

**Supplement Analysis**  
for the  
**Columbia River Basin Tributary Habitat Restoration**  
(DOE/EA-2126/SA-64)

**Last Chance Ranch Phase 2**  
**Bonneville project number 2010-072-00**  
**Bonneville contract number 84063 REL 18**

Bonneville Power Administration  
Department of Energy



**Introduction**

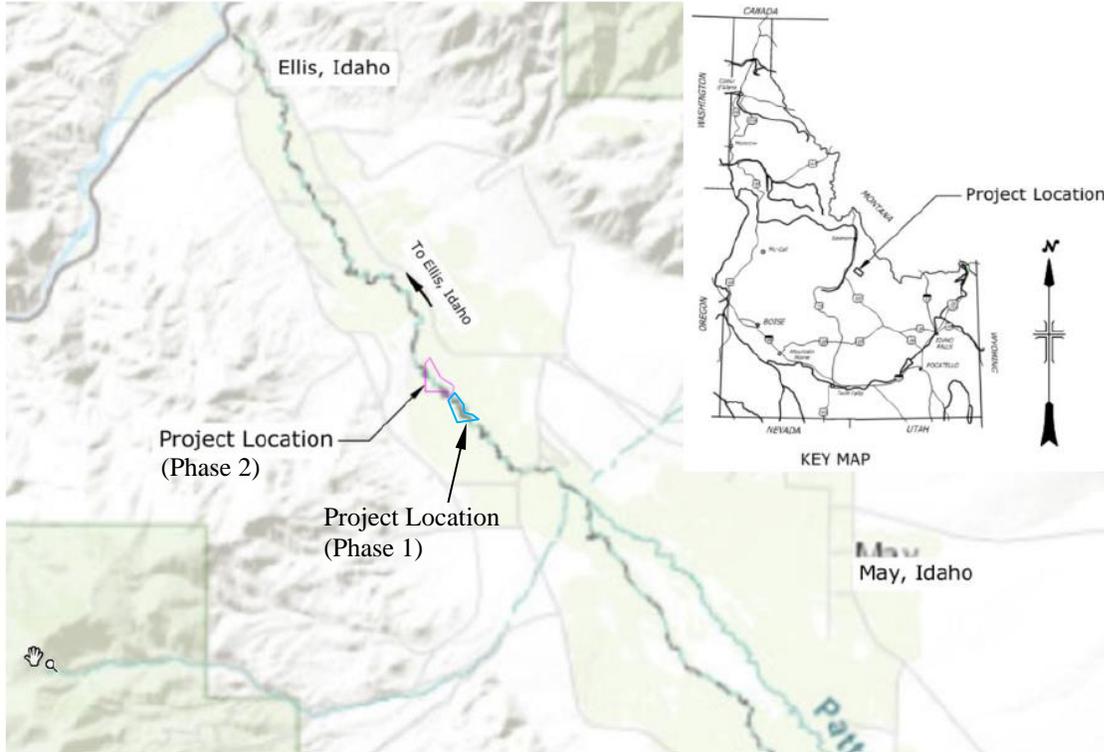
In December 2020, Bonneville Power Administration (Bonneville) and the Bureau of Reclamation completed the Columbia River Basin Tributary Habitat Restoration Programmatic Environmental Assessment (DOE/EA 2126) (Programmatic EA). The Programmatic EA analyzed the potential environmental impacts of implementing habitat restoration actions in the Columbia River Basin and its tributaries. In May of 2023, Bonneville completed a Supplement Analysis (SA) (SA-34) that found that island creation and expansion actions did not represent a substantial change to the proposal evaluated in the Programmatic EA and were not significant new circumstance or information relevant to the environmental concerns that were not addressed by the Programmatic EA.

Consistent with the Programmatic EA, this SA analyzes the effects of the Last Chance Ranch Phase 2 Habitat Improvement project (project). The project would implement many of the specific restoration actions assessed in the Programmatic EA in the Lower Pahsimeroi River Valley in Lemhi and Custer counties, Idaho (the Pahsimeroi River is the county line). The objectives of the project are to increase instream habitat diversity; reduce water temperatures; reconnect the floodplain; and improve riparian and floodplain vegetative diversity for the benefit of Endangered Species Act (ESA)-listed salmonids.

This SA also evaluates whether the proposed project presents substantial new circumstances or information about the significance of the adverse effects that bear on the analysis and that were not addressed by the EA. The findings of this SA determine whether additional National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) analysis is needed under 10 C.F.R. § 1021 *et seq.*

**Proposed Activities**

Bonneville proposes funding the Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG) to complete the project located on the Last Chance Ranch (Ranch) approximately 15 miles northeast of Challis, Idaho, and 5 miles northwest of May, Idaho, in Custer and Lemhi counties (Figure 1). The overall project area would be along about 0.7 mile of the Pahsimeroi River, and proposed actions would directly impact approximately 2 acres. This is the second phase of a multi-phased project. The Phase 1 project area is along about 0.6 mile immediately upstream of the Phase 2 project area (Figure 1) and was constructed in 2023. Similar actions and features were implemented in Phase 1 as are proposed for Phase 2, including installation of riffles, islands, and large and small wood structures; activation of side channels; installation of riparian benches; and riparian plantings.



**Figure 1. Location of proposed action.**

Proposed actions include:

- Excavation of a re-meander and a new side channel
- Installation of large wood structures and fill to decrease channel cross-sectional area and increase water occurrence in the floodplain
- Installation of vegetation structures for channel margin habitat, shade, and floodplain roughness
- Installation of cobble and gravel-based features including riffles and islands
- Installation of riparian benches with salvaged sedge mats and salvaged willows
- Installation of channel spanning wood structures, individual large wood habitat pieces, and vegetation structures to add floodplain roughness, channel margin habitat, and shade

A historic re-meander along the main channel would be excavated (approximately 600 feet long and 1,449 cubic yards removed) and the portion of the main channel between the two ends would be plugged with fill (approximately 100 feet long and 564 cubic yards added) and wood structures to encourage flow to the reopened re-meander. A side channel would also be excavated (335 cubic yards removed over 370 feet).

There would be four types of wood structures in addition to single logs (approximately 62) placed throughout the channel and floodplain. The log structures would include:

- Three log structure – consisting of three key logs that are 20 to 35 feet in length, six racking wood logs that are 15 to 25 feet in length, and 4 cubic yards of slash. Two live

willow clumps would be planted on top of each structure. The project would install approximately 25 of these structures.

- Nine log structure – consisting of nine key logs, 18 racking wood logs, and 12 cubic yards of slash. The project would install approximately three of these structures.
- Bank cover structure – consisting of six key logs, three racking wood logs, and 2 cubic yards of slash. Two live willow clumps would be planted on top of each structure. Coir fabric and a sedge mat would be installed along the bank. The project would install approximately 11 of these structures.
- Apex structure – consisting of four key logs, six racking wood logs, and 2 cubic yards of slash. One live willow clump would be planted on top of each structure. The project would install approximately five of these structures.

Engineered riffles (approximately three) would be about 50 to 100 feet long in the main channel and would be constructed by over-excavation of the native materials by approximately 2 feet and replacing with an engineered mix of native and imported streambed material of similar size (approximately 180 cubic yards total). Island construction would be designed to mimic islands that form when large willows create an abrupt mid-channel obstruction, forcing flows around both sides. About 12 islands would be constructed in over-widened channel locations using fill (approximately 380 cubic yards of material excavated from other project areas), willow clumps, sedge mats, and non-vegetated and pre-vegetated coir logs.

Vegetation structures would include willow baffles (approximately 255 linear feet in total) consisting of four cubic yards of slash wood and three willow clumps per 20 linear feet and approximately 68 sedge mats (3-foot-wide by 16-foot-long).

Excess fill would be disposed of in an upland location and graded to match natural contours. Sedge material would be salvaged from areas to be impacted by these actions and immediately transplanted to revegetate areas that would be graded or filled. Large woody material would be purchased from commercial sources and small woody material (e.g., willows) would be sourced from existing plant concentrations on site. Areas impacted by temporary access and staging would be roughened and replanted with native species after construction.

Site access, staging, and sequencing would be implemented in accordance with conservation measures outlined in Bonneville's Fish and Wildlife Habitat Improvement Program (HIP). Construction access would mainly be on existing farm roads but would require approximately 1.5 miles of temporary route of travel that would be cross-country on a designated route with no temporary or permanent road construction and the placement of one temporary bridge to cross the river. There would be two previously established equipment staging and refueling areas, each farther than 150 feet from the river, along existing farm roads at the edges of agricultural fields. There would be three smaller stockpile areas to hold natural materials in flat, grassy areas closer to the river. Features requiring excavation in the river and along the banks would require the use of temporary coffer dams to isolate work areas from active river flows to reduce turbidity impacts. Fish within these isolated work areas would be salvaged by experienced and permitted personnel before construction in those areas. Erosion and sediment controls would be installed and maintained throughout construction and until all disturbed soils are revegetated or stabilized. Work would require the use of heavy equipment such as excavators, dump trucks, and haul trucks.

Project construction would take place within the approved in-water work window with revegetation planting and protective fencing installation occurring the following spring. The project area would be

planted with containerized native shrubs, hydroseeded, treated for invasive plants, and be restricted from cattle grazing through fencing, grazing plans, or existing conservation easement conditions.

IDFG would monitor the effectiveness of the actions for several years after construction is complete. If failures in system function, structure function and integrity, or risks to infrastructure, riverscape processes, or fish passage occur, IDFG would implement adaptive management procedures. These procedures would include installation of new structures of the same type originally installed (not to exceed two per year) or modification of structures (not to exceed the addition of more than 100% of materials used during original construction of the structure) or a combination of both. IDFG would also implement adaptive management procedures if there were low survival or establishment of native vegetation in restored areas.

Funding this project would benefit Snake River Chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*), Snake River Basin steelhead (*O. mykiss*), and bull trout (*Salvelinus confluentus*) and would fulfill commitments under the 2020 National Marine Fisheries Service Columbia River System Biological Opinion (2020 NMFS CRS BiOp) and the 2020 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Columbia River System Biological Opinion (2020 USFWS CRS BiOp). These actions also support Bonneville's commitments to the State of Idaho in the Columbia River Fish Accord, as amended, 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 (Northwest Power Act) (16 U.S.C. (USC) 839 *et seq.*).

### **Environmental Effects**

The implementation of this project requires the use of construction crews and equipment which would disturb and displace soil in and along the streams; damage vegetation; produce noise and vehicle emissions; and temporarily increase vehicle traffic and human activity in the project area. Chapter 3 of the Programmatic EA, as summarized in relevant parts below, discusses typical environmental disturbances and impacts stemming from habitat restoration in the Columbia River basin. 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.

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

The effects of using mechanized equipment and manually working in and along the Pahsimeroi River are consistent with the analysis in the Programmatic EA, Section 3.3.1 ("Fish and Aquatic Species"), which describes overall low impacts to fish and aquatic species after considering moderate short-term adverse effects and beneficial long-term improvements.

Three species listed under the ESA are present in the project area: Snake River Chinook salmon, Snake River Basin steelhead, and bull trout. No other state or ESA-listed species are known to be present within the project area. Bonneville completed an ESA Section 7 consultation on the effects of the project's actions on these species in its HIP programmatic consultation, which found that such actions would likely adversely affect these species and their designated critical habitat in the short term but would not likely result in jeopardy to the species or result in destruction or adverse modification of their designated critical habitat.

The short-term adverse effects of the project would expose, displace, reconfigure, or compact earth using mechanized equipment within and along the Pahsimeroi River. It would likely create conditions where small amounts of sediment could be released for short periods of time. The amount of sediment anticipated from the project would be moderate because there would be some instream excavation (for

constructed riffles, islands, re-meander, and new side channel). There would, however, be no large-scale dewatering/rewatering of the entire river or stream channels for complete reconstruction. The re-meander, new side channel, and riffles would be constructed in the dry with no exposure to stream flows where possible, and where not possible, the work area would be isolated from flows and other mitigation measures would be applied, such as installing temporary erosion controls before starting work, locating equipment fueling areas at least 150 feet from the stream, and working during the approved in-water work window to avoid impacts to fish life at critical life stages, as detailed in the Programmatic EA. Though the amount of sediment discharged would be elevated, turbidity levels would be below levels harmful to fish and at durations not anticipated to cause harm as evaluated in Section 3.3.1.2.1 of the Programmatic EA (*“Short-Term Effects to Fish and Aquatic Species from Construction Activities”*).

Movement, sounds, and vibrations from construction-related human and mechanical activity would likely temporarily disturb and displace fish and aquatic organisms from their preferred habitats for the duration of the disturbance. The project area has limited vegetation that would screen human activity during work activities within and along the river. Some work sites would require work area isolation but would generally dewater only a portion of the stream rather than damming the entire width. Fish trapped in isolated areas would need to be salvaged and relocated to free-flowing portions of the river. Fish salvage involves electro-shocking, capture, and handling to relocate the fish. This is stressful for individual fish but avoids leaving the fish stranded in a dewatered location. The anticipated amount of activity and aquatic species disturbance is consistent with the analysis in Sections 3.1.3.1 and 3.3.1.2.1 of the Programmatic EA (*“Dewatering for Instream Work”* and *“Short-Term Effects to Fish and Aquatic Species from Construction Activities,”* respectively)., The Programmatic EA disclosed direct, harmful, and sometimes fatal impacts to aquatic species, including displacement of fish from their preferred habitat during periods of movement, sounds, and vibrations from human and mechanical activity.

The project’s long-term beneficial effects include creation of more complex habitats through the addition of a new side channel, reconnected re-meander, riffles, wood structures, islands and vegetation structures to streams and riparian areas and reduction of long-term sediment inputs by streamside stabilization and streamside plantings. These beneficial effects are consistent with the analysis in Section 3.3.1.2.2 of the Programmatic EA (*“Effects to Fish and Aquatic Organisms unique to the Categories of Action”*).

## **2. Water Resources**

The effects of using mechanized equipment and manually working in and along the Pahsimeroi River are consistent with the analysis in Section 3.3.2 of the Programmatic EA (*“Water Resources”*), which describes overall low water quality impacts after considering moderate short-term adverse effects and beneficial long-term effects. There would be no effect on water quantity from water withdrawals. There would, however, be the potential for improved water quantity from increased recharge of groundwater since the connection between surface flows and the floodplain would be increased over both space and time.

Overall, this project would create short-term, localized sediment inputs from the impacts of using mechanized equipment along and within the river while excavating channels, installing wood and vegetation structures, and creating islands and riffles. Restoration actions would disturb lengths of stream or riverbank consistent with the analysis in Section 3.3.2.2.1 of the Programmatic EA (*“Sedimentation and Turbidity Effects”*), but resulting sediment discharges likely would not be greater than what occurs naturally during annual high-flow events. These short-term effects would be lessened by the application of mitigation measures, such as installing sediment barriers in all work areas and

removing vegetation and soil from equipment before starting work and where feasible, operating equipment from the bank or previously cleared areas, as detailed in Section 2.4 of the Programmatic EA (*"Mitigation Measures and Design Criteria"*). The long-term effects of this project, however, would be a decreased potential for unnatural sediment inputs; an increased potential of the floodplain to effectively manage its sediment loads; and a reduction of stream temperatures from improved stream 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 and along the Pahsimeroi River are consistent with the analysis in Section 3.3.3 of the Programmatic EA (*"Vegetation"*), which describes overall moderate impacts to vegetation after considering moderate short-term adverse effects and highly beneficial long-term effects. There are no state or ESA-listed plant species present in the project area.

This project is anticipated to produce impacts to vegetation consistent with or less than those described in the Programmatic EA. There would be no large-scale earthmoving with its associated vegetative loss. Project implementation, including excavation activities, structure installation, and establishment of staging areas and access routes would have moderate short-term impacts on vegetation. The project would directly impact approximately two acres, which is much less than is described in the Programmatic EA in Section 3.3.3.2, *"Environmental Consequences for Vegetation,"* which evaluated constructed features that could disturb up to 50 acres. Impacts to vegetation would be limited to some damage or elimination of herbaceous vegetation by construction equipment and human foot traffic. Vegetation would be anticipated to recover naturally and with seeding and plantings. Vegetation impacts would also be mitigated by the translocation of willow clumps from existing large willow patches not providing instream habitat benefits to streamside areas where they are needed to provide such benefits. This level of effect would be low to moderate.

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

The effects of using small equipment and manually working in and along the Pahsimeroi River are consistent with the analysis in Section 3.3.4 of the Programmatic EA (*"Wetlands and Floodplains"*), which describes low impacts to wetlands and floodplains after considering high, short-term, adverse effects and highly beneficial long-term effects.

There are wetlands in the project area classified by the National Wetlands Inventory as riverine, which includes all wetlands and deepwater habitats contained within a channel. By design, proposed construction activities for Phase 2 would occur in these riverine wetlands and heavy equipment use and earth-moving activities during project construction would have short-term negative impacts. Non-riverine wetlands in the project area were inventoried and assessed by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation in 2022. Nearly 16 acres of wetlands were identified within the larger Last Chance multi-phased project area, with most of the wetland acres dominated by vegetation with no surface water. About 0.4 acres of these non-riverine wetlands would be temporarily disturbed in Phase 2 by equipment traveling through them to access the river. The project would temporarily stabilize access routes with logs or wood chips where there are depressions or wet areas. Prior to work occurring in a delineated wetland, IDFG would obtain required permits issued by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers under the Clean Water Act, and adhere to all requirements, conditions, and prescriptions set forth. There would be adverse impacts in the short term, but improved wetland conditions would follow project completion.

This project is anticipated to have fewer impacts than that described in the Programmatic EA. There would be less short-term adverse effects to floodplains and wetlands than described in the EA because there would be less extensive earth-moving, and heavy equipment use would be limited to small areas of grading and fill rather than wholesale reshaping of floodplains and river channels as described in the EA. The Programmatic EA evaluated more extensive impacts to wetlands from the actions of larger and heavier construction equipment and complete dewatering and rerouting of rivers and streams.

Consistent with the Programmatic EA, there would be long-term beneficial effects from implementation of this project. There would be increased connectivity between the river and its floodplain from side channel creation, wood and vegetation structures, and reactivation of the re-meander. There would also be some flow redirection as channel-spanning tree and willow structures would facilitate more natural lateral movement and sinuosity of channels. This would slow water velocities, facilitate more effective connection between the channel and the floodplain, and provide for more efficient sediment movement and retention in the floodplain.

## **5. Wildlife**

The effects of using construction equipment and manually working in and along the Pahsimeroi River are consistent with the analysis in Section 3.3.5 of the Programmatic EA ("*Wildlife*"). The Programmatic EA describes low impacts to wildlife after considering certain moderate to high short-term adverse effects to individual wildlife species, such as potential construction-related mortality, and highly beneficial long-term effects.

No ESA-listed or state-listed wildlife species are known to exist within the proposed project area. The USFWS Information for Planning and Conservation tools lists the North American wolverine (*Gulo gulo luscus*), ESA-listed Threatened, monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*), ESA-proposed Threatened, and Suckley's cuckoo bumble bee (*Bombus suckleyi*), ESA-proposed Endangered, as having the potential to be present in the project area. There is no designated critical habitat for ESA-listed or proposed species in the project area and no confirmed presence of any of the species in the project area. Due to current agricultural/grazing land use practices and nearby residences, it is unlikely these species would be present in the project area, and the project would likely have no effect to ESA-listed wildlife species.

The short-term effects from this project in the Pahsimeroi Valley would be less than those analyzed in the Programmatic EA, because the planned restoration actions would have far less impact to soils and vegetation, and thus, to wildlife habitat. There would be no large-scale earthmoving, with its associated vegetative loss and small animal impacts. In the short term, human presence would cause sound and movement that temporarily disturbs or displaces local wildlife. Construction activities would destroy the habitats of small animals but would only temporarily displace medium-sized or larger animals from their preferred habitats during construction, and they would likely re-occupy the site once human activity has moved or ceased. Construction activities would occur in mid- to late summer, and would thus avoid disturbance to migratory bird nesting, which occurs in the spring. Abundant similar wildlife habitat is present adjacent to the project area, these effects would be limited in duration, and there would be long-term beneficial improvement of wildlife habitat and no long-term negative changes to wildlife habitat. This level of effect would be low, as stated in the Programmatic EA.

## **6. Geology and Soils**

The effects of using mechanized equipment and manually working in and along the Pahsimeroi River are consistent with the analysis in Section 3.3.6 of the Programmatic EA ("*Geology and Soils*"), which describes moderate impacts to geology and soils.

The short-term effects from this project in the Pahsimeroi Valley would be less than those analyzed in the Programmatic EA because the planned restoration actions here would have far less impacts to soils. There would be no large-scale earthmoving, and thus, no widespread mixing of soil horizons or severe compacting of soils. Though heavy machinery would impact soils where fill and excavation would occur, these areas are generally small, widely spaced, and the project would be implemented with mitigation measures designed to reduce adverse effects, such as minimizing the area of impact and applying erosion control measures.

Long-term improvement to soils is expected once disturbed surfaces are re-seeded and riparian plantings are established and stabilize the soil surface. Long-term improvement to sediment transport and floodplain access within the project reach would restore natural sediment-forming processes.

### **7. Transportation**

The effects of this project in and along the Pahsimeroi River are consistent with the analysis in Section 3.3.7 of the Programmatic EA ("*Transportation*"), which describes low impacts to transportation.

The main effect the proposed restoration action would have on transportation would be vehicles transporting workers and equipment to the project site sharing local roads with other traffic. Project vehicles would access the site via Pahsimeroi River Road on the north side of the river. No roads would be closed; none would be temporarily blocked; none would be relocated. Temporary access routes would be on existing private farm roads. This level of impact would be low, as stated in the Programmatic EA.

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

Impacts to land use and recreation are consistent with the analysis in Section 3.3.8 of the Programmatic EA ("*Land Use and Recreation*"), which concludes that land use practices at underlying project sites would remain unchanged in most cases. The project is located on private agricultural land under the protection of a conservation easement and has no public recreational opportunities. The landowners currently access the river for fishing, and this would be temporarily limited during construction. Land uses would not change because of the project and public recreational opportunities on this private land would not change. The land would remain in agricultural production within the terms of the conservation easement, and landowners would have full access to fishing after project construction.

### **9. Visual Resources**

The effects of the proposed project in and along the Pahsimeroi River is consistent with the analysis in Section 3.3.9 of the Programmatic EA Section 3.3.9 ("*Visual Resources*"), which describes low impacts to visual resources.

The proposed restoration action in the Pahsimeroi Valley is far from any major highway or other potential viewpoint and would only be visible to people driving on Pahsimeroi River Road. Road users and nearby landowners would see heavy equipment during construction and may see new wood and vegetation structures across the floodplain. As discussed above under "*Vegetation*," there would be no large-scale soil or vegetation disturbance (as was assessed for some projects in the Programmatic EA), and changes to the visual landscape would thus be minor, and nearly undetectable to most viewers. After vegetation re-establishment, the project area would have a natural appearance and would not visually detract from the area.

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

The effects of the proposed project in and along the Pahsimeroi River is consistent with the analysis in Section 3.3.10 of the Programmatic EA ("*Air Quality, Noise, and Public Health and Safety*"), which describes low impacts to air quality, noise, and public health and safety.

The proposed restoration action in the Pahsimeroi Valley is far from any major population center or public use area; thus, it would not have any potential to directly impact the public, other than when sharing the roads when workers travel to and from work sites. Air quality and noise would be affected by operations and emissions from the machinery to be used during placement of wood structures, creation of islands and riffles, excavation, and fill. This would have short-term impacts and would be too far from any population area to be heard or seen. No long-term source of emissions or noise would be created. Although construction, transportation, and site-rehabilitation activities would temporarily elevate ambient noise levels at the construction site, the project would not result in long-term changes to noise levels. Nearby residents may encounter project vehicles on the road and hear some construction noises, but these would not be above the level of the typical noise levels from farming and ranching activities in the area. Adequate signage and other routine safeguards would minimize risks to worker and public safety for the duration of construction and site restoration.

## **11. Cultural Resources**

The effects of this restoration action in and along the Pahsimeroi River are consistent with the analysis in Section 3.3.11 of the Programmatic EA ("*Cultural Resources*"), which describes low impacts to cultural resources because cultural resources would be avoided by project construction and effects would be appropriately resolved through the National Historic Preservation Act Section 106 consultation process.

Cultural resources surveys were conducted and consultations with the Idaho State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and two affected Tribes (the Shoshone Bannock Tribes of the Fort Hall Reservation and the Nez Perce Tribe of Idaho) were completed for the area potentially affected by the project.

On February 1, 2024, Bonneville consulted with the Shoshone Bannock Tribes of the Fort Hall Reservation, Nez Perce Tribe of Idaho, and Idaho SHPO on the effects of the Last Chance Ranch Phase 2 project area (BPA CR Project No.: ID 2024 011). An intensive cultural resource survey and exploratory subsurface shovel probing of the Area of Potential Effect (APE) was conducted. No historic properties were located within the APE during the field survey, and Bonneville made a determination of no historic properties affected. On March 12, 2024, Idaho SHPO concurred with Bonneville's determination and concluded that the proposed work would have no effect to historic properties (SHPO Project No.: 2024-530). No response was received from the Shoshone Bannock Tribes of the Fort Hall Reservation or the Nez Perce Tribe of Idaho.

As described in the Programmatic EA, the results of this consultation were that the project would not adversely affect historic properties. In the unlikely event that cultural material is inadvertently encountered during the implementation of this project, Bonneville would require that work be halted in the vicinity of the finds until they can be inspected and assessed by Bonneville in consultation with the appropriate consulting parties.

## **12. Socioeconomics**

The effects of this restoration project in and along the Pahsimeroi River are consistent with the analysis in the Programmatic EA, "*Socioeconomics and Environmental Justice*," Section 3.3.13. The Programmatic EA, Section 3.3.13.3, describes low impacts to socioeconomics.

As described in the Programmatic EA, none of the restoration actions would generate a requirement for additional permanent employees, and the actions would not result in a requirement for individuals to leave the local area or relocate within it. There would be no effect on housing available for local populations. This project would not displace people or eliminate residential suitability from lands being restored, or from lands near the restoration project site. 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 low.

### **13. Climate Change**

The effects of this project in and along the Pahsimeroi River are consistent with the analysis in Section 3.3.14 of the Programmatic EA ("*Climate Change*"), which describes low impacts to climate change.

Due to the short duration of construction activities and the relatively small number of vehicles and equipment involved, project-related greenhouse gas emissions are anticipated to be low. This minimal contribution to climate change would be offset to some degree by the increased functioning of the floodplain including increased water table inputs, increased carbon sequestration in expanded and improved wetland habitats, and potentially, decreased water temperatures from improved instream and riparian habitat conditions.

### **Findings**

Bonneville finds that the types of restoration actions and the potential impacts related to the proposed *Last Chance Ranch Phase 2* 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 EA's Proposed Action and no substantial new circumstances or information about the significance of the adverse effects that bear on the analysis in the EA's Proposed Action or its impacts within the meaning of 10 CFR § 1021.314 and 40 CFR § 1502.9.<sup>1</sup> Therefore, no further NEPA analysis or documentation is required.

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Concur:

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<sup>1</sup> BPA is aware that the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ), on February 25, 2025, issued an interim final rule to remove its NEPA implementing regulations at 40 C.F.R. Parts 1500–1508. Based on CEQ guidance, and to promote completion of its NEPA review in a timely manner and without delay, in this SA BPA is voluntarily relying on the CEQ regulations, in addition to DOE's own regulations implementing NEPA at 10 C.F.R. Part 1021, to meet its obligations under NEPA, 42 U.S.C. §§ 4321 *et seq.*