

2020 Lemhi Valley River and Floodplain Restoration Projects Mitigation Action Plan

SUMMARY

This Mitigation Action Plan is for the Lemhi Valley River and Floodplain Restoration Projects that would be implemented in 2020. The projects would provide funding for eight river and floodplain habitat restoration actions in the mainstem and tributaries of the Lemhi River in Lemhi County, Idaho. These eight projects would be sponsored and implemented by the Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG), Lemhi Regional Land Trust (LRLT), Lemhi Soil and Water Conservation District (LSWCD), and the Upper Salmon Basin Watershed Program of the State of Idaho's Office of Species Conservation.

This Mitigation Action Plan is for the eight projects under the Proposed Action and includes all of the integral elements and commitments made in the environmental assessment (EA) to mitigate potential adverse environmental impacts.

The project sponsors would implement this project, and contractors would build it. To ensure that the contractor would implement mitigation measures, the relevant portions of this mitigation action plan would be included in the construction contract specifications (the directions to the contractor) for the projects. This would obligate the contractor to implement the mitigation measures that relate to their responsibilities during construction and post-construction.

If you have any general questions about the project, contact the Project Manager, Hannah Dondy-Kaplan: toll-free telephone 800-622-4519, direct telephone 503-230-4071, or hadondy-kaplan@bpa.gov.

If you have questions about the mitigation action plan, contact the BPA lead for the environmental review, Rob Shull: toll-free telephone 800-622-4519; direct telephone 503-2303962, or e-mail rwshull@bpa.gov.

This Mitigation Action Plan may be amended if revisions are needed due to new information or if there are project adjustments.

MITIGATION MEASURES

Minimization and mitigation measures identified to reduce potential impacts associated with the projects are provided in the Mitigation Action Plan Table.

Mitigation Action Plan Table

Mitigation Measure	Implementation
All Resources	
The design criteria and conservation measures from ESA consultation found in EA Appendices A, B, and C shall be followed for all project actions, and when applying the mitigation measures below.	During design, before, during, and after construction
Water Resources	
The project sponsor would ensure that applicable permitting under Section 401 and 404 of the Clean Water Act is in place prior to ground-disturbing activities.	Before construction
Use sediment barriers such as fences, weed-free straw matting/bales, or fiber wattles, as necessary, in all work areas to intercept any surface flow that might transport sediment to the water bodies.	Before and during construction
Stage construction equipment in staging areas identified and approved in construction plans (over 150 feet from streams).	Before and during construction
Operate construction equipment, to the extent feasible, from the top of the bank along adjacent uplands and in previously cleared areas.	During construction
Develop a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan to minimize stormwater runoff and erosion from construction areas; include directions for hazardous material handling and disposal.	Before construction
Store construction fuel offsite and refuel equipment within temporary secondary containment in designed staging areas, no closer than 150 feet from water bodies.	Before and during construction
Operate refueling areas using BMPs and equip these areas with appropriate spill containment systems constructed to contain 110% of the volume of fuel stored within the fuel tanks.	During construction
Use water trucks to apply water to the construction area as needed for dust control.	Before and during construction
Wash all equipment that may work below the ordinary high water mark (OHWM) elevation before it is delivered to the job site.	Before and during construction
Inspect equipment to remove vegetation and dirt clods that may contain noxious weed seeds.	Before and during construction
Inspect machinery daily to identify and resolve fuel or lubricant leaks.	During construction
Cover and stockpile excess excavated materials away from water bodies and flank with sediment fencing to minimize opportunity for fine sediment to be transported into water bodies.	During construction
Protect existing riparian/wetland vegetation, to the extent possible.	During construction

Mitigation Measure	Implementation
<i>Fish and Aquatic Species</i>	
Isolate work area for the Lemhi Headwaters, Narrows Reach, Eagle Valley, Lemhi/Big Springs, L-58C, and Little Sawmill Culvert, projects. For these projects, the Conservation Measures for “Work Area Isolation & Fish Salvage” from Appendix B and procedures outlined in the National Marine Fisheries Service’s “Guidelines for Electrofishing Waters Containing Salmonids Listed under the Endangered Species Act” (NMFS 2000) would be followed.	During construction
Minimize the amount of stream and riparian area impacted during construction to the extent practicable.	During construction
No instream or riparian construction activities would occur during nighttime hours and prior to 30 minutes after dawn or continue any later than 30 minutes before dusk.	During construction
Conduct excavation for project features in the dry season to the extent possible.	During construction
Operate machinery from the top of the streambank along adjacent upland areas when working below the Ordinary High Water Mark (OHWM) to the extent possible.	During construction
Conduct work below the OHWM during designated instream work windows (generally mid-July through August 31) as approved by IDFG.	During construction
Retrofit hydraulically-operated equipment that may work below the OHWM with hydraulic fluids non-toxic to aquatic organisms.	Before construction
Protect existing riparian/wetland vegetation, to the extent possible.	During construction
Vegetation	
Wash all construction equipment prior to entering into and leaving the site to prevent the spread of noxious weeds.	Before construction
Pull noxious weeds by hand or treat with herbicide approved for application in wetlands.	During and after construction
Reseed and plant native herbaceous plants, shrubs, and trees appropriate to riparian or upland sites following construction.	After construction
Apply weed control measures following construction.	After construction
Wetlands and Floodplains	
Mark wetlands designated for protection as “avoidance areas” on construction drawings, and flag them on the ground as “no-work areas” prior to construction.	During design, before, and during construction
Wildlife	
In the Eagle Valley project, no construction activities would occur within 660 feet of the known bald eagle nest and roost site during the January 1 through July 15 nesting period (USFWS 2007).	Before and during construction
Use wildlife-friendly fence design wherever wire fencing is proposed for livestock exclusion.	During construction
Geology and Soils	
Use sediment barriers such as silt fences and curtains, weed-free straw matting/bales, or fiber wattles, in all work areas to minimize soil loss.	Before and during construction
Use water trucks to apply water as needed to the construction area to minimize air-borne soil loss.	Before and during construction
Reseed and plant disturbed areas with appropriate native species effective for erosion control following construction.	After construction
Transportation	
Place signs and use flaggers on Highway 28 and Highway 29 to alert motorists of construction work along highway.	Before and during construction
Visual Resources	
Retain, when possible, existing vegetation that visually screens construction activities.	During construction
Reseed and plant disturbed areas with appropriate native species.	After construction

Mitigation Measure	Implementation
Air, Noise, and Public Health and Safety	
Reduce the speeds of construction vehicles on access roads to minimize dust.	During construction
Maintain and replace defective mufflers on all construction equipment.	During construction
Operate construction equipment only during daylight hours when actions are within 0.25 miles of residences.	During construction
Signage and other routine safeguards for worker and public safety would be applied when heavy equipment is operating on, nearby, or traveling along public highways and roadways.	During construction
Have state-licensed applicators apply approved herbicides according to manufacturers' labels.	During construction
Dispose of non-hazardous wastes in approved landfills.	During construction
Dispose of hazardous wastes according to applicable federal and state laws.	During construction
Develop and follow the protocol for dealing with hazardous substances inadvertently discovered during project activities.	Before and during construction
Cultural Resources	
Mark known cultural resource sites as "avoidance areas" on construction drawings and flag as "no-work areas" in the field prior to construction.	During design, before, and during construction
Protect any unanticipated cultural resources discovered during construction as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stop all work; cover and protect the find in place. • Notify Project Manager and BPA Environmental Compliance Specialist or archeologist immediately. • Implement mitigation or other measures as instructed by BPA Environmental Compliance Specialist or archeologist 	During construction
Socio Economics	
Use local labor and materials, to the extent practicable.	Before and during construction
Climate Change	
Regularly inspect, maintain, and replace defective emission control devices on all construction equipment.	Before and during construction