

**Supplement Analysis**  
for the  
**Columbia River Basin Tributary Habitat Restoration**  
**Programmatic Environmental Assessment**  
(DOE/EA 2126/SA-43)

**Lemhi River 2023 Restoration Projects**  
**Bonneville project number 2010-072-00**  
**Bonneville contract number 84063 rel. 3**

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.

Consistent with the Programmatic EA, this SA analyzes the effects of the Lemhi River 2023 Restoration Projects, which are two proposed projects Bonneville is proposing to fund. Bonneville would provide funds to the Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG) and to Trout Unlimited<sup>1</sup> that would implement many of the specific restoration actions assessed in the Programmatic EA in the Lemhi River Valley in Lemhi County, Idaho. The objectives of the two proposed projects are to increase in-stream habitat diversity, reduce water temperatures, and improve riparian and floodplain vegetative diversity for the benefit of Endangered Species Act-listed salmonids. This SA analyzes the site-specific impacts of the Lemhi River 2023 Restoration Projects to determine if the projects are within the scope of the analysis considered in the Programmatic EA. It also evaluates whether the proposed projects present significant new circumstances or information relevant to environmental concerns that were not addressed by the EA. The findings of this SA determine whether additional National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) analysis is needed pursuant to 40 Code of Federal Regulations (C.F.R.) § 1502.9(d) and 10 C.F.R. § 1021 *et seq.*

**Proposed Actions**

This SA analyzes the effects of two distinct projects: the *Lemhi River Mile 32 Project* (Mile 32) and the *Middle Lemhi Hayden Reach Phase 2 Project* (Hayden Phase 2). These two projects share the same objectives, would be geographically proximate, would impact similar aquatic, riparian, and floodplain environments, and would implement many of the same habitat restoration actions.

---

<sup>1</sup> Trout Unlimited is a U.S. non-profit organization for conservation of freshwater streams, rivers, and associated upland habitats; and for restoring cold-water fisheries. Trout Unlimited has sponsored multiple aquatic restoration projects in the Upper Salmon watershed in recent years.

The projects are located north of the town of Lemhi, ID at the confluence of Hayden Creek and the Lemhi River along Idaho State Highway 28. The Hayden Phase 2 Project is located on the Lemhi River upstream of the confluence, and the Mile 32 project would treat both the Lemhi River and Hayden Creek at the confluence of the two streams.



The projects (See Appendices A and B) would construct new main and side channels and instream riffles; place large wood habitat structures (single or multiple whole trees) in the river; reshape and extend river banks along channels to improve the streams' connections to their floodplains; reinforce those reshaped banks with native willow plantings; regrade the floodplains to elevations effective for connection with the streams at various flows; place single whole trees and logs on the floodplain to

increase “floodplain roughness” and thereby slow flood flows and capture sediment; and revegetate the projects’ riparian areas with native plantings and seeding.

The **Hayden Phase 2 Project** would occur along 1,800 feet of the Lemhi River and encompass about 25 acres. As the name indicates, this is phase two of a multi-phased project. Phase 1 constructed an interwoven series of main and side channels adjacent to the severely channelized Lemhi River. Phase 2 would complete connections of those new channels with the former river channel and introduce flows into the new channels. The former channel would be filled with material from the Phase 1 excavations. Eight 50- to 100-foot-long large wood bank stabilization structures would be placed at locations designed to prevent the river from returning to its former channel. Footings to support a 90-foot-long rail car bridge would be constructed and the bridge would be placed on them to cross one of the new channels to access a private road that had been relocated as part of Phase 1.

Temporary access and staging for construction needs was established in Phase 1, and no additional access routes in areas not already being disturbed by construction activities would be constructed for this phase.

The **Mile 32 Project** would occur along approximately 1,650 feet of the Lemhi River and encompass about 50 acres. The project would excavate a 1,750-foot side channel connecting Hayden Creek and the Lemhi River to the west of the current channels. Hayden Creek would only be impacted at the connection to this new side channel. Another 400-foot side channel would connect the Lemhi River to the above-described side channel. The floodplain along this new 400-foot channel would be excavated and contoured to ensure floodplain connections at various flows. Eleven riffles would be constructed to slow water and lessen the river’s grade and flow velocity in the existing and new channels. About 35 trees and log structures would be placed in the channels for fish habitat improvement and five more would be placed in the floodplain to slow water and improve sediment catchment. One temporary bypass channel would be constructed near the downstream end of the project which would be filled and planted following use.

Approximately 2,400 feet of temporary access routes would be needed for the Mile 32 project, and one temporary bridge would be needed to cross the temporary bypass channel. Two staging areas—one on each side of the river at least 150 feet away—would be used. Two additional small staging locations for trees and logs between the river and the highway would be used. All material would be removed following completion of the project.

Each project’s construction would take place within the approved in-water work window (July 1 through late August) with revegetation planting and protective fence installation occurring the following spring. Both project areas would be planted with containerized native shrubs, hydroseeded, treated for invasive plants, and protected from cattle grazing by fencing, grazing plans, or conservation easement conditions.

Funding these projects would benefit Snake River spring/summer Chinook salmon, Snake River Basin steelhead, and bull trout and would thus fulfill commitments under the 2020 National Marine Fisheries Service Columbia River System Biological Opinion (2020 NMFS CRS BiOp) and support commitments specified in the 2020 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Columbia River System Biological Opinion (2020 FWS CRS BiOp), while also supporting ongoing efforts to mitigate for effects of the Federal Columbia River Power System (FRCPS) 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. 839 *et seq.*).

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 FCRPS on fish and wildlife in the mainstem Columbia River and its tributaries pursuant to the Northwest Power Act.

## **Environmental Effects**

The implementation of these projects requires the use of excavators, dump trucks, and small track-mounted machines—such as a skid steer or a rubber-tired backhoe—for excavating channels, moving soil and gravel, constructing riffles, installing wood structures, and placing trees and logs. All of these restoration actions would disturb and displace soil in and along the streams, damage vegetation, create noise and vehicle emissions, and temporarily increase vehicle traffic and human activity in the project areas. The typical effects associated with the environmental disturbances created by these two projects are described in Chapter 3 of the Programmatic EA and summarized in this document.

Below is a description of the potential site-specific effects of the Hayden Phase 2 and the Mile 32 projects and an assessment of whether these effects are consistent with those described in the Programmatic EA. These projects are designed to improve both aquatic and riparian habitats for the long term, so the adverse effects from soil and vegetation disturbance, and from human and mechanical activity, as detailed below, would be short-term only.

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

The effects of using construction equipment in and along the Lemhi River and Hayden Creek 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 describes overall low impacts to fish and aquatic species after considering moderate short-term adverse effects and highly beneficial long-term effects.

Three species listed under the Endangered Species Act are present in the project area: Snake River spring/summer Chinook salmon (part of the Upper Salmon Major Population Group), Snake River steelhead (part of the Salmon River Major Population Group), and bull trout. The State of Idaho lists these species, respectively, as “critically imperiled,” “imperiled,” and “not rare and apparently secure.”<sup>2</sup> No other state or federally listed species are present. Bonneville completed Endangered Species Act consultation on the effects of these Habitat Improvement Program (HIP) projects on these species, with the conclusion that the projects 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 projects would include exposing, displacing, reconfiguring, or compacting earth with mechanized equipment along the Lemhi River and Hayden Creek, likely causing moderate, temporary sediment discharges, primarily from the introduction of first-time flows into newly-constructed channels and riffles. These impacts would be minimized because new excavations would be accomplished “in the dry” with no exposure to stream flows while applying conservation measures from the HIP EA consultation and mitigation measures from the Programmatic EA. The amount of sediment discharged would be consistent with amounts that fish and other aquatic species typically encounter in their natural environment, as evaluated in Section 3.3.1.2.1 of the Programmatic EA, and would have a low potential for triggering the behavioral and physiological effects from elevated water temperatures as described therein.

---

<sup>2</sup> State of Idaho “Species Conservation Status” website at:  
<https://idfg.idaho.gov/species/taxa/list?category=5&usesa%5B%5D=Endangered&srnk=2&grnk=All&sgcn=All>

Movement, sounds, and vibrations from construction-related human and mechanical activity would likely temporarily disturb and displace fish and aquatic organisms by causing them to leave their preferred habitat for the duration of the respective disturbances. Some work sites would require isolation (the damming of water flows around a work area or across the channel to effectively de-water the site), while others would be dewatered following fish capture (“salvaged”) and relocation to free-flowing portions of the river. Fish salvage involves electro-shocking, capture, and handling to relocate the fish. This is very stressful on individual fish, but less so than stranding the fish without water. The anticipated amount of activity and aquatic species disturbance is consistent with the analysis in Section 3.3.1.2.1 of the Programmatic EA.

The projects’ long-term beneficial effects include creating more rearing and over-wintering habitats by adding new side channels, riffles, pools, and wood structures in and along the river, and enhancing in-stream habitat complexity over time by providing lower-velocity side channels and overhanging woody debris and vegetation. These beneficial effects are consistent with the analysis in Section 3.3.1.2.2 of the Programmatic EA.

## **2. Water Resources**

The effects of using construction equipment in and along the Lemhi River and Hayden Creek 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 water quality impacts after considering moderate short-term adverse effects and highly beneficial long-term effects. There would be no effect on water quantity, as these projects would make no water withdrawals, but there could be increased groundwater recharge since the connection between surface flows and the floodplain would be increased over both space and time.

Overall, the tributary restoration projects would cause temporary sediment discharges by introducing flows into newly constructed channels and across newly constructed riffles. Restoration actions would disturb lengths of stream or riverbank consistent with the type and scale of activities assessed in the Programmatic EA; and the sediment produced from these restoration actions is not anticipated to be greater than what occurs naturally during annual high-flow events. As in the Programmatic EA, these are short-term effects which would be mitigated with various measures, including high-pressure washing of fine material into newly constructed riffles, gradual introduction of flows into new channels, and protection of existing vegetation and revegetation when projects are complete. The long-term effects of these projects, however, would include increased capability for the river and floodplain to effectively manage its sediment loads during high-flow and flood events, and reduced stream temperatures as a result of 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 construction equipment in and along the Lemhi River and Hayden Creek are consistent with the analysis in Section 3.3.3 of the Programmatic EA (“*Vegetation*”). Section 3.3.3.3 of the Programmatic EA, describes overall moderate impacts to vegetation after considering moderate short-term adverse effects and highly beneficial long-term effects. No plant species listed by the State or Federal governments as endangered, threatened, or of concern are present within these project areas.

These projects would produce impacts consistent with those described in the Programmatic EA for large-scale earthmoving during the creation of new channels and constructed riffles. Earth-moving actions would entirely eliminate woody and herbaceous vegetation wherever they occur. Such actions

would occur on the largest scale in the Hayden Phase 2 Project, where they may directly impact up to five acres in excavation of new channels and the fill of the former river channel. The Mile 32 Project would impact approximately three acres by excavation of new channels. The scale of these actions would be less than that assessed in Section 3.3.3.2 of the Programmatic EA in ("*Environmental Consequences for Vegetation*"). This loss of vegetation would be short-term, however. All impacted areas would become either waterways or would be revegetated by seeding and planting of native riparian species. As described in the Programmatic EA, the short-term adverse effects would be temporary and high, but the long-term impacts would be beneficial. Taken together, the overall level of effect would be moderate.

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

The effects of using construction equipment in and along the Lemhi River and Hayden Creek 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 describes overall low impacts to wetlands and floodplains after taking into account short-term adverse effects and beneficial long-term effects.

No wetlands are present in the Hayden Phase 2 project area because the floodplain has been fully disconnected from the channelized river, with flooding only occurring at 10-year flood flows (i.e., 888 cubic feet per second) or greater. Since no wetlands are present, nor would any be affected, obviating the need for a Clean Water Act permit in advance of construction activities.

The Bureau of Reclamation inventoried and assessed wetlands in the Mile 32 project area in 2022. Nearly nine acres of wetlands were identified, with forested riverine wetlands predominating. The project would restore river and wetland habitats and thus, by design, would be implemented in and around the inventoried wetlands. Any work would thus require permits issued by the US Army Corps of Engineers under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act before ground-disturbing actions could begin.

Both projects would ultimately expand the acres that could be classified as wetlands, since additional surface water areas with wetland edges would be created along the new channels in both project areas. There would be adverse impacts in the short term, but wetland conditions would improve following project completion.

Consistent with the Programmatic EA, there would be long-term beneficial effects on floodplains from implementation of these projects. There would be increased connectivity among the existing and new channels and their adjacent floodplains from constructed meanders in existing channels, new side channels, and constructed riffles. These would slow water velocities and elevate water levels and thereby facilitate more effective connection between the channel and the floodplain. Floodplain grading and roughness (logs and trees placed on the floodplain) would slow the flow of water across the floodplain and improve capture and desired deposition of sediment. This level of effect would be low, as stated in the Programmatic EA.

#### **5. Wildlife**

The effects of using construction equipment in and along the Lemhi River and Hayden 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 describes overall low impacts to wildlife after taking into account short-term adverse effects and beneficial long-term effects. No wildlife species listed under the Endangered Species Act or by the State of Idaho are present within these project areas.

The proposed restoration actions would have short-term impacts on wildlife habitats as described in Section 3 ("*Vegetation*") above. In the short term, habitat for nesting birds and hiding cover for big

game would be eliminated in the affected acres, as evaluated in the Programmatic EA. The number of acres affected, however, is small in proportion to the abundance of identical habitats in both the Lemhi and Hayden River floodplains above and below these project areas. Individual animals may be affected, but the scale of disruption, given the available habitat across the landscape, is too small to adversely affect local populations. And in the long term, the affected area would support more river frontage and riparian, wetland, and aquatic habitats. Considering both long- and short-term effects, the overall effect on wildlife would be low, as stated in the Programmatic EA.

## **6. Geology and Soils**

The effects of using construction equipment in and along the Lemhi River and Hayden Creek 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 describes moderate impacts to geology and soils.

These projects would produce impacts consistent with those described in the Programmatic EA for large-scale earthmoving during creation of new channels and constructed riffles. Earth-moving actions would occur on the greatest scale in the Hayden Phase 2 Project, where they would directly impact up to five acres during channel excavation and filling of the former river channel. The Mile 32 Project would similarly impact approximately three acres during channel excavation. The scale of these actions would be less than that assessed in the Programmatic EA. The impacts to soil would be mitigated by minimizing the area of impact during operations and applying erosion control measures. The level of effect from these machines would be moderate to high in the short term. In the long term, however, the projects would increase connectivity of the Lemhi River and Hayden Creek with their floodplains. This would provide for increased sediment capture, increased vegetation diversity, and improved groundwater infiltration, all of which would restore and improve the soil conditions disrupted during construction. Considering both short-term and long-term effects, the overall effect would be moderate as described in the Programmatic EA.

## **7. Transportation**

The effects of these projects in and along the Lemhi River and Hayden 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 describes low impacts to transportation.

The most significant effect of the proposed restoration actions on transportation would be increased congestion of local roads by vehicles transporting workers and equipment to project sites. Though both projects would be immediately adjacent to State Highway 28, no work would be conducted from that road. No roads would be closed, temporarily blocked, or relocated. This level of impact would be low, as stated in the Programmatic EA.

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

The proposed projects would not affect land use or recreation. Land uses would not change; and public recreational opportunities on these private lands (of which there is none because the lands are not open to public use) would not change. This level of effect is consistent with that described in Section 3.3.8.3 of the Programmatic EA at, which states that land use practices underlying most project sites would not change.

## **9. Visual Resources**

The proposed projects' effects in and along the Lemhi River and Hayden Creek are consistent with the analysis in Section 3.3.9 of the Programmatic EA ("*Visual Resources*"). Section 3.3.9.3 of the Programmatic EA describes low impacts to visual resources.

Because both projects would implement restoration actions immediately adjacent to Idaho State Highway 28, construction activities would be readily visible to travelers along this route, resulting in short-term visual impacts as described in Section 3.3.9.2 of the Programmatic EA ("*Environmental Consequences for Visual Resources*"). Additionally, construction actions would temporarily result in bare soils that would be highly visible and likely detract from the otherwise pastoral scenery along this highway, looking much like a plowed or mowed field until the newly planted grasses, forbs, and shrubs begin to visually restore the setting.

The Lemhi Phase 2 project would complete actions begun in Phase 1: completing channel connections and introducing water into channels partially constructed in 2022. Completion of Hayden Phase 2 would result in the Lemhi River having natural-appearing meanders and, as the vegetation restores, the site would provide the same verdant pastoral scenery seen elsewhere along this highway. This would be a visual improvement over the artificially straight and incised river with dry upland banks and floodplain that characterized the scenery there before the project. This level of impact would be low, as stated in the Programmatic EA.

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

The effects of the proposed projects in and along the Lemhi River and Hayden Creek are 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 describes low impacts to air quality, noise, and public health and safety.

The projects would be located approximately 1.75 miles (at the closest) from the small town of Leadore, Idaho—a distance too great for noise, dust, or exhaust from construction activities to migrate and affect the residents during the few weeks of construction activities. No long-term source of emissions or noise would be created either. Safety impacts may result from workers sharing the roads when travelling to and from work sites, and from the potential visual distraction posed by construction work near the highway to passing motorists. The projects have no potential to impact public safety infrastructure (e.g., roads, telecommunications, etc.) or to burden emergency services (e.g., police, fire, ambulance, etc.). This level of impact would be low, as stated in the Programmatic EA.

## **11. Cultural Resources**

The effects of these restoration actions in and along the Lemhi River and Hayden Creek 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 describes low impacts to cultural resources because project construction would avoid cultural resources and the National Historic Preservation Act Section 106 consultation process would appropriately resolve any effects.

Bonneville conducted cultural resources surveys and completed consultations with the Idaho State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and three affected Tribes (the Shoshone Bannock Tribes of the Fort Hall Reservation, the Nez Perce Tribe of Idaho, and the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes) for each of the areas potentially affected by the two proposed projects. Those survey results and consultations are displayed in the table below.

Project	Survey finds	Eligibility for listing in the National Register of Historic Places	Section 106 Status*
Middle Lemhi Hayden Phase 2 project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• L-42 Ditch</li> <li>• Lemhi River Fish Weir</li> </ul>	Both eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) under Criterion A	No Adverse Effect
Lemhi River Mile 32 Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “Mormon” or “Dubois to Salmon City” road</li> <li>• State Highway 28</li> <li>• Five historic agricultural waterways (L-39, L-40, L-41, L-42 and LCH-1)</li> <li>• Two homesteads</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Roads - previously determined eligible.</li> <li>• Hwy 28 - previously determined eligible.</li> <li>• L-40, L-41, L-42 and LCH-1 - eligible under Criterion A</li> <li>• Homesteads determined eligible for the NRHP under Criteria A, C, and D.</li> </ul>	No Adverse Effect
*Letters from Idaho SHPO regarding these conclusions are on file at Bonneville headquarters, Portland, OR.			

On April 10, 2023, Bonneville consulted with the Shoshone Bannock Tribes of the Fort Hall Reservation, the Nez Perce Tribe of Idaho, the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, and SHPO on the effects of the Hayden Phase 2 project based on an intensive cultural resource survey and exploratory subsurface shovel probing of the Area Potential Effect (APE). The inventory report identified one agricultural waterway (the L-42 ditch) and the Lemhi River Fish Weir within the project area. The L-42 agricultural waterway had been previously determined eligible for listing in the NRHP and Bonneville recommended that the Lemhi River Fish Weir be eligible for listing in the NRHP under Criterion A and possibly C and D with additional research. On April 28, 2023, Idaho SHPO concurred with Bonneville’s determination and concluded that the proposed work would have no adverse effect to historic properties (SHPO Rev. No.: 2023-482). No response was received from the tribes.

On April 5, 2023, Bonneville consulted with the Shoshone Bannock Tribes of the Fort Hall Reservation, Nez Perce Tribe of Idaho, Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, and SHPO on the effects of the Mile 32 Project based on an intensive cultural resource survey and exploratory subsurface shovel probing of the APE. The inventory identified two roads, State Highway 28, five agricultural waterways (irrigation ditches) and two homesteads. Bonneville previously determined that the roads and the State Highway were eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). Bonneville also determined that four of the five ditches were eligible for listing in the NRHP (L-40, L-41, L-42 and LHC-1), as well as the two homesteads (BPA CR Project No.: ID 2022 015). On April 26, 2023, SHPO concurred and concluded that the proposed project actions would result in no adverse effect to historic properties (36 CFR 800.4(d)) (SHPO Rev. No.: 2023-421). No response was received from any of the tribes.

As described in the Programmatic EA, the results of these consultations were that the projects would not affect historic properties or would not adversely affect such properties, if present. 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, and in consultation with the appropriate consulting parties.

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

The effects of these restoration projects in and along the Lemhi River and Hayden Creek are consistent with the analysis in Section 3.3.12 of the Programmatic EA ("*Socioeconomics and Environmental Justice*"). Section 3.3.12.3 of the Programmatic EA describes low impacts to socioeconomics and environmental justice.

As described in the Programmatic EA, the restoration actions would not result in requirements for additional permanent employees or for individuals to leave the local area or relocate within it. These projects would not affect housing availability for local populations, displace people, or eliminate residential suitability of lands being restored or near them. The projects 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.

There are no environmental justice populations present that could be affected, as these projects and their 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 these projects in and along the Lemhi River and Hayden Creek are consistent with the analysis in Section 3.3.13 of the Programmatic EA ("*Climate Change*"). Section 3.3.13.3 of the Programmatic EA describes low impacts to climate change.

Due to the short duration of construction activities and the relatively small number of vehicles involved, project-related greenhouse gas emissions are anticipated to be low. The projects would have a low level of effect on climate change from short-term emissions from motorized equipment operations during implementation of the restoration actions, but these would be offset to some degree by the ameliorating effects of restored floodplain function such as increased water table inputs, increased carbon sequestration in expanded and improved riparian wetlands, and decreased water temperatures from improved instream and riparian habitat conditions. The overall effects on climate change would be low.

## **Findings**

The types of restoration actions and the potential impacts related to the proposed *Lemhi River 2023 Restoration Projects* 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 significant new circumstances or information relevant to environmental concerns bearing on the EA's Proposed Action or associated impacts within the meaning of 10 C.F.R. § 1021.314 and 40 C.F.R. §1502.9(d). Therefore, no further NEPA analysis or documentation is required.

/s/ Robert W Shull

Robert W. Shull

Contract Environmental Protection Specialist

CorSource Technology Group

Reviewed by:

/s/ Dave Kennedy

Dave Kennedy

Supervisory Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

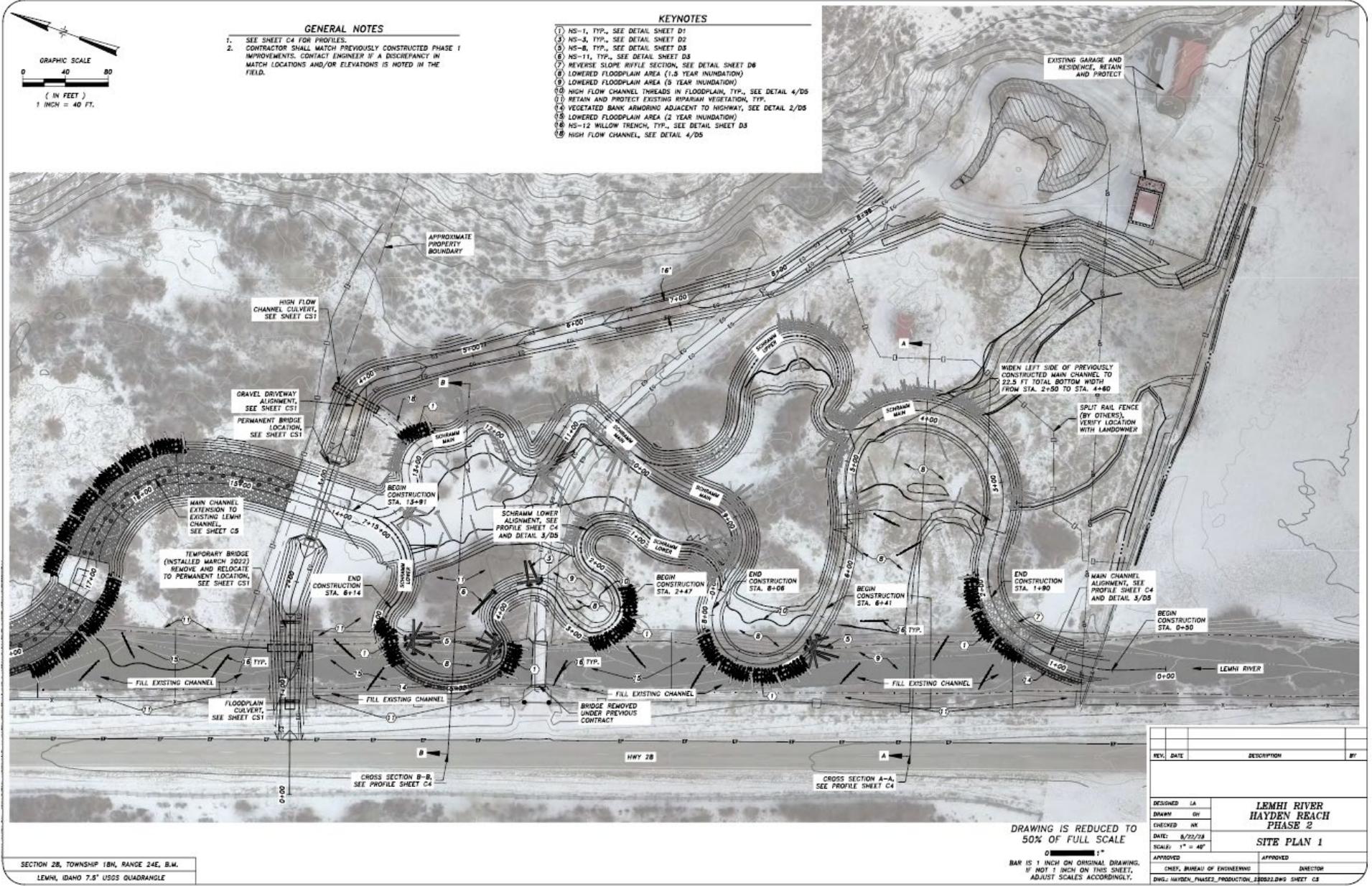
/s/ Sarah T. Biegel

Sarah T. Biegel

NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: August 2, 2023

# Appendix A: Middle Lemhi Hayden Reach Phase 2 Project



**Appendix B: Lemhi Mile 32/Split River Project (Plan 1)**

