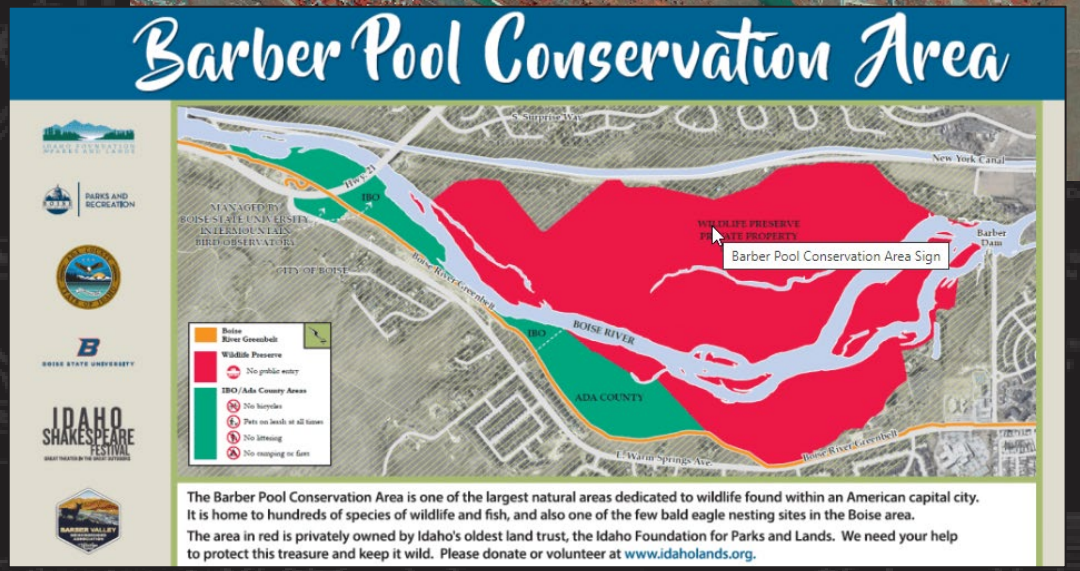
CONTINUING AUTHORITIES PROGRAM (CAP) 1135
BARBER POOL ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION

Public Scoping Package

Project Manager
Marve Griffith (USACE)



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BOISE STATE UNIVERSITY
INTERMOUNTAIN BIRD OBSERVATORY

THANK YOU, AND WHY ARE WE HERE?

- The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Walla Walla District, and Boise State University, would like to express our thanks to everyone participating in this scoping period.

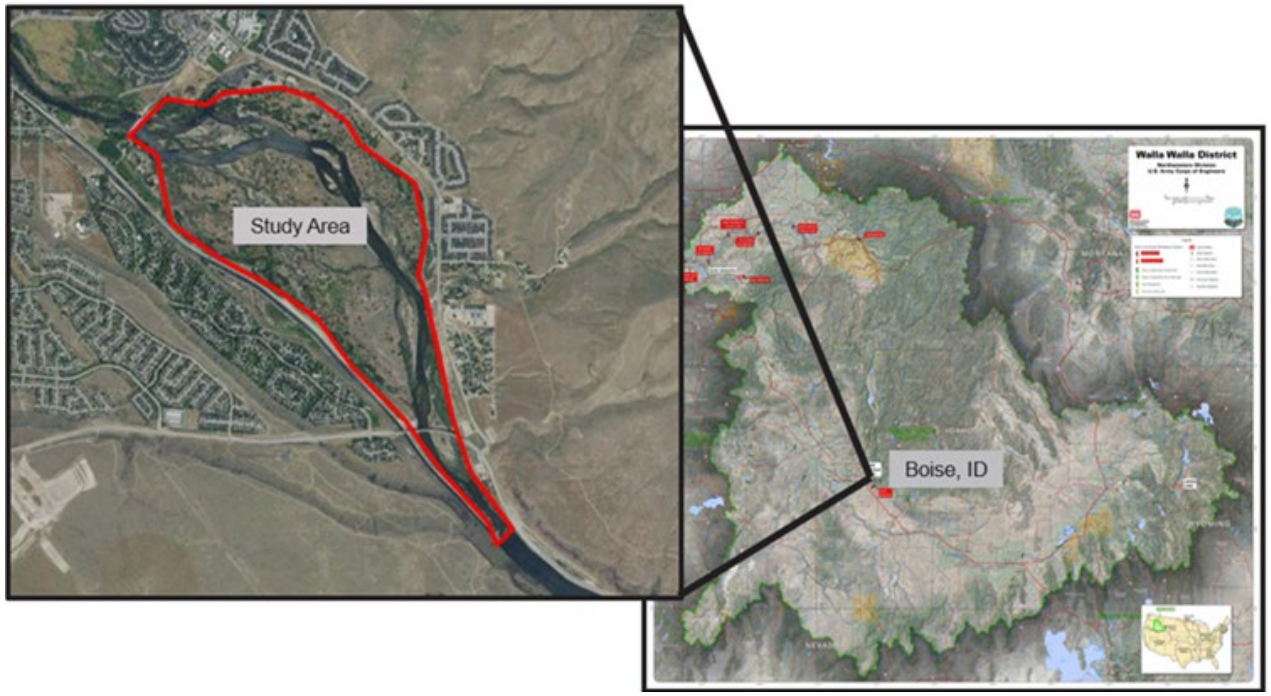
- This study is an official partnership between USACE and Boise State University, however we are all here to bring our experience, knowledge, and passion to make this project a success.

- What is Scoping?

  - An opportunity to Learn

  - An opportunity to Contribute

  - An opportunity to Engage



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How can I comment?

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U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Walla Walla District
ATTN: Barber Pool, Feasibility Study
201 North 3rd Avenue
Walla Walla, WA 99362-1876

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CONTINUING AUTHORITIES PROGRAM (CAP)

A partnership:

Section 1135 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986, as amended, authorizes the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to make modifications to operations or structures of civil works projects previously constructed by USACE, for the purpose of *improving the quality of the environment*.

- Begins with Letter of Interest from Non-Federal Sponsor (Boise State University)

- Cost Share Agreement required for study and implementation/construction

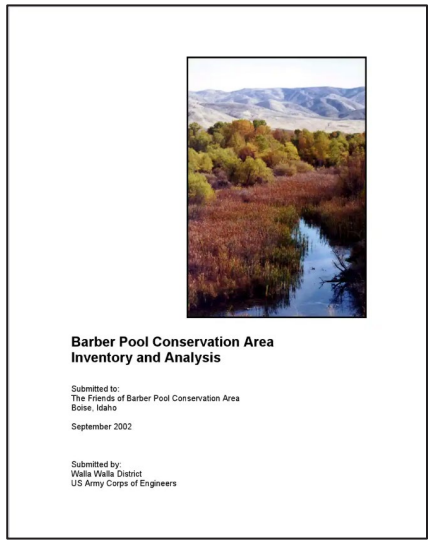
- Study Plan developed, with milestones for implementation to include agency policy, and public participation

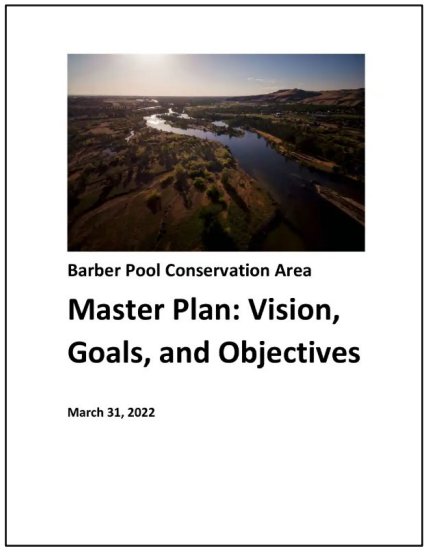
STUDY DEVELOPMENT (A PARTNERSHIP)

The study is a continuation of partnerships between the USACE and local communities to improve the conditions for the Barber Pool Conservation Area.

In 2002, USACE and “Friends of the Barber Pool Conservation Area” partnered to develop a Master Plan for the area.

In 2022, stakeholders for the BPCA to include the Non-Federal Sponsor Boise State University, completed an updated Master Plan. This plan expanded upon the 2002 Planning Assistance to States (PAS) Study and updated existing inventory, ownership, and outlined measure to pursue in partnership. This document serves as a basis for components of the plan formulation for this current study.





Draft Feasibility Report

THE USACE PLANNING PROCESS

- Start with Identifying Problems and Opportunities
- Then Identify Goals and Objectives
- Establish any Planning Constraints
- Formulate Alternative Plans That Meet Objectives and Do Not Violate Constraints
- Developing and Applying Screening Criteria
- Evaluating Trade-Offs
- To Arrive at Recommended Management "Solutions"

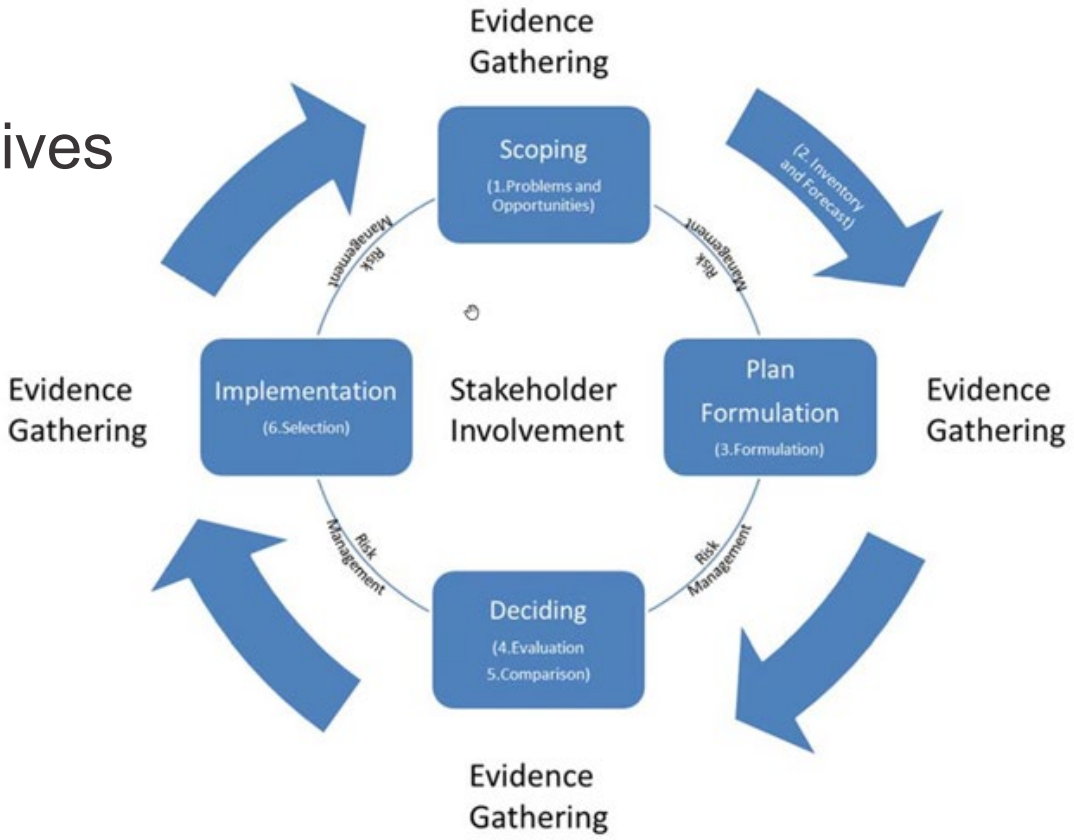


Figure 2.2: USACE Risk-Informed Planning process

PROBLEM STATEMENT

Historical and current alterations to the Boise River from dams within the Boise River have resulted in an elevated floodplain, loss of side channel habitat, and a degradation of riparian habitat extent and biodiversity within the Barber Pool Conservation Area (BPCA).

EXISTING CONDITIONS

Constraints:

1: Project needs to consider future recreational pressures
2: Project needs to consider water rights
3: Project needs to consider operation of upstream and downstream dams

Considerations:

Real Estate
FEMA Floodway and Floodplain
Hazardous, Toxic and Radioactive Waste
Wetlands
Cultural Resources
Social Activities
Long Term Operations and & Management

GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Goal: Restore Quality Habitat for Native Fish and Wildlife Species

Objectives

Improve the function of aquatic habitat associated with instream features for native fish and wildlife use.

Reconnect and restore disconnected channel segments to promote floodplain use and improve ecological responses.

Restore Riparian and wetland habitat, by expanding hydrologic influence within the BPCA Floodplain.

Opportunities

Increase habitat extent and diversity within the Barber Pool Conservation Area.

Increase abundance and use of aquatic, avian, and terrestrial species within the BPCA.

Increase educational and conservation opportunities for the community.

Decrease adverse indirect and cumulative effects to the BPCA through passive or direct recreational management.

USACE PLANNING AND PROCESS

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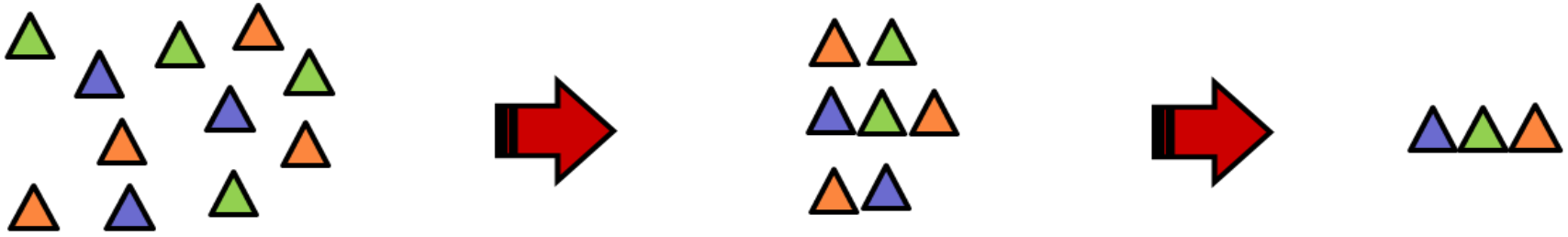
ALTERNATIVE FORMULATION

- Iterative
- Problems and Opportunities
- Goals and Objectives
- Constraints and Considerations
- Measures: Development and Screening
- Alternatives
- Initial Array
- Screening
- Final Array

Figure 2.2: USACE Risk-Informed Planning process



INITIAL MEASURES BEING CONSIDERED

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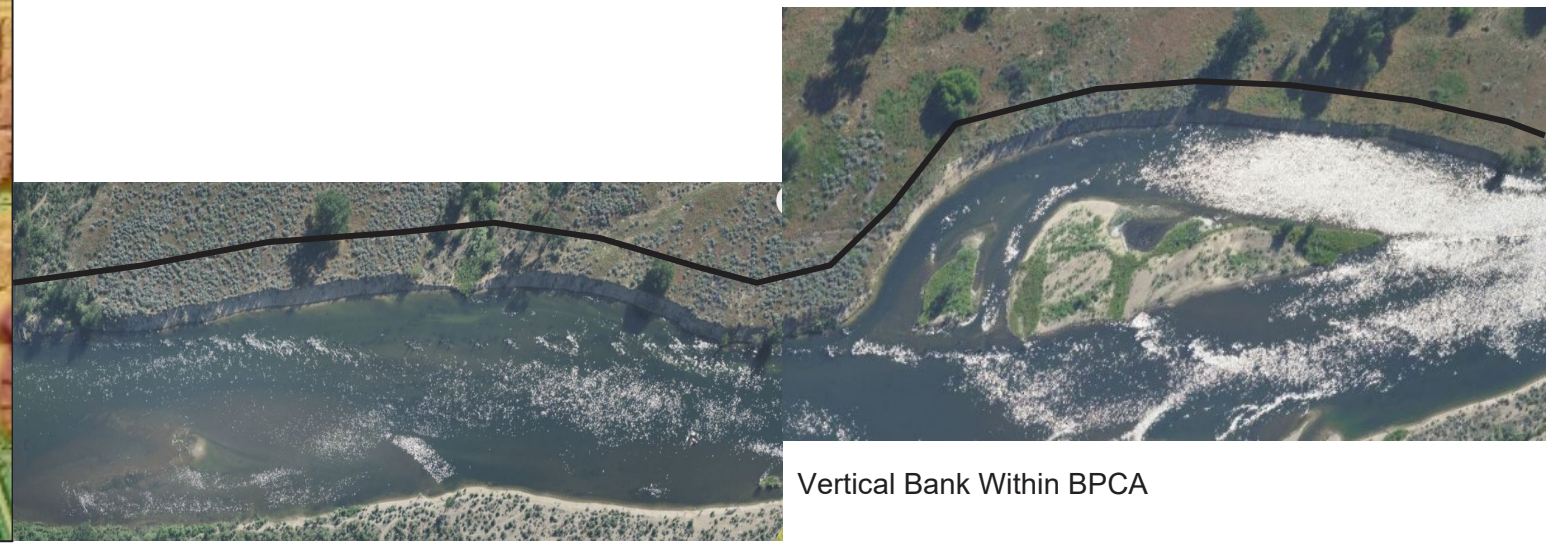
FISH HABITAT (ENHANCEMENT)

ISSUE – Riverbanks within portions of the BPCA are composed of highly erodible sediments resulting in near vertical banks lacking structure or roughness.

OBJECTIVE - Improve aquatic habitat diversity within the Boise River Channel through instream features and/or expansion of side channels.

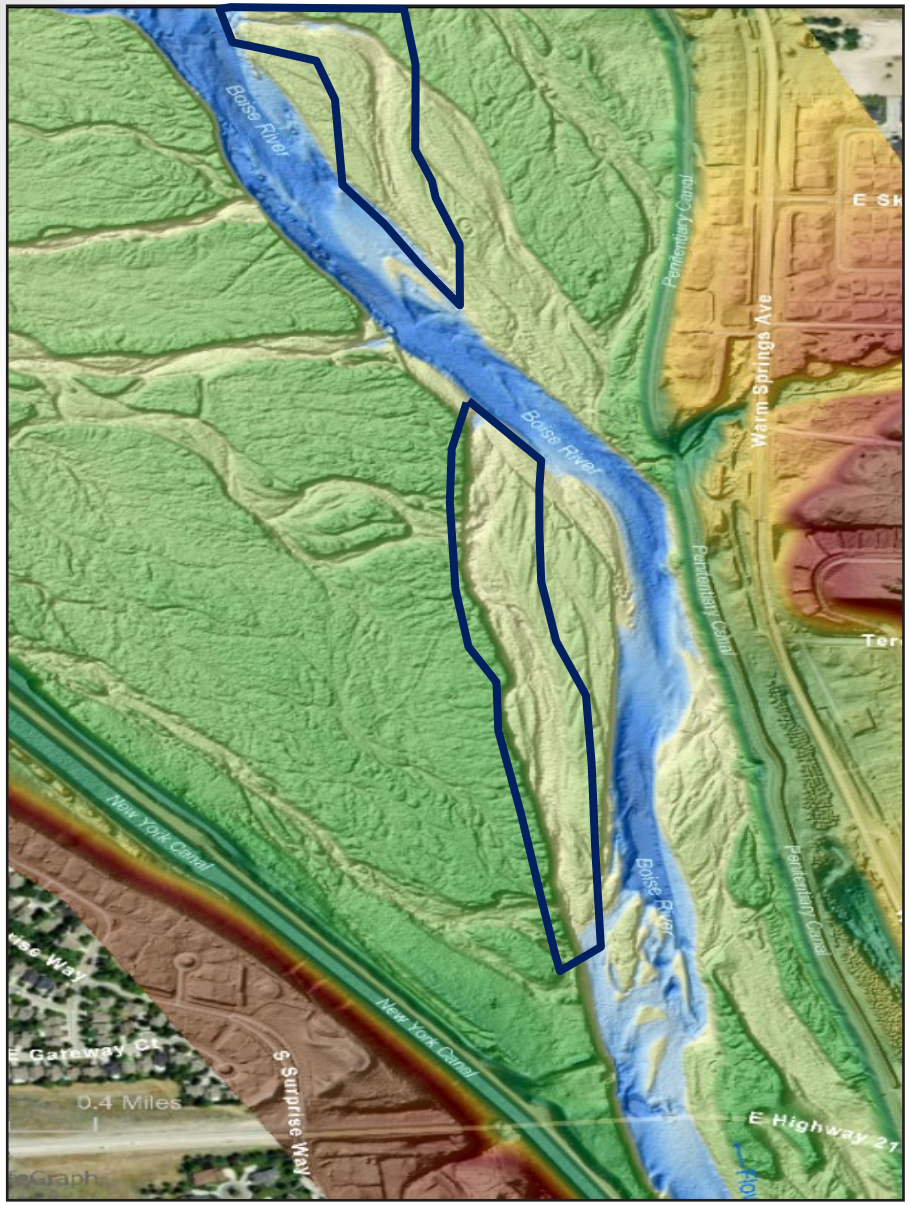
MEASURE– Construct habitat features such as root wads, log jams, boulder clusters, or other forms of bioengineered stabilization. Primary emphasis riparian habitat, and fishery enhancement, secondary benefits may include passive ecological barrier (human use) depending on location.

CONSIDERATIONS – Measure could be combined with other measures to improve benefits. Measure could be applied at various scales and locations.



Vertical Bank Within BPCA

FISH HABITAT (CREATION)



ISSUE- The Boise River within the BPCA is generally constrained to a single channel. This limits critical life cycle habitats for fish and other aquatic species.

OBJECTIVE- Improve in-channel aquatic habitat diversity within the Boise River Channel through instream features and/or expansion of side channels.

MEASURE– Construct perennially flowing side channels within existing features. Primary emphasis on fishery habitat, secondary benefits include riparian/wetlands, passive ecological barrier (human use).

CONSIDERATIONS– Existing condition is generally functioning as wetland or riparian area.
May require consideration of water rights. Measure may be more technical/costly to complete.

Image Left –
Areas considered for measure (Blue Polygon)

Image Right –
Recently Constructed Channel at Intermountain Bird Observatory's Diane Moore Nature Center

FLOODPLAIN AND RIPARIAN HABITAT

ISSUE – Seasonal inundation of the floodplain no longer occurs within the BPCA. This has resulted in a loss of tree canopy for wildlife and birds and limits the occurrence of wetland/riparian habitats.

OBJECTIVE- Improve riparian and wetland habitat extent and diversity within the Boise River Floodplain through reestablishing or expanding existing hydrologic influence.

MEASURE– Reconnect seasonally inundated floodplain channel and install features (weirs, beaver dam analogs, etc.) to elongate the period of inundation. Primary emphasis on riparian and wetland habitats, secondary benefits may include passive ecological barrier (human use) depending on location.

CONSIDERATIONS – Measure influenced by Boise River System Operations (may not flood in any given year).

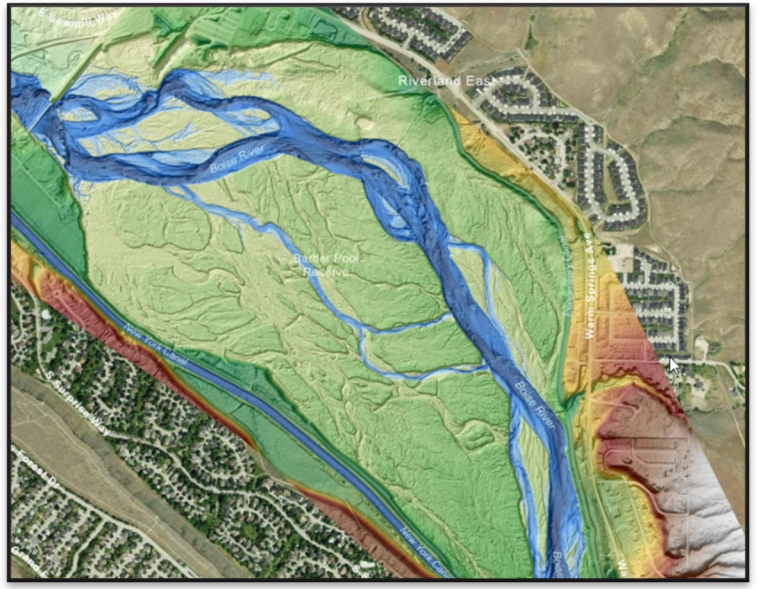


Image Left - Drying Conditions within the BPCA; Historical Imagery of BPCA (1938/39)

Image Right - TOP Modeled Flows (6500CFS) Show lack of floodplain engagement

BOTTOM Infrared Imagery (2023) showing dry conditions

WETLAND HABITAT

ISSUE – Wetlands, specifically emergent wetlands are commonly located along the lower portions of the BPCA where water levels remain consistent. Wetlands are less prevalent in the upper reach where hydrology is constrained.

OBJECTIVE- Improve riparian and wetland habitat extent and diversity within the Boise River Floodplain through reestablishing or expanding existing hydrologic influence.

MEASURE– Expand wetlands by lowering elevations to extend hydrologic influence. Primary emphasis wetland and riparian enhancement, secondary benefits may include passive ecological barrier (human use).

CONSIDERATIONS - Measure could be combined with other measures to improve benefits. Measure could be applied at various scales and locations.

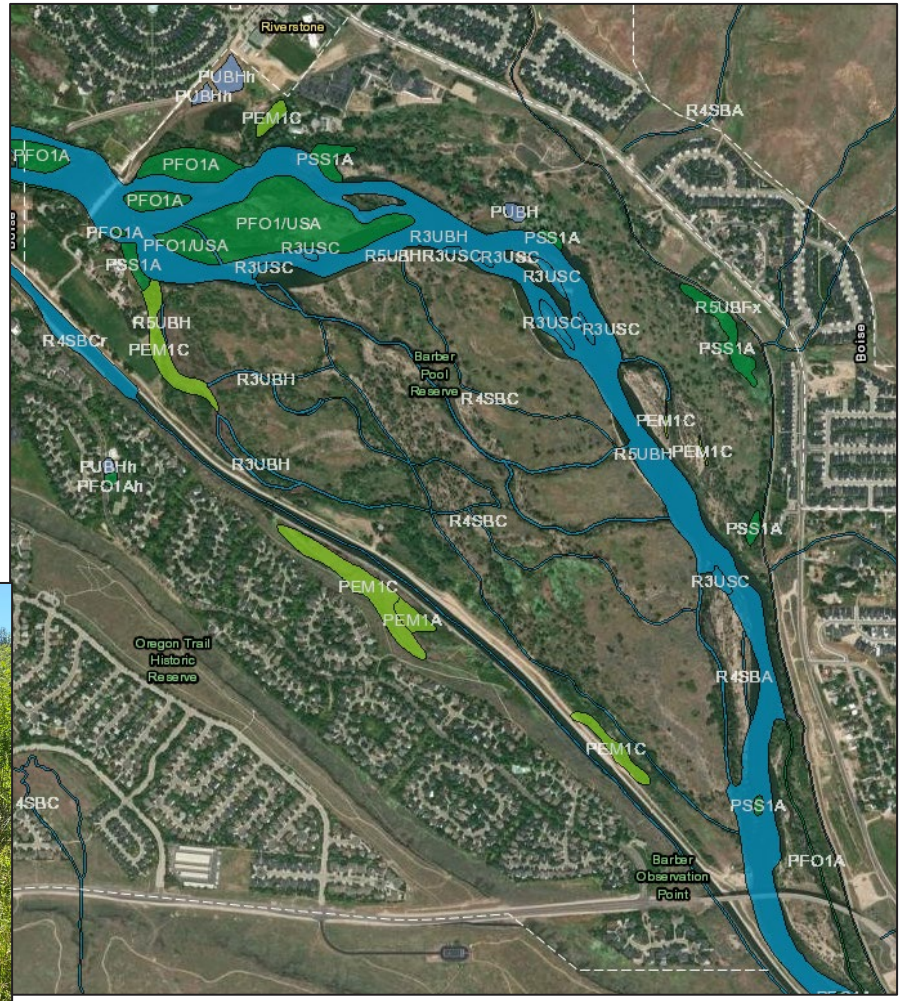


Image Above – USFWS Wetland Map for the BPCA

Image Left – Reference Site For Emergent Wetlands within the BPCA

RECREATIONAL AND EDUCATIONAL USE

OPPORTUNITY – As one of the largest undeveloped habitats along the lower Boise River, the BPCA provides a diversity of experiences for the community. Balancing the interaction of human uses with the critical functions this area provides for wildlife requires careful considerations for how we interact.

OBJECTIVE – Reduce impacts from human use within the BPCA through passive (ecological barrier) or direct actions (pathway establishment).

MEASURE – Include recreation and education constraints and goals when considering the location, type, and plant species selection of other measures. Establish pathways within select areas to promote access in non-sensitive areas, while limiting access to others.

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