

**Fact Sheet**  
**Scoggins Dam Safety Modification EIS**  
December 13, 2023

**LEAD RECLAMATION OFFICE: Columbia-Northwest Regional Office**

**REGIONAL DIRECTOR NAME: Jennifer Carrington**

**PROPOSED PROJECT NAME: Scoggins Dam Safety Modification Project**

**ESTIMATED DATE TO PUBLISH NOTICE OF INTENT: Jan. 26, 2024**

**Overview of Proposed Project**

The Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) intends to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) for the Scoggins Dam Safety Modifications Project in the Tualatin Basin, Oregon. Reclamation is the project proponent. The purpose of the project is to improve public safety by reducing risk associated with severe seismic loadings, while continuing to meet authorized project purposes. This project is authorized under the Safety of Dams Act (PL 95-578). It is anticipated that the Regional Director will sign the Record of Decision.

Reclamation proposes the following dam structure modifications:

- Excavate and backfill portions of the crest and existing embankment.
- Construct a downstream shear key.
- Install a downstream rock filter and drain.
- Install a stability berm over the shear key and downstream slope of dam.
- Raise the dam crest by ~7 feet.
- Demolish the existing spillway, bridge, and ancillary features.
- Construct a new spillway, bridge, and ancillary features and extend outlet works.
- Construct a new two-lane road across the dam.

The existing road across the dam would be closed during construction. An alternative road would be constructed to provide safe public transport.

The project would also include modification to structures around the reservoir such as culverts and recreation trails. Materials for construction would be excavated at one or more borrow sites on the east side of the reservoir, requiring the removal of trees. Accessing and transporting materials from the borrow sites through construction of a haul route and/or via the existing Scoggins Valley Road will be investigated in the EIS.

This project would not create additional reservoir storage in Henry Hagg Lake.

**Alternatives**

Alternatives are still being developed and will include at minimum: 1) a no action alternative, 2) the structural dam safety modification with a constructed haul road, and 3) the structural dam

safety modification with no constructed haul road (county road would be used to access borrow materials).

### **Purpose and Need**

The purpose of the project is to improve public safety by reducing risk associated with severe seismic loadings primarily imposed by a Cascadia Subduction Zone (CSZ) event, while continuing to meet authorized project purposes. CSZ is a fault located off the Pacific Coast between the United States/Canada border to Northern California. The need for action is to prevent the potential loss of life, property, water storage, and other project benefits due to a seismically induced dam failure.

### **Scoping**

Public scoping is planned for winter of 2024. Meeting dates and locations will be included in the Notice of Intent (NOI). Two virtual meetings and one in-person meeting in or near Forest Grove, Oregon will be held to facilitate public participation.

### **Congressional Interests**

The following elected delegates for the state of Oregon have been contacted about this project: Senator Ron Wyden, Senator Jeff Merkley, and Representative Peter DeFazio. They have interest in the project as it is within their state, and they have received communication from various project beneficiaries.

### **Stakeholder Interests/Level of Controversy**

Stakeholder interests are at the local level and include the following:

- Tualatin Valley Irrigation District (TVID): Receives irrigation benefits from the Tualatin Project; identified as a repayment entity. TVID also manages facilities at Scoggins Dam.
- Cities of Beaverton, Forest Grove, and Hillsboro (Members of the Joint Water Commission), Lake Oswego Commission and TVID; receive municipal and industrial (M&I) benefits from the Tualatin Project; identified as repayment entities.
- Clean Water Services: Receives water quality benefits from the Tualatin Project; identified as a repayment entity.
- Bonneville Power Administration: Potential repayment entity for amounts beyond the ability of the irrigation district to pay.
- Stimson Lumber: company with a facility located directly downstream of the dam.
- Washington County Parks: interest in the Scoggins Valley Park recreation facilities and trails which it maintains under a cooperative agreement with Reclamation.

The proposed action has the potential to cause significant adverse impacts to several resource areas, including recreation, visual quality, and transportation. Environmental commitments will be identified and evaluated in the EIS, where feasible, to reduce or avoid these impacts. Stakeholders have expressed interest to date about the ability to continue to deliver water for irrigation and M&I, and the potential adverse effects to park revenue from impacts to recreation during construction.

The Scoggins Dam Safety Modifications project has a low level of controversy associated with it. Project beneficiaries have endorsed the project moving forward with the Safety of Dams only

option and would prefer a structural modification option over a reservoir restriction option. Landowners near the facility are relieved to know that there will be no impacts to their estates as the reservoir size and elevation will remain the same.

### **Tribal Engagement and Interest**

Early staff-to-staff engagement and consultation has occurred with three potentially affected sovereign Tribal Nations: Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde (CTGR), Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs (CTWS), and Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians.

- Reclamation initiated Section 106 National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) consultation with the three tribes beginning in October 2021 on the level of effort and area of potential effect prior to conducting cultural resource surveys at the project site. The CTGR and CTWS requested continued coordination and information on efforts to identify, evaluate, and protect historic properties and cultural resources; the Siletz Tribes did not respond.
- Invitations for cooperating agency status were sent to all three tribes; the CTGR accepted the cooperating agency invitation. Based on coordination to date, the CTGR have expressed project concerns relative to natural and cultural resources.
- Invitations for government-to-government consultation were sent to all three tribes in May 2022; no responses have been received to date.

### **Environmental Justice Communities**

The closest census tracts identified as environmental justice communities are located 14 miles or more from the project area. Preliminary analyses indicate that any potential adverse impacts associated with the Proposed Action would not disproportionately affect the communities in these census tracts.

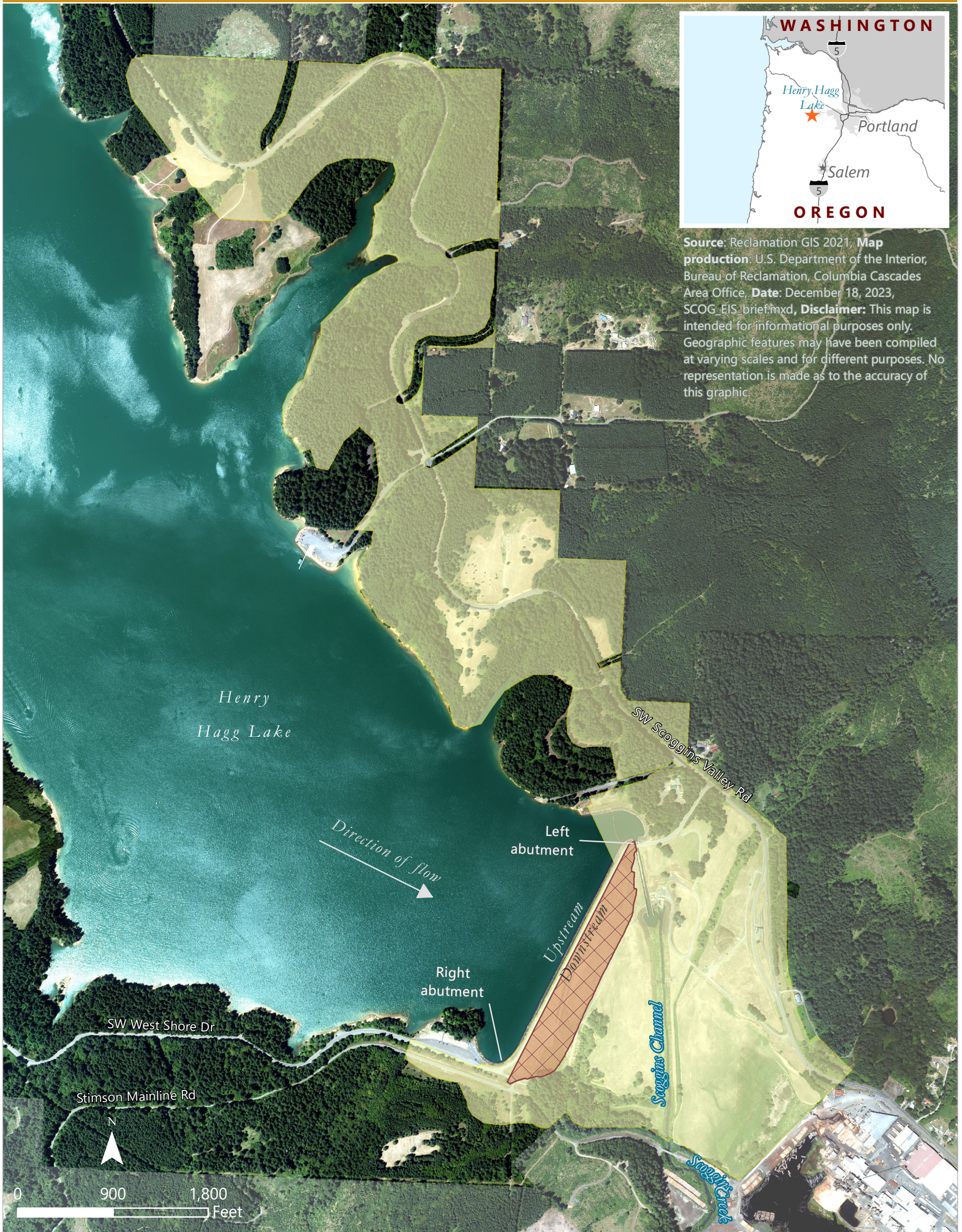
### **Cooperating Agencies**

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Tualatin Valley Irrigation District, Washington County, Joint Water Commission (representing the cities of Beaverton, Forest Grove, and Hillsboro), Clean Water Services, and Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community of Oregon have accepted invitations to participate as cooperating agencies for the EIS. Other entities will be considered, as necessary, during the EIS process. USACE has indicated it will issue a Record of Decision for its action, which is issuance of a Clean Water Act permit. Additionally, USACE will need to update its water control manual for Scoggins Dam.




### **Next Steps**

Publish the NOI, conduct public scoping, and prepare the draft EIS. Report on field data collection.





Source: Reclamation GIS 2021, Map production: U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation, Columbia Cascades Area Office, Date: December 18, 2023, SCOG\_EIS\_brief.mxd, Disclaimer: This map is intended for informational purposes only. Geographic features may have been compiled at varying scales and for different purposes. No representation is made as to the accuracy of this graphic.

-  Scoggins Dam Safety Modifications Project Area
-  Dam
-  Scoggins Valley Park