

Kootenai National Wildlife Refuge Floodplain Reconnection Project

Mitigation Action Plan

Bonneville Power Administration

DOE/EA 2276

April 2025

SUMMARY

This Mitigation Action Plan is for the Kootenai National Wildlife Refuge Floodplain Reconnection Project (Proposed Action or Project). The Project would restore floodplain connectivity to the historic Kootenai River floodplains within the Kootenai National Wildlife Refuge (KNWR) in Boundary County, Idaho near Bonners Ferry, Idaho.

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

The Kootenai Tribe of Idaho, the project sponsor, would implement this project, and contractors and implementation partners, including the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), would build it. Relevant portions of this Mitigation Action Plan will be included in the construction contract specifications, which will obligate contractors to implement the mitigation measures identified that relate to contractor responsibilities during and after construction.

If you have any general questions about the Project, contact the Project Manager, David Kaplowe: direct telephone 503-230-8019, or djkaplowe@bpa.gov.

If you have questions about the Mitigation Action Plan, contact the BPA lead for the environmental review, Ted Gresh: 503-230-5365, or esgresh@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 Proposed Action are provided in the Mitigation Action Plan Table (Table 1).

Table 1. Mitigation Action Plan Table.

Mitigation Measures	Implementation Timeframe
Geology and Soils	
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 to exposed soil areas to reduce erosion and dust.	During construction
Sequence construction to minimize soil exposure and erosion potential.	During construction
Decompact staging areas and decommission access roads through subsoiling to a minimum of 18 inches and replanting.	During construction
Vegetation	
Wash construction equipment before it is mobilized to the project area to control the spread of non-native species.	During construction
Minimize disturbance to native vegetation.	During construction
Develop a floodplain revegetation plan to guide riparian planting locations.	After construction
Water Resources	
Obtain Clean Water Act permits and apply permit-specific protection measures.	Before construction
Develop a Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasures (SPCC) Plan prior to project initiation.	Before construction
Identify and locate staging areas, storage sites (fuel, chemical, equipment, and materials), and potentially polluting activities, and secure them using methods identified in the SPCC.	Before construction
Wash heavy equipment before delivery to the project site to remove oils, fluids, grease, weed seed, etc.	During construction
Inspect and clean heavy equipment regularly. Repair any leaks immediately upon discovery.	During construction
Always have a spill containment kit on site during construction.	During construction
Dispose all waste (solid waste, hazardous materials, etc.) off site, as regulated by applicable laws.	During construction
Remove all equipment, materials, supplies, and waste from the project site when complete.	After construction
Continue contaminant monitoring, including mercury and selenium bioaccumulation monitoring, on an annual basis.	After construction

Mitigation Measures	Implementation Timeframe
Cultural Resources	
Halt all project activities in the event of an Inadvertent Discovery of cultural resources during project implementation and notify the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Archaeologist.	During construction
Implement an Inadvertent Discovery Plan to ensure that any previously unidentified cultural resources are not inadvertently damaged during project implementation.	During construction
Land Use and Recreation	
Inform area residents via a public notification of the expected closure of the KNWR during construction.	Before construction
Post signs at all access points notifying users of the planned closure during construction.	Before construction
Transportation	
Notify residents of anticipated construction timelines and potential for increased traffic along Birch Creek Road and Taylor Lane.	Before construction
Post signage and assign personnel to direct traffic during construction to facilitate the flow of traffic and access by emergency vehicles.	Before construction
Require workers to wear all necessary personal protective equipment when working with potentially hazardous materials.	During construction
Cover all dump truck loads to reduce dust generation	During construction
Plan all project traffic and haul routes in coordination with the Boundary County Road and Bridge Department.	During construction
Limit idling for construction vehicles and machinery.	During construction
Public Health and Safety	
Conduct construction safety meetings to start each workday to review potential safety issues and concerns.	During construction