

**Supplement Analysis**  
for the  
**Columbia River Basin Tributary Habitat Restoration Project**  
(DOE/EA -2126/SA-54)

**Spring Creek Enhancement Design “Cable Bridge” Site Project**  
**BPA project number 1992-010-00**  
**BPA contract number 84068 Rel 8**

Bonneville Power Administration  
Department of Energy



**Introduction**

In December 2020, Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) completed the Columbia River Basin Tributary Habitat Restoration Programmatic Environmental Assessment (DOE/EA 2126) (Programmatic EA). The Programmatic EA analyzed the potential environmental impacts of implementing habitat restoration actions in the Columbia River Basin and its tributaries.

Consistent with the Programmatic EA, this Supplement Analysis (SA) analyzes the effects of the Spring Creek Habitat Improvement Project (Project) that would implement some of the specific restoration actions assessed in the Programmatic EA in Spring Creek in Bannock County, Idaho. The Project would improve habitat function for Yellowstone cutthroat trout by narrowing an over-widened channel, increasing pool depth and abundance, maintaining riffle features, and adding floodplain/off-channel refugia for Yellowstone cutthroat trout and other native fish.

This SA analyzes the site-specific impacts of the Project to determine if the Project is within the scope of the analysis considered in the Programmatic EA. It also evaluates whether the Project presents significant new circumstances or information relevant to environmental concerns that were not addressed by the Programmatic EA. The findings of this SA determine whether additional National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) analysis is needed pursuant to 40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) § 1502.9(d) and 10 CFR § 1021 *et seq.*

**Proposed Activities**

BPA is proposing to fund the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes (Tribes) to implement the Project. The Project is located approximately 12-miles northwest of Pocatello, in Bannock County, Idaho at the confluence of Spring Creek and its tributary, Jimmy Creek. Spring Creek, itself a tributary to the Snake River and immediately upstream of the American Falls Reservoir, is the largest of three spring-fed creeks located on an ecologically unique area that is commonly referred to as the Fort Hall Bottoms (FHB) on the Fort Hall Indian Reservation.

The Snake River flows southwesterly along the western boundary of the FHB. Prior to the construction of numerous large dams farther upstream on the Snake River during the 20th Century, the FHB likely functioned as the active floodplain of the Snake River. Similarly, Spring Creek and the other spring-fed streams on the FHB were likely active side channels of the Snake River. The construction of the Snake River Dams reduced flood discharges and changed the character of the FHB from frequently inundated floodplains to drier uplands with localized spring-fed streams; the spring-fed stream channels have subsequently become oversized relative to the reduced spring-fed discharges they currently convey. The Project is also located near the upstream limits of the American Falls Reservoir backwater influence, which results in additional habitat degradation largely caused by the reservoir's rapidly varying pool elevation. Adverse impacts realized from these conditions include persistent bank erosion, bank sloughing, channel widening, excessive sedimentation in the substrate, and excessive levels of suspended sediments. The site's hydrologic and geomorphic instability perpetuate the site's instream and riparian habitat degradation. Currently, Spring Creek within the Project area is an incised, single threaded channel with interconnected beaver wetland complexes. Spring Creek is flanked by narrow strips of riparian vegetation, which generally include sparse hawthorn, willow, alder, and few cottonwood trees with an understory of riparian grasses, rushes, sedges, and shrubs. Additional other anthropogenic impacts include removal of beaver, instream wood removal, stream channelization projects, riparian timber harvests, and past grazing management practices, which have altered fluvial and geomorphic processes within Spring Creek.

The proposed approximately half-mile-long Project would address some of Spring Creek's limiting factors, which include reduced habitat diversity, reduced habitat quantity, increased sediment input, and increased temperature. Habitat complexity, habitat connectivity, and floodplain connectivity would be enhanced by instream hydraulic dredging, floodplain expansion (by excavating and setting-back the steep, denuded, eroding banks), instream woody habitat installations, side channel habitat creation, reconnection of a spring-fed tributary/beaver-wetland complex, and floodplain revegetation.

The Area of Potential Effects (APE) is approximately 29 acres, which includes: 6.1 acres of open water; 1.4-acres of (mostly existing) gravel roads and a concrete boat ramp; 2.4-acres of wetlands; 8.3-acres of native uplands; and 9.9-acres of upland pasture. The project area is open for wildlife-oriented recreational activities including boating, fishing, wildlife viewing, photography, bird watching, and sightseeing.

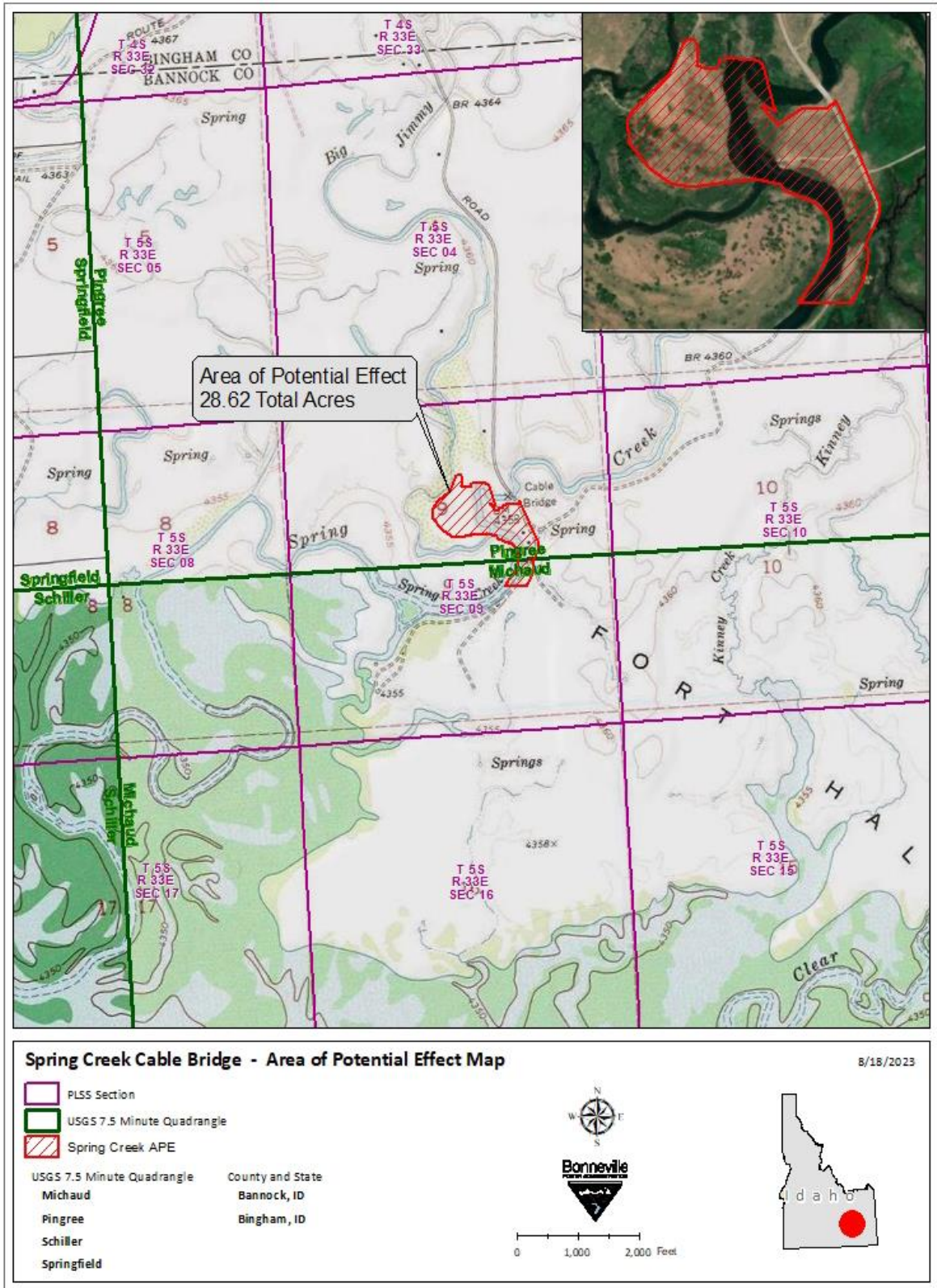


Figure 1. Spring Creek Habitat Improvement Project Location.

The proposed Project includes the following primary treatments:

- 1) Excavating approximately 6,095-cubic yards of gravel from a proposed/temporary gravel source within the Project limits. Gravel excavated from this pit would be used to create gravel-lined streambanks; instream gravel bars; fish passage improvements in the spring-fed tributary; and to repair the existing roads and parking areas disturbed by the Project. The gravel pit would be over-excavated to accommodate the excess soil excavated from the existing streambanks in addition to the fine sediment dredged from the streambed. After the Project is complete, the gravel pit/sedimentation pond area would be regraded, seeded, and restored to its current pasture condition.
- 2) The hydraulic dredging and removal of approximately 16,700-cubic yards of fine sediment from the streambed. The dredged material would be placed into the Project's gravel pit/sedimentation pond area.
- 3) The steep, largely denuded, and sloughing streambanks would be graded from the stream's existing edge-of-water to create a ~12-ft-wide emergent wetland bench at the ordinary highwater mark and then a slightly higher ~12-ft-wide mesic/mixed scrub-shrub wetland bench. These features would accommodate the reservoir's rapidly varying water elevations and would stabilize the sloughing banks with appropriate native vegetation. The majority of the soil excavated from these bench areas would be placed into the gravel pit, while a relatively small amount of the excavated bank material would be placed along the stream to create additional emergent wetlands.
- 4) One hundred (100) full-sized cottonwood trees (with rootwads intact) would be cut into pieces to construct the Project's woody habitat structures. Wood pieces include a mixture of rootwads, tree boles, treetops, and branches buried into the streambanks, as well as sweeper logs. The bank structures would protect the proposed emergent wetland benches from erosion and channel migration, whereas the sweepers would promote the deposition of fine sediment in select locations with the intention of naturally generating emergent wetlands over time.
- 5) Sixty-five (65) wood piles would also be imported and used to secure the woody bank structures and sweepers.
- 6) The Project design includes restoring approximately 220-lineal-feet of a small spring-fed tributary, which enters Spring Creek from the east bank near the downstream end of the Project. The restoration of this tributary generally includes the placement of gravel (from the gravel pit), woody debris, and vegetation into the currently incised channel.

Construction would begin at the Project's downstream end and advance in an upstream direction, and approximately 500 feet of stream would be isolated at one time. Construction would start at the downstream end of the project and advance upstream in a step-wise fashion. Construction activities are anticipated to last through 2024. Access to the site is available at several points from Sheepskin Road and all staging and excavated materials would remain on site. Trees would be sourced locally. Disturbed land areas would be revegetated with a mixture of native vegetation ranging from emergent wetland species to upland vegetation species, including 200 cottonwood plugs. The Project would be fenced to protect revegetation efforts. The site would be replanted and reseeded with native plants, cuttings, and seed mixture following project construction and through 2027.

These actions would support commitments to the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes under the 2020 Columbia River Fish Accord Extension agreement, while also supporting ongoing efforts to mitigate for effects of the Federal Columbia River Power System on fish and wildlife in the mainstem Columbia River and its tributaries pursuant to the Pacific Northwest Electric Power Planning and Conservation Act of 1980, 16 U.S.C. 839 *et seq.*

## **Environmental Effects**

The typical environmental impacts associated with the Columbia River Basin Tributary Habitat Restoration Project are described in Chapter 3 of the EA, and are incorporated by reference and summarized in this document. Implementation of this Project would require the use of heavy equipment for staging, hauling, excavation of materials, and placement of large wood structures. These restoration actions during construction would disturb and displace soil in and along the creek, damage vegetation, create noise and vehicle emissions, stress fish, and temporarily increase vehicle traffic and human activity in the Project area. Below is a description of the potential site-specific effects of the Project, and an assessment of whether these effects are consistent with those described in the Programmatic EA. Because the Project is designed to improve both aquatic and riparian habitats in the long term, adverse effects from soil and vegetation disturbance and human and mechanical activity would be short-term effects only.

### **1. Fish and Aquatic Species**

The effects of using mechanized equipment and manually working in and along Spring Creek, the river, and side channels are consistent with the analysis in Section 3.3.1 of the Programmatic EA (“Fish and Aquatic Species”). Section 3.3.1.3 of the Programmatic EA (“Effects Conclusion for the Proposed Action on Fish and Aquatic Species”) describes overall low impacts to fish and aquatic species after considering moderate short-term adverse effects and beneficial long-term effects.

The Yellowstone cutthroat trout (*Oncorhynchus clarki bouvier*) is classified as an imperiled subspecies by the State of Idaho, a sensitive species by the USFWS, and a rangewide/globally imperiled species by the BLM. Although they are native to the Upper Snake River Basin, including the Fort Hall Bottoms and Spring Creek, Spring Creek does not currently possess habitat characteristics that Yellowstone cutthroat trout prefer, such as: silt-free rocky substrate; 1:1 riffle/run to pool ratios; well-vegetated banks; complex/protected side and off-channel habitat; and abundant instream cover.

The short-term adverse effects of the Project activities would include exposing, displacing, reconfiguring, or compacting earth through the use of heavy equipment within and along the river and side channels, likely causing sediment discharges following construction activities. The amount of sediment discharged would likely be moderate because there would be instream excavation. However, mitigation measures as detailed in the Programmatic EA (e.g., requiring instream work areas to be isolated during construction) would be applied. The sediment inputs would be typical of the amounts that fish and other aquatic species naturally encounter in their environment during high flow events, and consistent with the analysis in the Programmatic EA at Section 3.3.1.2.1, and would be ameliorated through the use of mitigation measures.

The work area isolation, fish salvage, and instream construction activities would displace fish from work areas until the work activities are completed. Small aquatic organisms that could not be salvaged would likely not survive. The newly constructed instream areas would be re-colonized by fish and other aquatic organisms with full recovery likely within the following months to years. The anticipated amount of activity and the level of aquatic species disturbance, however, is consistent with the analysis in Sections 3.1.3.1 and 3.3.1.2.1 of the Programmatic EA. In the Programmatic EA, direct, harmful, and sometimes fatal impacts to aquatic species are disclosed, and movement, sounds, and vibrations of human and mechanical activities are discussed as likely to disturb fish and displace them from their preferred habitat for as long as that movement, sound, and vibration are present.

The Project’s long-term beneficial effects include creation of more complex instream habitat for the benefit of Yellowstone cutthroat trout, and other native fish such as suckers (*Catostomus* spp.) and

salmonids (*Oncorhynchus* spp.), through the addition of wood structures and floodplain reconnection treatments, thereby creating or restoring pool habitat, fish cover, spawning gravel, and rearing habitat. These beneficial effects are consistent with the analysis in the Programmatic EA found in Section 3.3.1.2.2.

## 2. Water Resources

The effects of using heavy equipment and manually working in and along Spring Creek and floodplain as described are consistent with the analysis in Section 3.3.2 of the Programmatic EA (“Water Resources”). Section 3.3.2.3 of the Programmatic EA describes overall low impacts to water quality after considering moderate short-term adverse effects and beneficial long-term effects, such as increased long-term water table inputs through restored floodplain function and increased connectivity of the river and side channels to their floodplains.

Overall, this Project would create short-term, localized, sediment inputs from the impacts of heavy equipment working in and along the river and side channels. Due to the nature of the site (low/variable flow, very fine sediment, creek width), typical channel excavation would result in unmanageable turbidity. This is mitigated using a hydraulic suction dredge, which would be encircled with floating sediment curtains during dredging. The suction dredging and sediment curtains contain and remove suspended sediments at the dredge intake, exposing pre-reservoir creekbed. Dredged sediment would be pumped ashore into “Sedimentation Cells”, where the sediment settles out in a series of steps until dredge effluent satisfies turbidity requirements. Sediment would be reused throughout the project as needed. Sediment produced from this restoration action and subsequent rewatering is not anticipated to be greater than what occurs naturally during annual, natural, high flow events. As in the Programmatic EA, these are short-term effects which would be lessened by the application of mitigation measures such as protection of existing vegetation, minimization of areas to be impacted, and revegetation when the Project is complete. The long-term effects of this Project, however, would be a decreased potential for unnatural sediment inputs; an increased potential of the floodplains to effectively and naturally function (e.g., manage sediment loads); and a reduction of creek temperatures from improved form, instream habitat structure, and increased riparian vegetative cover. These long-term beneficial effects are consistent with those described in the Programmatic EA.

## 3. Vegetation

The effects of using mechanized equipment and manually working in the Spring Creek floodplain are consistent with the analysis in Section 3.3.3 of the Programmatic EA (“Vegetation”). Section 3.3.3.3 of the Programmatic EA (“Effects Conclusion for the Proposed Action on Vegetation”) describes overall moderate impacts to vegetation after considering moderate short-term adverse effects and beneficial long-term effects. The Ute ladies'-tresses (*Spiranthes diluvialis*) is a native orchid that is listed as threatened under the ESA. Ute ladies'-tresses are restricted to sporadically located microhabitat along riparian edges, gravel bars, old oxbows, high flow channels, and moist to wet meadows along perennial streams. It typically occurs in stable wetland and seep areas associated with old landscape features within historical floodplains of major rivers. It is also found in wetland and seep areas near freshwater lakes and springs. No Ute ladies'-tresses orchids were observed during surveys conducted in July 2023. The areas within the project footprint with suitable habitat are also heavily trampled and grazed and are therefore believed to be unlikely to support this plant.

The construction activities are anticipated to have impacts consistent with those described in the Programmatic EA. Installing the temporary access, grading the floodplain, and constructing side channels would remove vegetation from those sites, though all impacted sites would be planted or seeded following construction activities. Section 3.3.3.2 of the Programmatic EA (“Environmental

Consequences for Vegetation”) evaluated constructed features that generally disturbed less than 20 acres in a single year, but on occasion would disturb more than 50 acres. In this case, the vegetated area impacted by the Project would measure about 21 acres. Impacts to vegetation would also include trampling of herbaceous vegetation by mechanized equipment and human foot traffic (from which the vegetation would be anticipated to recover well). The addition of sediment would provide increased survival of planting efforts. The completed project area would be seeded and planted with native shrubs and trees, which would benefit from the relocation of sediment. This level of effect would be beneficial and consistent with that described in the Programmatic EA.

#### **4. Wetlands and Floodplains**

The effects of using mechanized equipment and manually working in and along Spring Creek and its floodplain and wetlands are consistent with the analysis in Section 3.3.4 of the Programmatic EA (“Wetlands and Floodplains”). Section 3.3.4.3 of the Programmatic EA (“Effects Conclusion for the Proposed Action on Wetlands and Floodplains”) describes overall low impacts to wetlands and floodplains after considering short-term adverse effects and beneficial long-term effects.

The Project is anticipated to have a high impact to floodplains similar to those described in the Programmatic EA. Specifically, there would be short-term (i.e., weeks-long) adverse effects to floodplains due to earthwork. Appropriate Clean Water Act permitting would be obtained by the Tribes prior to any waterbody disturbance.

Consistent with the Programmatic EA, Project implementation would also have long-term beneficial effects. It would create conditions in this reach of Spring Creek with increased connectivity to the floodplain, improve groundwater exchange, diversify wetland conditions, and thereby increase the amount and quality of wetlands in the Project area. There would also be some flow redirection as wood structures and side channels would facilitate more natural lateral movement and sinuosity of channels, slow water velocities, and connection between the channels and the floodplains, and provide for more efficient sediment movement and retention in the floodplains. Dredge suctioning would restore valuable sediment material from Spring Creek to sediment-poor areas. This level of effect would be low after considering short-term adverse effects and beneficial long-term effects, and is consistent with the Programmatic EA.

#### **5. Wildlife**

The effects of using mechanized equipment and manually working in and along Spring Creek are consistent with the analysis in Section 3.3.5 of the Programmatic EA (“Wildlife”). Section 3.3.5.3 of the Programmatic EA (“Effects Conclusion for the Proposed Action on Wildlife”) describes overall low impacts to wildlife after considering short-term adverse effects and beneficial long-term effects.

ESA-listed Canada lynx (*Lynx canadensis*), yellow-billed cuckoo (*Coccyzus americanus*) and their respective designated critical habitats, and Threatened North American wolverine (*Gulo gulo luscus*), may be present within Bannock County, but suitable habitat is not located within or near the Project site, and the Project would thus have no effect on these species. No other ESA-listed, state-listed, or other sensitive wildlife species are present within the Project area.

The disturbance of wildlife by the movement, sounds, and vibrations of human and mechanical activity during construction would displace them temporarily from their preferred habitat while those activities are present. No work would occur during breeding or nesting season. The Project would create conditions within this reach that are conducive for beaver recolonization. Disturbed areas would be revegetated and would be beneficial to local wildlife species in the long term.

The Project's short-term effects would be consistent with those analyzed in the Programmatic EA. The actions of humans and machines in this area would temporarily displace wildlife from their preferred locations and prevent them from reoccupying the site until construction is complete, at which point that habitat would be more diverse but vegetatively similar to pre-project conditions. The effects on small, individual wildlife species may be moderate to high for individuals that are harmed or killed by construction activities, but effects would be comparatively minor for larger animals that may only be temporarily displaced. The long-term effects on wildlife populations would be beneficial from the increased habitat quality and carrying capacity resulting from the Project. The overall effects of the Project would be beneficial and consistent with those evaluated in the Programmatic EA.

## **6. Geology and Soils**

The effects of using mechanized equipment and manually working in Spring Creek and its floodplain are consistent with the analysis in Section 3.3.6 of the Programmatic EA ("Geology and Soils"). Section 3.3.6.3 of the Programmatic EA ("Effects Conclusion for the Proposed Action on Geology and Soils") describes moderate impacts to geology and soils.

Floodplain grading, constructing wood structures, and berm removal would require excavation and thereby cause soil displacement, compaction, and mixing of soil horizons. The Programmatic EA considered actions that could disturb large areas at any one site. The area impacted by this action would be about 29 acres. Design criteria, mitigation measures, and best management practices such as stockpiling of topsoil, dust abatement, and erosion protection measures would all be applied as described in Section 2.4 of the Programmatic EA ("Mitigation Measures and Design Criteria") to minimize impacts and maintain long-term soil productivity.

The Project does not specifically target soils for restoration or enhancement (as it does fish habitat and hydrologic functions), but the proposed actions would result in maintaining and improving soil properties and functions as hydrologic function is restored within the floodplain. Sediment relocation and revegetation efforts would also improve soils. The limited use of heavy equipment is much less of an impact than was considered in the Programmatic EA, and mitigation measures designed to minimize adverse effects, such as minimizing the area of impact through design, applying erosion control measures, and decompacting all areas that were compacted during implementation would also be applied. The level of effect from heavy equipment would be short term and moderate on geology and soils. The overall level of effect would be beneficial, consistent with the effect level described in the Programmatic EA.

## **7. Transportation**

The effects of this Project in and along Spring Creek are consistent with the analysis in Section 3.3.7 of the Programmatic EA ("Transportation"). Section 3.3.7.3 of the Programmatic EA ("Effects Conclusion for the Proposed Action on Transportation") describes low impacts to transportation.

This Project is adjacent to Spring Creek Access Road and would not impact any roads, neither open or closed, nor public or private. No roads would be closed, temporarily blocked, or relocated. No work would be conducted from the highway or its shoulders. As part of the Project, vehicles transporting workers and equipment to project sites would be sharing local roads with other traffic during construction, and the road would remain open. This level of impact would be low, consistent with the Programmatic EA.



## **8. Land Use and Recreation**

The effects of the proposed Project in and along Spring Creek are consistent with the analysis in the Programmatic EA, Section 3.3.8, "Land Use and Recreation." The Programmatic EA, Section 3.3.8.3, states that overall effects on land uses and recreation would be low to moderate.

There would be no effect on land use, and minimal effect on recreation from the proposed Project. Land uses would not change, and public recreational opportunities at this location would result in short-term displacement of recreational users from the immediate project area. There are other recreational opportunities in the area to serve as alternatives during the construction. No permanent change in land use or recreation would occur from the proposed Project. This level of effect is consistent with that described in the Programmatic EA at Section 3.3.8.2, which describes impacts to land use and recreational opportunities. These impacts would be adverse in the short-term, but overall beneficial as recreational opportunities return.

## **9. Visual Resources**

The effects of the proposed Project in and along Spring Creek would be consistent with the analysis in Section 3.3.9 of the Programmatic EA ("Visual Resources"). Section 3.3.9.3 of the Programmatic EA ("Effects Conclusion for the Proposed Action on Visual Resources") describes low impacts to visual resources.

The proposed restoration actions are immediately adjacent to Spring Creek Access Road, an unimproved road, and most activities would be readily visible to travelers along this route. As described in Section 3.3.9.2 of the Programmatic EA ("Environmental Consequences for Visual Resources"), Project-related construction would accordingly result in some short-term visual impacts, including some disturbance that detracts from the view and the visible presence of newly planted grasses, forbs, and shrubs. However, these visual impacts would last for only a few weeks during staging, construction, and replanting. When construction is complete, the river would gradually appear less disturbed as the newly planted seeded grasses and forbs grow. Within a year or two, the matured vegetation would provide the same natural scenery that can be seen elsewhere along this road. This level of impact would be beneficial, as consistent with the Programmatic EA.

## **10. Air Quality, Noise, and Public Health and Safety**

The effects of the proposed Project in and along Spring Creek would be consistent with the analysis in Section 3.3.10 of the Programmatic EA ("Air Quality, Noise, and Public Health and Safety"). Section 3.3.10.3 of the Programmatic EA ("Effects Conclusion for the Proposed Action on Air Quality, Noise, and Public Health and Safety") describes low impacts to air quality, noise, and public health and safety. This Project is about 12 miles from Pocatello, Idaho, which is too far for noise, dust, or exhaust from construction activities to affect the residents during the few weeks of construction activities; and no long-term source of emissions or noise would be created. Impacts to safety would come from workers sharing the roads when travelling to and from work sites, and the visual distraction that construction work close to the road might pose to passing motorists. This Project has no potential to impact public safety infrastructure (e.g., roads, telecommunications equipment, etc.) and some potential to burden emergency services (e.g., police, fire, and emergency medical services), which would be ameliorated through the use of mitigation measures, such as flagging, preconstruction safety identification, and proper safety gear. This level of impact would be adverse in the short term, but beneficial in the long-term, consistent with the Programmatic EA.

## **11. Cultural Resources**

The effects of this Project are consistent with the analysis in Section 3.3.11 of the Programmatic EA (“Cultural Resources”). Section 3.3.11.3 of the Programmatic EA (“Effects Conclusion for the Proposed Action on Cultural Resources”) describes low impacts to cultural resources, with any potential effects being amenable to resolution through the Section 106 consultation process under the National Historic Preservation Act.

BPA initiated consultation with the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes on August 15, 2023. BPA submitted a determination of no adverse effect to historic properties to the consulting parties on May 10, 2024, starting the 30-day comment review period. The 30-day comment review period ended June 13, 2024, and no comments were received.

## **12. Socioeconomics and Environmental Justice**

The effects of this restoration Project along Spring Creek would be consistent with the analysis in Section 3.3.13 of the Programmatic EA (“Socioeconomics and Environmental Justice”). Section 3.3.13.3 of the Programmatic EA (“Effects Conclusion for the Proposed Action on Socioeconomics and Environmental Justice”) describes low socioeconomic and environmental justice impacts.

Consistent with the effects described in the Programmatic EA, the Project would not generate a requirement for additional permanent employees nor would it require individuals to leave the local area, or relocate to it. There would be no effect on housing available for local populations. This Project would not displace people or eliminate residential suitability of lands being restored, nor from lands near it. The Project would generate short-term employment for those directly implementing the restoration actions and would provide small short-term cash inputs to local businesses for fuel, equipment, and meals. This degree of effect would be beneficial in the long-term, consistent with the Programmatic EA.

There are no environmental justice populations present that could be affected, as this Project and its impacts are limited to the private lands on which they are located, and no offsite effects are anticipated that could impact environmental justice populations elsewhere.

## **13. Climate Change**

The effects of this Project in and along Spring Creek are consistent with the analysis in in Section 3.3.14 of the Programmatic EA (“Climate Change”). Section 3.3.14.3 of the Programmatic EA (“Effects Conclusion for the Proposed Action on Climate Change”) describes low impacts on climate change.

Due to the short duration of construction and the relatively small number of construction vehicles and other gas-powered equipment, emissions associated with project construction activities are anticipated to be short-term and low. Therefore, the project would have a low level of greenhouse gas production and would have a low contribution to climate change from short-term emissions from motorized equipment operations during implementation of the restoration actions. Further, these greenhouse gas emissions would be offset to some degree by the ameliorating effects of restored floodplain function, such as increased carbon sequestration in expanded wetlands. This project would also provide for an increase of long-term water table inputs through restored floodplain function and increased connectivity of the river and side channels to their floodplains. It would also increase riparian shading along the river and side channels. Each of these results could ameliorate the effects of climate change on aquatic species. The overall effects on climate change and greenhouse gas production would be beneficial.

## **Findings**

BPA finds that the types of actions and the potential impacts related to the proposed Spring Creek Habitat Improvement Project are similar to those analyzed in the Columbia River Basin Tributary Habitat Restoration Programmatic Environmental Assessment (DOE/EA-2126) and Finding of No Significant Impact. There are no substantial changes in the Programmatic EA's Proposed Action and no significant new circumstances or information relevant to environmental concerns bearing on the Programmatic EA's Proposed Action or its impacts within the meaning of 10 CFR § 1021.314(c)(1) and 40 CFR § 1502.9(d). Therefore, no further NEPA analysis or documentation is required.

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Concur:

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