Uma-Birch Floodplain Reconnection Project

Mitigation Action Plan

SUMMARY

This Mitigation Action Plan identifies mitigation measures applicable to the Uma-Birch Floodplain Reconnection Project. Bonneville would fund the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR) for floodplain restoration activities within about a 241-acre area and along about a one-mile-long stretch of the Umatilla River (between river mile 47.8 and 49.9) and along Birch Creek (river mile 0.0 to 0.7) at its confluence with the Umatilla River.

This Mitigation Action Plan is for the Proposed Action and includes the integral elements and commitments made in the Environmental Assessment (EA) to mitigate potential adverse environmental impacts.

CTUIR, the project sponsor, would implement this project, and contractors would build it. Relevant portions of this Mitigation Action Plan will be included in the construction contract specifications, which will obligate the contractors to implement the mitigation measures that relate to contractor responsibilities during and after construction.

If you have any general questions about the project, contact the Project Manager, Ryan Ruggiero: toll-free telephone at 800-622-4519, direct telephone at 503-230-3789, or email: rcruggiero@bpa.gov.

If you have questions about this Mitigation Action Plan, contact the BPA lead for the environmental review, Jeff Maslow: toll-free telephone at 800-622-4519, direct telephone at 503-230-3928, or email: jjmaslow@bpa.gov.

BPA may amend this Mitigation Action Plan if revisions are necessary due to new information or project adjustments.

MITIGATION MEASURES

The Mitigation Action Plan Table provides the minimization and mitigation measures identified to reduce potential impacts associated with the Proposed Action.

Mitigation Action Plan Table

MINIMIZATION AND MITIGATION MEASURE	IMPLEMENTATION
Geology and Soils	
Create a Sediment Control Plan, and include daily monitoring during in-water construction, regular inspection, and recording control measures.	Before and during construction.
Use sediment barriers, such as silt fences, ballast berms, and straw wattles.	During construction.
Minimize the area of disturbance.	During construction.
Use water trucks to apply water to control dust, as needed.	During construction.
Apply mulch or straw or reseed exposed soil areas to reduce erosion and dust and complete work within a given area.	During and after construction.
Sequence construction to minimize soil exposure and erosion potential.	Before and during construction.
Decompact staging areas and decommission access roads through subsoiling to a minimum of 18 inches and replanting.	After construction.
Continue monitoring channel formation, particularly to ensure that functioning channels have sustainable levels of aggradation and erosion.	After construction.
Follow all Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) requirements for decommissioning and animal waste removal for the feedlot and effluent pond including ODA's Animal Waste Management Plan and all permit conditions in the Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System General Permit (#01-2016).	Before, during, and after construction
Vegetation	
Wash construction equipment before it is mobilized to the project area to control the spread of non-native species.	Before and during construction.
Minimize disturbance to native vegetation.	During construction.
Replant with native seed mix as rapidly as possible following completion of construction.	After construction.
Develop a plan to monitor and maintain native plant communities and control non-native and invasive plants.	Before construction.
Include mechanical and chemical treatment methods for non-native species.	During and after construction.
Water Resources, Wetlands and Floodplains	
Obtain Clean Water Act permits and apply permit-specific protection measures.	Before and during construction.
Monitor turbidity during construction by taking a baseline measurement 100 feet upstream and a second downstream measurement (approximately 50 feet downstream from construction activities) to ensure turbidity does not exceed levels established under Endangered Species Act consultations with the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). If this monitoring indicates that turbidity controls are ineffective, immediately mobilize work crews to repair, replace, and reinforce controls as necessary. Work must stop until readings fall within an acceptable range.	During construction.
Obtain on-site materials for restoration activities to the degree possible.	During design; before and during construction.
Develop a Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasures Plan (SPCC) prior to project initiation.	During design; before construction.
Identify and locate staging areas, storage sites (fuel, chemical, equipment, and materials) for potentially polluting activities, and secure them using methods	Before and during construction.

identified in the SPCC 150 feet or more from any natural water body or an adjacent, established road area in a location and manner that would preclude erosion into, or contamination of, the stream or floodplain.	
Use only hydraulic fluids approved for work in aquatic environments that are biodegradable.	During construction.
Wash heavy equipment before delivery to the project site to remove oils, fluids, grease, weed seed, etc.	Before and during construction.
Inspect and clean heavy equipment regularly. Repair any leaks immediately upon discovery.	During construction.
Identify pollution and control measures that would be implemented in the SPCC.	During design and construction.
Have a spill containment kit on site at all times during construction.	During construction.
Operate all small engines within a non-permeable container when operating near water.	During construction.
Perform all non-emergency maintenance of equipment off site.	During construction.
Dispose all waste (solid waste, hazardous materials, etc.) off site, as regulated by the state.	During and after construction.
Remove all equipment, materials, supplies, and waste from the project site when complete.	After construction.
Schedule activities and manage water flows and levels to provide dry working conditions as much as possible.	During construction.
Ensure stockpiled soils are covered if inactive for more than a few days.	During construction.
Machinery for in-water work would be operated in out-of-stream areas as much as possible.	During construction.
Follow Oregon Water Resources Department administrative rules (OAR 690-240-0005 *et seq.*), including all the applicable permit requirements for well alteration, to minimize impacts to groundwater from contamination, waste, and loss of pressure.	During Construction
Fish and Aquatic Species	
Construct only during in-water work windows (July 1 to October 31) specified by Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, NMFS, and USFWS.	During construction
A qualitied fish biologist would be on site to conduct fish salvage after isolating work areas according to NMFS and USFWS protocols for handling ESA-listed fish.	During construction.
Limit the amount of stream that is dewatered to the minimum practicable area to accomplish the project objectives. This includes not filling the entire current channel to reduce the mortality of all aquatic organisms.	During construction.
Preserve riparian vegetation to the extent possible during construction	During construction.
Implement all conservation measures relevant to ESA-listed fish from the Habitat Improvement Program Biological Opinions.	During construction.
Wildlife	
Schedule tree removal between September 15 and March 1 to protect migratory birds. If tree removal is necessary during this window, a qualified biologist would conduct a preconstruction survey to determine whether nesting birds are present.	During construction.
If temporary construction areas provide suitable nesting habitat, implement actions that render that potential habitat unattractive to birds.	During construction.
If a golden or bald eagle nest is located or determined to be active, avoid disruptive construction activities within a half mile of that nest during eagle breeding season and avoid removing snags and large trees to the extent practicable.	During construction.
Cultural Resources	
Provide a historic context statement and documentation of the two built resources being adversely affected (Pendleton Levee 2a and Feedlot Maintenance Yard) on BPA's public-facing cultural resources website, so the information would be available to the general public and future researchers.	Before, during, and after construction.

Implement an Inadvertent Discovery Plan for cultural material (e.g., structural remains, Euro-American artifacts, or Native American artifacts) that details construction crew member responsibilities for reporting in the event of a discovery of cultural material during construction; require work to stop immediately and notification of local law enforcement officials (as required), appropriate Bonneville personnel, State Historic Preservation Office, and affected tribes if cultural resources or human remains are discovered during construction activities.	During construction.
Implement an Inadvertent Discovery Plan for human remains, suspected human remains, or any items suspected to be related to a human burial (i.e., funerary items, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony). This will include the following procedures: • Halt of activities. All survey, excavation, and construction activities shall cease. The human remains shall not be disturbed any further. • Notification. Local law enforcement official, the local government, and the Indian Tribal governments shall be contacted immediately. • Inspection. The county coroner, or appropriate official, shall inspect the remains at the project site and determine if they are prehistoric/historic or modern. Representatives from the Indian tribal governments shall have an opportunity to monitor the inspection. • Jurisdiction. If the remains are modern, the appropriate law enforcement officials shall assume jurisdiction and the cultural resource protection process may conclude. • Treatment. In Oregon, prehistoric/historic remains of Native Americans shall generally be treated in accordance with the procedures set forth in O.R.S. 97.740 to 97.760.	During construction.
Air Quality	
Apply water from water trucks to excavation areas and set a low speed limit to reduce dust.	Before and during construction.
Limit idling for construction vehicles and machinery.	During construction.
Climate Change	
Limit idling for construction vehicles and machinery.	During construction.
Noise	
Limit construction to daylight hours (typically the hours between 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.)	During construction.
Fit equipment with best available sound muffling devices to the extent practicable, and regularly check mufflers to ensure they function properly.	Before and during construction.
Review construction phasing to minimize the duration of particularly noisy activities and the overall duration of construction near residences.	Before construction.
Public Health and Safety	
Conduct construction safety meetings to start each work day to review potential safety issues and concerns.	During construction.
Notify local residents of anticipated construction timelines and potential for increased traffic along Birch Creek Road and Taylor Lane.	Before construction.
Ensure adequate alternate access for the areas affected by bridge construction along Taylor Lane.	Before and during construction.
Post signage and assign personnel to direct traffic during construction to facilitate the flow of traffic and access by emergency vehicles.	Before and during construction.
Use adequate signage and other routine safeguards for worker and public safety, and especially when utilizing ingress and egress to ensure safe crossings for vehicle traffic.	During construction.
Require workers to wear all necessary personal protective equipment when working with potentially hazardous materials.	During construction.

Temporarily store any waste liquids generated at the staging areas under an impervious cover until they could be properly transported to and disposed of at a facility that is approved for receipt of hazardous materials.	During construction.