the river, helping improve water quality for all aquatic organisms.

Benefits from the proposal to create a stormwater pond are many. The pond would capture sediment from choking out downstream spawning areas increasing recruitment and improving fish

growth within the river. It would create more riparian habitat which would cool air refugia for invertebrates, amphibians, and reptiles. The pond also acts as an alcove and provide valuable habitat for migrating and breeding waterfowl.

The fishery in the segment of the Portneuf River would also benefit greatly. The concrete flume and riprap channel that encompasses the Portneuf River in Pocatello is a barrier to upstream fish movement. This project would provide fish security with increased habitat complexity where there is currently none. It would also create fish nursery areas within the new riparian and wetland vegetation and increase the overall health of the fishery.

When completed the river would meander providing better habitat for amphibians and reptiles. The increase of better habitat would increase moisture, cover, and cool the water which would provide the greatest reduction in potential impacts related to warmer annual temperature trends and increase overall population health for amphibians and reptiles.

Unaffected Resources

The Proposed Action would not cause any short- or long-term direct, indirect, or cumulative effects to the following resource categories:

- Threatened and Endangered Species
- Cultural Resources
- Indian Sacred Sites
- Indian Trust Assets
- Treaty Rights

Consultation, Coordination, and Public Involvement

In compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (as amended in 1992), Reclamation consulted with the Idaho State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) to identify cultural and historic properties in the area of potential effect. Reclamation initiated consultation with the Idaho SHPO on December 15, 2023. SHPO concurrence with Reclamation's finding of No Historic Properties that would be affected in the action area was received on April 1, 2025. However, an Inadvertent Discovery Plan (IDP) will be created and implemented during project construction as a stipulation of the consultation concurrence. This plan will ensure that if any cultural resources or human remains are found during ground disturbing activities, proper processes will be followed, and entities will be contacted.

On October 17, 2024, Reclamation mailed a scoping document, including a letter, project information, and a map to agencies, members of Congress, organizations, and individuals soliciting their help in identifying any issues and concerns related to the Proposed Action. Reclamation received two comments during the scoping period.

Reclamation mailed scoping letters to the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes and the Northwestern Band of the Shoshone Nation Tribe on October 16, 2024. No responses or concerns from the Tribes were brought forward during the scoping period. The mailing list, scoping letters, and comments received and responses are presented in Appendix C of the Final EA.

Finding

Based on the analysis of the environmental effects presented in the Final EA and consultation with potentially affected agencies, Tribes, organizations, and the general public, Reclamation concludes that implementation of the preferred alternative – the Proposed Action (Alternative B) – will not have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment or natural and cultural resources. The overall effects of the Proposed Action will be minor, temporary, and localized. Therefore, preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is not required.

Recommended:

ROCHELLE OCHOA Digitally signed by ROCHELLE OCHOA
Date: 2025.06.30 12:33:43 -06'00'

Rochelle Ochoa
Natural Resource Specialist
Snake River Area Office, Boise, Idaho

Date

Approved:

RYAN ALCORN Digitally signed by RYAN ALCORN
Date: 2025.06.30 12:52:32 -06'00'

Ryan Alcorn
Snake River Acting Area Manager
Columbia-Pacific Northwest Region, Boise, Idaho

Date

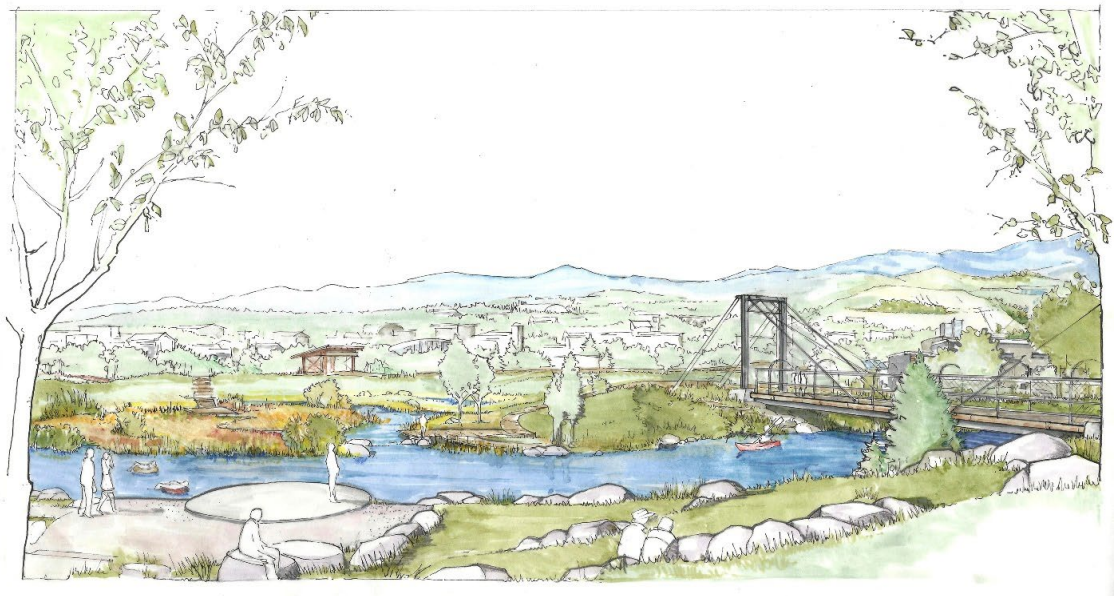
BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

Environmental Assessment

Rainey Park Stream Restoration and Wetland Creation Project

Bannock County, Idaho
Columbia-Pacific Northwest Region

CPN EA # 2025-7



U.S. Department of the Interior **December 2025**

Mission Statements

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; 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.

Cover Image – Sketched concept of Rainey Park (Portneuf River Vision Study, City of Pocatello).

Environmental Assessment

Rainey Park Stream Restoration and Wetland Creation Project

Bannock County, Idaho
Columbia-Pacific Northwest Region

CPN EA # 2025-7

Prepared by:

Bureau of Reclamation
Snake River Area Office
Boise, Idaho

U.S. Department of the Interior **December 2025**

Acronyms and Abbreviations

Acronym or Abbreviation	Definition
ADA	Americans with Disabilities Act
APE	Area of Potential Effect
AU	Assessment Unit
BMP	best management practice
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
DO	dissolved oxygen
DOI	U.S. Department of the Interior
EA	Environmental Assessment
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
EO	Executive Order
ESA	Endangered Species Act
FES	fabric encapsulated soil
FONSI	Finding of No Significant Impact
FRRP	Flood Risk Reduction Project
GIS	Geographic Information System
IDEQ	Idaho Department of Environmental Quality
IDFG	Idaho Department of Fish and Game
IDP	Inadvertent Discovery Plan
IPaC	Information for Planning and Conservation
ITAs	Indian Trust Assets
N	nitrogen
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NRHP	National Register of Historic Places
OHWM	ordinary high-water mark
Reclamation	Bureau of Reclamation
SHPO	State Historic Preservation Office
SWPPP	stormwater pollution prevention plan
TP	total phosphorus
TMDL	Total Maximum Daily Load
TSS	total suspended solids

Acronym or Abbreviation	Definition
USACE	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
USFWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
USGS	U.S. Geological Survey
WOTUS	Waters of the United States

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1.0 Purpose and Need

1.1 Introduction

The Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) prepared this Environmental Assessment (EA) in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). This EA analyzes the potential environmental effects that could result from the construction activities associated with the proposed Rainey Park stream restoration and wetland creation project.

This EA serves as a tool to aid the authorized official in making an informed decision that is in conformance with applicable Federal laws and regulations. The proposed action and additional alternatives are described in section 2 of this document, and the effects of each alternative are evaluated for each of the affected resource areas in section 3 of this document.

The NEPA process requires analysis of discretionary Federal actions that may have an impact on the human environment. This EA is being prepared to assist Reclamation in finalizing a decision on the proposed action, and to determine whether to issue a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) or a notice of intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

1.2 Location and Background

The proposed project is on the Portneuf River, a 124-mile-long tributary to the Snake River that flows through the City of Pocatello in southeastern Idaho. The entire Portneuf watershed drains 850,290 acres (3,441.0 square kilometers [km^2]) in southeastern Idaho and is bounded by Malad Summit to the south, the Bannock Range to the west, the Portneuf Range to the southeast, and the Chesterfield Range to the northeast. Marsh Creek is the only major tributary to the Portneuf River. The proposed project is located within the Portneuf River Flood Risk Reduction Project (FRRP), a federally constructed project authorized under the Columbia River Basin Plan by the Flood Control Act of 1950. Constructed between 1967–1968, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) straightened the Portneuf River and contained it within levees on both banks. The levees run 4.6 miles on both sides of the river and end just north of the proposed project area where a 1.6-mile concrete channel runs north from the river. Development of the FRRP reduced natural stream function and aquatic habitat, including wetlands. The FRRP is operated and maintained by the City of Pocatello, which is currently the local sponsor of the proposed project. The proposed project area is all on public land and sits between two public city parks in Pocatello, Centennial Park to the southwest and Rainey Park to the northeast. The project area is surrounded by mainly residential area as well as a local charter school.

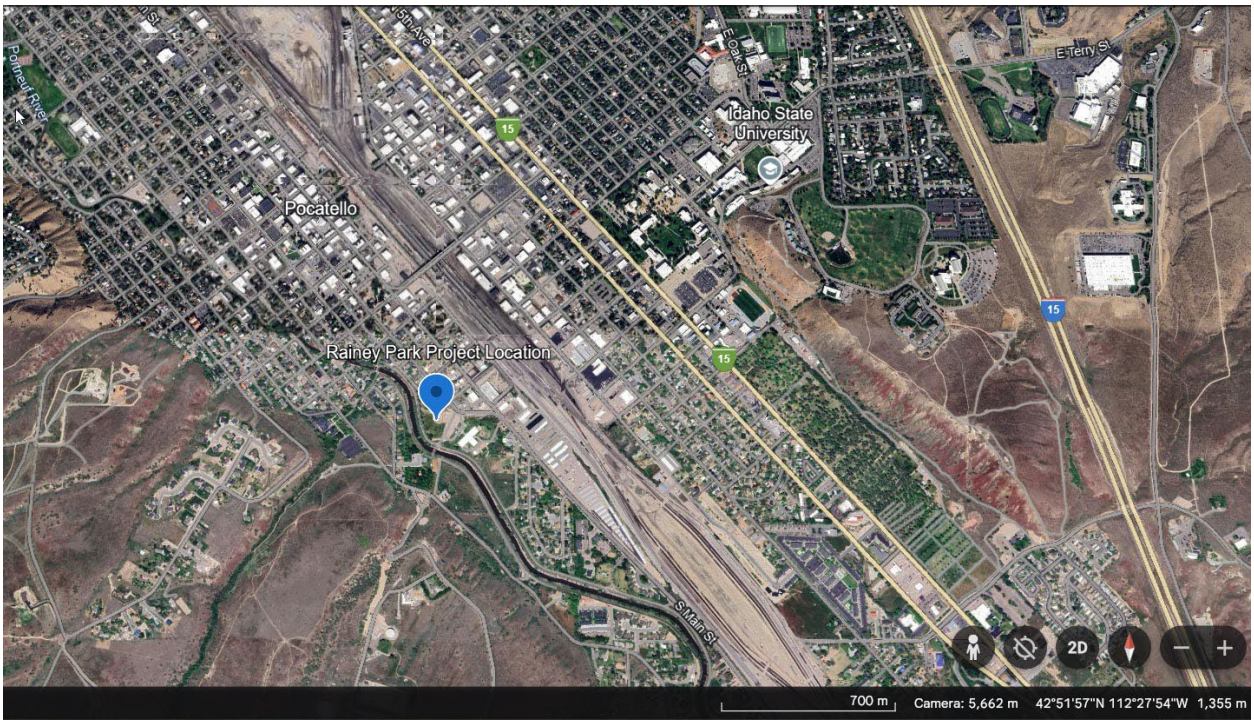

Figure 1.—Project Location within Pocatello, Idaho.

Centennial Park currently consists of large grassy fields with a playground, covered pavilion, restrooms and benches. Rainey Park consists mainly of an unused grass ballfield that sits on the north end of the park. These parks serve as a final take-out spot for a well-known three-mile floating stretch of the Portneuf River.

This proposed project is part of a larger Portneuf River Vision Study that was developed in 2016 by the City of Pocatello and USACE. The study includes a wide range of environmental goals to rehabilitate the Portneuf River ecosystem including improving hydrologic functions by increasing floodplain, wetland, and riparian habitat areas, as well as improving water quality.

1.3 Purpose and Need

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The USACE Walla Walla District will evaluate the proposal pursuant to its authority under Section 14 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 and codified in 33 USAC 408 (Section 408). Section 408 authorizes the USACE to grant permission for the alteration, occupation, of a federal project if determined that the activity will not be injurious to the public interest and will not impair the usefulness of the project. The USACE intends to adopt this EA in rendering a decision under its authority.

Additionally, the USACE will evaluate the project to determine compliance pursuant to its authority to regulate discharges of dredge and fill material within Water of the United States, under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act.

1.4 Regulatory Compliance[1]

The following major laws, executive orders, and secretarial orders apply to the proposed project, and compliance with their requirements is documented in this EA:

- NEPA
- Endangered Species Act (ESA)
- National Historic Preservation Act
- Clean Water Act
- Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899
- Flood Control Act of 1950
- Clean Air Act
- Migratory Bird Treaty Act
- Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act
- American Indian Religious Freedom Act
- Executive Order 11988 Floodplain Management
- Executive Order 11990 Protection of Wetlands
- Executive Order 13112 Invasive Species

[1] Executive Order 14154, *Unleashing American Energy* (January 20, 2025), and a Presidential Memorandum, *Ending Illegal Discrimination and Restoring Merit-Based Opportunity* (January 21, 2025), require the Department to strictly adhere to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), 42 U.S.C. §§ 4321 et seq. Further, such Order and Memorandum repeal Executive Orders 12898 (February 11, 1994) and 14096 (April 21, 2023). Because Executive Orders 12898 and 14096 have been repealed, complying with such Orders is a legal impossibility. Reclamation verifies that it has complied with the requirements of NEPA, including the Department's regulations and procedures implementing NEPA at 43 C.F.R. Part 46 and Part 516 of the Departmental Manual, consistent with the President's January 2025 Order and Memorandum. Reclamation has also voluntarily considered the Council on Environmental Quality's rescinded regulations implementing NEPA, previously found at 40 C.F.R. Parts 1500–1508, as guidance to the extent appropriate and consistent with the requirements of NEPA and Executive Order 14154.

- Executive Order 13007 Indian Sacred Sites
- Executive Order 13175 Consultation and Coordination with Tribal Governments
- Executive Order 14154 Unleashing American Energy
- Secretarial Order 3175 Department Responsibilities for Indian Trust Assets (ITAs)

1.5 Scoping Summary

The scoping process provides an opportunity for the public, governmental agencies, and tribes to identify their concerns or other issues and aids in developing a full range of potential alternatives that address meeting the project's purpose and need as stated in this document. To accomplish this, Reclamation provided information to the public by mailing an information package, and soliciting comments from the public, governmental agencies, and potentially affected tribes. Details regarding the public and agency scoping are presented in section 4.

2.0 Description of Alternatives

2.1 Introduction

This section describes the two alternatives analyzed in this EA: Alternative A, the No Action alternative; and Alternative B, the Proposed Action alternative.

2.2 Alternative Development

The alternatives presented in this section were developed based on the purpose and need for the project, as described in section 1, and the issues raised during internal, external, and tribal scoping. The alternatives analyzed in this document include the No Action alternative and the Proposed Action alternative to provide funding for a river restoration and wetland creation project. A no-action alternative is evaluated because it provides an appropriate baseline to which the other alternative is compared. No new alternatives were identified during the scoping process. A summary of alternatives considered but not carried forward can be found in section 2.5.

2.3 Alternative A – No Action

Under the No Action alternative, Reclamation would not fulfill the WaterSMART grant to the City of Pocatello to perform a river restoration and wetland creation project. Therefore, no right bank levee would be changed, no wetland would be created, and no stormwater pond would be created (figure 2). It is likely that the City of Pocatello would continue to seek funding for this project from another source due to it being part of the Portneuf River Vision Study. However, for the purpose of this analysis, the assumption is that the project would not go forward under the No Action alternative. The environmental effects associated with taking no action can be compared to the other alternatives as required under NEPA.

Figure 2.—Current condition of Rainey Park which would not undergo any changes under the no action alternative.

2.4 Alternative B – Rainey Park Stream Restoration and Wetland Creation Project (Proposed Action)

Reclamation proposes to provide funding through a WaterSMART grant for the City of Pocatello to perform a river restoration and wetland creation project occurring within Bannock County in Southeastern Idaho (figure 3). The action would shift approximately 625 linear feet of right bank levee to create a wetland and side channel within the levee, along with Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)-accessible river access for anglers and floaters. Additionally, a stormwater pond would be created to capture the first flush of sediment-laden waters off city streets. The entire park would act as a staging area with equipment moved out of the way during non-working hours. This project would take place beginning in the summer of 2026 and estimated completion is December 2027.

Figure 3.—Project map showing all work to be completed for both Rainey and Centennial parks within the Portneuf River Vision Study. The proposed project area for this EA is outlined in red.

Levee

The levee would maintain flood control as the authorized purpose of the Federal project. The lower half of the current levee slopes are lined with riprap for erosion protection. The proposed project would create the wetland described below and allow access to the Portneuf River. The new wetland design would provide a 10-foot-wide, paved walking/biking trail area to the southeast that connects to existing trail on either end. Riprap slope protection would be included at locations that are subjected to erosive velocities.

Currently users must scramble along levee rocks to reach the Portneuf River. The proposed project would include an accessible ADA path down to the river on the south end by creating a bridge and boardwalk over the proposed wetland. Steppingstones and stairs at the north end of the proposed project would lead back up to the top of the levee.

Wetland

The wetland would restore one acre of the hundreds of acres of wetlands historically existed within the Portneuf River Basin. The majority of the wetland creation portion of the project would occur above the existing Ordinary High-Water Mark (OHWM). Wetland construction would occur during the low flow season (July through January) and would generally follow the process described below. Recognizing there are circumstances that could be outside the contractors' control, the project is currently expected to begin in 2026 and to be completed by 2027.

Construction for the proposed project would begin with a coffer dam being utilized between the river's edge and the proposed wetland using a preserved 10-foot-wide strip of existing land. This material would direct flows in the Portneuf River channel away from the proposed project area and minimize the amount of earthwork that is exposed to active river flows. Topsoil would be removed from the bank side of the coffer dam with a tracked excavator and stockpiled for reuse during grading. Next, the levee and other existing material on the bank side of the coffer dam would be excavated six inches with large, tracked excavators such as Caterpillar 320s and material would be placed into offroad articulated haul trucks and hauled to the approved stockpile area(s).

Work for the side channel restoration would be completed as described below. All salvaged topsoil would be transported from the topsoil stockpile with offroad haul trucks, and approximately six inches of topsoil would be placed within the wetland creation area with a tracked excavator to reach the finished grade. After the finished grade is set in all areas except the coffer dam, a floating silt curtain would be installed along the riverbank. A tracked excavator would then excavate the coffer dam area down six inches and place into offroad haul trucks to the approved stockpile area(s). Salvaged topsoil would be transported from the topsoil stockpile with offroad haul trucks and utilized to construct a fabric encapsulated soil (FES) lift to establish the new riverbank in the footprint of the coffer dam. The FES would be constructed by encapsulating topsoil in coir fabric and then revegetating with willow cuttings and seed. The coir fabric is initially laid along the bank and staked. A 12-inch lift of topsoil is then installed over the coir fabric with a double layer of fabric at the top end of the bank. The fabric is then wrapped over the topsoil and secured on the bank side with the proper end treatment. Topsoil is integral to the success of the wetland creation effort. If there is insufficient topsoil to meet specified quantities, it would be necessary to import weed-free topsoil or engineer topsoil out of a blend of subsoil, compost, mycorrhizal inoculum, and/or other amendments as needed. An analysis and amendment recommendation from a reputable soil laboratory would be necessary if subsoil is utilized.

Revegetation of the finished grade would occur as detailed on the design plans. Generally, the emergent wetland would only be seeded, while the scrub-shrub wetland would also have nursery-grown stock and dormant willow cuttings installed. Installation would likely include using a CAT 320 or equivalent excavator to install the plant units within about 8 hours.

River Restoration

The river restoration (side channel) design would increase the complexity of riverine and floodplain habitats to provide hydrologic support for the proposed wetland complex. The design consists of a gravel-cobble gradation and would have perennial flow conditions in an average water year. The side channel banks would have biodegradable erosion control fabric installed to resist erosion in the first few years while revegetation treatments are establishing. The City of Pocatello would conduct wetland and stream channel monitoring after project completion.

Stormwater Pond

The proposed stormwater pond would be approximately 0.3 acres in size and a maximum of three feet deep. This unlined pond would sit just east of the proposed wetland with a purpose to direct sediment laden runoff from 450 acres of city streets and infiltrate it underground. Currently, a 48-inch stormwater pipe discharges into the Portneuf River at the downstream (north) edge of the proposed wetland. The proposed design would divert water into the proposed pond using a new stormwater line feeding from an existing 48-inch stormwater pipe (figure 4). The existing stormwater pipe to the Portneuf River would be left in place to accommodate overflow storm events. Monitoring would continue after the proposed project is complete to accurately quantify the amount of sediment diverted from the Portneuf River into the stormwater pond.

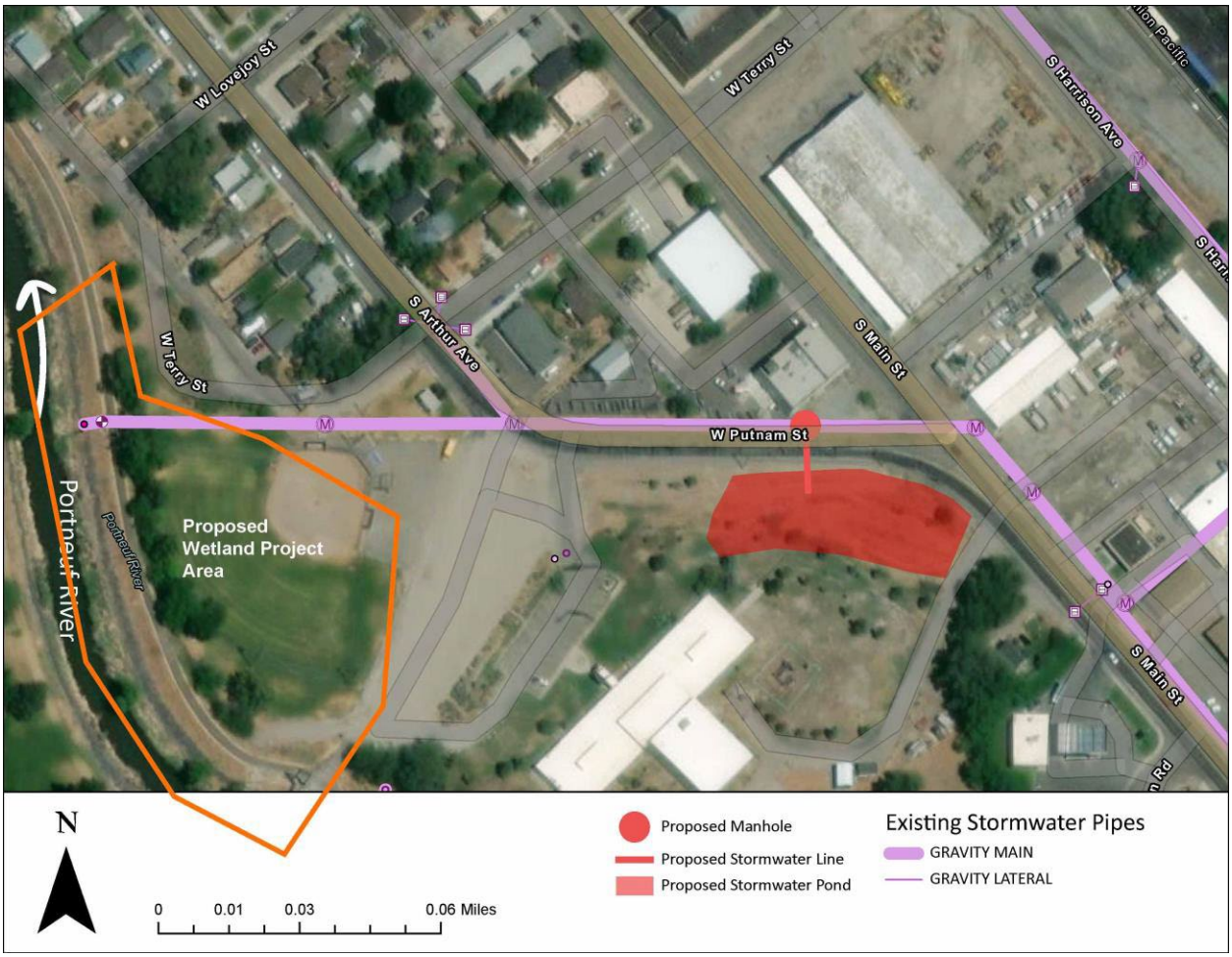


Figure 4.—Proposed stormwater pond and connecting manhole and pipe in red. The proposed project would direct water off the street and from the stormwater pipe (in pink) into the proposed stormwater pond. The existing stormwater pipe to the Portneuf River would be left in place to accommodate overflow storm events.

2.5 Alternatives Considered but Eliminated from Further Study

NEPA encourages the consideration of alternatives developed through public scoping. However, only those alternatives that are reasonable and meet the purpose and need of the proposed action must be analyzed. There were no additional alternatives developed through the public and agency scoping process.

2.6 Past, Present, and Reasonably Foreseeable Actions Considered for Combined Effects

Combined effects can result from individually minor but collectively significant actions taking place over a period of time.

Past, present, and reasonably foreseeable actions identified in the area (public or private) that could adversely affect the same resource areas evaluated in this EA would be additive effects to the proposed project.

2.6.1 City of Pocatello Projects

- Environmental Protection Agency Community Change S. 5th Complete Streets and Sewering – This project would complete the rest of the Centennial/Rainey Park work that is outside of the red project area in figure 1 above. This project includes the non-wetland work of the larger park project which is the parking lot next to Rainey Park and park improvement actions in Centennial Park. This project has an estimated completion date of December 2027.
- U.S. Department of Transportation - Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods – Terry First Project This project includes bike path and intersection upgrades along Terry Street (from Idaho State University to 1st Ave), along 1st Ave (from Terry Street to Benton Street) over Benton Street Union Pacific Railroad bridge (will re-do Benton/Main intersection). This project has an estimated completion date of December 2028. More information can be found at https://projects.pocatello.gov/us-dot-awards-8-5m-for-terry-first-connection/pedestrian/bike
- Center Street Underpass –This project includes rehabilitation work on the underpass under Union Pacific Railroad tracks at Center Street. This project has an estimated completion date of December 2026. More information can be found at https://projects.pocatello.gov/category/center-street-underpass/Rehab
- 1st Street stormwater –This project includes the replacement/addition of stormwater line from 1st Avenue from Center south to Halliday Street. This project has an estimated completion date of December 2026.
- Benton Street Bridge –This project would replace Benton Street Bridge over the Portneuf River. This project has an estimated completion date of December 2025.
- Portneuf River Oxbow project –This project includes placing culverts under Union Pacific Railroad tracks to direct the Portneuf River into oxbows east of the tracks (upstream and downstream of Hildreth Road). Design for this project has an estimated completion date of December 2027. More information can be found at https://river.pocatello.gov/riverfront-parks/Installing (scroll down to ‘Oxbow Park’).

3.0 Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences

3.1 Introduction

This section evaluates the environmental consequences of implementing each of the alternatives described in section 2. The level and depth of the environmental analysis correspond to the potentially affected environment and the degree of the effects of the action anticipated for each environmental component (resource). The affected environment addressed in this EA is defined in varying contexts, depending on the affected resource being analyzed.

Resources evaluated in this document and analyzed in this section were selected based on Reclamation requirements; compliance with laws, statutes, and executive orders; public and internal scoping; and the potential for resources to be affected by the proposed project.

3.2 Hydrology

3.2.1 Affected Environment

The proposed project site is on the Portneuf River, a tributary of the Snake River, in southeast Idaho. The Portneuf River confluences with the Snake River soon downstream in American Falls Reservoir. Further downstream in eastern Washington the Snake River confluences with the Columbia River which empties into the Pacific Ocean. Figure 5 shows the location of the project site in relation to the confluence of the Portneuf River with the Snake River in the Upper Snake HUC4 basin. The proposed project site is on the right bank of the Portneuf River, approximately 1,000 feet upstream of the confluence of City Creek. The site is located approximately 2 miles upstream of the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) 'Portneuf River at Pocatello ID' gage (gage number 13075500). Between the proposed project site and the gage just downstream there is little contributing drainage area. Drainage area at the gage is identified as 1,256 square miles by the USGS. The site is located in Water District 29, Idaho Department of Water Resources. Water rights in the Portneuf River basin are administered by Water District 29. Figure 6 shows the general location of the proposed project site in relation to the 'Portneuf River at Pocatello, ID' gage just downstream and the extent of levees through the City of Pocatello. Figure 7 shows the flows for the continuous period of record (1986–2024) for the gage just downstream, and figure 8 shows the statistics of those flows. The continuous period of record average flow at the gage is 250 cubic feet per second (ft^3/s). Annually the total volume that passes the gage is approximately 180,000 acre-feet.

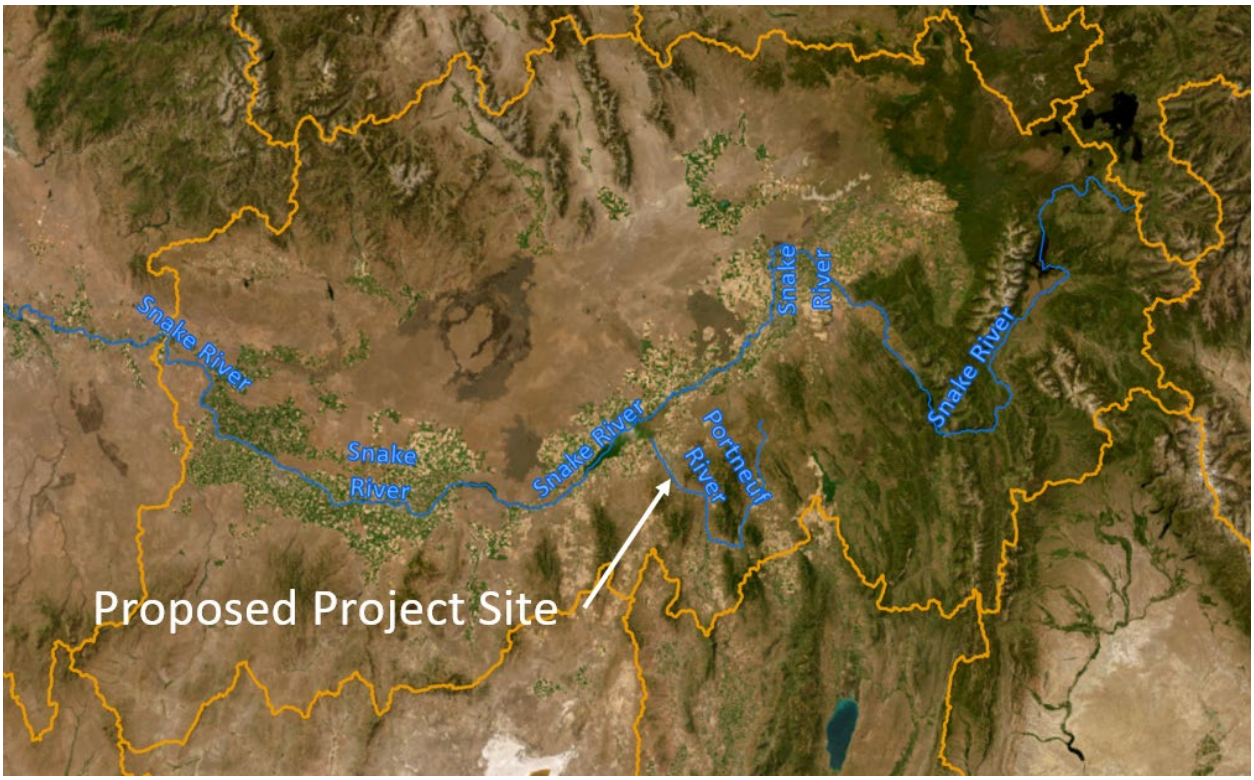


Figure 5.—Map showing general location of the proposed project site in relation to the Snake River and the Upper Snake HUC4 basin.

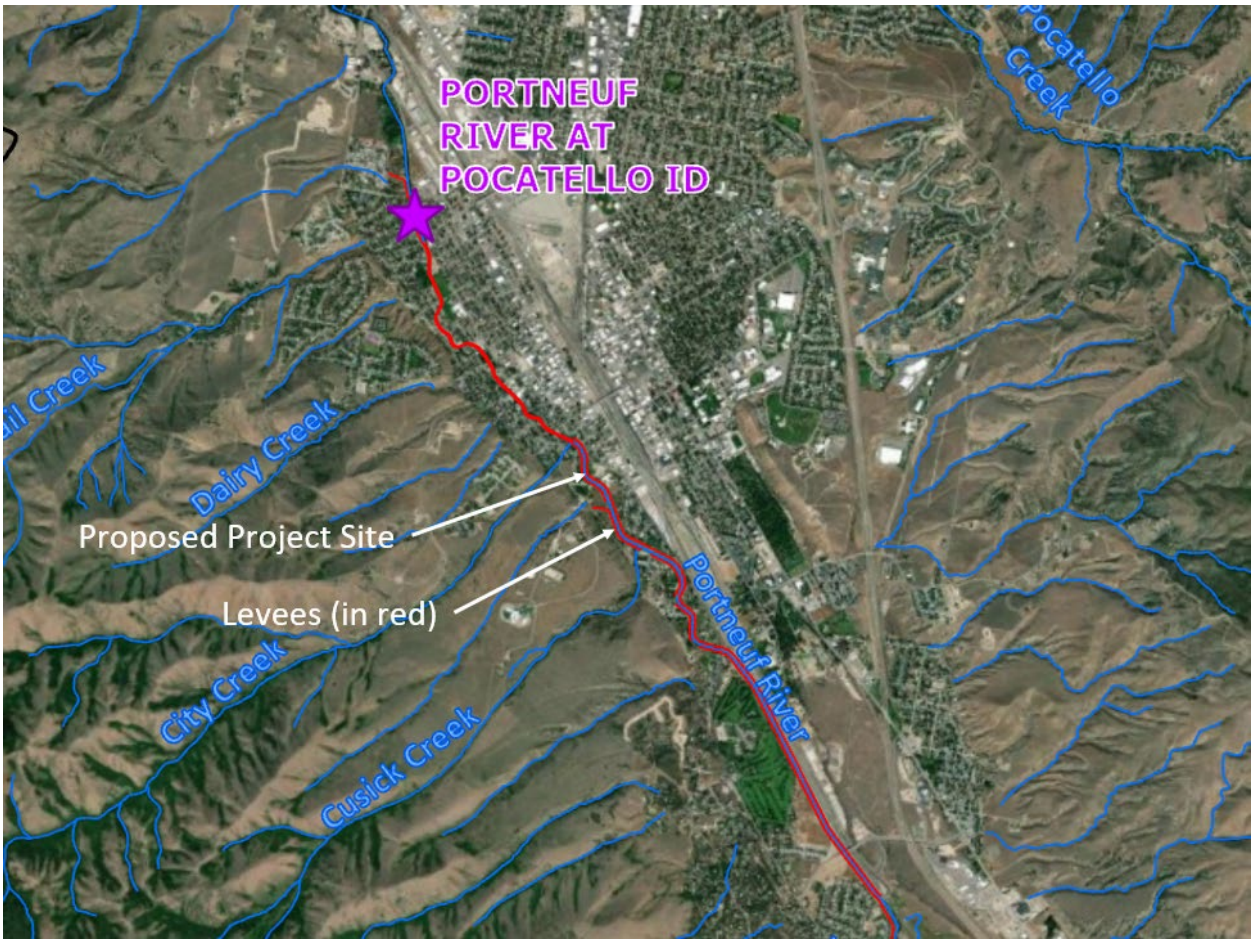


Figure 6.—Map showing general location of the proposed project site in relation to the 'Portneuf River at Pocatello, ID' stream gage and the extent of levees through the City of Pocatello.

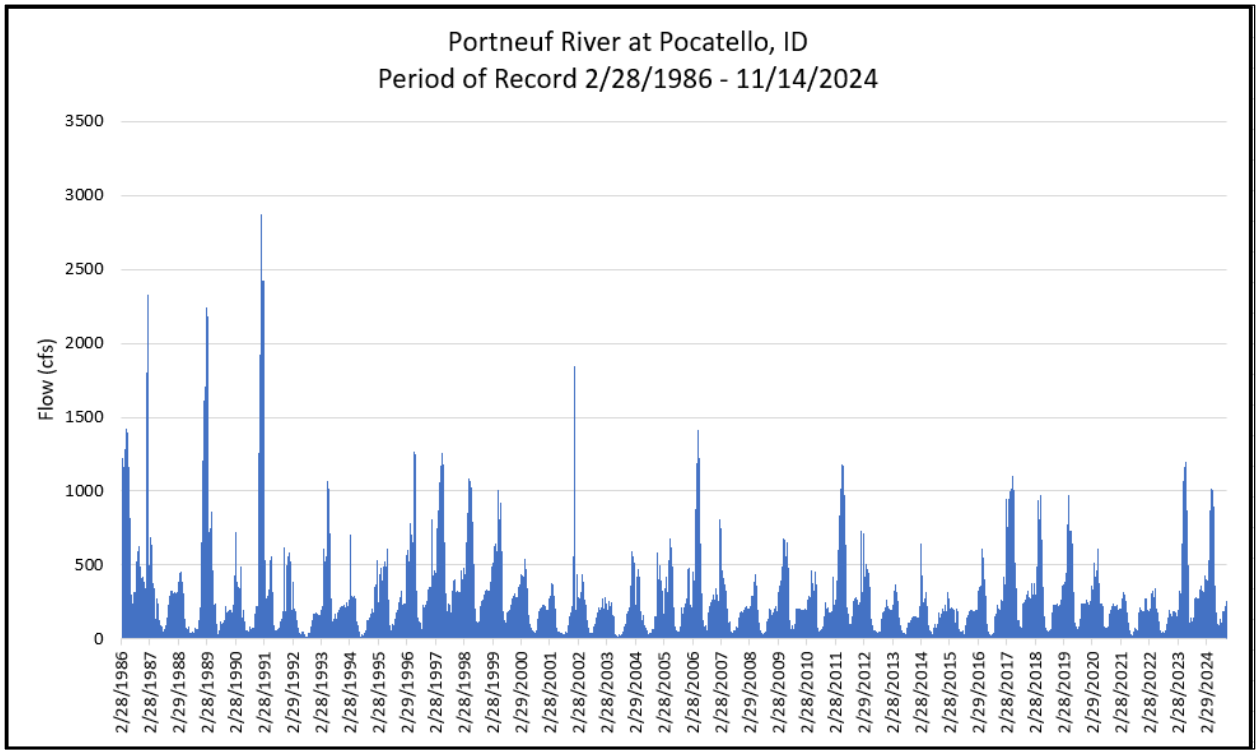


Figure 7.—Daily historic flow data for the 'Portneuf River at Pocatello, ID' gage for the continuous period of record (1986–2024), available from Reclamation's Hydromet Site (https://www.usbr.gov/gp/hydromet/).

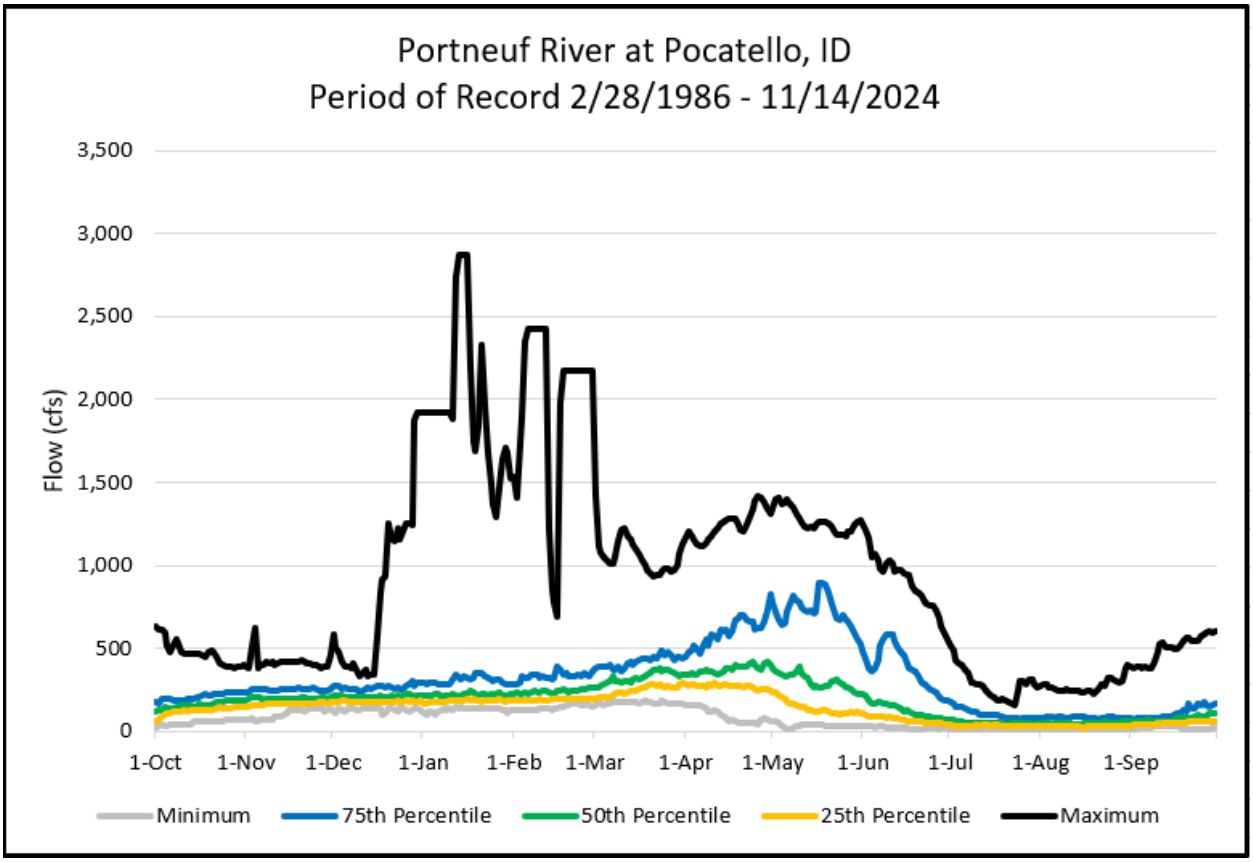


Figure 8.—Statistics of daily historic flow data for the 'Portneuf River at Pocatello, ID' gage for the continuous period of record (1986–2024), available from Reclamation's Hydromet Site (https://www.usbr.gov/gp/hydromet/)

In 2016 the City of Pocatello developed the Portneuf River Vision Study, which includes goals to rehabilitate the Portneuf River ecosystem. In the Study, this is described as improving hydrologic functions by increasing floodplain, wetland and riparian habitat areas. The proposed project builds upon the concepts developed in the 2016 Study.

The proposed project would shift approximately 625 linear feet of right bank levee to create a wetland and side channel on the river side of the levee. A stormwater pond would also be created. The project would take place beginning in the summer of 2026 and estimated completion is December 2027. The proposed levee shifting would maintain the same flood control protection as the authorized purpose of the Federal project. The created wetland would be approximately 1 acre in size. The proposed side channel would increase riverine and floodplain habitat and support the wetland complex. The design of the channel allows for perennial flow during low flow conditions in an average water year (50th percentile). The stormwater pond is designed to capture sediment from runoff from 450 acres of city streets, infiltrating the water into the ground, and would be fed by a 48-inch stormwater pipe that currently discharges into the Portneuf River.

3.2.2 Environmental Consequences

3.2.2.1 *Alternative A – No Action*

Under the No Action alternative, Reclamation would not fulfill the WaterSmart grant to the City of Pocatello to perform a river restoration and wetland creation project. There would be no change in the location or design of the levee, no wetland created, and no stormwater pond would be created. The river and associated ecosystem would function in an impaired state. The overall basin hydrology in the Portneuf River would be unaffected under the No Action alternative.

3.2.2.2 *Alternative B – Rainey Park Stream Restoration and Wetland Creation Project (Proposed Action)*

Under the Proposed Action, Reclamation would fulfill a WaterSmart grant to the City of Pocatello to perform a river restoration and wetland creation project at the proposed project site. Approximately 625 linear feet of levee would be shifted to create a wetland, a river channel would be restored, and stormwater pond would be created. A portion of the Portneuf River would be rehabilitated by improving hydrologic functions through increased floodplain, wetland and riparian habitat areas. Construction activity for the project is estimated to begin in summer 2026 and be completed by 2027. Documenting and permitting of the project would be completed by the City of Pocatello with various agencies including the USACE. Construction activities would include excavation, grading, placing riprap as required, replacing asphalt on top of the levee, installing concrete paths, revegetation, installing a new manhole in the existing stormwater line and installing a new stormwater line from new manhole to the new stormwater pond.

The resulting water surface elevations at the project site would be similar to the pre-project water surface elevations. When high-flow events pass through the project reach, water surface elevations may be marginally lower, but not significantly lower due to the river downstream with existing levee alignment downstream. At low-flow conditions, some minor sedimentation may occur, which would help meet the desired outcome of the project to rehabilitate the Portneuf River ecosystem. Subsequent high flows would clean out deposited sediment.

Infiltration of water at the stormwater pond would quickly return to the Portneuf River downstream due to the short distance from the pond to the river. There would be no change in water availability due to the project. The overall basin hydrology in the Portneuf River would be unaffected under the Proposed Action alternative.

Post-construction, monitoring of the project would be done by the City of Pocatello through imagery to monitor changes in the landscape. Stream channel and wetland cross sections would be conducted by Idaho State University. Instream sampling of water quality data upstream and downstream of the proposed project site would be performed. Biotic responses to the restoration would also be conducted.

3.2.2.3 *Combined Effects*

In combination with other actions in the vicinity of the project area (discussed in section 2.6), the Proposed Action would further maximize the overall restoration of hydrologic functions in this reach of the Portneuf River and improve flood risk management capability. The Proposed Action, additive to other actions considered for combined effects, would beneficially contribute to the overall long-term effectiveness of restoration activities in this reach of the Portneuf River.

3.3 Water Quality

3.3.1 Affected Environment

The Portneuf River is 124 miles long and is located within the Portneuf River subbasin (17040208) in southeast Idaho. The proposed project area is in the City of Pocatello and is assessed under Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (IDEQ) Assessment Unit (AU) ID17040208SK001_05 (Portneuf River-Marsh Creek to American Falls Reservoir) (IDEQ 2022). This area is characterized as urban, with a significant river alteration consisting of 1.5-mile river segment routed through a concrete channel as part of a 1968 USACE flood protection measure (IDEQ 2010). IDEQ (2010) has noted that 4.1 miles of meandering river channel and 144 acres of riparian habitat was lost due to this action.

The IDEQ's draft 2024 and current 2022 Integrated Report identifies that this segment of the Portneuf River water quality is not supporting these beneficial uses:

- Cold water aquatic life due to:
    - dissolved oxygen (DO)
    - physical substrate habitat alterations
    - water temperature
    - total nitrogen (N)
    - oil and grease
    - total phosphorus (TP)
    - total suspended solids (TSS)
    - *Escherichia coli* (*E. coli*)
- Primary and Secondary Contact Recreation due to *Escherichia coli* (*E. coli*) and
- Salmonid Spawning due to water temperature (IDEQ 2022 and 2024).

Other designated beneficial uses identified for the Portneuf River include aesthetics, agricultural and industrial water supplies, and wildlife habitat. These beneficial uses have not been assessed.

Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) were developed for the Portneuf River and are as follows:

- TSS- 35 milligrams per liter (mg/L) (for low flows) and 80 mg/L (for high flows),
- TP- 0.07 mg/L (for low flows) and 0.125 mg/L (for high flows),
- *E. coli* -126 organisms/100 milliliters (mL),
- Oil and grease- 5 mg/L,
- DO – 6 mg/L,
- N -no target load allocation specifically for the Portneuf River, but on tributaries, 6 mg/L.

Full details on water quality data and assessment may be accessed in the 2010 Portneuf River TMDL Revision and Addendum (2010).

3.3.2 Environmental Consequences

3.3.2.1 *Alternative A – No Action*

The Portneuf River water quality would continue to change, directly and indirectly from anthropogenic and natural upstream watershed inputs and snowpack/precipitation events. Water quality conditions would be similar to what is described in the affected environment section. Due to the river channelization and reduction of riparian habitat, the water quality benefits from river channel sinuosity, riparian vegetation shading, and increased nutrient uptake from vegetation would likely continue into the near future.

In the long term, due to continuing water quality improvements from best management practices (BMPs) in the watershed to meet IDEQ's TMDLs that limits pollution over time, water quality should slowly improve in the Portneuf River. Over time, impairments such as TSS, TP, N, oil and grease and *E. coli* in this reach should slowly decrease to acceptable levels and ultimately beneficial uses criteria should be met. Once the nutrients start to decrease, DO should begin to increase to appropriate concentrations. Because the TMDLs have been ongoing since 2003 and there was still minor contaminant exceedances measured in 2010, it is estimated to take longer than 20 years to meet state water quality standards.

3.3.2.2 *Alternative B – Rainey Park Stream Restoration and Wetland Creation Project (Proposed Action)*

Proposed actions potentially affecting water quality are adjustment to the levee, wetland creation, and stormwater pond creation. Effects from these actions are separated into "Construction" and "Post Construction" effects and are described below. It is assumed that the City of Pocatello would have all necessary permits, such as 404 Dredge and Fill permit from USACE, 401 Certification from IDEQ, Stream Channel Alteration permit from Idaho Department of Water Resources, and any other required permits before construction is initiated.

Construction Effects

Coffer Dam: Coffer dam construction and use in the Portneuf River would likely contribute to initial turbidity and sediment increases. These would be short-term in duration, but depending on river flow, could approach turbidity standards of 50 Nephelometric Turbidity Units above background levels. The higher the flows, the more diluted the turbidity impacts would be. The proposed use of a floating silk curtain would aid in preventing direct erosional effects from the river and riverbank runoff, reducing sedimentation and turbidity and should sustain water quality standards. Additionally, the proposed use of biodegradable erosion control fabric on the side channels would also control streambank erosion until riparian/wetland vegetation is established. Excavation and transport of topsoil is unlikely to affect sedimentation because the soils would likely be moist and not likely to create fugitive dust during transport.

Stormwater Pond, River Access, and Bike Path: Other proposed construction projects that could affect water quality include creation of the stormwater pond, a river access point, and a walking/biking trail with associated bridge and boardwalk over the proposed wetland. Stormwater pond construction poses no direct affects to water quality, mostly due to its distance (approximately 650 feet away from the river). There could be a possibility of fugitive dust blowing into and settling in the river during excavation, but with the proper BMPs such as wetting the soils during construction would minimize this issue.

Construction of the river access could introduce and disturb sediment in the river and increase turbidity. This disturbance would be short-term, likely only occurring during the access construction, and any sediment/turbidity would dissipate quickly with river flow. BMPs like erosion barriers would be used to prevent sediments from inadvertently eroding into the river from the surrounding area.

Biking/walking path construction should pose little risk to water quality because it is a distance from the river. Like the stormwater pond construction, there could be a possibility of fugitive dust blowing into and settling in the river during excavation, but with the proper BMPs such as wetting the soils during construction would minimize this issue.

Staging Areas: The entire proposed project area can be used for equipment and material staging. The closer equipment and or material is placed near the river, the higher the likelihood to introduce sediments and other contaminates such as oil, grease, hydraulic fluid, and fuel. Standard operations near water requires contaminant containment usually for fuel, but also could oil, grease, and hydraulic fluid. Also, due to the extent of bare soil from active construction in the staging areas, excess sediment could enter the river either by fugitive dust or by runoff from a storm event. The area would need some sort of dust abatement plan and stormwater pollution prevention plan (SWPPP), which are typically required before construction can begin. These plans identify specific BMPs such as periodically wetting the surface soils to prevent fugitive dust and sediment barriers to prevent runoff from rain events to flow into the river. These actions are specific to the site and construction techniques to protect the adjacent water quality. Minor if any effects on Portneuf River water quality are expected due to these actions.

Post-Construction Effects

River and wetland restoration would have long-term beneficial effects for Portneuf River water quality. The newly constructed gravel-cobble gradation in the river along with the riprap strategically placed in areas of high velocity would decrease channel erosion within that area. Restoration of one acre of wetland with willow plantings and emergent wetland seedings would also improve several water quality parameters. The riparian/wetland plantings would hold the soil together through their extensive root systems, increasing riverbank and wetland stability at high flows and shading the river; this would decrease sedimentation, erosion, and overall water temperatures should improve.

The biking/walking trail would be paved with asphalt, which could contribute oil/petroleum to the river and or wetland. However, the bufferstrip of vegetation between the path and the river/wetland would prevent any path contaminants flowing into the respective waterbodies. Stormwater pond purpose is to direct sediment laden runoff from 450 acres of city streets and infiltrate it underground. Currently, a 48-inch stormwater pipe discharges this runoff directly into the Portneuf River. This pond would directly decrease contaminants such as sediments, oil and petroleum, and other local chemicals from being discharged into the river.

Water quality effects would include an overall decrease in sediment load from surrounding riverbanks, decreases in other contaminants such as oil, petroleum products, increased/improved aquatic habitat, and lowered water temperatures due to shading from the riparian vegetation. These effects are in line with moving towards meeting the TMDLs in the Portneuf River.

Combined Effects

Future projects that could have combined effects with this proposed project's water quality effects are: the Community Change S. 5th Complete Streets and Sewering, 1st Street stormwater, and the Portneuf River Oxbow project. Other future projects identified in section 2 would likely not have combined water quality effects with the proposed project.

- Community Change S. 5th Complete Streets and Sewering is a continuation of this project that includes parking lot and park improvements just as tree, shrub, and grass planting. Water quality effects from this project include possible short-term sediment/turbidity in the river due to construction either through fugitive dust or direct erosion into the river. This could be additive to the proposed construction activities (Alternative B) if actual construction occurs at the same time, and conversely, effects are not additive if construction doesn't occur at the same time. The same BMPs would likely be used such as wetting the soils and having a SWPPP would minimize water quality effects. In the long term, effects from this project post-construction when combined with post-construction effects of the proposed action would benefit water quality by creating more green areas that could act as buffer strips preventing direct flows into the river and

- Directing stormwater drainage so that it doesn't flow directly into the river. These effects would contribute to improving the Portneuf River water quality and move towards meeting established TMDLs.
- 1st Street Stormwater project includes the replacement/addition of stormwater line from 1st Avenue from Center south to Halliday Street. The construction effects to water quality would be the same as those identified for the proposed stormwater pond detailed above. No combined construction effects to water quality are expected. Post-construction effects of this project and Alternative B effects combined would be beneficial to water quality. Upgrading and adding stormwater drainage so that it doesn't flow directly into the river would be an additive effect to preventing contaminants such as oil, petroleum products, and household chemicals. These effects would contribute to improving the Portneuf River water quality and move towards meeting established TMDLs.
- Portneuf River Oxbow project purpose is to reactivate a section of the Portneuf River's historic floodplain, capture excess silt in the river, restore wetlands in the Portneuf River valley at the south end of the City of Pocatello, and recharge the Lower Portneuf Valley Aquifer. The water quality effects, when combined with the proposed Alternative B water quality effects would be beneficial to the river water quality. Specifically, combined effects of removing sediment and silt along with other contaminants that can be trapped in the wetland would contribute to improving the Portneuf River water quality and move towards meeting established TMDLs.

3.4 Public Safety and Property

3.4.1 Affected Environment

This section analyzes public safety and property as it relates to the levee system and its proposed modification. The proposed project area is located within the Portneuf River FRRP. The FRRP was authorized under the Columbia River Basin Plan by the Flood Control Act of 1950 and constructed between 1967–1968 by USACE. This FRRP was constructed after major flood events occurred, most notably in 1962 and 1963 when an estimated $10 million of damages occurred across the entire Portneuf Watershed. The FRRP straightened the Portneuf River and contained it within levees on both banks. The City of Pocatello has operated and maintained the FRRP and is currently the non-Federal sponsor of the FRRP which performs monitoring and maintenance as needed. USACE complete 5-year inspections and accreditations, as well as risk analysis, and if sponsors maintain the projects to an acceptable level, they are eligible for funding and emergency response reimbursement.

The proposed levee design was developed with the goal of maintaining the authorized purpose of the Federal project. The bank levee design is proposed to be wider, with flatter side slopes than the existing levees, to incorporate project goals such as recreation, ADA access, ease of maintenance, and river-community connectivity. The proposed top of levee elevations will meet the minimum as-built elevation, to include any required freeboard.

The expanded channel from the proposed levee construction allows for the construction of in-channel and wetland designs. The channel improvements would be designed to be stable and not erode during expected high flows. These alterations to the FRRP would be evaluated by the USACE to ensure that the proposed action provides usefulness to the public and upholds the original authorized purpose of the Federal project.

3.4.2 Environmental Consequences

3.4.2.1 *Alternative A – No Action*

Under the No Action alternative, the City of Pocatello would continue to proactively maintain the FRRP to include the levees segments within the project area, to include updating or reaccreditation requirements by the USACE where applicable. It is likely that the City of Pocatello would continue to seek funding for this project from another source due to it being part of the Portneuf River Vision Study.

3.4.2.2 *Alternative B – Rainey Park Stream Restoration and Wetland Creation Project (Proposed Action)*

Under Alternative B, Reclamation would fulfill a WaterSmart grant to the City of Pocatello to perform a river restoration and wetland creation project at the proposed project site. This action, by Federal requirement, must maintain a similar or greater level of protection and not impair the usefulness of the FRRP. Operation and Maintenance plans would need to be updated to account for the change in condition. Construction would need to be timed to low water seasons to reduce risk of flooding during until the new levee segments are complete.

3.5 Recreation

3.5.1 Affected Environment

The affected environment consists of the 4.2-acre project area, the local area of the City of Pocatello, and the Portneuf River, a 124-mile-long tributary to the Snake River that flows through the city of Pocatello in southeastern Idaho. Marsh Creek is the only major tributary to the Portneuf River. In 1968, USACE constructed riprapped levees as part of the Portneuf River Flood Control Project which removed hundreds of acres of wetlands. The proposed project area is all on non-Federal, public land owned by the City of Pocatello, and sits between Centennial Park to the southwest and Rainey Park to the northeast. The project area is surrounded mainly by a residential area as well as a local charter school (Pocatello Community Charter School).

The current parks existing use consists of an access point to the Portneuf Greenway, an improved recreation walking path that extends along a section of the river throughout this portion of Pocatello. Directly adjacent to the park, the Pocatello Community Charter School utilizes some of the park's existing parking area as overflow. Many who choose to use the area, utilize it as access for the Greenway path at Rainy Park.

The ballfield that exists within the park is rarely used and only in particular seasons for baseball or softball. There are several public parks in Pocatello and only a few locations, including this one, provide direct river access for floating, fishing, and general recreation opportunities. The proposed project would make this park the first to include a wetland and riparian area.

3.5.2 Environmental Consequences

3.5.2.1 *Alternative A – No Action*

Under this alternative, effects to recreational opportunities and constraints for recreators may become more noticeable in the mid- to long-term timeframe. The population growth of the State of Idaho is undoubtedly continuing with metropolitan areas such as Pocatello experiencing steady growth and development, all of which places considerable pressure on municipalities and local city government to provide necessary conditions but also varying recreational opportunities. Due to the project's location within the City of Pocatello and the current nature and classification of the area for which the project is adjacent to, a No Action alternative would likely maintain the limited recreation opportunities (within city limits) that exist for potential recreation, general sightseeing, wildlife viewing, fishing, floater access, and use for pleasure and enjoyment. Although Centennial Park offers some of these opportunities on the southeast of the Portneuf River near the project location, direct river access exclusive of rip rap/concrete shoreline does not exist along the entire 6.2 miles of river front access through the city. And no riparian habitat and wetlands exist within any city parks. Accessible routes to the river that comply with ADA standards are also scarce. Other parks within the city offer simple amenities such as walking paths, covered spaces for public use, and sporting fields. But there are currently no parks along the Portneuf River that provide recreationalists with a riparian and wetland habitat. Many of the recreationalists that call Pocatello home generally seek these recreation opportunities (beyond uses such as sightseeing, walking, etc.) outside of city limits (if able to) and choose to recreate downstream of the project area, or outside of the Pocatello city limits altogether. For those specifically within the disadvantaged population, seeking outdoor recreation outside of the city, and potentially hours away, may not be feasible. A No Action alternative would not improve but maintain the status quo of the current opportunities that exist in the local area for recreation opportunities for the public.

In addition to the potential effect on recreation and recreation opportunities, continued deposition of sediment and street surface pollutants into the Portneuf River via the project area's current storm water drain would likely need to be addressed at some point in the future. Fisheries and riparian habitat (which attract recreationalists) that exist downstream and outside of the city, to include the Fort Hall bottoms, may have limited improvement that may continue to delay environmental, ecological, and recreational goals for interested parties, the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes, and users of the resources themselves. Furthermore, the overall health of the river system would likely maintain the same status, with a growing desire for additional riparian habitat to maintain water quality, improve ecological health, and develop recreation opportunities. Under a No Action alternative, advancement of recreational improvement goals within the Portneuf River watershed would likely remain unchanged, which may continue to broadly affect recreational opportunities both near the project area, and within the watershed itself.

3.5.2.2 *Alternative B – Rainey Park Stream Restoration and Wetland Creation Project (Proposed Action)*

Under the proposed alternative, effects of this project would be noticeable in both the short, medium, and long-term. Construction of the project would, in the short term, affect the accessibility of the project area for those wishing to recreate there, and those who use the parking area to access the Greenway. Construction equipment and parking limitations may impact parking availability for the charter school if recreators still wish to access the Greenway there. This affect should be minimal if the project area and access to the Greenway is closed to the public during construction. The presence of other access points upstream for the Greenway may see higher recreational use, but due to several access points this effect should be manageable. Closures of the area for public safety would be needed, and closures after construction may be needed to protect any planted vegetation from disturbance that may inhibit growth. With the nature of the area and its current use, these closures would likely have a minimal impact on the public's use of the area. However, the removal of the ball field would directly affect those that use the field. Those who use the field for sporting activity would be displaced to find fields elsewhere, such as Ross Park that is upstream, which may place more demand on other parks' use, and scheduling constraints.

Disturbance and removal of materials for the creation of the side channel would likely involve temporarily introducing some amount of excess sediment into downstream flows, but this should have minimal, or no impact on any recreation that may occur downstream due to the long stretch of restricted river access for recreators. After construction of the side channel and the creation of the riparian area, if the parking area is to be completed at a later stage, recreation may be limited to any available parking areas along Terry, Arthur, and Putnam Street. Care should be taken to examine what the impact may be on the area if the parking lot for Rainy Park would be completed later of the park itself.

In the medium to long-term, the project's overall impact to recreation and recreation opportunities would most likely be positive in almost every regard. Introduction of a restored area of riparian habitat that the public can access easily would create many opportunities for recreators, and the local population who live adjacent to the project area. The general population would have the opportunity to be involved in recreation activities such as fishing, wild-life viewing, sight-seeing, floating, etc.

Long-term effects and impact to recreation from the project would be beneficial to recreators who use the area, as well as the community as recreational use of the park grows. Long-term effects and demand on the area's amenities may include a desire to utilize the storm-water pond as a small fishery, and the partners may need to strictly label the pond as a storm-water pond to avoid public confusion on the pond's existence, and its important purpose of diverting city runoff water into the ground, versus the river itself. Maintenance of the amenities at Rainy Park would require continual management by the city, which is well equipped to maintain. Overall, long-term effects on recreation are likely very positive.

Combined Impacts

Total combined impacts of this alternative are broad as the alternative's goals seek to continually improve the ecological, environmental, recreational, and overall quality of the Portneuf River Watershed. The project's physical footprint, small as it relates to the total watershed, would likely have a positive impact that could affect water quality downstream, as well as possibly enhancing fisheries that extend to the Fort Hall bottoms. This impact, over the long term, would have a combined impact that likely positively enhances the ecological health of the watershed, which would accentuate recreators' interest in the river and watershed as a whole. Combined impacts of this alternative as it relates to recreation that would occur within the park itself are also broad and include many tertiary effects. These effects include the public's perception and sense of community that would be improved from the local investment in the park, the use that the park would receive from recreators, and the enhancement of natural features that would be restored to the urban area. These combined effects would likely extend into the future if the park, side channel, and riparian habitat are monitored and maintained.

3.6 Biological Resources

3.6.1 Affected Environment

Riparian and Upland Vegetation

The Portneuf River habitat within the city of Pocatello is primarily characterized by a semi-arid climate with a mix of riparian vegetation along the riverbanks, including willows, cottonwoods, and red osier dogwood, while the surrounding uplands consist of sagebrush steppe with shrubs like bitterbrush and serviceberry, transitioning to higher elevation coniferous forests in the mountain areas. Willows grow on the silt between the riverbanks, and some trees grow on the levees below the riprap. Most of the project area has been developed in one way or another so much of the natural habitat has been compromised (Portneuf River Vision Study 2016).

The primary threat to the riparian zone area in the project area has been human development, artificial river channel manipulation, river levees, and invasive weeds. The riparian zone has been degraded by several invasive weeds primarily Canada thistle, Scotch thistle, and poison hemlock. Other species in the riparian zone that are difficult to control are perennial pepperweed, hoary cress, and Russian and diffuse knapweeds. These weeds grow primarily in herbaceous riparian areas but can grow under trees also.

Wetlands

Executive Order 11990, Protection of Wetlands, requires all Federal agencies to provide leadership in the protection of wetlands in acquiring, managing, and disposing of Federal lands; providing federally undertaken, financed, or assisted construction and improvements; and

conducting Federal activities and programs affecting land use. Federal agencies shall take action to minimize destruction, loss or degradation of wetlands, and to preserve and enhance the natural and beneficial values of wetlands (Federal Register 1997).

Additionally, The EPA administers the CWA and authorizes the Department of the Army to regulate discharges of dredged or fill material into Waters of the United States (WOTUS), including jurisdictional wetlands. The USACE regulates these discharges through Section 404 (b)(1) guidelines of the CWA. In accordance with Section 404 of the CWA, a permit must be obtained from the USACE for any discharge or dredged or fill material in WOTUS.

According to the USFWS National Wetland Inventory, figure 9 shows that there is a wetland classification along this stretch of the Portneuf River. The Portneuf River in the project area is classified as R2UBHx which is a riverine system that is permanently flooded and has been excavated by humans, among other descriptors. A custom soil resource report was completed by the Natural Resources Conservation Resource (NRCS) in 2019 for the project area and reveals confirmation of multiple sample points meeting similar wetland characteristics for this area per the USACE 1987 aquatic resource delineation manual.

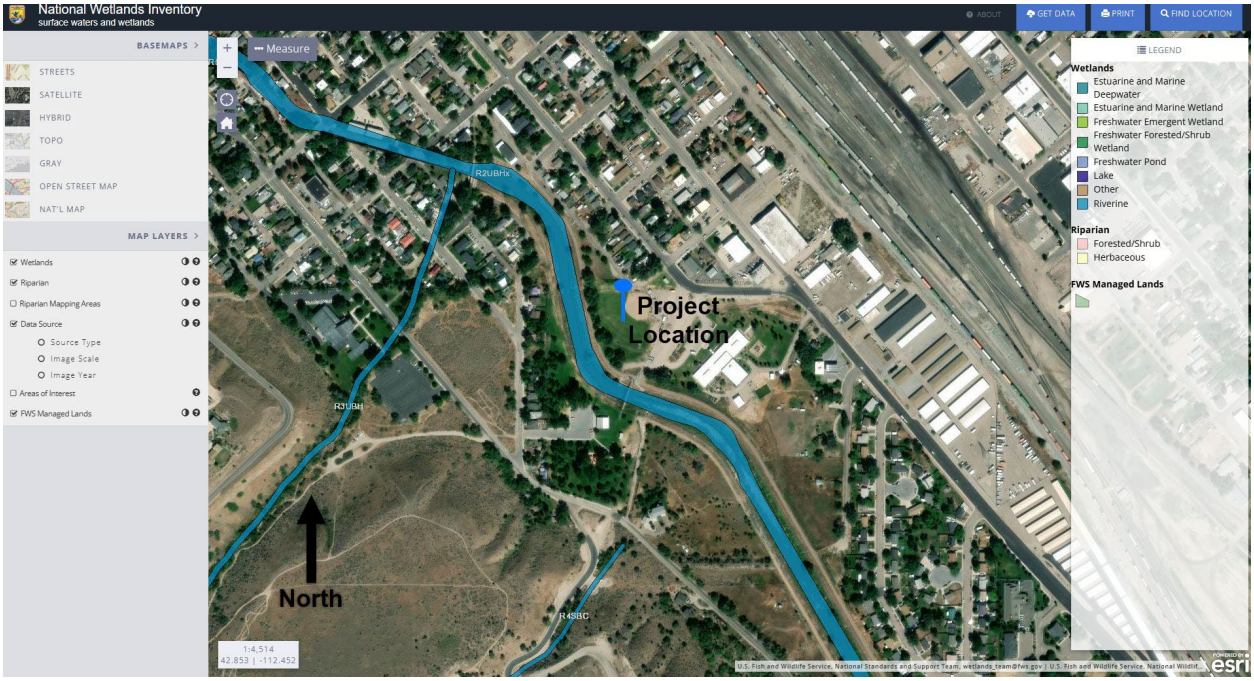


Figure 9.—Map showing the project location and the classification of the Portneuf River as only riverine habitat and R2UBHx habitat according to the USFWS National Wetlands Inventory website.

3.6.1.1 *Wildlife – Terrestrial and Aquatic Biota*

Fish

The Portneuf River was once considered a top fishery for cutthroat trout, but sediment from Chesterfield Reservoir and other factors made the river less hospitable to fish in the 1970s and 1980s. There are approximately a total of 17 species of fish found in the general Portneuf river and within the project area boundary (IDFG 2024). The river itself is significantly impacted by human activity including irrigation diversions and channelization, leading to reduced aquatic habitat diversity and limited fish populations. Some of the most abundant or common fish species that can be found in the Portneuf river are listed on table 1.

Table 1.—Common fish species around or near Rainey Park on the Portneuf River (IDFG 2023)

Common Name	Scientific Name
Brown trout	*Salmo trutta*
Cutthroat trout	*Oncorhynchus clarkii bouvieri*
Rainbow trout	*Oncorhynchus mykiss*
Rainbow X cutthroat trout	*Oncorhynchus mykiss x clarkii*
Longnose dace	*Rhinichthys cataractae*
Mottled sculpin	*Cottus bairdi*
Redside shiner	*Richardsonius balteatus*
Speckled dace	*Rhinichthys osculus*
Utah chub	*Gila atraria*
Utah sucker	*Catostomus ardens*
Golden trout	*Oncorhynchus aguabonita*
Bluehead sucker	*Catostomus discobolus*
Cottus	*Cottus*
Mountain sucker	*Catostomus platyrhynchus*
Dace	*Rhinichthys*

Avian Communities

Golden eagles, Northern harriers, red-tailed hawks, and great horned owls are commonly seen on Portneuf River corridor. Swainson's and rough-legged hawks are early spring visitors, passing through on their migration flights north. Canada geese and several duck species including mallard, gadwall, and cinnamon teal nests are in the area and are year-round residents. Mallard and Canada geese normally comprise most waterfowl in this part of the Portneuf River (IDFG species database 2024).

Yellow warbler, yellow-rumped warbler, MacGillivray's warbler, vesper sparrow, song sparrow, savannah sparrow, American goldfinch, lazuli bunting, western kingbird, western wood pewee, black-capped chickadee, sage thrasher, rufous-sided towhee, green-tailed towhee, American robin, ruby-crowned kinglet, western meadowlark, and pine siskin are some of the common

small sized birds that inhabit Portneuf riparian and upland habitat. Due to the urbanization of the area much of the bird habitat near the project site is marginal (Portneuf River Vision Study 2016).

Some of the most abundant or common avian species that can be found on the Portneuf river corridor are listed on table 2.

Table 2.—Common avian species around or near Rainey Park on the Portneuf river corridor (sources: IDFG species database 2024)

Common Name	Scientific Name
Yellow warbler	*American redstarts*
Yellow-rumped warbler	*Setophaga coronata*
MacGillivray's warbler	*Geothlypis tolmiei*
Vesper sparrow	*Pooecetes gramineus*
Song sparrow	*Melospiza melodia*
Savannah sparrow	*Passerculus sandwichensis*
American goldfinch	*Spinus tristis*
Lazuli bunting	*Passerina amoena*
Western kingbird	*Tyrannus verticalis*
Western wood pee wee	*Contopus sordidulus*
Black-capped chickadee	*Poecile atricapillus*
Sage thrasher	*Oreoscoptes montanus*
Rufous-sided towhee	*Pipilo erythrophthalmus*
Green-tailed towhee	*Pipilo chlorurus*
American robin	*Turdus migratorius*
Ruby-crowned kinglet	*Corthylio calendula*
Western meadowlark	*Sturnella neglecta*
Pine siskin	*Spinus pinus*
Canada geese	*Branta canadensis*
Mallard duck	*Anas platyrhynchos*

Mammalian Communities

Mule deer, elk, moose, and an occasional whitetail deer are the only large mammals inhabiting Portneuf river corridor near the project area, several species of small mammals also call the area home. Beavers reside in some adjacent creek drainages, along with porcupines and mink. Coyotes, raccoons, yellow-bellied marmots, cottontail rabbits, red pine squirrels, and the occasional bobcat and mountain lion also roam nearby habitat (IDFG species database 2024). Some of the most abundant or common mammalian species that can be found in the Portneuf river corridor are listed on table 3.

Table 3.—Common mammalian species around or near Rainey Park on the Portneuf river corridor (sources: IDFG species database 2024)

Common Name	Scientific Name
Coyote	*Canis latrans*
Red fox	*Vulpes vulpes*
Yellow-bellied marmot	*Marmota flaviventris*
American beaver	*Castor canadensis*
American mink	*Neovison vison*
American marten	*Martes americana*
Weasel	*Mustela spp.*
Racoon	*Procyon lotor*
Skunk	*Mephitis mephitis*
Badger	*Taxidea taxus*
Porcupine	*Erethizon dorsatum*
Several rodent spp.	*Peromyscus maniculatus spp.*
Several bat spp.	*Vespertilionidae*
Several squirrel spp.	*Sciuridae*

Amphibian and Reptile Communities

Amphibians and reptiles that occur along the Portneuf river corridor include long-toed salamanders (*Ambystoma macrodactylum*), pacific treefrogs (*Hyla regilla*), leopard frogs (*Rana pipiens*), western chorus frogs (*Pseudacris triseriata*), longnose leopard lizards (*Gambelia wislizenii*), side-blotched lizard (*Uta stansburiana*), racers (*Coluber constrictor*), gopher snakes (*Pituophis melanoleucus*), garter snakes (*Thamnophis* spp.), and western rattlesnakes (*Crotalus viridis*)(IDFG species database 2024).

Some of the most abundant or common amphibian and reptile species that can be found in the project area along the Portneuf river are listed on table 4.

Table 4.—Common amphibian and reptile species found around or near Rainey Park on the Portneuf river corridor (sources: IDFG specie database 2024)

Common Name	Scientific Name
Yellow-bellied racer	*Coluber constrictor mormon*
Common garter snake	*T. sirtalis*
Gopher snake	*Pituophis melanoleucus deserticola*
Side-blotched lizard	*Uta stansburiana*
Northern leopard frogs	*Rana pipiens*
Western chorus frog	*Pseudacris triseriata*
Long-toed salamanders	*Ambystoma macrodactylum*
Pacific treefrogs	*Hyla regilla*

3.6.2 Environmental Consequences

3.6.2.1 *Alternative A – No Action*

The wildlife and vegetation communities in Rainey Park project area would not be adversely impacted by the No Action alternative. There would be no change in aquatic habitat including wetlands. The diversity, distribution, and relative abundance of communities using the area would remain the same as current conditions under the No Action alternative.

3.6.2.2 *Alternative B – Rainey Park Stream Restoration and Wetland Creation Project (Proposed Action)*

The Rainey Park Stream Restoration and Wetland Creation project would produce benefits to riparian and upland vegetation as well as to fish and wildlife using the area. The proposed project would re-create a healthy riparian wetland, providing habitat for invertebrates, amphibians, birds, fish and small mammals. It is likely to get use from area mule deer and moose as well. There is currently little structural diversity within the levees or concrete channel to slow down water or provide quality habitat for fish and other aquatic life. The proposed action would result in an additional acre of wetland habitat, which would be wetted year-round and would be a net gain under the CWA and cause no issues with EO 11990. The project is engineered to slow down the water within the Portneuf River and improve habitat for all species in the area while providing a scenic and useful benefit to people.

Aquatic organisms would benefit greatly from this project in many ways. Improved vigor of riparian wetlands and streambank vegetation boosts abundance of terrestrial invertebrate prey to aquatic organisms which would increase the population and growth of local fish. Healthy riparian vegetation strains sediment and chemicals from adjacent streams and lands entering the river, helping improve water quality for all aquatic organisms.

Benefits from the proposal to create a stormwater pond are many. The pond would capture sediment from choking out downstream spawning areas increasing recruitment and improving fish growth within the river. It would create more riparian habitat which would cool air refugia for invertebrates, amphibians, and reptiles. The pond also acts as an alcove and provide valuable habitat for migrating and breeding waterfowl.

The fishery in the segment of the Portneuf River would also benefit greatly. The concrete flume and riprap channel that encompasses the Portneuf River in Pocatello is a barrier to upstream fish movement. This project would provide fish security with increased habitat complexity where there is currently none. It would also create fish nursery areas within the new riparian and wetland vegetation and increase the overall health of the fishery.

When completed the river would meander providing better habitat for amphibians and reptiles. The increase of better habitat would increase moisture, cover, and cool the water which would provide the greatest reduction in potential impacts related to warmer annual temperature trends and increase overall population health for amphibians and reptiles.

3.7 Threatened & Endangered Species

3.7.1 Affected Environment

A preliminary report for the proposed project area was generated through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) online tool that indicated the potential presence of one Candidate species (monarch butterfly – *Danaus plexippus*). No proposed or designated critical habitats associated with any listed species overlap with the project's area of influence.

The monarch butterfly, as a candidate species, has not yet been proposed for listing. There are no requirements under Section 7 of the ESA for candidate species, but agencies are encouraged to take advantage of opportunities for conservation. No critical habitat has been designated for this species. The Monarch butterfly is discussed in further detail below, and the full IPaC report is included as appendix A.

3.7.1.1 *Monarch butterfly (Danaus plexippus)*

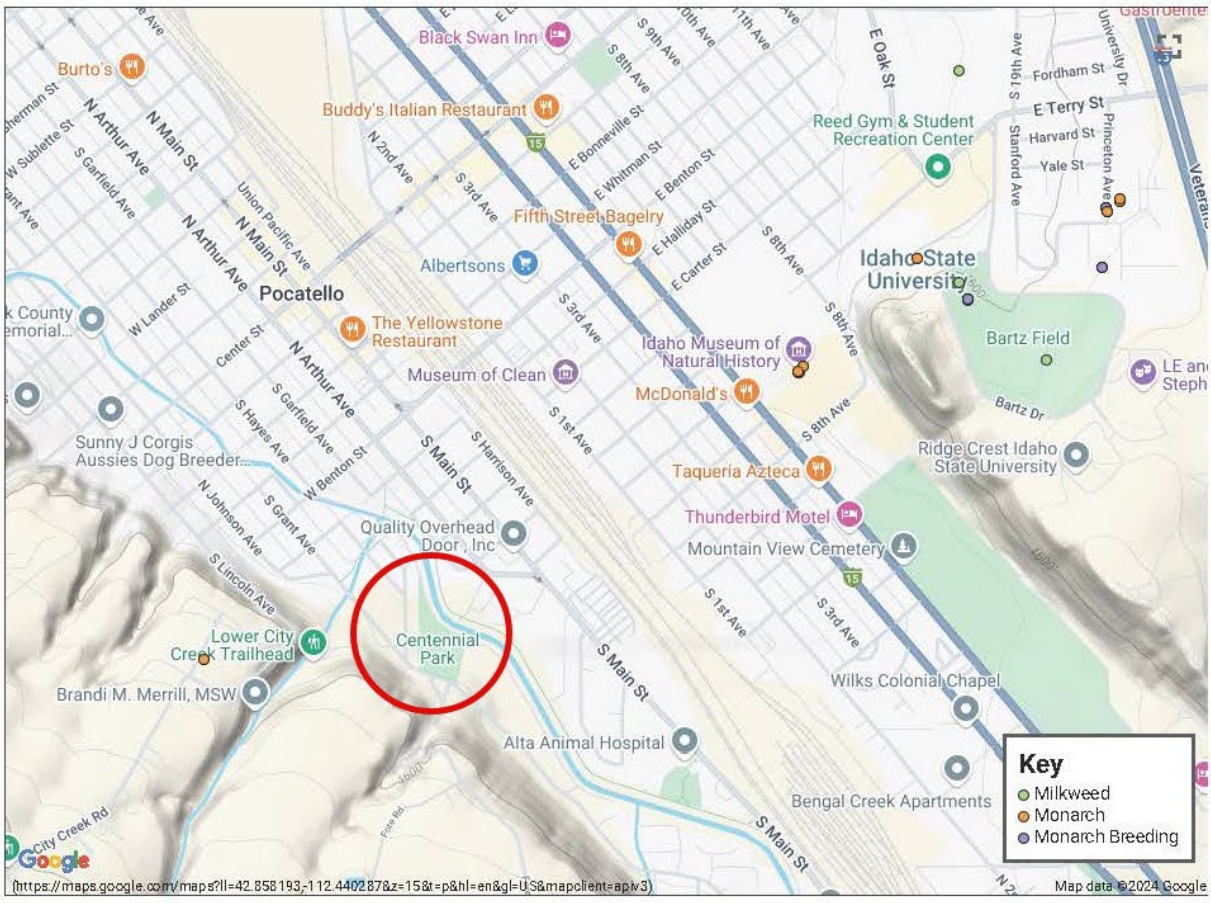
Species Life History and Distribution

The monarch butterfly is a butterfly species that is globally distributed, with the North American populations being well-known for long-distance migration. They are obligate to their larval host plant, milkweed, five species of which are native in Idaho: Davis's milkweed (*Asclepias cryptoceras* ssp. *davisii*), spider milkweed (*Asclepias asperula* ssp. *asperula*), narrowleaf milkweed (Asclepias fascicularis), swamp milkweed (*Asclepias incarnata* ssp. *incarnata*), and showy milkweed (*Asclepias speciosa*). (Kinter 2019), on which they lay eggs and larvae emerge in 2 to 5 days. Multiple generations of monarchs are produced in a breeding season; most individuals live approximately 2 to 5 weeks, but overwintering adults enter reproductive diapause (suspended reproduction) and may live 6 to 9 months.

Migratory individuals in western North America generally fly shorter distances south and west to overwintering groves along the California coast into northern Baja California. In the spring in western North America, monarchs migrate north and east over multiple generations from coastal California toward the Rockies and to the Pacific Northwest. Adult monarch butterflies during breeding and migration require a diversity of blooming nectar resources, which they feed on throughout their migration routes and breeding grounds (spring through fall). Monarchs also need milkweed (for both oviposition and larval feeding) embedded within this diverse nectaring habitat. The correct phenology, or timing, of both monarch presence as well as nectar plants and milkweed is important for monarch survival. In western North America, nectar and milkweed resources are often associated with riparian corridors, and milkweed may function as the principal nectar source for monarchs in more arid regions (USFWS 2020).

Occurrence in Action Area

The interagency Western Monarch Milkweed Mapper (www.monarchmilkweedmapper.org) does not show documentation of milkweed within the project area, but it does indicate detections of monarch, including evidence of breeding, and milkweed reported as recently as 2024 in the vicinity of the project, on the Idaho State University campus approximately 1.5 km (0.9 mi) northeast of the project area, as well as less recently-reported monarch sightings near the Lower City Creek Trailhead, just 0.5 km (0.3 mi) west of Centennial Park (figure 10).



Western Monarch and Milkweed Occurrence Database. 2024. Data accessed from the Western Monarch Milkweed Mapper, a project by the Xerces Society, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, and Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. Available: www.monarchmilkweedmapper.org. Accessed: 11/25/2024

Figure 10.—Western Monarch and milkweed occurrence map, with the general proposed project area indicated in the red circle. Multiple reported occurrences of monarchs, including observed breeding, and milkweed (see map key) have been reported in the near vicinity of the proposed project area.

3.7.2 Environmental Consequences

3.7.2.1 *Alternative A – No Action*

Under the No Action alternative, effects to Monarch butterfly would continue to be minimal to nonexistent. Suitable habitat for this species would likely continue to be absent from the action area under the current land use and management practices at Rainey and Centennial Parks. The preservation of grass-based urban park landscaping would likely preclude any future development of suitable habitat for this species, and any individual monarchs incidentally occurring in the proposed action area would be transient individuals moving between patches of more suitable habitat.

To the extent that milkweed and/or appropriate nectaring habitat for monarch butterflies exists adjacent to the proposed project area, occupancy by this species would be unaffected by the continued management of Rainey and Centennial Parks in their current state.

3.7.2.2 *Alternative B – Rainey Park Stream Restoration and Wetland Creation Project (Proposed Action)*

Under the Proposed Action, the replacement of existing grass-based urban park landscaping with riparian and upland vegetation through the re-creation of a healthy riparian wetland would be expected to potentially facilitate the expansion of suitable monarch habitat. If native milkweed species and other flowering forb and shrub species that would provide nectar sources are incorporated into the seeding mix and overall area restoration plan as recommended in the Xerces Society Best Management Practices for Conserving the Monarch Butterfly and its Habitat (Xerces Society 2018) as part of the project's post-construction revegetation plan, the proposed action would be expected to result in an increase in suitable habitat for the species over the long term, resulting in slight beneficial impacts to monarch butterflies.

3.8 Cultural Resources

3.8.1 Affected Environment

This section includes an evaluation of the potential impacts to cultural resources that could result from project implementation. Cultural resources may include archaeological traces, such as Native American occupation sites and artifacts; historic-era buildings and structures; and places used for traditional Native American observances or places with special cultural significance. Cultural resources were investigated within the project area, which is equivalent to the Area of Potential Effect (APE) defined by the Section 106 process of the National Historic Preservation Act. The Section 106 process is required only for Alternative B. Section 106 does not deal with impacts on all types of cultural resources, or all cultural aspects of the environment; it deals only with impacts on properties included in or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). This section addresses all cultural resources in the project area, regardless of eligibility,

as required by NEPA. Background information provided below was compiled by contractor Cannon Heritage Consultants for the project's Section 106 survey report (Dersam, Dersam, and Cannon 2025).

The Snake River Plain was an important area in the pre-contact era before the arrival of Europeans, providing a nexus of travel routes between the Great Basin, the Plains, and the mountainous areas of central Idaho. Due to this geographical location, the cultural chronology of southern Idaho is influenced by and associated with the Great Basin and Plains Culture Area chronologies (Butler 1986; Plew 2008). Ethnographically, Numic-speaking groups, including the Paiute, Shoshone, Bannock, and Comanche, occupied the greater part of the desert west from the Oregon Cascades to the Rocky Mountains and south to the Gulf of Mexico (Wildeson 1982).

Even though human groups have occupied Idaho for at least the past 14,000 years, there is a paucity of evidence in the project area for the early portion of this period. Until around the nineteenth century, these groups existed as hunter-gatherers subsisting on local resources: then trade brought them in contact with a much larger world than pedestrian travel made feasible. By the nineteenth century, and perhaps earlier, significant change in their socioeconomic system had been brought about by contact with Euro-Americans. The region's natural system experienced unparalleled change with the settlement of Euro-Americans in the mid-nineteenth century through the introduction of domestic stock, irrigation, and mining. The following is a brief overview of the area's aboriginal culture history.

The Northern Shoshone groups of Idaho shared cultural patterns with those of the Great Basin area and the Great Plains (Murphy and Murphy 1986). Much of our understanding of these groups is based upon Steward's (1938) ethnographic studies of the Sheepeater and Lemhi Shoshone of central Idaho. Additional ethnographic work by Lowie (1909), Murphy and Murphy (1960; 1986), Franzen (1978), Madsen (1980), and Walker (1998) has added to our understanding of these groups. Within the Northern Shoshone region of the study area, the identification of local groups in the historic and ethnographic literature is based largely on associated food resources. For example, the inhabitants of the Boise River were referred to as Yahandeka (groundhog eaters), while those of the Snake River were referred to as Agaideka (salmon eaters) and those of the Sawtooth Range as the Tukudeka (sheep eaters). This flexible nomenclature, in which multiple ethnonyms may have been attached to people of a single locale or across wider regions, has complicated anthropological understandings of Shoshone sociopolitical organization and band formation (Murphy and Murphy 1986).

The first permanent Euro-American settlement near Pocatello is attributed to Nathaniel Wyeth of Massachusetts, who established one of the first permanent settlements at Fort Hall in 1834. When over-trapping and a fashion shift to silk hats ended the fur trade, Fort Hall became a supply point for immigrants traveling the Oregon Trail. Pocatello takes its pseudonym from the Shoshone (Bannock) Chief Pocatello, who ceded land to the Union Pacific Railroad in the area of Portneuf valley that would eventually become Pocatello.

The discovery of gold in the region in 1860 dramatically increased the state population and speeded development throughout Idaho. The gold rush initiated a rush of local Pocatello industrialization and further development throughout the greater Portneuf Valley, which became a major hub used by stage and freight lines. The Portneuf valley was already developed and situated in a logistically important position, which aided the railroad's arrival. The “Gate City” or "Pocatello Junction" became an important transportation crossroads as the Union Pacific Railroad expanded its service, beginning first as the Oregon Short Line in the 1880s.
After the initial lag in development following the gold rush, agriculture became the primary focus of the region. The region quickly became an important national producer aided by the volcanic soils and readily available irrigation from the Snake River. Snake River, the region became a large supplier of potatoes, grain, hay, and other important crops.

The Carey Act of 1894, the Enlarged Homestead Act of 1902, and the National Reclamation Act of 1902 brought large-scale irrigation projects to the area and greatly expanded agricultural production. These irrigation projects greatly increased the agricultural output in the area and led to population growth (Magee 1993). Today, Pocatello is the second largest city in eastern Idaho and serves as a regional hub for healthcare, travel, and business, with a population of about 56,016 people, according to the 2020 U.S. Census (U.S. Census Bureau 2022).

3.8.1.1 *Cultural Resource Investigations*

Cannon Heritage Consultants performed cultural resource investigations for the project under contract with the City of Pocatello. Cannon Heritage Consultants conducted pre-field records research, field survey, subsurface probing to determine deposition, limited shovel test excavation to assess cultural evidence in proposed development areas, and drafted a cultural resources report. Reclamation reviewed and used the contractor’s report for consultation with the Idaho State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and associated tribes. All aspects of the cultural resource study were conducted in accordance with the Secretary of the Interior’s Guidelines for Identification of Cultural Resources (48 CFR 44720-44723).

For cultural resource concerns, the project area boundaries were drawn to encompass all project activities with emphasis on those that would include probable ground disturbance. No previously documented historic-era cultural resources or pre-contact archaeological resources have been documented within the project area. Only one cultural resources was noted within the project area, the historic Portneuf River flood control levee, which Cannon Heritage Consultants documented and recommended as ineligible for listing on the NRHP. Reclamation agreed and initiated consultation with the SHPO that resulted in concurrence with ineligibility for the levee and an overall finding of No Historic Properties Affected (via letter notification dated April 1, 2025). Reclamation identified the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes of the Fort Hall Indian Reservation for consultation purposes; no specific cultural resources of tribal significance were identified to the agency.

3.8.2 Environmental Consequences

Impacts from potential project activities to cultural resources were measured according to their potential to reduce or eliminate the property's historical significance. Identification and research of the cultural resources included identification of significance criteria. These criteria comprise the historical importance and integrity of the resources, and a reduction or loss of these criteria would be considered adverse to the cultural resource. For this analysis, the evaluation performed during the Section 106 process to identify adverse effects was used as an equivalent method for evaluating adverse impacts. These impacts are evaluated in terms of their context and the intensity of their effects to the cultural resource.

The following indicators, consistent with Federal regulations for the protection of historic properties (36 CFR 800) and treatment of historic properties (36 CFR 68), were used to assess impacts to cultural resources for this analysis.

- Physical destruction of or damage to all or part of the resource
- Alteration of a resource, including restoration, rehabilitation, repair, maintenance, stabilization, hazardous material remediation, and provision of handicapped access, that is not consistent with the Secretary of the Interior's standards for the treatment of historic properties (36 CFR 68) and applicable guidelines
- Removal of the property from its historic location
- Change of the character of the property's use or of physical features within the property's setting that contribute to its historic significance
- Introduction of visual, atmospheric, or audible elements that diminish the integrity of the property's significant historic features.

3.8.2.1 *Alternative A – No Action*

Under the No Action alternative, Reclamation would not approve funding for the WaterSMART grant in which the City of Pocatello proposes to perform a river restoration and wetland creation project. The Portneuf River would continue to exhibit limited aquatic habitat including wetlands within the FRRP. The WaterSMART grant project would not occur and the urban river health and access would not be improved by creating a wetland with a side channel, no new habitat would be created for invertebrates, amphibians, birds, fish and small mammals, and no new storm water pond would be constructed to capture sediment.

Under the No Action alternative, the single known cultural resource (the Portneuf River Flood Control levee) would continue to be affected by natural conditions, such as erosion, and human-caused impacts such as recreational effects. However, pursuing the No Action alternative would not trigger the short-term or long-term loss or accelerated deterioration of the known cultural resource.

3.8.2.2 *Alternative B – Rainey Park Stream Restoration and Wetland Creation Project (Proposed Action)*

Under the Proposed Action alternative, Reclamation would provide funding through a WaterSMART grant for the City of Pocatello to perform a river restoration and wetland creation project along the Portneuf River involving both Centennial Park and Rainey Park. The action would setback approximately 625 linear feet of right bank levee to create a wetland and side channel within the levee, along with ADA-accessible river access for anglers and floaters. Additionally, a stormwater pond would be created to capture the first flush of sediment-laden waters off city streets. The entire park would act as a staging area with equipment moved out of the way during non-working hours.

The levee, the only identified cultural resource within the project area, would not see any adverse impacts because of the implementation of the proposed action. While the structure would be altered (setback) to accommodate the creation of the wetland and side channel, the levee itself will still exist and perform the function for which it was originally constructed. A lesser impact would be related to a potential increase in human presence and use over the project area after wetland and side channel construction is completed, but the levee itself would likely not bear adverse effects from that, not being the main attraction. Delineated footpaths will direct people across the setback levee to the wetlands and side channel area.

Combined impacts from the ongoing and upcoming projects in the vicinity of Rainey Park. which have been identified as installation of additional parking as well as other park upgrades, storm water line replacement, bike path and intersection upgrades, and bridge replacements in the vicinity, would be the same as the aforementioned non-adverse impact – increased human presence and use of the area would be mediated by design with constructed pathways that would direct foot traffic and not trigger loss or accelerated deterioration of the levee within or near the project area.

3.9 Indian Sacred Sites

A sacred site, as defined in Executive Order 13007, means any specific, discrete, narrowly delineated location on Federal land that is identified by an Indian tribe, or Indian individual determined to be an appropriately authoritative representative of an Indian religion, as sacred by virtue of its established religious significance to, or ceremonial use by, an Indian religion; provided that the tribe or appropriately authoritative representative of an Indian religion has informed the agency of the existence of such a site. During consultation efforts, no sacred sites were identified, discussed, or delineated within the defined project area by the associated tribes. If such sites exist near the project area, but were not divulged specifically, it is assumed that project activities as described during scoping would not be sufficient to deny or limit access for Native American religious practitioners.

3.9.1 Affected Environment

The project area of the Rainey Park Stream Restoration and Wetland Creation effort has been significantly altered from its natural state by urban encroachment, park development, and the construction of the levee system that essentially reins in the river's natural course. The human population of the area has increased exponentially since sole tribal use and visitation prior to the arrival of Euro-Americans into what is now southern Idaho. The project area is now largely a controlled environment.

3.9.2 Environmental Consequences

3.9.2.1 *Alternative A – No Action*

Reclamation has no information of any sacred sites within or near the project area and no sacred sites were identified by tribes during the scoping or cultural resources consultation processes. Under the No-Action alternative, Reclamation would not fund the City's proposed project to setback the levee, create a new wetland and side channel, so, generally, no ground disturbance would take place related to proposed project actions. It is likely that the City would continue to operate the park under current conditions. There would be no adverse or combined impacts to sacred sites.

3.9.2.2 *Alternative B – Rainey Park Stream Restoration and Wetland Creation Project (Proposed Action)*

Under the Proposed Action alternative, the river restoration and wetland creation project along the Portneuf River involving both Centennial Park and Rainey Park would occur. Reclamation has no prior information about any sacred sites within or near the project area and no sacred sites were identified by tribes during the scoping process or cultural resources consultation. As such, there would be no adverse or combined impacts to sacred sites.

3.10 Tribal Interests

3.10.1 Indian Trust Assets

Indian Trust Assets are legal interests in property held in trust by the United States for Indian Tribes or individual Indian trust landowners. ITAs include trust lands, natural resources, trust funds or other assets held by the Federal government in trust. An Indian asset has three components: (1) the trustee, (2) the beneficiary, and (3) the trust asset. Treaty-reserved rights, for instance, fishing hunting and gathering rights on and off reservation, are usufructuary rights that do not meet the Department of the Interior (DOI) definition of an ITA. The United States does not own or otherwise hold these resources in trust. ITAs do not normally include usufructuary rights alone (i.e., rights to access for hunting and fishing). Rather, they require first a possessory interest; that is the asset must be held or owned by the Federal government as trustee.

The DOI requires that all impacts to trust assets, even those considered nonsignificant, must be discussed in a trust analysis in NEPA documents and appropriate compensation and/or mitigation implemented. Additionally, Reclamation's NEPA Handbook (Reclamation 2012) recommends a separate ITA section in all NEPA documents including a FONSI. These sections should be prepared in consultation with potentially affected tribal and other trust beneficiaries.

3.10.1.1 *Affected Environment*

No Indian trust land assets were identified in the proposed action area or staging areas during the scoping process, such as those held in trust by the Bureau of Indian Affairs for the benefit of Tribes of individual Indian trust landowners. As part of the scoping process, Reclamation researched Tessel, a Federal Geographic Information System (GIS) land database that includes Federal lands held in trust for Tribes and individual Indian trust landowners. This research indicated there are no Indian trust land assets in the proposed Action or staging areas.

3.10.1.2 *Environmental Consequences*

Alternative A – No Action

Under the No Action alternative, Reclamation would not fulfill the WaterSMART grant to the City of Pocatello to perform a river restoration and wetland creation project. Existing short-term or long-term effects, either beneficial or adverse, or effects on public health and safety in relationship to nearby ITAs would remain unchanged.

Alternative B – Rainey Park Stream Restoration and Wetland Creation Project (Proposed Action)

Under Alternative B, the Proposed Action, Reclamation would provide funding through a WaterSMART grant for the City of Pocatello to perform a river restoration and wetland creation project occurring within Bannock County in Southeastern Idaho. If the Proposed Action occurs, there are no known beneficial or adverse effects to ITAs.

Reclamation requested information from the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes of the Fort Hall Reservation, who traditionally or currently use the area under their reserved treaty rights; however, no response were received. The lack of specific information about the area is not indicative of a lack of importance to Tribes. With no specific responses, Reclamation assumes that there would be no adverse effects to Indian Assets, such as adverse impacts to water, water rights, or land held in trust for the Tribes.

3.10.2 Treaty Rights

3.10.2.1 *Affected Environment*

The United States has a fiduciary responsibility to protect and maintain rights reserved by Indian Tribes or Indian individuals by treaties, statutes, executive orders, and allotments. These rights are sometimes further interpreted through court decisions and regulations.

The Proposed Action area is surrounded by areas historically used by many Tribes. Treaty Rights at issue here are access and impacts to off-reservation hunting, fishing, gathering rights, livestock grazing rights, and cultural or ceremonial use rights. Although the proposed action area may have federally-owned property, Courts have ruled that members of federally recognized Tribes with reserved Treaty Rights have the right to cross private or state lands in order to gain access to treaty areas(United States v. Winans 1905).

The Shoshone-Bannock Tribes of the Fort Hall Reservation are federally recognized Tribes in southeast Idaho, situated approximately 4.7 miles west of the proposed action area. On July 3, 1868, the Fort Bridger Treaty was signed and agreed to by the eastern and western bands of the Northern Shoshone and the Bannok (or Northern Paiute Bands), Article IV of the treaty states that members of the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes ‘‘…shall have the right to hunt on the unoccupied lands of the United States…’ Courts interpreted this to mean “unoccupied Federal lands.”

In the case of *State of Idaho v. Tinno*, an off-reservation fishing case in Idaho, the Idaho Supreme Court interpreted the Fort Bridger Treaty of the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes. The Court determined that the Shoshone word for ‘hunt’ also included to ‘fish.’ Under Tinno, the Court affirmed the Tribal Members’ right to take fish off-reservation pursuant to the Fort Bridger Treaty. The Court also recognizes, “that treaty Indians have subsistence and cultural interests in hunting and fishing…” and “The Fort Bridger Treaty…contains a unified hunting and fishing right, which…is unequivocal.” The treaty did not grant a hunting, fishing, or gathering right, it reserved a right the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes have always exercised.

3.10.2.2 *Environmental Consequences*

The United States Supreme Court has ruled that treaties with Indian Tribes are to be construed liberally in favor of Tribes, as the Tribes would have understood the language of the treaty at the time the treaty was signed. It is likely that the ratified or unratified treaties listed above include areas surrounding the town of Pocatello, Idaho, the proposed action area.

Alternative A – No Action

Under the No Action alternative, Reclamation would not fulfill the WaterSMART grant to the City of Pocatello to perform a river restoration and wetland creation project. There would be no short-term or long-term effects, either beneficial or adverse to existing reserved Treaty Rights for tribal hunting, fishing, or gathering in traditional or customary places or for livestock grazing in the area.

Alternative B – Rainey Park Stream Restoration and Wetland Creation Project (Proposed Action)

Under Alternative B, the Proposed Action, Reclamation would provide funding through a WaterSMART grant for the City of Pocatello to perform a river restoration and wetland creation project occurring within Bannock County in southeastern Idaho. If the Proposed Action occurs, there are no known beneficial or adverse effects to treaty rights. The proposed project

construction ingress and egress routes may cause a temporary, short-term adverse effect on access to traditional or customary hunting, fishing, or gathering sites, or for livestock grazing areas during the construction periods.

Reclamation requested information from the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes of the Fort Hall Reservation, who traditionally and currently use the area for hunting, fishing, and gathering of plants; however, no responses were received. The lack of specific information about the area is not indicative of a lack of importance to Tribes. With no specific response, Reclamation assumes that there would be no adverse effects to reserved Treaty Rights, such as access or impacts to areas for hunting, fishing, or gathering, or for livestock grazing.

Mitigation Summary

Mitigation efforts may be required to reduce the effects of construction ingress and egress on tribal access to hunting, fishing, or gathering should construction ingress and egress activity take place in the same location and at the same time of year as traditional or customary hunting, fishing, and gathering of plants, or for livestock grazing. If this were to occur, Reclamation would meet with Tribes to formulate an appropriate mitigation measure.

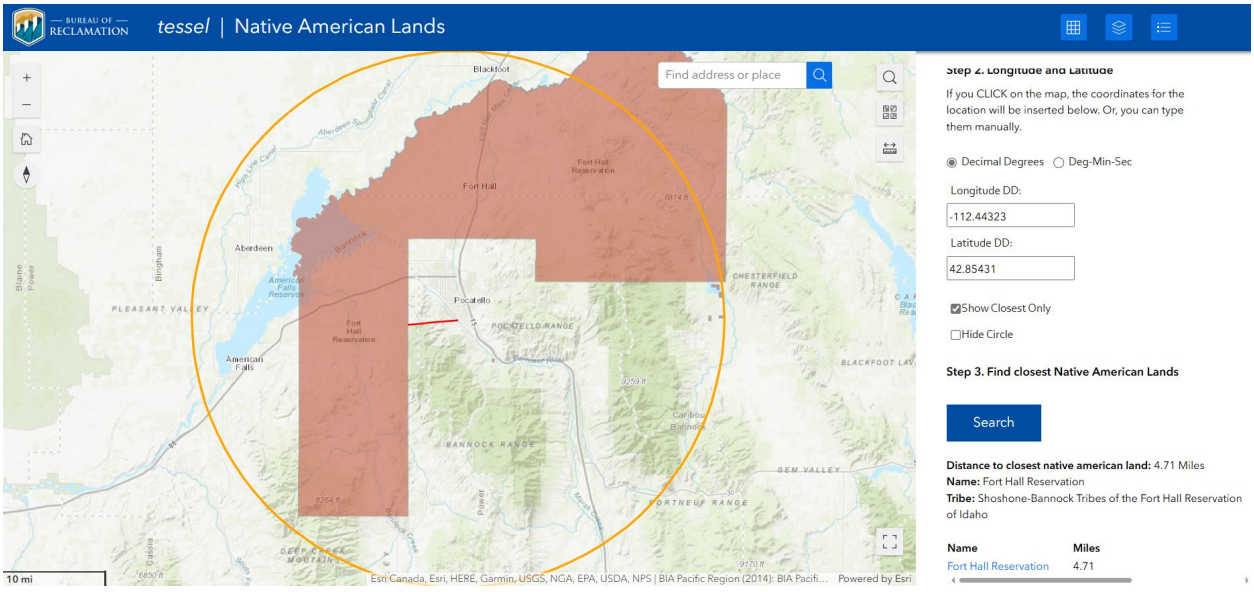


Figure 11.—Map of Native American lands compared to the project location.

4.0 Consultation and Coordination

On October 17, 2024, Reclamation mailed a scoping document, including a letter, project information, and a map, to agencies, Indian tribes, members of Congress, organizations, and the public, soliciting their help in identifying any issues and concerns related to the Proposed Action. Reclamation received two comments during the scoping period. The comments received were supportive in nature and from Idaho Conservation League requesting specific analysis be included regarding the stormwater pond which is included in the water quality analysis (section 3.3) and a member of the public voicing support for the project. The mailing list, scoping letters, and comments received are presented in appendix C.

4.1 Agency Consultation and Coordination

4.1.1 National Historic Preservation Act

Reclamation initiated consultation with the Idaho SHPO on December 15, 2023. SHPO concurrence with Reclamation's finding that there are No Historic Properties that would be affected in the action area was received on April 1, 2025. However, an Inadvertent Discovery Plan (IDP) will be created and implemented during project construction as a stipulation of the consultation concurrence. This plan will ensure that if any cultural resources or human remains are found during ground disturbing activities, proper processes will be followed, and entities will be contacted.

4.1.2 Endangered Species Act

Reclamation generated a preliminary endangered species report through the USFWS IPaC site (appendix A). The report indicated that one candidate species (monarch butterfly – *Danaus plexippus*) are expected to be in the area of the proposed project. Since the Proposed Action would not adversely affect any listed species, no need exists for formal Section 7 consultation under the ESA.

4.2 Tribal Consultation and Coordination

Reclamation mailed scoping letters to the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes and the Northwest Band of the Shoshone Nation Tribes on October 16, 2024 (appendix C). No responses or concerns from the Tribes were brought forward during or after the scoping period.

5.0 References

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IDEQ 2022	Idaho Department of Environmental Quality, 2022. Idaho's 2022 Integrated Report. Water quality Division, Boise, Idaho 83706.
IDEQ 2024	Idaho Department of Environmental Quality, 2024. Idaho's 2024 DRAFT Integrated Report. Water quality Division, Boise, Idaho 83706.
IDFG 2023	Idaho Department of Fish and Game. Idaho Species Observations Database (Searchable). https://idfg.idaho.gov/species/observations/list (accessed February 2023)
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IDFG Species Database 2024	Idaho Department of Fish and Game. Species Census Database. https://idfg.idaho.gov/species/
IDL 2024	Idaho Department of Labor. 2024. Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS) https://lmi.idaho.gov/data-tools/labor-force-statistics/ (last accessed October 2024).
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Text Citation	Bibliographic Reference
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USFWS 2020	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 2020. Monarch (*Danaus plexippus*) Species Status Assessment Report. V2.1 96 pp + appendices. https://www.fws.gov/sites/default/files/documents/Monarch-Butterfly-SSA-Report-September-2020.pdf (accessed November 2024).
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Wildeson 1982	L. E. Wildeson, The Farthest Frontier of All: A Cultural Resources Overview of the River of No Return Wilderness, Idaho. Cultural Resources Report 8. U.S. Forest Service, Intermountain Region, Ogden, Utah.
Xerces Society 2018	Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation. 2018. "Managing for Monarchs in the West: Best Management Practices for Conserving the Monarch Butterfly and its Habitat." Portland, OR. Available online at Xerces.org.

Appendices

Appendix A – Information for Planning and Conservation (IPaC) Report

Appendix B – Cultural Resources and Sacred Sites Consultation with State Historic Preservation Office, Shoshone-Bannock Tribes

Appendix C – Scoping Documents, Mailing List, and Scoping Comments Received

Appendix A

Information for Planning and Conservation (IPaC) Report

IPaC **U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service**

IPaC resource list

This report is an automatically generated list of species and other resources such as critical habitat (collectively referred to as *trust resources*) under the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) jurisdiction that are known or expected to be on or near the project area referenced below. The list may also include trust resources that occur outside of the project area, but that could potentially be directly or indirectly a ected by activities in the project area. However, determining the likelihood and extent of e ects a project may have on trust resources typically requires gathering additional site-speci c (e.g., vegetation/species surveys) and project-speci c (e.g., magnitude and timing of proposed activities) information.

Below is a summary of the project information you provided and contact information for the USFWS o ce(s) with jurisdiction in the de ned project area. Please read the introduction to each section that follows (Endangered Species, Migratory Birds, USFWS Facilities, and NWI Wetlands) for additional information applicable to the trust resources addressed in that section.

Location

Bannock County, Idaho

Local office

Idaho Fish And Wildlife O ce

(208) 378-5243
(208) 378-5262

1387 South Vinnell Way, Suite 368
Boise, ID 83709-1657

Endangered species

This resource list is for informational purposes only and does not constitute an analysis of project level impacts.

The primary information used to generate this list is the known or expected range of each species. Additional areas of in uence (AOI) for species are also considered. An AOI includes areas outside of the species range if the species could be indirectly a ected by activities in that area (e.g., placing a dam upstream of a sh population even if that sh does not occur at the dam site, may indirectly impact the species by reducing or eliminating water ow downstream). Because species can move, and site conditions can change, the species on this list are not guaranteed to be found on or near the project area. To fully determine any potential e ects to species, additional site-speci c and project-speci c information is often required.

Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act **requires** Federal agencies to "request of the Secretary information whether any species which is listed or proposed to be listed may be present in the area of such proposed action" for any project that is conducted, permitted, funded, or licensed by any Federal agency. A letter from the local o ce and a species list which ful lls this requirement can **only** be obtained by requesting an o cial species list from either the Regulatory Review section in IPaC (see directions below) or from the local eld o ce directly.

For project evaluations that require USFWS concurrence/review, please return to the IPaC website and request an o cial species list by doing the following:

1. Draw the project location and click CONTINUE.
2. Click DEFINE PROJECT.
3. Log in (if directed to do so).
4. Provide a name and description for your project.
5. Click REQUEST SPECIES LIST.

Listed species[1] and their critical habitats are managed by the Ecological Services Program of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the sheries division of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA Fisheries[2]).

Species and critical habitats under the sole responsibility of NOAA Fisheries are **not** shown on this list. Please contact NOAA Fisheries for species under their jurisdiction.

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1. Species listed under the Endangered Species Act are threatened or endangered; IPaC also shows species that are candidates, or proposed, for listing. See the listing status page for more information. IPaC only shows species that are regulated by USFWS (see FAQ).

2. NOAA Fisheries, also known as the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), is an o ce of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration within the Department of Commerce.

The following species are potentially a ected by activities in this location:

Insects

NAME	STATUS
Monarch Butter y Danaus plexippus Wherever found No critical habitat has been designated for this species. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9743	Candidate

Critical habitats

Potential e ects to critical habitat(s) in this location must be analyzed along with the endangered species themselves.

There are no critical habitats at this location.

You are still required to determine if your project(s) may have e ects on all above listed species.

Bald & Golden Eagles

Bald and golden eagles are protected under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act[1] and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act[2].

Any person or organization who plans or conducts activities that may result in impacts to bald or golden eagles, or their habitats[3], should follow appropriate regulations and consider implementing appropriate conservation measures, as described in the links below. Speci cally, please review the "Supplemental Information on Migratory Birds and Eagles".

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-incidental-take-migratory-birds

- Nationwide conservation 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

There are likely bald eagles present in your project area. For additional information on bald eagles, refer to Bald Eagle Nesting and Sensitivity to Human Activity

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 Haliaeetus leucocephalus 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 o shore areas from certain types of development or activities. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1626	Breeds Dec 1 to Aug 31
Golden Eagle Aquila chrysaetos 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 o shore areas from certain types of development or activities. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1680	Breeds Jan 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", speci cally the FAQ section titled "Proper Interpretation and Use of Your Migratory Bird Report" before using or attempting to interpret this report.

Probability of Presence (■)

Each green bar represents the bird's relative probability of presence in the 10km grid cell(s) your project overlaps during a particular week of the year. (A year is represented as 12 4-week months.) A taller bar indicates a higher probability of species presence. The survey

e ort (see below) can be used to establish a level of con dence in the presence score. One can have higher con dence in the presence score if the corresponding survey e ort is also high.

How is the probability of presence score calculated? The calculation is done in three steps:

1. The probability of presence for each week is calculated as the number of survey events in the week where the species was detected divided by the total number of survey events for that week. For example, if in week 12 there were 20 survey events and the Spotted Towhee was found in 5 of them, the probability of presence of the Spotted Towhee in week 12 is 0.25.
2. To properly present the pattern of presence across the year, the relative probability of presence is calculated. This is the probability of presence divided by the maximum probability of presence across all weeks. For example, imagine the probability of presence in week 20 for the Spotted Towhee is 0.05, and that the probability of presence at week 12 (0.25) is the maximum of any week of the year. The relative probability of presence on week 12 is 0.25/0.25 = 1; at week 20 it is 0.05/0.25 = 0.2.
3. The relative probability of presence calculated in the previous step undergoes a statistical conversion so that all possible values fall between 0 and 10, inclusive. This is the probability of presence score.

To see a bar's probability of presence score, simply hover your mouse cursor over the bar.

Breeding Season (▪)
Yellow bars denote a very liberal estimate of the time-frame inside which the bird breeds across its entire range. If there are no yellow bars shown for a bird, it does not breed in your project area.

Survey Effort (|)
Vertical black lines superimposed on probability of presence bars indicate the number of surveys performed for that species in the 10km grid cell(s) your project area overlaps. The number of surveys is expressed as a range, for example, 33 to 64 surveys.

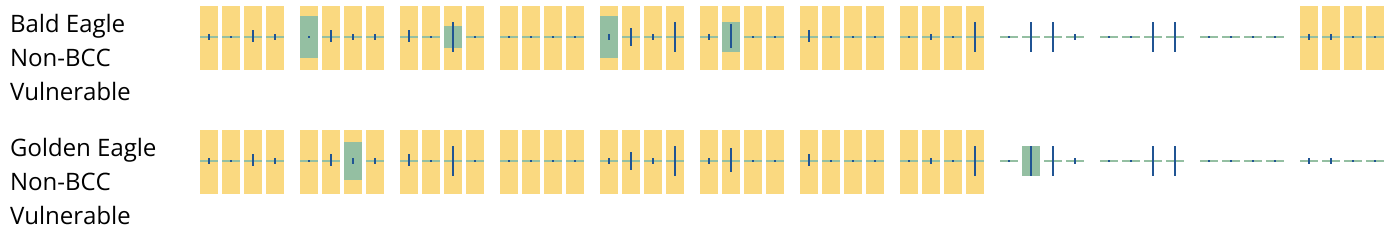
To see a bar's survey e ort range, simply hover your mouse cursor over the bar.

No Data (–)
A week is marked as having no data if there were no survey events for that week.

Survey Timeframe
Surveys from only the last 10 years are used in order to ensure delivery of currently relevant information. The exception to this is areas o the Atlantic coast, where bird returns are based on all years of available data, since data in these areas is currently much more sparse.

probability of presence ▪ breeding season | survey e ort – no data

SPECIES	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC



What does IPaC use to generate the potential presence of bald and golden eagles in my speci ed location?

The potential for eagle presence is derived from data provided by the Avian Knowledge Network (AKN). The AKN data is based on a growing collection of survey, banding, and citizen science datasets and is queried and ltered to return a list of those birds reported as occurring in the 10km grid cell(s) which your project intersects, and that have been identi ed as warranting special attention because they are a BCC species in that area, an eagle (Eagle Act requirements may apply). To see a list of all birds potentially present in your project area, please visit the Rapid Avian Information Locator (RAIL) Tool.

What does IPaC use to generate the probability of presence graphs of bald and golden eagles in my speci ed location?

The Migratory Bird Resource List is comprised of USFWS Birds of Conservation Concern (BCC) and other species that may warrant special attention in your project location.

The migratory bird list generated for your project is derived from data provided by the Avian Knowledge Network (AKN). The AKN data is based on a growing collection of survey, banding, and citizen science datasets and is queried and ltered to return a list of those birds reported as occurring in the 10km grid cell(s) which your project intersects, and that have been identi ed as warranting special attention because they are a BCC species in that area, an eagle (Eagle Act requirements may apply), or a species that has a particular vulnerability to o shore activities or development.

Again, the Migratory Bird Resource list includes only a subset of birds that may occur in your project area. It is not representative of all birds that may occur in your project area. To get a list of all birds potentially present in your project area, please visit the Rapid Avian Information Locator (RAIL) Tool.

What if I have eagles on my list?

If your project has the potential to disturb or kill eagles, you may need to obtain a permit to avoid violating the Eagle Act should such impacts occur. Please contact your local Fish and Wildlife Service Field O ce if you have questions.

Migratory birds

Certain birds are protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act[1] and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act[2].

Any person or organization who plans or conducts activities that may result in impacts to migratory birds, eagles, and their habitats[3] should follow appropriate regulations and consider implementing appropriate conservation measures, as described in the links below. Speci cally, please review the "Supplemental Information on Migratory Birds and Eagles".

1. The Migratory Birds Treaty Act of 1918.
2. The Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act of 1940.

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-incidental-take-migratory-birds
- Nationwide conservation 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

The birds listed below are birds of particular concern either because they occur on the USFWS Birds of Conservation Concern (BCC) list or warrant special attention in your project location. To learn more about the levels of concern for birds on your list and how this list is generated, see the FAQ below. This is not a list of every bird you may nd in this location, nor a guarantee that every bird on this list will be found in your project area. To see exact locations of where birders and the general public have sighted birds in and around your project area, visit the E-bird data mapping tool (Tip: enter your location, desired date range and a species on your list). For projects that occur o the Atlantic Coast, additional maps and models detailing the relative occurrence and abundance of bird species on your list are available. Links to additional information about Atlantic Coast birds, and other important information about your migratory bird list, including how to properly interpret and use your migratory bird report, can be found below.

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
American Avocet Recurvirostra americana This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) only in particular Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in the continental USA	Breeds Apr 21 to Aug 10

American White Pelican pelecanus erythrorhynchos — Breeds Apr 1 to Aug 31
This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) only in particular Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in the continental USA
https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/6886

Bald Eagle Haliaeetus leucocephalus — Breeds Dec 1 to Aug 31
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 o shore areas from certain types of development or activities.
https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1626

Broad-tailed Hummingbird Selasphorus platycercus — Breeds May 25 to Aug 21
This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.

California Gull Larus californicus — Breeds Mar 1 to Jul 31
This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.

Calliope Hummingbird Selasphorus calliope — Breeds May 1 to Aug 15
This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.
https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9526

Cassin's Finch Haemorhous cassinii — Breeds May 15 to Jul 15
This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.
https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9462

Evening Grosbeak Coccothraustes vespertinus — Breeds May 15 to Aug 10
This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.

Forster's Tern Sterna forsteri — Breeds Mar 1 to Aug 15
This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) only in particular Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in the continental USA

Franklin's Gull Leucophaeus pipixcan — Breeds May 1 to Jul 31
This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.

Golden Eagle Aquila chrysaetos — Breeds Jan 1 to Aug 31

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 o shore areas from certain types of development or activities.
https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1680

Lesser Yellowlegs Tringa flavipes — Breeds elsewhere

This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.
https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9679

Lewis's Woodpecker Melanerpes lewis — Breeds Apr 20 to Sep 30

This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.
https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9408

Northern Harrier Circus hudsonius — Breeds Apr 1 to Sep 15

This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) only in particular Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in the continental USA
https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/8350

Olive-sided Flycatcher Contopus cooperi — Breeds May 20 to Aug 31

This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.
https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/3914

Pinyon Jay Gymnorhinus cyanocephalus — Breeds Feb 15 to Jul 15

This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.
https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9420

Rufous Hummingbird Selasphorus rufus — Breeds Apr 15 to Jul 15

This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.
https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/8002

Sage Thrasher Oreoscoptes montanus — Breeds Apr 15 to Aug 10

This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) only in particular Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in the continental USA
https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9433

Virginia's Warbler Leiothlypis virginiae — Breeds May 1 to Jul 31

This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.
https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9441

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", speci cally the FAQ section titled "Proper Interpretation and Use of Your Migratory Bird Report" before using or attempting to interpret this report.

Probability of Presence (■)

Each green bar represents the bird's relative probability of presence in the 10km grid cell(s) your project overlaps during a particular week of the year. (A year is represented as 12 4-week months.) A taller bar indicates a higher probability of species presence. The survey e ort (see below) can be used to establish a level of con dence in the presence score. One can have higher con dence in the presence score if the corresponding survey e ort is also high.

How is the probability of presence score calculated? The calculation is done in three steps:

1. The probability of presence for each week is calculated as the number of survey events in the week where the species was detected divided by the total number of survey events for that week. For example, if in week 12 there were 20 survey events and the Spotted Towhee was found in 5 of them, the probability of presence of the Spotted Towhee in week 12 is 0.25.
2. To properly present the pattern of presence across the year, the relative probability of presence is calculated. This is the probability of presence divided by the maximum probability of presence across all weeks. For example, imagine the probability of presence in week 20 for the Spotted Towhee is 0.05, and that the probability of presence at week 12 (0.25) is the maximum of any week of the year. The relative probability of presence on week 12 is 0.25/0.25 = 1; at week 20 it is 0.05/0.25 = 0.2.
3. The relative probability of presence calculated in the previous step undergoes a statistical conversion so that all possible values fall between 0 and 10, inclusive. This is the probability of presence score.

To see a bar's probability of presence score, simply hover your mouse cursor over the bar.

Breeding Season (■)

Yellow bars denote a very liberal estimate of the time-frame inside which the bird breeds across its entire range. If there are no yellow bars shown for a bird, it does not breed in your project area.

Survey Effort (|)

Vertical black lines superimposed on probability of presence bars indicate the number of surveys performed for that species in the 10km grid cell(s) your project area overlaps. The number of surveys is expressed as a range, for example, 33 to 64 surveys.

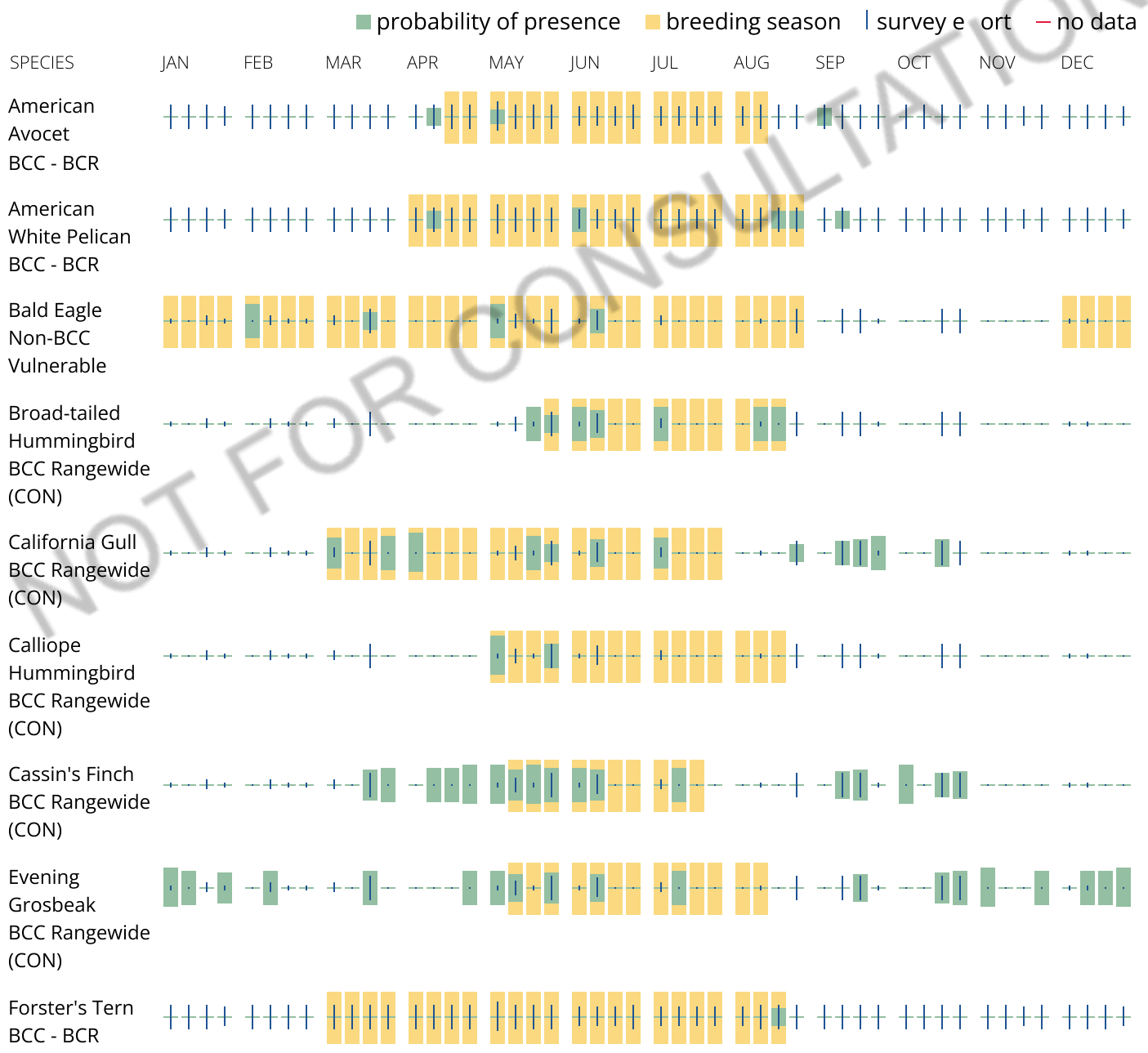
To see a bar's survey e ort range, simply hover your mouse cursor over the bar.

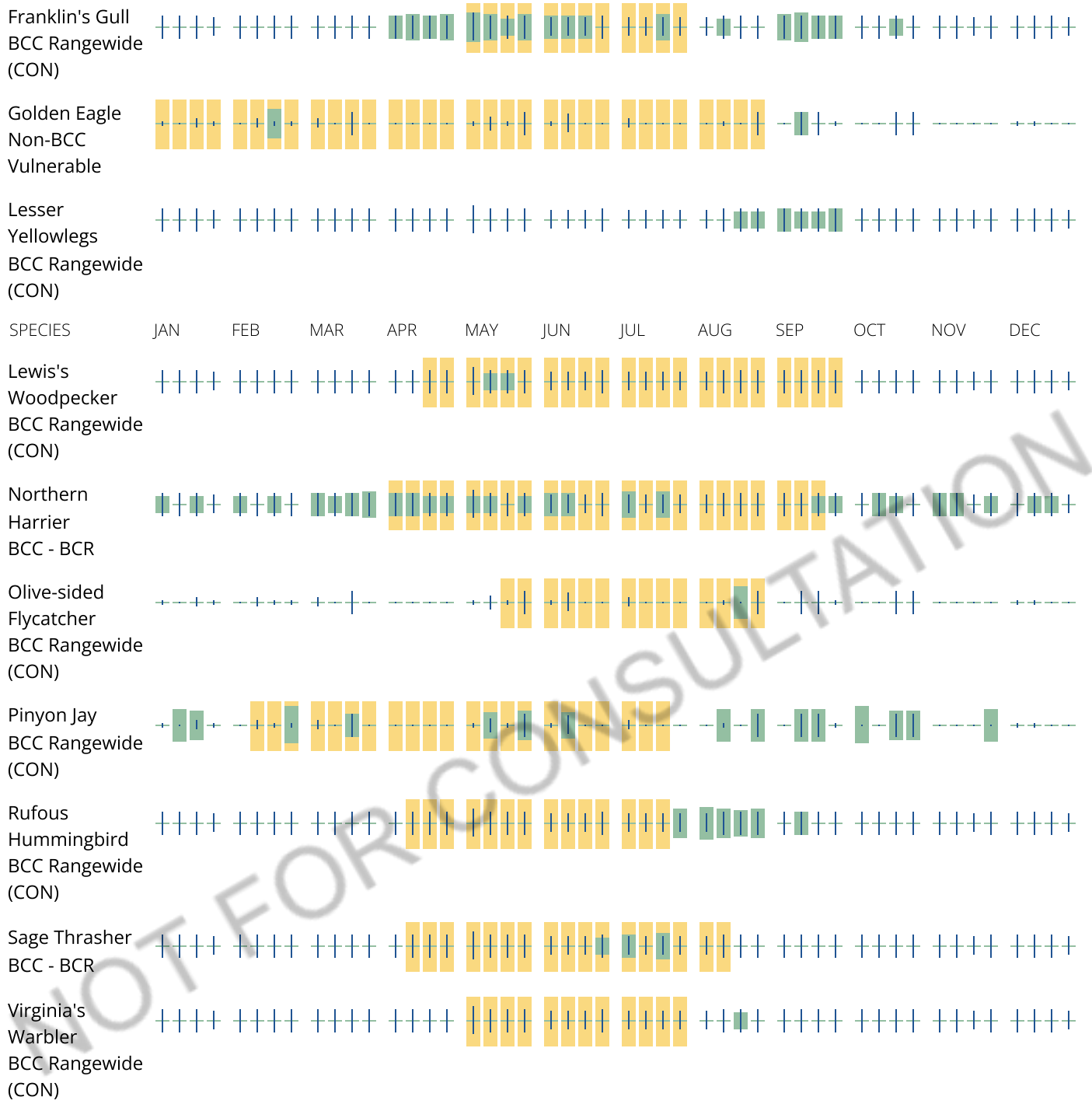
No Data (–)

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

Survey Timeframe

Surveys from only the last 10 years are used in order to ensure delivery of currently relevant information. The exception to this is areas o the Atlantic coast, where bird returns are based on all years of available data, since data in these areas is currently much more sparse.





Tell me more about conservation measures I can implement to avoid or minimize impacts to migratory birds.

Nationwide Conservation Measures describes measures that can help avoid and minimize impacts to all birds at any location year round. Implementation of these measures is particularly important when birds are most likely to occur in the project area. When birds may be breeding in the area, identifying the locations of any active nests and avoiding their destruction is a very helpful impact minimization measure. To see when birds are most likely to occur and be breeding in your project area, view the Probability of Presence Summary. Additional measures or permits may be advisable depending on the type of activity you are conducting and the type of infrastructure or bird species present on your project site.

What does IPaC use to generate the list of migratory birds that potentially occur in my speci ed location?

The Migratory Bird Resource List is comprised of USFWS Birds of Conservation Concern (BCC) and other species that may warrant special attention in your project location.

The migratory bird list generated for your project is derived from data provided by the Avian Knowledge Network (AKN). The AKN data is based on a growing collection of survey, banding, and citizen science datasets and is queried and ltered to return a list of those birds reported as occurring in the 10km grid cell(s) which your project intersects, and that have been identi ed as warranting special attention because they are a BCC species in that area, an eagle (Eagle Act requirements may apply), or a species that has a particular vulnerability to o shore activities or development.

Again, the Migratory Bird Resource list includes only a subset of birds that may occur in your project area. It is not representative of all birds that may occur in your project area. To get a list of all birds potentially present in your project area, please visit the Rapid Avian Information Locator (RAIL) Tool.

What does IPaC use to generate the probability of presence graphs for the migratory birds potentially occurring in my speci ed location?

The probability of presence graphs associated with your migratory bird list are based on data provided by the Avian Knowledge Network (AKN). This data is derived from a growing collection of survey, banding, and citizen science datasets.

Probability of presence data is continuously being updated as new and better information becomes available. To learn more about how the probability of presence graphs are produced and how to interpret them, go the Probability of Presence Summary and then click on the "Tell me about these graphs" link.

How do I know if a bird is breeding, wintering or migrating in my area?

To see what part of a particular bird's range your project area falls within (i.e. breeding, wintering, migrating or year-round), you may query your location using the RAIL Tool and look at the range maps provided for birds in your area at the bottom of the pro les provided for each bird in your results. If a bird on your migratory bird species list has a breeding season associated with it, if that bird does occur in your project area, there may be nests present at some point within the timeframe speci ed. If "Breeds elsewhere" is indicated, then the bird likely does not breed in your project area.

What are the levels of concern for migratory birds?

Migratory birds delivered through IPaC fall into the following distinct categories of concern:

1. "BCC Rangewide" birds are Birds of Conservation Concern (BCC) that are of concern throughout their range anywhere within the USA (including Hawaii, the Paci c Islands, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands);
2. "BCC - BCR" birds are BCCs that are of concern only in particular Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in the continental USA; and
3. "Non-BCC - Vulnerable" birds are not BCC species in your project area, but appear on your list either because of the Eagle Act requirements (for eagles) or (for non-eagles) potential susceptibilities in o shore areas from certain types of development or activities (e.g. o shore energy development or longline shing).

Although it is important to try to avoid and minimize impacts to all birds, e orts should be made, in particular, to avoid and minimize impacts to the birds on this list, especially eagles and BCC species of rangewide concern. For more information on conservation measures you can implement to help avoid and minimize migratory bird impacts and requirements for eagles, please see the FAQs for these topics.

Details about birds that are potentially a ected by o shore projects

For additional details about the relative occurrence and abundance of both individual bird species and groups of bird species within your project area o the Atlantic Coast, please visit the Northeast Ocean Data Portal. The Portal also o ers data and information about other taxa besides birds that may be helpful to you in your project review. Alternately, you may download the bird model results les underlying the portal maps through the NOAA NCCOS Integrative Statistical Modeling and Predictive Mapping of Marine Bird Distributions and Abundance on the Atlantic Outer Continental Shelf project webpage.

Bird tracking data can also provide additional details about occurrence and habitat use throughout the year, including migration. Models relying on survey data may not include this information. For additional information on marine bird tracking data, see the Diving Bird Study and the nanotag studies or contact Caleb Spiegel or Pam Loring.

What if I have eagles on my list?

If your project has the potential to disturb or kill eagles, you may need to obtain a permit to avoid violating the Eagle Act should such impacts occur.

Proper Interpretation and Use of Your Migratory Bird Report

The migratory bird list generated is not a list of all birds in your project area, only a subset of birds of priority concern. To learn more about how your list is generated, and see options for identifying what other birds may be in your project area, please see the FAQ "What does IPaC use to generate the migratory birds potentially occurring in my speci ed location". Please be aware this report provides the "probability of presence" of birds within the 10 km grid cell(s) that overlap your project; not your exact project footprint. On the graphs provided, please also look carefully at the survey e ort (indicated by the black vertical bar) and for the existence of the "no data" indicator (a red horizontal bar). A high survey e ort is the key component. If the survey e ort is high, then the probability of presence score can be viewed as more dependable. In contrast, a low survey e ort bar or no data bar means a lack of data and, therefore, a lack of certainty about presence of the species. This list is not perfect; it is simply a starting point for identifying what birds of concern have the potential to be in your project area, when they might be there, and if they might be breeding (which means nests might be present). The list helps you know what to look for to con rm presence, and helps guide you in knowing when to implement conservation measures to avoid or minimize potential impacts from your project activities, should presence be con rmed. To learn more about conservation measures, visit the FAQ "Tell me about conservation measures I can implement to avoid or minimize impacts to migratory birds" at the bottom of your migratory bird trust resources page.

Facilities

National Wildlife Refuge lands

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 at this location.

Fish hatcheries

There are no fish hatcheries at this location.

Wetlands in the National Wetlands Inventory (NWI)

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.

This location overlaps the following wetlands:

RIVERINE

R2UBHx

A full description for each wetland code can be found at the National Wetlands Inventory website

NOTE: This initial screening does **not** replace an on-site delineation to determine whether wetlands occur. Additional information on the NWI data is provided below.

Data limitations

The Service's objective of mapping wetlands and deepwater habitats is to produce reconnaissance level information on the location, type and size of these resources. The maps are prepared from the analysis of high altitude imagery. Wetlands are identi ed based on vegetation, visible hydrology and geography. A margin of error is inherent in the use of imagery; thus, detailed on-the-ground inspection of any particular site may result in revision of the wetland boundaries or classi cation established through image analysis.

The accuracy of image interpretation depends on the quality of the imagery, the experience of the image analysts, the amount and quality of the collateral data and the amount of ground truth veri cation work conducted. Metadata should be consulted to determine the date of the source imagery used and any mapping problems.

Wetlands or other mapped features may have changed since the date of the imagery or eld work. There may be occasional di erences in polygon boundaries or classi cations between the information depicted on the map and the actual conditions on site.

Data exclusions

Certain wetland habitats are excluded from the National mapping program because of the limitations of aerial imagery as the primary data source used to detect wetlands. These habitats include seagrasses or submerged aquatic vegetation that are found in the intertidal and subtidal zones of estuaries and nearshore coastal waters. Some deepwater reef communities (coral or tuber cid worm reefs) have also been excluded from the inventory. These habitats, because of their depth, go undetected by aerial imagery.

Data precautions

Federal, state, and local regulatory agencies with jurisdiction over wetlands may de ne and describe wetlands in a di erent manner than that used in this inventory. There is no attempt, in either the design or products of this inventory, to de ne the limits of proprietary jurisdiction of any Federal, state, or local government or to establish the geographical scope of the regulatory programs of government agencies. Persons intending to engage in activities involving modi cations within or adjacent to wetland areas should seek the advice of appropriate Federal, state, or local agencies concerning speci ed agency regulatory programs and proprietary jurisdictions that may a ect such activities.

Appendix B

Cultural Resources and Sacred Sites Consultation with State Historic Preservation Office, Shoshone-Bannock Tribes, Shoshone-Paiute Tribes, and Nez Perce Tribe

United States Department of the Interior
BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
Snake River Area Office
230 Collins Road
Boise, ID 83702-4520

IN REPLY REFER TO:
SRA-1214
2.1.4.17

VIA FEDERAL EXPRESS

Honorable Lee Juan Tyler
Chairman, Fort Hall Business Council
Shoshone-Bannock Tribes
85 W. Agency Rd., Building #82
Fort Hall, ID 83203

Subject: Request for Comments Regarding the Proposal for Rainey Park Stream Restoration and Wetland Creation Project, Bannock County, Idaho

Dear Chairman Tyler:

The Bureau of Reclamation is proposing to provide funding through a WaterSMART (Sustain and Manage America's Resources for Tomorrow) grant for the City of Pocatello to perform a river restoration and wetland creation project occurring within Bannock County in Southeastern Idaho. The purpose of this letter is to inform interested and affected Tribes of the proposal and to solicit comments pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. Enclosed is a Scoping Information Package describing the project proposal.

Analysis of the proposal is ongoing and will be documented in an environmental assessment with an estimated completion in the spring of 2025. Comments received in response to this solicitation will be used to identify potential environmental issues related to the proposed action and to identify alternatives to the proposed action that meet the purpose of and need for the project.

Please help us identify important issues and concerns regarding the proposed action by providing your written comments by **November 18, 2024**. Written comments should be submitted electronically to sra-nepa-comments@usbr.gov, or mailed or hand delivered to:

Ms. Rochelle Ochoa
Natural Resources Specialist
Bureau of Reclamation
Snake River Area Office
230 Collins Road
Boise, Idaho, 83702

The primary contact for questions or comments for this analysis is Ms. Rochelle Ochoa, Natural Resources Specialist, at (208) 383-2277 or by email at rochoa@usbr.gov. Please direct

any other concerns to Ms. Jessica Asbill-Case, Native American Affairs Advisor, by phone at (208) 383-2282 or by email at jasbillcase@usbr.gov. If you are deaf, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability, please dial 7-1-1 to access telecommunications relay services.

Sincerely,

BRYAN HORSBURGH
Digitally signed by BRYAN HORSBURGH
Date: 2024.10.08 09:34:52 -06'00'

Bryan Horsburgh
Area Manager

Enclosure

cc: Mr. Wes Jones
Emergency Manager
Shoshone-Bannock Tribes
85 W. Agency Rd., Building #82
Fort Hall, ID 83203-0306

Mr. Cleve Davis
Environmental Program Manager
Shoshone-Bannock Tribes
85 W. Agency Rd., Building #82
Fort Hall, ID 83203-0306

Mr. Chad Colter
Fish and Wildlife Director
Shoshone-Bannock Tribes
85 W. Agency Rd., Building #82
Fort Hall, ID 83203-0306

Mr. Candon Tanaka
Tribal Water Engineer
Water Resources Department
Shoshone-Bannock Tribes
85 W. Agency Rd., Building #82
Fort Hall, ID 83203-0306

Ms. Christina Cutler
Environmental Specialist
Shoshone-Bannock Tribes
85 W. Agency Rd, Building #82
Fort Hall, ID 83203-0306

Mr. Lester Galloway
Tribal Water Resources Commissioner
Shoshone-Bannock Tribes
85 W. Agency Rd., Building #82
Fort Hall, ID 83203-0306

Ms. Gail Martin
Tribal Water Resources
Shoshone-Bannock Tribes
85 W. Agency Rd., Building #82
Fort Hall, ID 83203-0306

Mr. Frances Roy
Tribal Water Resources Sergeant at Arms
Shoshone-Bannock Tribes
85 W. Agency Rd., Building #82
Fort Hall, ID 83203-0306

Mr. Claudeo Broncho
Supervisor, Natural Resources and
Fish and Wildlife Policy Representative
Shoshone-Bannock Tribes
85 W. Agency Rd., Building #82
Fort Hall, ID 83203-0306

Ms. Carolyn B. Smith
Cultural Resources Coordinator
Water Resources Department
Shoshone-Bannock Tribes
85 W. Agency Rd., Building #82
Fort Hall, ID 83203-0306
(w/encl to each)

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE / IDAHO STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

SHPO Consultation Summary

SHPO Project #2024-406

Any questions please email:
shpo@ishs.idaho.gov

Section 1: Project Information		
Organization Project No(s): FY23 EWRP-27	Project Name: Rainey Park Stream Restoration & Wetland Creation	
Lead Federal Agency: Bureau of Reclamation (BOR)		
Project Type:	☑ Federal - Section 106 ☐ CLG Survey	☐ Federal - Section 110 ☐ Determination of Eligibility
Programmatic Agreement Applied:		

Section 2: Lead Agency Reviewer(s)		
Name: Jennifer Rilk	Email: jrilk@usbr.gov	Phone: 2083832257

Section 3: Additional Organizations
No Secondary Agencies

Section 4: Project Description
River restoration project on the Portneuf River. Primary construction actions will include moving the 1968 levee to enclose an area of City owned property and development of a wetland, recreation opportunities, and stormwater management options.

Section 5: Final Determination(s) of Eligibility for Listing in the National Register of Historic Places	
	SHPO Count of Resources
Not Eligible	1
Eligible	0
Unevaluated	0

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE / IDAHO STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

SHPO Consultation Summary

SHPO Project #2024-406

Any questions please email:
shpo@ishs.idaho.gov

Smithsonian Number(s)	Property Type/Name	*SHPO Determination*
10BK3815	Linear Resource/Portneuf River Flood Contol Levee	Not Eligible
SHPO Comments:		

Section 6: Agency Finding of Effect
☑ No Historic Properties Affected [36 CFR § 800.4(d)(1)]
☐ No Adverse Effect [36 CFR § 800.5(d)(1)]
☐ Adverse Effect [36 CFR § 800.5(d)(2)]
Agency Comments/Summary: The original project was larger than the present scope so the cultural resources fieldwork reflects the initial project size. The current project scope fits entirely within the Class III survey performed by Cannon Heritage and is submitted as originally performed.

Section 7: Official SHPO Response
The Idaho SHPO has reviewed the documentation and recommendations provided by Bureau of Reclamation (BOR):
Project Finding of Effect:
☐ We concur with the finding of effect of No Properties/No Effect and with the conditions of compliance (if applicable). ☑ We concur with the finding of effect of No Properties/No Effect, given stipulations explained below. ☐ We disagree with the finding of effect of No Properties/No Effect, as explained below or in the attached letter. ☐ No Comment

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE / IDAHO STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

SHPO Consultation Summary

SHPO Project #2024-406

Any questions please email:
shpo@ishs.idaho.gov

Section 7: Official SHPO Response
Tricia Canaday Date 04/01/2025 Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer
SHPO Comments: We concur with the finding of no historic properties affected with the condition that an Inadvertent Discovery Plan is completed and is available on-site during ground disturbing activities: https://history.idaho.gov/wp-content/uploads/Inadvertent-Discovery-Plan-IDP-template.docx

United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
Snake River Area Office
230 Collins Road
Boise, ID 83702-4520

IN REPLY REFER TO:
SRA-1214
2.1.4.17

VIA FEDERAL EXPRESS

Honorable Dennis Alex
Tribal Chairman
Northwestern Band of the Shoshone Nation
Pocatello Tribal Office
816 E. Lander Street
Pocatello, ID 83201

Subject: Request for Comments Regarding the Proposal for Rainey Park Stream Restoration and Wetland Creation Project, Bannock County, Idaho

Dear Chairman Alex:

The Bureau of Reclamation is proposing to provide funding through a WaterSMART (Sustain and Manage America's Resources for Tomorrow) grant for the City of Pocatello to perform a river restoration and wetland creation project occurring within Bannock County in Southeastern Idaho. The purpose of this letter is to inform interested and affected Tribes of the proposal and to solicit comments pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. Enclosed is a Scoping Information Package describing the project proposal.

Analysis of the proposal is ongoing and will be documented in an environmental assessment with an estimated completion in the fall of 2024. Comments received in response to this solicitation will be used to identify potential environmental issues related to the proposed action and to identify alternatives to the proposed action that meet the purpose of and need for the project.

Please help us identify important issues and concerns regarding the proposed action by providing your written comments by **November 18, 2024.** Written comments should be submitted electronically to sra-nepa-comments@usbr.gov, or mailed or hand delivered to:

Ms. Rochelle Ochoa
Natural Resources Specialist
Bureau of Reclamation
Snake River Area Office
230 Collins Road
Boise, Idaho, 83702

The primary contact for questions or comments for this analysis is Ms. Rochelle Ochoa, Natural Resources Specialist, at (208) 383-2277 or by email at rochoa@usbr.gov. Please direct

any other concerns to Ms. Jessica Asbill-Case, Native American Affairs Advisor, by phone at (208) 383-2282 or by email at jasbillcase@usbr.gov. If you are deaf, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability, please dial 7-1-1 to access telecommunications relay services.

Sincerely,

BRYAN HORSBURGH

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Date: 2024.10.08 09:34:24 -06'00'

Bryan Horsburgh
Area Manager

Enclosure

Appendix C

Scoping Documents, Mailing List, and Scoping Comments Received

United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
Snake River Area Office
230 Collins Road
Boise, ID 83702-4520

IN REPLY REFER TO:
SRA-1214
2.1.4.17

Subject: Request for Public Comments Regarding the Proposal for Rainey Park Stream Restoration and Wetland Creation Project, Bannock County, Idaho

Dear Interested Party:

The Bureau of Reclamation is proposing to provide funding through a WaterSMART (Sustain and Manage America's Resources for Tomorrow) grant for the City of Pocatello to perform a river restoration and wetland creation project occurring within Bannock County in Southeastern Idaho. The purpose of this letter is to inform interested and affected public of the proposal and to solicit comments pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. Enclosed is a Scoping Information Package describing the project proposal.

Scoping is a public involvement process used to determine the scope of issues to be addressed and identify issues related to a proposed action. Analysis of the proposal is ongoing and will be documented in an environmental assessment with an estimated completion in the spring of 2025. Comments received in response to this solicitation will be used to identify potential environmental issues related to the proposed action and to identify alternatives to the proposed action that meet the purpose of and need for the project.

Please help us identify important issues and concerns regarding the proposed action by providing your written comments by **November 18, 2024**. Written comments should be submitted electronically to sra-nepa-comments@usbr.gov, or mailed or hand-delivered to:

Ms. Rochelle Ochoa
Natural Resources Specialist
Bureau of Reclamation
Snake River Area Office
230 Collins Road
Boise, Idaho 83702

Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, be advised that your entire comment, including your personal identifying information, may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

If you have additional questions about this proposal or its analysis, please contact Ms. Rochelle Ochoa, Natural Resources Specialist, at (208) 383-2277. If you are deaf, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability, please dial 7-1-1 to access telecommunications relay services.

Sincerely,

BRYAN HORSBURGH

Digitally signed by BRYAN HORSBURGH
Date: 2024.10.08 09:33:57 -06'00'

Bryan Horsburgh
Area Manager

Enclosure

Scoping Information Package

Proposal for Rainey Park Stream Restoration and Wetland Creation Project, Bannock County, Idaho

This information package summarizes the proposal from the City of Pocatello to be partially funded by a WaterSMART (Sustain and Manage America's Resources for Tomorrow) grant to perform construction activities necessary to implement a river restoration and wetland creation project.

Federal actions must be analyzed in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and other relevant Federal and State laws and regulations to determine potential environmental consequences. The Bureau of Reclamation is seeking input to better identify issues and concerns associated with this proposal further detailed below.

The U.S. Department of the Interior's WaterSMART Program establishes a framework to provide Federal leadership and assistance on the efficient use of water; integrate water and energy policies to support the sustainable use of all natural resources; form strong diverse partnerships with states, tribes and local entities; and coordinate with other Department bureaus and offices on water conservation activities. Through the WaterSMART Grants Program, Reclamation provides a 50/50 cost share, funding entities and promoting the sustainable use of water resources, improving the ecological resilience of rivers and streams, and conserving water for multiple uses through collaborative conservation efforts.

Background and Existing Condition

The Portneuf River is a 124-mile-long tributary to the Snake River that flows through the city of Pocatello in southeastern Idaho. In 1968, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) constructed riprapped levees as part of the Portneuf River Flood Control Project which removed hundreds of acres of wetlands. The levees run 4.6 miles on both sides of the river and end just north of the proposed project area where a 1.6-mile concrete channel runs north from the river. The proposed project area is all on public land and sits between Centennial Park to the southwest and Rainey Park to the northeast. Centennial Park currently consists of large grassy fields with a playground, covered pavilion, restrooms and benches and Rainey Park consists mainly of an unused grass ballfield that sits to the north.

This proposed project is part of a larger Portneuf River Vision Study that was developed in 2016 by the City of Pocatello and USACE. The study includes a wide range of environmental goals to rehabilitate the Portneuf River ecosystem including improving hydrologic functions by increasing floodplain, wetland, and riparian habitat areas, as well as improving water quality.

Need for Action

The purpose and need for the proposed action is to fulfill the WaterSMART grant allowing the City of Pocatello to perform a river restoration and wetland creation project. The health of the Portneuf River has been compromised by these flood protection levees and concrete channels which removed hundreds of acres of wetlands when installed. The WaterSMART grant project

would improve urban river health and access by creating a wetland with a side channel making needed habitat for invertebrates, amphibians, bird, fish and small mammals, as well as a stormwater pond to capture sediment.

Proposed Action

Reclamation proposes to provide funding through a WaterSMART grant for the City of Pocatello to perform a river restoration and wetland creation project occurring within Bannock County in southeastern Idaho (Figure 1). The action would set back approximately 625 linear feet of right bank levee to create a wetland and side channel within the levee, along with ADA-accessible river access for anglers and floaters. Additionally, a stormwater pond would be created to capture the first flush of sediment-laden waters off city streets.

The levee would maintain flood control as the authorized purpose of the federal project. The set-back design would provide a wider and flatter area for the wetland with a 10-foot-wide, paved walking/biking trail on top that connects to existing trail on either end. The wetland would consist of emergent zones along the mainstem of the Portneuf River and constructed side channel and scrub-shrub zones on the slightly elevated benches surrounded by the emergent zones. The side channel would consist of a gravel-cobble gradation and have perennial flow conditions in an average water year. The side channel banks would have erosion control measures and revegetation treatments.

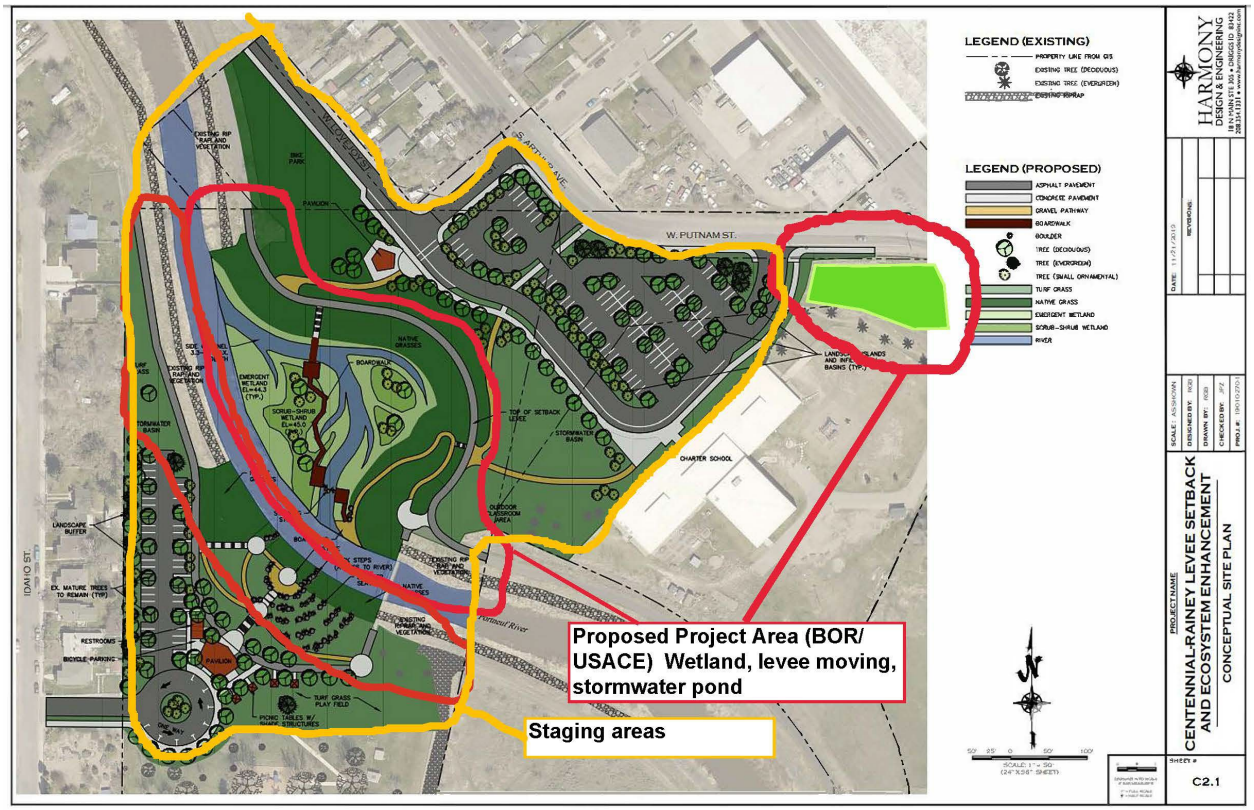
The stormwater pond would sit just east of the proposed wetland with a purpose to direct sediment laden runoff through a 48-inch stormwater pipe from 450 acres of city streets and infiltrate it underground. The proposed project would also include an ADA-accessible path at the south end that leads to the river with a bridge and boardwalk over the proposed wetland. Stepping stones and stairs at the north end of the proposed project would lead back up to the top of the levee.

Preliminary Alternative Development

The environmental assessment would include consideration of the Proposed Action Alternative and the No Action Alternative. Additionally, alternatives would be developed with the identified issues throughout the NEPA process.

Exhibits

1. Project Area Map



Rainey Park EA

Category	First Name	Last Name	Organization	C/O	Address	City	State	Zip	Phone	Email	Type
State Agencies	Katy	Bergholm	Idaho DEQ	Local office, Department, etc.	444 Hospital Way #300	Pocatello	ID	83201		katy.bergholm@deq.idaho.gov	State agency
			Idaho Department of Fish & Game	Local office, Department, etc.	1345 Barton Road	Pocatello	ID	83204			State agency
	James	Cefalo	Idaho Department of Water Resources		900 N Skyline Dr.	Idaho Falls	ID	83402		james.cefalo@idwr.idaho.gov	State agency
	Casey	Attebery	Senator Crapo's Office		251 East Front Street, Suite 205	Boise	ID	83702			
	Mitch	Silvers	Senator Crapo's Office		251 East Front Street, Suite 205	Boise	ID	83702			
	Rachel	Burkett	Senator Risch's Office		350 North 9th Street Suite 302	Boise	ID	83702			
	Dirk	Mendive	Congressman Fulcher's Office		33 E. Broadway Avenue Suite 251	Meridian	ID	83642			
	Craig	Quarterman	Congressman Simpson's Office		802 W. Bannock, Suite 600	Boise	ID	83702-5820			
	Mike	Roach	Senator Risch's Office		350 North 9th Street Suite 302	Boise	ID	83702			
	Richard	Stover	Governor's Office of Energy & Mineral Resources		PO Box 83720	Boise	ID	83720-0001			
	Katrine	Franks	Office of the Governer		PO Box 83720	Boise	ID	83720-0001			
	Paul	Arrington	Idaho Water Users Association		1010 W Jefferson Suite 101	Boise	ID	83701			
	Ryan	Buffington	Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation		4279 commerce circle, Suite B	Idaho Falls	ID	83401			
	Ryan	Woodland	Idaho Department of Lands		3563 Ririe Highway	Idaho Falls	ID	83401			
	John	Bulger	Idaho Transportation Department		PO Box 7129	Boise	ID	83707-1129			
	John	Robison	Idaho Conservation League		PO Box 844	Boise	ID	83701			
	Scott	Pugrud	Office of Species Conservation		PO Box 83720	Boise	ID	83720			
Federal Agencies	Blaine	Newman	Bureau of Land Management		4350 Cliffs Dr	Pocatello	ID	83204			Federal Agency
	James	Joyner	USACE - Regulatory Division		900 N Skyline Dr. Ste A	Idaho Falls	ID	83402		robert.a.brochu@usace.army.m	Federal Agency
	Kyle	Blasch	USGS		230 collins rd	Boise	ID	83702			
	Christopher	Swanson	U.S. Department of Fish and Wildlife		4425 Burley Dr., Suite A	Chubbuck	ID	83202			Federal
	Johnna	Sandow	NOAA		800 E. Park Blvd, Plaza IV suite 220	Boise	ID	83712-7768		nmfswcr.srbo@noaa.gov	
	James H.	Werntz	EPA		950 W. Bannock Street, Suite 900	Boise	ID	83702			
	Jeff	Alexander	USFS		1249 South Vinnell Way Suite 200	Boise	ID	83709			
City Government			City of Pocatello								City government
	Brian	Blad	Pocatello Mayor		PO Box 4169	Pocatello	ID	83205-4169			
	Linda	Leeuwrik	Pocatello City Council President		PO Box 4169	Pocatello	ID	83205-4169			
	Konni	Kendell	City of Pocatello Clerk		PO Box 4169	Pocatello	ID	83205-4169			
	Anne	Butler	Parks and Recreation department		144 Wilson Ace	Pocatello	ID	83201			
	Justin	Armstrong	City of Pocatello Water Department		1889 N Arthur Ave	Pocatello	ID	83204			
	Brent	McLane	City of Pocatello Planning & Development Services		911 N 7th Ave	Pocatello	ID	83201			
			Pocatello-Chubbuck chamber of commerce		324 S main St	Pocatello	ID	83204			
Tribes			***TBD by NEPA Staff*								
County Govt.											
	Ernie	Moser	Bannock County Commissioner-chairman		624 East Center, room 101	Pocatello	ID	83201			
			Bannock County Road & Bridge		5500 S Fifth Ave	Pocatello	ID	83204			
			Bannock County Planning and Development Services		5500 S 5th Ave	Pocatello	ID	83204			local government
	John	Crowder	Bannock County Commissioner		624 East Center, room 211	Pocatello	ID	83201			
	Jeff	Hough	Bannock County Commissioner		624 East Center, room 211	Pocatello	ID	83201			
	Jason	Dixon	Bannock County clerk		624 East Center, room 211	Pocatello	ID	83201			
Spaceholders			Irrigation District								
	Kristin	Evans	Water District 29D		3433 E Bowman Rd	Downey	ID	83234-1524			
	Dan	Zausch	Water District 29A		8229 W Pocatello Creek Rd	Pocatello	ID	83201-9041			
Adjacent land owners											

Outlook

[EXTERNAL] Pocatello Centennial and Rainy Parks Project

From Marjanna Hulet <hulemarj@isu.edu>
Date Tue 10/22/2024 3:31 PM
To NEPA Mailbox, BOR SRA <sra-nepa-comments@usbr.gov>

I am a longtime resident of Pocatello, and I fully support the plans for river restoration and wetland creation at Centennial and Rainey Parks on the Portneuf River. This location is not far above where the Army Corps of Engineers began the concrete channel section of the river. As such, it provides a good place for recreational floaters to exit the river. It is also located next to a charter school which has much of its curriculum focused on the natural world. The children who attend there--as well as other children and families from the community--could visit the wetlands project and come to better understand how a healthy river manages high water flows with oxbows and sloping banks. This project would further support restoration of the Portneuf river to a healthy, productive part of the community, by providing a permanent place to access the river, along with a place people could come to sit and watch the river and enjoy its natural beauty. The first step towards improving any natural resource is to help people learn to appreciate and value that resource. For many years the Portneuf River through Pocatello has been treated as an afterthought, fenced off from the rest of the city and forgotten. When we started encouraging people to float the river, we were dumbfounded at how popular the activity became and how quickly.

Providing a restored river channel complete with a seasonal wetland would mean a major step forward in the overall restoration effort. This river should be celebrated as a valuable, lovely part of the community. I see a future where the river provides many recreational and business opportunities, with Pocatello celebrating its river and interacting with it as part of a healthy lifestyle and healthy environment.

Thank you for your consideration of this project.

Marjanna Hulet

208-705-7367

353 Washington, Pocatello, ID

IDAHO CONSERVATION LEAGUE

208.345.6933 • PO Box 844, Boise, ID 83702 • www.idahoconservation.org

November 11, 2024

Ms. Rochelle Ochoa
Natural Resources Specialist
Bureau of Reclamation, Snake River Area Office
230 Collins Road
Boise, Idaho 83702

Electronically submitted to: sra-nepa-comments@usbr.gov

RE: Rainey Park Stream Restoration and Wetland Creation Project

Dear Ms. Ochoa:

Please accept these scoping comments from the Idaho Conservation League (ICL) regarding the Rainey Park Stream Restoration and Wetland Creation Project. Since 1973, ICL has worked to protect Idaho's clean water, wilderness, and quality of life through citizen action, public education, and professional advocacy. As Idaho's largest statewide conservation organization, ICL represents over 25,000 supporters who have a deep personal interest in rivers across our state.

ICL is supportive of the purpose and need of this project and the proposed river restoration activities. We have previously written letters of support to the City of Pocatello for their WaterSMART grant applications.

In the forthcoming Environmental Assessment, we would like to see a detailed analysis of the proposed stormwater pond in particular. If other ancillary permits are needed for this project, they should also be disclosed in the EA.

We thank you for the opportunity to submit comments on this project. Please send us any subsequent documents related to this project as it advances through the permitting process.

Respectfully submitted,

Josh Johnson
Central Idaho Director
Idaho Conservation League
jjohnson@idahoconservation.org
(208) 345-6933 x 301