

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Area 380 Drainage Improvements

Lewiston, Nez Perce County, Idaho

July 2024

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Walla Walla District (USACE) has conducted an environmental analysis in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended. The Area 380 Drainage Improvements Environmental Assessment (EA) dated March 2024 is attached. The EA identifies and evaluates the potential environmental effects associated with USACE proposed action of improving drainage at Area 380 in Lewiston. Area 380 is a component of the East Lewiston Levee system, built August 1972 and authorized under the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1945.

The purpose of the Area 380 Drainage Improvements Project is to improve the function of the Area 380 intake structure and drainage features and to facilitate more efficient future removal of sediment. The proposed action is needed because sediment can and has blocked or reduced flowage capacity at the intake structure allowing the creation of eddies and inundating the Area 380 drainage channel and ravine. The eddies destabilize the eastern streambank of the structure.

Without these proposed improvements the intake structure becomes blocked with sediment and becomes difficult to remove from the culverts. Removing accumulated sediment from the culverts is difficult, expensive, and exposes divers to potential dangers.

The proposed improvements include the following features:

Construction of a Sediment Stilling Basin. The sediment stilling basin would be built to capture and detain sediment before it enters the intake structure. It is the hydraulic structure that allows water to pass through but captures suspended sediments to allow for easier removal.

Construction of a Stop Log Weir. The sediment stilling basin would be fitted with a stop log weir that can be adjusted from two to six feet high. A stop log weir is a type of water control structure built across a river or stream to alter its flow characteristics.

Construction of an Access Road and Associated Ramp. The USACE originally proposed to construct an access from 22nd street, parallel to U.S-12 and terminates at the sediment stilling basin with an access ramp to allow vehicular access into the stilling basin during annual removal of accumulated sediment. Only temporary access would be developed under the final proposed action.

Installing a Rock Revetment. Approximately 460 linear feet along the eastern side of the ravine would be reinforced using rock to construct a shoreline revetment. This would strengthen this shoreline to reduce the effect of eddies.

The EA, incorporated herein by reference (Attachment A), considered two alternatives for Area 380 drainage improvements: Alternative 1: the No Action Alternative, Alternative 2: Installation of Drainage Improvement Features and an Access Road as described above.

For Alternatives 1 and 2, the potential effects to the following resources were evaluated, as summarized in Table 1:

Table 1: Summary of potential effects of the Preferred Alternative

Resource Evaluation Table	Insignificant Effects	Insignificant Effect as a Result of Mitigation	Resource unaffected by action
Aesthetics/Visual Quality	X		
Air Quality	X	-	-
Noise Levels	-	-	X
Floodplains	-	-	X
Hydrology	-	-	X
Threatened & Endangered Species	-	-	X
Geology and Soils	X	-	-
Water Quality	X	-	-
Aquatic Resources/wetlands	X	-	-
Vegetation	X	-	-
Terrestrial Wildlife	X	-	-
Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Climate Change	X	-	-
Cultural Resources	X	-	-
Recreation	-	-	X
Socioeconomics and Environmental Justice	X	-	
Tribal Treaty Resources	-	-	X

USACE has a duty to minimize impacts to environmental resources when carrying out Civil Works missions. Impact analysis for the preferred alternative did identify a need for compensatory mitigation for effects resulting from implementing the preferred alternative. USACE would implement mitigation measures that avoid, minimize, rectify, reduce, or eliminate impacts over time. This includes diverting the unnamed stream to flow outside of the construction work area and monitoring to ensure turbidity does not enter the Clearwater River. Further, USACE would implement compensatory mitigation by planting approximately 500 linear feet of the slough at Asotin Slough Habitat Management Unit (HMU) to offset stream functions and values of waters of the United States lost at Area 380 as a result of construction. These mitigation measures and compensatory mitigation plan (Appendix D of the EA) are incorporated into the preferred alternative in accordance with Clean Water Act requirements.

Compliance

Pursuant to section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA), as amended, the USACE determined that the preferred alternative would have no effect to ESA-listed fish and their designated critical habitat. Mitigation measures are integrated into the preferred alternative that eliminate the risk of turbidity entering the Clearwater River, ensuring no unauthorized take of, or jeopardy to, threatened or endangered species.

Pursuant to section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, USACE determined that historic properties would not be affected by the preferred alternative. USACE has coordinated with Idaho State Historic Preservation Officer for this action and has received concurrence of no adverse effect to historic resources.

Pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act of 1972, the preferred alternative would result in discharge or fill into waters of the United States. Implementation of the mitigation measures would prevent sediment from inadvertently impacting water resources to avoid significant effects and ensure compliance with the Clean Water Act. USACE received Section 401 Water Quality Certification was received on 22 April 2024.

USACE considered compliance with treaty rights, the Clean Air Act, the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, and found the preferred alternative complies with these laws and associated Executive Orders and regulations with the incorporated avoidance measures.

Public Involvement

The draft FONSI and EA were made available to individuals, businesses, organizations, and agencies for a 30-day review and comment period from 12 April 2024, through 12 May 2024. USACE received four comments and provided responses. These have been compiled and can be found attached to this FONSI, as Appendix B, Public Response Document.

Conclusion

All applicable laws, executive orders, regulations, and local government plans were considered in the evaluation of alternatives. Based on the EA, the reviews by other Federal, State, and local agencies, Tribes, input of the public, and the review by my staff, it is my determination that the recommended plan would not significantly affect the human environment; therefore, preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement is not required. USACE will implement the preferred alternative, Installation of a Stilling Basin, Shoreline Revetment, and an Temporary Access with associated mitigation.

Date

SHAILIN Y. KINGSLACK
Lieutenant Colonel, EN
Commanding

Appendix A: 380 Drainage Improvements Environmental Assessment and appendices
Appendix B: Public Comments Response Document