US Army Corps of Engineers ®
Walla Walla District
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FORT HALL WASTEWATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT

SECTION 595 OF THE WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 1999

FORT HALL, IDAHO

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

In compliance with the
National Environmental Policy Act of 1970

ADMINISTRATIVE RECORD – DO NOT DESTROY

PROJECT FILE NUMBER: PPL-C-2022-0011

October 2023

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a. ER 200-2-2 (33 CFR 230) Environmental Quality Procedures for Implementing the National Environmental Policy Act
b. 40 CFR 1500-1508 Regulations for the Procedural Provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 4321, *et seq*.)
c. Section 595 of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 1999, Public Law (PL) 106-53, as amended in 2003 by PL 108-7, Section 126 to include Idaho

1.3 Project Location

Fort Hall is a census-designated place (CDP) located in Bannock and Bingham Counties in southeastern Idaho (Figure 1-1). It is part of the Fort Hall Reservation (aka, Fort Hall Indian Reservation) reserved for the federally recognized Shoshone-Bannock Tribes (Tribes). Fort Hall is located approximately 15 miles north of Pocatello. It is bordered by the Snake River, the Blackfoot River, and American Falls Reservoir. Approximately 3,195 people reside in the Fort Hall CDP (2021 Census Data). The proposed action is located in Township 4 South, Range 34 East, Section 36, Boise Meridian.

1.4 Project Description

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Walla Walla District (District) proposes to assist the Tribes with increments of work for the Fort Hall wastewater system improvements project (project) located on the Fort Hall Reservation, under the authority of Section 595 of WRDA of 1999 PL 106-53, as amended. USACE would provide Section 595 assistance to the Tribes for upgrades to the Fort Hall wastewater system for two project elements (increments of work), out of fifteen improvements identified in a 2017 Wastewater Facilities Planning Study, specifically: (1) Old Housing Sewer Main Replacement and (2) Fort Hall Interceptor Main Replacement (Figure 1-1). USACE would also share costs for associated federal review and coordination. The proposed 595 Project construction will include replacement and/or upgrades of main sewer pipes and associated structures (i.e., manholes, lift station pumps, and electrical connections), and also installation of a flow meter and meter vault. These increments of work will improve the conveyance of wastewater in Fort Hall. Non-reimbursable federal review and coordination costs include preparation of Project Partnership Agreement package, verification of real estate holdings and interests, completion of environmental compliance requirements, engineering design review, process reimbursements, project management, and contingency.

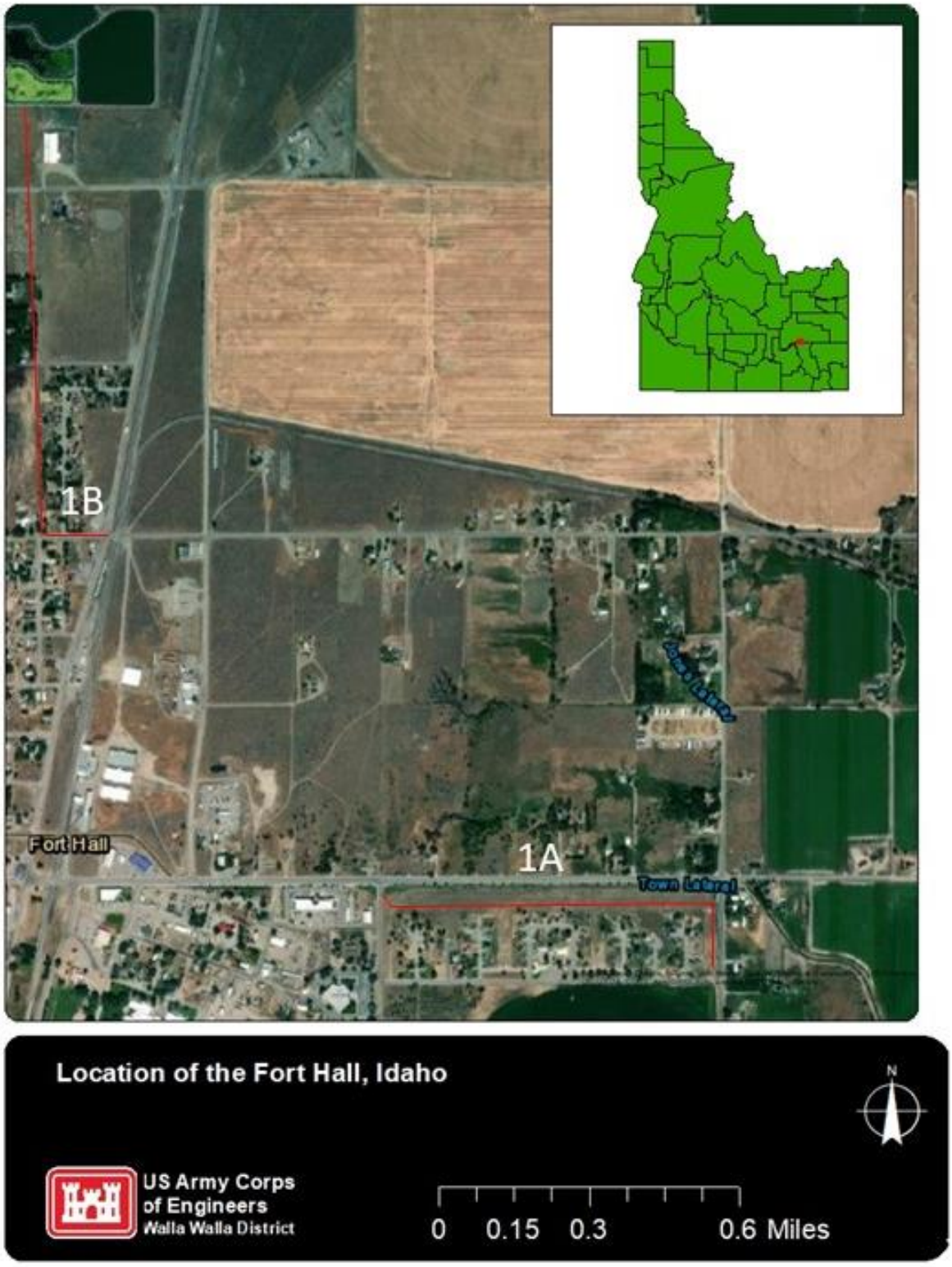

Figure 1-1. Location of the Old Housing Sewer Main Replacement (1A) and Fort Hall Interceptor Main Replacement (1B) in Fort Hall, Idaho

1.4.1 Background Information

The Tribes are a sovereign nation located on the Fort Hall Reservation on the eastern edge of the Snake River Valley in southeastern Idaho.

The Tribes own and operate the wastewater treatment and collection facilities constructed in the 1950s that serve the Fort Hall community. The population in the Fort Hall wastewater treatment and collection system service area is forecast to grow from 1,184 individuals (2017) to 1,426 (2057) in the foreseeable future. The wastewater treatment and collection system consists of approximately seven miles of gravity sewer main, 1.2 miles of force main, four lift stations, and a five-cell lagoon system for treatment with approximately 92.5 million gallons of storage capacity. Piping throughout the system is undersized and debilitated. Although repairs have been completed since the system was built, a closed-circuit television inspection in 2016 and 2017 showed structural deficiencies and obstructions in many locations. A *Wastewater Facilities Planning Study* was subsequently prepared for the Tribes in 2017, which identified 15 areas of the sewer system needing replacement. USACE previously shared costs with the Tribes to assist with the rehabilitation of the Tribal Business Center lift station and the replacement of 1,600-feet of associated main sewer lines.

This Environmental Assessment (EA) was prepared in accordance with the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) *Regulations for Implementing the Procedural Provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA),* Engineer Regulation (ER) 200-2-2, *Procedures for Implementing NEPA,* and Title 40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Part 1500-1508. The objective of the EA is to evaluate potential environmental effects of the proposed action, as compared to the 'no action' alternative, and determine if significant effects could result. If effects are relatively minor, a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) would be issued, and USACE would proceed with the proposed action of providing assistance to the Tribes for an increment of work associated with its wastewater system improvements project. If the environmental effects are determined to be significant, an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) would be prepared before a decision is reached on whether to implement the proposed action. Applicable laws under which effects are evaluated include but are not limited to, NEPA, the Endangered Species Act, the Clean Water Act, the Clean Air Act, and the National Historic Preservation Act.

NEPA is a full disclosure law, providing for public involvement in the NEPA process. All persons and organizations that have a potential interest in this proposed action – including the public, other federal agencies, state and local agencies, Native American Tribes, and interested stakeholders – are encouraged to participate in the NEPA process.

1.4.2 Authority

Section 595 of the WRDA of 1999 authorized USACE to participate in environmental infrastructure projects in rural Nevada and Montana. Public Law 108-7 (February 20, 2003) amended this legislation to include the state of Idaho.

1.5 Purpose and Need

USACE would provide Section 595 assistance to the Tribes for upgrades to the Fort Hall wastewater system. The purpose of the proposed action is to construct two out of fifteen improvements identified in a 2017 *Wastewater Facilities Planning Study* (i.e., increments of work), specifically: (1) Old Housing Sewer Main Replacement and (2) Fort Hall Interceptor Main Replacement. The proposed action would help improve the conveyance of wastewater in Fort Hall. The safe and efficient operation of the Tribes' wastewater system is protective of public health. The proposed action is needed because system deficiencies in the wastewater system could create public health concerns if they are not addressed and a sewer system failure occurs. Sanitary sewer overflows (SSOs) are a release of untreated or partially treated sewage resulting from a failure of a municipal sanitary sewer. Improvement of the Old Housing Sewer and Fort Hall Interceptor main sewer lines and associated structures would enable the wastewater system to accommodate peak wastewater flows and help avoid SSOs.

1.6 Construction Timeline

There are no constraints on the construction timeline.

2 Alternatives

Two alternatives are evaluated in this EA: the No Action Alternative and the Proposed Action Alternative. The No Action Alternative does not satisfy the project's purpose and need, but NEPA requires analysis of the No Action Alternative to set the baseline from which to compare other alternatives. No Action does not mean there would be no environmental impacts from this alternative. Additionally, while an EA is subject to the requirement that a reasonable range of alternatives be considered, an agency's obligation to consider alternatives under an EA is a lesser one than under an EIS. Statutory objectives (in this case Section 595 of WRDA 1999, as amended) serve as a guide to determine the reasonableness of objectives outlined in a NEPA document. Consequently, only the No Action and Proposed Action Alternatives are analyzed further.

2.1 Alternative 1: No Action

Under the No Action Alternative, USACE would not assist the Tribes with the Fort Hall wastewater system improvements project. The wastewater system would remain in an as-is condition and operated at risk of failure. Deficiencies in the wastewater system could create public health concerns if they are not addressed. The No Action Alternative does not meet the purpose and need but is presented as required by NEPA to set the baseline from which to compare all other alternatives.

2.2 Alternative 2: Proposed Action – Wastewater system Improvements

Under the Proposed Action Alternative, USACE would provide Section 595 assistance to the Tribes for upgrades to the Fort Hall wastewater system for two project elements (increments of work), out of fifteen improvements identified in a 2017 *Wastewater Facilities Planning Study*, specifically: (1) Old Housing Sewer Main Replacement and (2) Fort Hall

Interceptor Main Replacement (Figure 1-1). USACE would also share costs for associated federal review and coordination. The proposed 595 Project construction will include replacement and/or upgrades of main sewer pipes and associated structures (i.e., manholes, lift station pumps, and electrical connections), and also installation of a flow meter and meter vault. These increments of work will improve the conveyance of wastewater in Fort Hall. Non-reimbursable federal review and coordination costs include preparation of Project Partnership Agreement package, verification of real estate holdings and interests, completion of environmental compliance requirements, engineering design review, process reimbursements, project management, and contingency.

For the Old Housing Sewer Main Replacement, a degraded 8-inch concrete sewer pipe would be replaced with approximately 2,800 linear feet of 12-inch polychlorinated vinyl (PVC) pipe. In addition, 10 manholes would be replaced.

For the Fort Hall Interceptor Main Replacement, the gravity-fed, sewer interceptor pipeline from the Sheepskin Lift Station (lift station) to the water treatment lagoons would be replaced and upsized. The undersized 10" pipe would be replaced with approximately 3,900 linear feet of 15" and 12" PVC pipe and 14 manholes would be replaced. The lift station would also be upgraded to accommodate projected peak wastewater flows. Existing pumps would be replaced, and all electrical connections would be upgraded. A flow meter and meter vault would be installed downstream from the lift station.

Open-cut or pipe bursting replacement methods would be used dependent on various factors (e.g., soil type, existing trench width, existing pipe type, bends in the existing line, number of service connections, etc.). Pipe bursting is ideal in areas that are not easily accessible, have little working room, or where the pipe to be replaced is very deep.

The Open-cut replacement method involves excavation of a trench along the entire length of the existing pipe (depth of trench to the existing pipe), installing new pipe (either by removing the existing pipe and laying new pipe in the trench or abandoning the old line in place and laying new pipe on top), backfilling with soils displaced during trenching, and surface restoration to pre-existing conditions. Abandonment may be used if a new, higher alignment would be advantageous.

The pipe bursting method is a trenchless method allowing for the replacement of deteriorated pipe with limited excavation work (i.e., launching and receiving pits at the entrance and exit of the section of pipe being burst, respectively, and to restore service connections). Pipe bursting is accomplished by pulling a heavy cable or pushing sections of rods through the section of pipe to be replaced. A burst head, which can be static or dynamic, is attached to a length of pipe and a hydraulic winch pulls the burst head through the pipe and cuts or shatters the existing pipe and pushes the pieces into the surrounding soil. Then, the new pipe is pulled into place behind the burst head.

Equipment used to perform work would include heavy equipment such as, excavators, front-loaders, backhoes, trenchers, compactors, graders, and dump trucks.

3 Affected Environment and Environmental Effects

This section describes the existing affected environment (existing condition of resources) and evaluates potential environmental effects on those resources for each alternative. Although only relevant resource areas are specifically evaluated for impacts, USACE did consider all resources in the proposed action area and decided as to which ones to evaluate. The following resource areas were evaluated: Air Quality, Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Climate Change, Historic and Cultural Resources, Noise, Socioeconomics and Environmental Justice, Soils, and Cumulative Effects. USACE determined it was not necessary to further evaluate Water Quality, Aquatic Resources, Aquatic and Terrestrial Wildlife Species including Threatened and Endangered Species, or Recreation as implementation of the proposed action would not affect these resources (Table 3-1).

Table 3-1. Environmental Resources not Evaluated Further.

Environmental Component	Explanation
Water Quality	The closest waterbody to the proposed action area is Ross Fork Creek, approximately 1,300 feet to the south of the construction area. Ross Fork Creek at this location is entirely enclosed within a concrete pipe culvert. The wastewater treatment system uses a land application system and does not discharge to waters of the United States. The proposed action would have no effect on Water Quality.
Aquatic Resources	See Water Quality above. The proposed action would have no effect on Aquatic Resources.
Aquatic and Terrestrial Species including Threatened and Endangered Species	The proposed action is in a developed area and would have no impacts on aquatic and terrestrial species. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Information for Planning and Consultation system showed no listed threatened or endangered species were present in the area (Project Codes: 2023-011179 and 2023-011183). Monarch Butterflies (Danaus plexippus) were identified as a candidate species, but the proposed action would have no effect on monarch butterflies or their habitat. The proposed action is not within a waterbody where species under the National Marine Fisheries Service could be present.
Recreation	There are no recreational uses or access to such sites at the proposed action area. There would be no effect on recreational opportunities.

The following descriptors are used in this chapter for consistency in describing impact intensity in relation to significance.

- No or Negligible Impact: The proposed action would result in no effect, or the effect would not change the resource condition in a perceptible way. Negligible is defined as of such little consequence as to not require additional consideration or mitigation.

- Minor Impact: The effect to the resource would be perceptible; however, the effect would not be major and unlikely to result in an overall change in resource character.

- Moderate Impact: The effect to the resource would be perceptible and may result in an overall change in resource character.

- Significant Impact: The effect to the resource would be perceptible and may be severe. The effect would likely result in an overall change in resource character. The determination of significant impacts to any resource would require the completion of an Environmental Impact Statement.

3.1 Air Quality

3.1.1 Affected Environment

Idaho is among the states that have United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) delegated authority to issue air quality permits and enforce air quality regulations. The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality's (IDEQ) air protection efforts are designed to assure compliance with federal and state health-based air quality regulations. However, because of the sovereign nation status of the Tribes, air quality on the reservation is regulated by the EPA rather than the IDEQ. At present, the Fort Hall Reservation has failed to meet both the EPA's and the IDEQ's standards and has been classified as a "Non-attainment area for PM-10," or particulate matter less than 10 microns in diameter by both agencies (EPA 2023a). A map of areas in the region with sensitive air quality, as classified by the IDEQ, is shown in Figure 3-1.

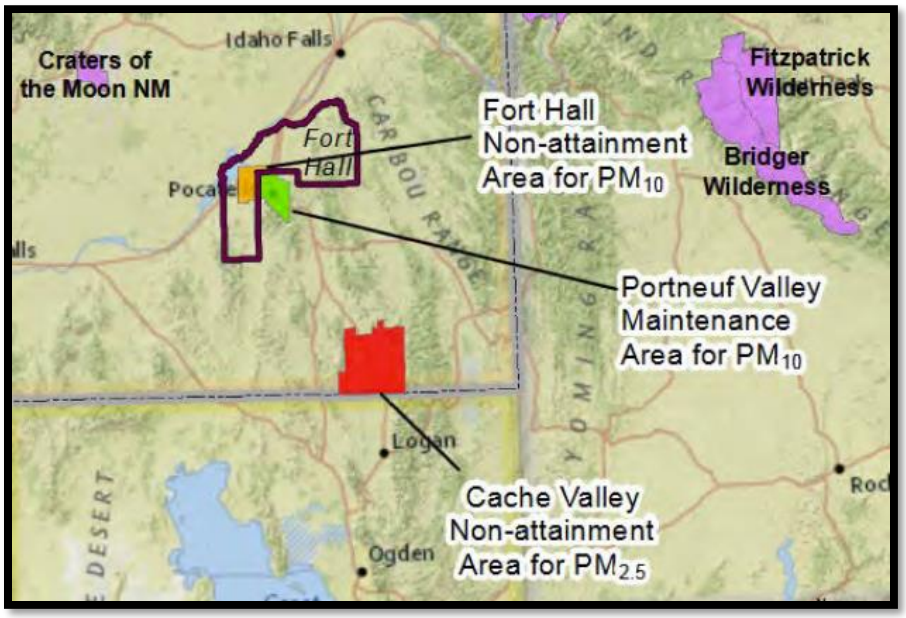

Figure 3-1. Fort Hall Reservation Non-attainment Area for PM-10.

3.1.2 Environmental Consequences

3.1.2.1 Alternative 1: No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, air quality would remain at levels similar to existing conditions. USACE would not assist the Tribes with the Fort Hall wastewater system improvements project. The wastewater system would continue to function in an inadequate state. Failure of the lift station or sewer main lines could result in land-based sewage discharges to terrestrial environments (e.g., streets, parks, and lawns) or sewage backing up into laterals, businesses, or residences that would present a risk of inhalation exposure to airborne pathogens (i.e., bacteria, viruses, mold, and fungi). Wastewater treatment plant workers, public works department, and emergency response personnel would be at a higher risk of exposure than the general public; however, the overall risk would remain low since there have been few documented outbreaks associated with land-based SSO events (EPA 2004). Therefore, there is little risk of SSOs presenting a threat to air quality in the Fort Hall community and impacts to air quality would be negligible.

3.1.2.2 Alternative 2: Proposed Action – Wastewater system Improvements

Under the Proposed Action Alternative, there would be temporary, minor adverse impacts to air quality in the proposed action area from construction activities, including excavation for pipe replacement. Exhaust from construction equipment and from worker and material delivery vehicles would result in localized, short-term increases in air pollutant emissions (e.g., carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide [CO_2], nitrogen oxides, etc.). Airborne dust (PM2.5 and PM10 emissions) would also be generated as a result of excavation and vehicle traffic on unpaved surfaces. Implementation of Best Management Practices (BMPs) for emissions control would include minimizing the idling time for equipment and vehicles, minimizing number of vehicle trips, and maintaining equipment and vehicles in properly working conditions according to manufacturer's specifications; and for dust control would include applying dust suppressants (typically water, but solutions of hydrophilic salts may be used in extremely dry and windy conditions), covering trucks, and covering excavated material. Air quality would quickly return to background levels following completion of the proposed action. Impacts to air quality would be minor and insignificant.

3.2 Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Climate Change

3.2.1 Affected Environment

Greenhouse gases (GHG), such as CO_2, methane (CH_4), and nitrous oxide (N_2O), contribute to climate change, including alteration of temperatures and precipitation patterns (EPA 2023a). Consistent with EO 13990, *Protecting Public Health and the Environment and Restoring Science to Tackle the Climate Crisis*, CEQ has issued interim National Environmental Policy Act Guidance on Consideration of Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Climate Change. This guidance includes direction for agencies to quantify a proposed action's GHG emissions and to disclose and provide context for a proposed action's GHG emissions and climate effects.

According to Gu et al. (2023), wastewater collection systems can be a source of GHGs resulting from microorganism by-products. Sediments containing inorganic and organic particles settle into the bottom of wastewater collection pipelines and microorganisms colonize this substrate, forming a biofilm. The organic particles are degraded into different GHGs by the diverse micro-organisms found within the biofilm. The most recent *IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories* (2019) indicates there are "insufficient data to quantify emission factors that address the variation in sewer type and operational conditions…and collection systems."

There is also no known readily available GHG emissions data for Fort Hall, Idaho. Only facilities generating greater than 25,000 metric tons of CO_2e per year must annually report their emissions. In 2021, the reported emissions from 36 facilities in the state of Idaho was 5,228,325 metric tons CO_2e[1], and from individual emitters in nearby Shelley/Blackfoot and Pocatello was 90,036 metric tons CO_2e (reported by Basic American Foods) and 182,816 metric tons CO_2e (118,922 reported by JR Simplot Company, 36,553 by ON Semiconductor, and 27,341 reported by Fort Hall Mine Landfill), respectively (EPA 2023c).

According to the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes' (2017) *Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment and Adaptation Plan*, average annual temperatures are projected to increase under two future climate scenarios and warmer temperatures are likely to increase evaporation and evapotranspiration and to reduce snowpack. These projected changes are expected to result in reduced water availability and streamflows. Additionally, the frequency of heat waves and extreme precipitation events is projected to increase.

3.2.2 Environmental Consequences

3.2.2.1 Alternative 1: No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, GHG emissions would remain at levels similar to existing conditions. USACE would not assist the Tribes with the Fort Hall wastewater system improvements project. The wastewater system would continue to function in an inadequate state. Microorganisms in the sewer pipeline's biofilm would continue to emit an unknown but likely unmeasurable amount of GHGs given the small dimensions of the occupiable space (i.e., 6,700 linear feet of sewer pipes). Failure of the lift station or sewer main lines could result in land-based sewage discharges to terrestrial environments (e.g., streets, parks, and lawns) or sewage backing up into laterals, businesses, or residences. However, there is little risk of untreated sewage measurably affecting local, regional, or global GHG emissions. Therefore, the No Action Alternative would have no effect on climate.

Most projected consequences of climate change would have no effect on the wastewater system. However, an increase in extreme precipitation events under climate change would increase the risk of wastewater system failure and SSOs.

[1] Reports by these emitters represent approximately half of total emissions for the state of Idaho since emissions are not reported by the transportation and agricultural sectors and not by facilities whose emissions are below the 25,000 metric ton Co2e reporting threshold.

3.2.2.2 Alternative 2: Proposed Action – Wastewater system Improvements

Carbon emissions would only be increased temporarily during the proposed action from worker commute vehicles and construction equipment operations. The CEQ does not have any thresholds currently established for determining if GHGs that would be released would constitute a significant impact. Increased carbon emissions from the proposed action would be localized, temporary, and estimated to be small (Table 3-2) in comparison to the total constant output of emission sources in the surrounding communities and would not be expected to have any measurable impact on local, regional, or global greenhouse gas emissions. Micro-organisms that eventually colonize replacement sewer pipes would be expected to emit a similar, unmeasurable amount of GHGs as the No Action Alternative. Therefore, the Proposed Action Alternative would have no effect on climate.

The proposed action is intended to accommodate projected wastewater flows under future climate conditions. Therefore, projected changes from climate change would have no effect on the wastewater system.

3.3 Historic and Cultural Resources

3.3.1 Affected Environment

The Shoshone–Bannock Tribes have utilized the area surrounding the southeastern portion of Idaho for many centuries. Before contacting European settlers during the mid-1800's, the Tribes consisted of primarily small groups of semi nomadic hunter gatherers to survive in the harsh Great Basin Desert. The Treaty of July 2, 1863, established the reservation lands for the Shoshone–Bannock Tribes that would later be broken up into five sections, one of which is the Fort Hall Reservation. Fort Hall is bordered by the Snake River, the Blackfoot River, and American Falls Reservoir. The reservation's name extends from the prominent trading post located on lands where the Tribes spent winters along the Snake River in the early 1800's.

Currently, the Tribes own and operate the wastewater treatment and conveyance facilities that service the Fort Hall community. These facilities were built in the 1950's.

3.3.1 Environmental Consequences

3.3.1.1 Alternative 1: No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, there would be no change to the status of known historic or cultural resources. USACE would not assist the Tribes with the Fort Hall wastewater system improvements project. The wastewater system would continue to function in an inadequate state. Failure of the lift station or sewer main lines could result in land-based sewage discharges to terrestrial environments (e.g., streets, parks, and lawns) or sewage backing up into laterals, businesses, or residences. However, there is little risk of SSOs presenting a threat to historic or cultural resources in the Fort Hall community.

Table 3-2. Estimated Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Construction Equipment within the Proposed Action Area.

Emission Source Data			Emission Factors for Construction Equipment (lbs/hr)[1,2]				Daily GHG Emissions from Construction Activities (lbs/day)				
Equipment Type	# Active	Hours per Day	CO	CO_2	CH_4	NOx	CO	CO_2	CH_4	NO_X	$CO2e^3$
Worker vehicles	10	2	0.0038	1.1102	0.0000	0.0003	0.076	22.205	0.001	0.007	24.258
Excavator	1	8	0.5097	120	0.0055	0.2821	4.077	956.634	0.044	2.257	1634.258
Rubber Tired Loaders	1	8	0.4340	109	0.0056	0.3467	3.472	868.890	0.045	2.774	1700.115
Backhoe	1	8	0.3593	66.8	0.0033	0.2127	2.875	534.381	0.026	1.702	1045.098
Trencher	1	8	0.4150	58.7	0.0069	0.3876	3.320	469.698	0.055	3.101	1398.406
Compactor	1	8	0.0263	4.3	0.0005	0.0314	0.211	34.510	0.004	0.252	109.780
Graders	1	8	0.5718	133	0.0068	0.4156	4.574	1061.944	0.055	3.325	2058.614
Dump Trucks	2	8	0.5422	260	0.0112	0.5881	8.675	4161.184	0.179	9.409	6978.224
Other	1	8	0.3482	123	0.0044	0.2497	2.786	980.074	0.035	1.998	1579.040
							Total CO2e (lbs/day)				16,527.793
							Total Project CO2e (metric tons)				899.6257

Codes:

[1/] SCAQMD. 2023a. Off-road Mobile Source Emission Factors (Scenario Years 2007 – 2025). http://www.aqmd.gov/home/rules-compliance/ceqa/air-quality-analysis-handbook/off-road-mobile-source-emission-factors

[2/] SCAQMD.2023b. On-road Vehicles Emission Factors (Scenario Years 2007 – 2026). http://www.aqmd.gov/home/rules-compliance/ceqa/air-quality-analysis-handbook/emfac-2007-(v2-3)-emission-factors-(on-road)

[3/] Where CO2e (CO2 equivalent) = X*CO + CO2 + Z*CH4 + Y*NOx, and

- X = 100 Year Global Warming Potential for Carbon Monoxide[4] = 1
- Y = 100 Year Global Warming Potential for Oxides of Nitrogen[4] = 298
- Z = 100 Year Global Warming Potential for Methane[4] = 25

[4/] CFR Title 40 Chapter I Subchapter C Part 98: Table A-1 Global Warming Potentials

3.3.1.2 Alternative 2: Proposed Action – Wastewater system Improvements

Under the Proposed Action Alternative, there would be no effects to historic or cultural resources in the proposed action area. On August 1, 2022, the Tribe's Heritage Tribal Office (HeTO) determined the project is exempt as it is a replacement of an existing wastewater system and the work would be within the footprint of the current system. The ground disturbing activities for this undertaking would be expected to remain within the already disturbed area of the original sewer lines to be replaced. Subsequently, USACE produced its own Cultural Resources Record of Internal Review on August 2, 2022, with technical input provided by the Tribes' HeTO, and determined the proposed action would result in no historic properties affected. In accordance with USACE's determination, supported by the Tribe's HeTO input, the Idaho State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) determined on August 29, 2022, that the proposed action would result in "no historic properties affected."

Should an inadvertent discovery occur, project construction activities would stop. Immediate notification to the HeTO office would occur and an evaluation from the HeTO office of the revealed discovery would be made before a cultural clearance to proceed would be given from the HeTO office.

3.4 Noise

3.4.1 Affected Environment

Noise in the vicinity of the Proposed Action Area is characterized by light traffic in town and the noise created by farm and lawn care equipment.

Noise is measured as Day/Night average noise levels (DNL) in "A-weighted" decibels that the human ear is most sensitive to (dBA). The Noise Control Act of 1972 established a national policy to promote an environment for all Americans free from noise that jeopardizes their health and welfare. However, no Federal standards for allowable noise levels have been established. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration's (OSHA) occupational noise exposure standard 1910.95 provides an indicator of potential noise impacts (Table 3-3).

Table 3-3. Permissible Noise Exposures (OSHA Standard 1910.95).

Duration/day (hours)	Noise level (dBA)
8	85
4	88
2	91
1	94
0.5	97
0.25	100

3.4.2 Environmental Consequences

3.4.2.1 Alternative 1: No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, noise would remain at levels similar to existing conditions. USACE would not assist the Tribes with the Fort Hall wastewater system improvements project. The wastewater system would continue to function in an inadequate state.

No construction for wastewater system improvements would occur, and thus there would be no increased noise from construction activities. As such, the No Action Alternative would have no effect on noise.

3.4.2.2 Alternative 2: Proposed Action – Wastewater system Improvements

Under the Proposed Action Alternative, there would be temporary, minor adverse impacts to noise in the proposed action area during construction. Noise would quickly return to background levels following completion of the proposed action. The noise associated with construction would be localized, short-term and would only occur during daylight hours. Construction noise would be similar to farm equipment and other small machinery (e.g., lawnmowers) used in the local area. A backhoe and a front-end loader are examples of equipment that is likely to be used during construction. Each emits noise levels around 85 dBA at 45 feet. Because construction equipment would be operated during daylight hours, a reasonable exposure time of 2-8 hours for residents and business personnel would be expected during a given construction day. Peak outdoor noise levels ranging from 78-90 dBA would occur during the time in which equipment is directly in front of or in proximity to homes and businesses (within 25-100 feet). These noise projections do not account for screening objects, such as trees, outbuildings or other objects that muffle and reduce the noise being emitted. The outdoor construction noise would be further muffled while individuals are inside their homes or businesses. Further, noise levels would be similar to typical neighborhood noise generated by gas powered lawnmowers in the local area, which could range from 90-95 dBA at three feet and 70-75 dBA at 100 feet. These limited exposures, attenuated dBA levels, and time intervals would be consistent with the Noise Control Act of 1972 and OSHA occupational noise exposure standard. Due to daytime construction and the short and limited duration of elevated noise levels associated with the Proposed Action Alternative, impacts from noise to local residents and business would be minor and insignificant.

3.5 Socioeconomics and Environmental Justice

3.5.1 Affected Environment

Federal agencies are required by several executive orders (see Section 4.8) to consider as a part of their action any disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects to minority and low-income populations[2] and any disproportionately high and adverse

[2] The CEQ defines a minority population as one in which the percentage of minorities exceeds 50 percent, or is substantially higher than (or “meaningfully greater than”) the percentage of minorities in the general population or

environmental health risks or safety risks to children. The CEQ's (2023) Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool (CEJST) was used to identify communities with environmental justice concerns and the EPA's (2023b) EJScreen: Environmental Justice Screening and Mapping Tool (EJScreen Tool) was used to provide further information regarding these communities.

The CEJST identifies a community as disadvantaged if it is in a census tract that is (1) at or above the threshold for one or more environmental, climate, or other burden categories, and (2) at or above the threshold for an associated socioeconomic burden. Federally Recognized Tribes are also considered disadvantaged communities. Burden categories include impacts from climate change, clean energy availability and energy costs, clean transit, access to sustainable housing, presence of legacy pollutants, access to clean water and wastewater infrastructure, susceptibility to health burdens such as diabetes, asthma, heart disease and life expectancy, and lastly, workforce development that includes unemployment and those 25 and older with less than a high school diploma. According to CEJST (CEQ 2023), the census tracts within and adjacent to the proposed action area represent disadvantaged communities because of health, climate change, and/or work development burdens and associated socioeconomic thresholds. Additionally, the lands of Federally Recognized Tribes cover 98-100% of the census tracts.

The demographic indicators for the Fort Hall CDP identified with the EJScreen Tool (EPA 2023b) are as follows: 75% are people of color (68% identify as American Indian; 8% identify as Hispanic; and 2% identify as other races); 50% of the population is considered low-income; 14% are unemployed; 2% of the population is linguistically isolated; 16% of the population has less than a high school education; and 5% of the population is under the age of 5, 25% is under the age of 18, and 17% is over the age of 64. The Fort Hall CDP was also identified as containing American Indian Reservation Lands, and Justice40 (CEJST) and EPA Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) disadvantaged communities.

Tables 3-4 and Table 3-5 present comparisons of selected socioeconomic and environmental indicators between Fort Hall CDP and the state of Idaho and the United States. Percentiles are a way to see how local residents compare to everyone else in Idaho and the United States. For instance, the state percentile shows what percent of the Idaho population *has an equal or lower value*, meaning less potential for exposure/risk/proximity to certain pollutions or facilities, or a lower percent minority. There are substantially more people of color, more low-income households, higher unemployment rate, and more individuals with less than a high school education in Fort Hall than in Idaho and the United States. There are also higher levels of ozone and proximity to Superfund sites in the Fort Hall CDP.

other appropriate unit of geographic analysis (CEQ 1997). Low-income populations are defined as households with incomes below the federal poverty level, which currently ranges from $14,580 for a household of one to $50,560 for a household of eight (with $5,140 for each additional person) (88 FR 3424).

Table 3-4. EJScreen Socioeconomic Indicators Data for Fort Hall CDP in comparison to the State of Idaho and USA. Source: EJScreen Tool (EPA 2023b).

SELECTED VARIABLES	VALUE	STATE AVERAGE	PERCENTILE IN STATE	USA AVERAGE	PERCENTILE IN USA
Demographic Index	63%	25%	98	35%	85
Supplemental Demographic Index	21%	13%	89	14%	80
People of Color Population	75%	19%	99	39%	81
Low Income Population	50%	32%	81	31%	80
Unemployed	14%	4%	95	6%	90
Limited English Speaking Households	2%	2%	78	5%	66
Population with Less Than High School Education	16%	9%	82	12%	74
Population under Age 5	5%	6%	48	6%	54
Population over Age 64	17%	17%	58	17%	58
Low Life Expectancy	20%	19%	73	20%	60

Table 3-5. EJScreen Environmental Indicators Data for Fort Hall CDP in comparison to the State of Idaho and USA. Source: EJScreen Tool (EPA 2023b).

SELECTED VARIABLES	VALUE	STATE AVERAGE	PERCENTILE IN STATE	USA AVERAGE	PERCENTILE IN USA
Particulate Matter (PM 2.5 in ug/m3)	4.6	6.57	15	8.08	2
Ozone (ppb)	56.6	53.5	92	61.6	16
Diesel PM (ug/m3)	0.0626	0.146	29	0.261	6
Air Toxics Cancer Risk (risk per MM)	20	24	10	28	3
Air Toxics Respiratory Hazard Index	0.1	0.23	0	0.31	1
Toxic Releases to Air	64	330	65	4600	19
Traffic Proximity and Volume (daily traffic count/distance to road)	9.9	84	25	210	16
Lead Paint Indicator (% pre-1960s housing)	0.25	0.2	67	0.3	53
Superfund Proximity (site count/km distance)	0.077	0.031	93	0.13	58
RMP Proximity (facility count/km distance)	0.095	0.24	48	0.43	27
Hazardous Waste Proximity (facility count/km distance)	0.083	0.22	44	1.9	16
Underground Storage Tank Indicator	0	1.5	0	3.9	0
Wastewater Discharge Indicators (toxicity-weighted concentration/m distance)	4E-05	4.1	36	22	25

3.5.1 Environmental Consequences

3.5.1.1 Alternative 1: No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, the Fort Hall community would be expected to continue to be comprised of minority and low-income populations and the population within the wastewater treatment and collection system service area is projected to increase by approximately 20% within the foreseeable future (1,184 individuals in 2017 to 1,426 individuals in 2057). USACE would not assist the Tribes with the Fort Hall wastewater system improvements project. The wastewater system would continue to function in an inadequate state, and additional wastewater generated by population growth would increase the risk of failure of the wastewater system's infrastructure.

Failure of the lift station or sewer main lines would result in temporary disruptions to sewer services for individuals in the affected wastewater system service area and could also result in land-based sewage discharges to terrestrial environments (e.g., streets, parks, lawns, etc.), water-based sewage discharges to aquatic environments (e.g., streams, etc.), or sewage backing up into laterals, businesses, residences, and/or schools. Untreated sewage discharges would present a risk to human health from exposure to pathogens (i.e., bacteria, viruses, mold, and fungi) primarily through the skin via direct contact, and by ingestion of contaminated water or through inhalation of airborne pathogens. According to EPA (2004), "resulting diseases are often similar to those associated with exposure through drinking water and swimming (e.g., gastroenteritis), but may also include illness caused by inhaling microbial pathogens." These temporary, minor to moderate adverse effects from the No Action Alternative would disproportionately affect disadvantaged low income and minority populations, and children.

3.5.1.2 Alternative 2: Proposed Action – Wastewater system Improvements

There may be some temporary, minor adverse effects to individuals, including low income and minority populations and children, during construction due to temporary sewer service disruptions (generally expected to be less than 8 hours per service location), temporary traffic disruptions (e.g., road closures, detours, etc.), temporary increases in air pollutant emissions and airborne dust (see section 3.1.2.2), and temporary noise (see section 3.4.2.2). Short-term disruptions would be minimized to the maximum extent practicable and would be geographically limited to two small locations consisting of low-density housing and several businesses (Figure 1-2).

Low income and minority populations may experience some benefits during the construction process through provision of a small number of construction jobs and multiplier effects of expenditures in the local economy. These populations, along with children, are expected to experience substantial health benefits over the long-term from the proposed action since improvements to the wastewater system would accommodate foreseeable population growth of approximately 20% (1,184 individuals in 2017 to 1,426 individuals in 2057) and reduce the potential that a system failure and associated SSO events could occur under the current and foreseeable population conditions. The avoidance of costly emergency repairs and SSO clean-

ups would result in municipal savings that have a potential to be used for other municipal programs that could have some benefits to low income and/or minority populations. Temporary, minor adverse effects and substantial beneficial effects over the long-term from the Proposed Action Alternative would affect individuals residing and/or working in the construction and wastewater system service area and overall effects would not be expected to disproportionately adversely affect low income or minority populations. Children would also not be disproportionately adversely affected since the Proposed Action Alternative would provide substantial health benefits over the long-term.

3.6 Soils

3.6.1 3.7.1 Affected Environment

The immediate area of the Fort Hall Reservation is dominated by the relatively uniform topography of the Snake River Plain with low foothills of the Portneuf Range to the east. Elevation in the proposed action area is approximately 4,455 feet. The soils in the area consist primarily of sandy loams and silt loams, and soils present in the proposed action area are summarized in Table 3-6 (USDA 2023).

Table 3-6. Typical Soil Profiles within the Proposed Action Area.

Series	Depth in Inches	Description	Prime Farmland
Tindahay Loamy Coarse Sand, 0 to 2 percent	0 – 6 6 – 13 13 – 60	Loamy coarse sand Sandy loam Coarse sand	Farmland of statewide importance, if irrigated
Penoyer silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes	0 – 5 5 – 39 39 – 60	Silt loam	Prime farmland if irrigated

3.6.2 Environmental Consequences

3.6.2.1 Alternative 1: No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, soil conditions would remain similar to existing conditions. USACE would not assist the Tribes with the Fort Hall wastewater system improvements project. The wastewater system would continue to function in an inadequate state. Failure of the lift station or sewer main lines could result in land-based sewage discharges to terrestrial environments (e.g., streets, parks, and lawns) or sewage backing up into laterals, businesses, or residences. Municipal response to land-based, untreated sewage discharges often includes cleaning the impacted area by washing sewage into nearby manholes or storm drains. As a result, there is a slight risk of untreated sewage from SSOs seeping into soils and of small amounts of soils being displaced during the cleaning process. Impacts to soil would be minor and insignificant.

3.6.2.2 Alternative 2: Proposed Action – Wastewater system Improvements

Under the Proposed Action Alternative, there would be minor adverse effects on soils in the proposed action area. Excavation of the existing main lines has the potential for some soil loss due to erosion of excavated and staged materials. Soil loss would be controlled through implementation of Best Management Practices (BMPs) for dust control including applying dust suppressants, covering trucks, and covering excavated material. No future impacts to soils would be anticipated upon completion of the proposed construction activities. Impacts to soil would be minor and insignificant.

3.7 Vegetation

3.7.1 Affected Environment

The proposed action is located within a developed area currently planted with ornamental vegetation (primarily grasses and shrubs with a few trees).

3.7.2 Environmental Consequences

3.7.2.1 Alternative 1: No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, vegetation would remain similar to existing conditions. USACE would not assist the Tribes with the Fort Hall wastewater system improvements project. The wastewater system would continue to function in an inadequate state. Failure of the lift station or sewer main lines could result in land-based sewage discharges to terrestrial environments (e.g., streets, parks, and lawns). Municipal response to land-based, untreated sewage discharges often includes cleaning the impacted area by washing sewage into nearby manholes or storm drains. As a result, there is a slight risk of untreated sewage from SSOs temporarily covering vegetation and of small amounts of vegetation being displaced during the cleaning process. Impacts to vegetation would be minor and insignificant.

3.7.2.2 Alternative 2: Proposed Action – Wastewater system Improvements

Under the Proposed Action Alternative, there would be minor adverse effects on vegetation in the proposed action area. Some vegetation (primarily grasses with possibility of some shrubs and a few trees) would be removed during excavation. Disturbed areas would be reseeded or replanted dependent on vegetation type following completion of the project. No future impacts to vegetation would be anticipated upon completion of the proposed construction activities. Impacts to vegetation would be minor and insignificant.

3.8 Cumulative Effects

NEPA and CEQ regulations implementing the Act require Federal agencies to consider the cumulative impacts of their actions. Cumulative effects are defined as, “the impact on the environment which results from the incremental impact of an action when added to other past, present and reasonably foreseeable future actions regardless of what agency (Federal or non-federal) or person undertakes such other actions” (40 CFR § 1508.7). Cumulative impacts can result from individually minor, but collectively significant actions taking place over a period of time.

In addition to the proposed action, the Tribes are modernizing other elements of their wastewater treatment system in order to address existing deficiencies and accommodate reasonably expected population growth. The population in the Fort Hall wastewater treatment and collection system service area is forecast to grow from 1,184 individuals (2017) to 1,426 (2057) in the foreseeable future. Corresponding estimates of average wastewater flows (gpd) resulting from population growth and any associated new or expanded infrastructure (e.g., housing, business, schools, etc.) would increase from 218,700 (2017) to 320,200 (2057). Improvements to the wastewater system under the Proposed Action Alternative, as well as past and planned future improvements, have been designed to accommodate this minimal population growth and corresponding average wastewater flows.

As part of this modernization effort, USACE shared the cost with the Tribes for a recent rehabilitation of the Tribal Business Center lift station and replacement of 1,600-feet of associated main sewer lines. Planned future wastewater system improvements include upgrades and/or replacements of other lift stations, main sewer lines, and lateral trunk lines that are reaching the end of their operational life. These types of improvements would result in minor short-term construction-related impacts to air quality, noise, soils, and vegetation similar to those identified for the proposed action. Corresponding temporary, minor adverse and substantial beneficial effects regarding socioeconomics and environmental justice would also be similar to those identified for the proposed action and these types of improvements would not be expected to disproportionately adversely affect low income or minority populations, and children.

The proposed action, along with other past and future wastewater system improvement elements, would improve the capacity and effectiveness of the City’s wastewater treatment system thereby reducing the potential that a system failure and associated SSO events would occur. Short-term construction related effects from the proposed action, collectively with other improvement elements, would be minor. As a result, the proposed action would not result in significant adverse cumulative effects but would provide cumulative long-term benefits.

4 Compliance with Applicable Environmental Laws, Regulations, and Executive Orders

4.1 National Environmental Policy Act

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires federal agencies to assess the environmental effects of their proposed actions prior to making decisions. The range of actions covered by NEPA is broad and includes making decisions on permit applications, adopting federal land management actions, and constructing highways and other publicly owned facilities. Using the NEPA process, agencies evaluate the environmental and related social and economic effects of their proposed actions. Agencies also provide opportunities for public review and comment on those evaluations.

USACE prepared this Environmental Assessment pursuant to regulations implementing NEPA (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) and will make it available to state and federal agencies, Tribes, and the public for review and comment. USACE identified no impacts significantly affecting the quality of the human environment in the analysis contained in this EA. If no such impacts are identified during the public review process, compliance with NEPA would be achieved upon signing a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI). However, if such impacts are identified, an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) would be required, and compliance with NEPA would be achieved upon completion of the EIS and the signing of a Record of Decision.

4.2 Endangered Species Act

The Endangered Species Act (ESA) established a national program for the conservation of threatened and endangered fish, wildlife and plants and the habitat upon which they depend. Section 7(a)(2) of the ESA requires federal agencies to consult with the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), as appropriate, to ensure that their actions are not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of endangered or threatened species or adversely modify or destroy their critical habitats. Section 7(c) of the ESA and the federal regulations on endangered species coordination (50 CFR §402.12) require that federal agencies prepare biological assessments of the potential effects of major actions on listed species and critical habitat.

According to the USFWS Official Species List issued on July 31, 2023, there are no listed endangered or threatened species and no designated critical habitat under USFWS' jurisdiction in the proposed action area. Monarch butterflies were identified as candidate species, but the USACE determined that implementation of the Proposed Action Alternative would have no effect on monarch butterflies or their habitat. There are no threatened or endangered species or designated critical habitat under NMFS' jurisdiction near the proposed action area.

4.3 National Historic Preservation Act

The National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966 as amended directs federal agencies to assume responsibility for all cultural resources under their jurisdiction. Section 106 of NHPA

requires agencies to consider the potential effect of their actions on properties that are listed, or are eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). The NHPA implementing regulations, 36 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 800, requires that the federal agency consult with the SHPO, Tribes and interested parties to ensure that all historic properties are adequately identified, evaluated, and considered.

USACE determined on August 2, 2022—with technical input provided by the Tribes' HeTO on August 1, 2022— that the proposed action would have no effect to historic properties as per 36 CFR part 800.4(d)(1. In accordance with USACE's determination, supported by the Tribe's HeTO input, the Idaho SHPO determined on August 29, 2022, that the proposed action would result in "no historic properties affected."

Should an inadvertent discovery occur, project construction activities will stop. Immediate notification to the HeTO office will occur and an evaluation from the HeTO office of the revealed discovery will be made before a cultural clearance to proceed is given from the HeTO office.

4.4 Clean Water Act

The Clean Water Act (CWA) of 1972 establishes the basic structure for regulating discharges of pollutants into waters of the United States (WOTUS) and regulating quality standards for surface waters. Section 404 established a program to regulate the discharge of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States. Implementation of the Proposed Action Alternative would not result in the discharge of dredged or fill material subject to Section 404.

Section 402 pertains to the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) requirements and therefore regulates point and non-point source discharges and stormwater run-off into WOTUS. The wastewater treatment system uses a land application system and there is no discharge to WOTUS. Activities involving construction or soil disturbance on the shoreline or upland have the potential for stormwater runoff and would be subject to the stormwater provisions of Section 402 if the area of soil disturbance would be more than an acre and would discharge stormwater into nearby surface waters. The proposed action would involve soil disturbance of more than one acre, but there would be no opportunity for construction-related stormwater runoff into WOTUS. The closest waterbody to the proposed action area is Ross Fork Creek, approximately 1,300 feet to the south. Ross Fork Creek at this location is entirely enclosed within a concrete pipe culvert. No CWA permits would be required. Implementation of the Proposed Action Alternative would not result in the discharge of pollutants into WOTUS.

Absent the need for any federal permit for the proposed action, there is no need for a Section 401 certification ensuring compliance with state/tribal water quality standards.

4.5 Migratory Bird Treaty Act

The Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) of 1918 specifies that it is illegal to "take" migratory birds, their eggs, feathers or nests without a permit. "Take" includes by any means or in any

manner, any attempt at hunting, pursuing, wounding, killing, possessing or transporting any migratory bird, nest, egg of part thereof.

Implementation of the proposed action would not result in take or negatively impact migratory bird species or their habitat subject to the MBTA.

4.6 Executive Order 11988, Floodplain Management

This Executive Order of 1977 outlines the responsibilities of federal agencies in the role of floodplain management. Each agency must evaluate the potential effects of actions on floodplains and avoid undertaking actions that directly or indirectly induce development in the floodplain or adversely affect natural floodplain values.

The proposed action would not directly or indirectly induce growth in the floodplain or adversely affect natural floodplain values. The proposed action area is not located within a mapped floodplain, nor is it prone to flooding.

4.7 Executive Order 11990, Protection of Wetlands

This Executive Order of 1977 directs federal agencies to take actions to minimize the destruction, loss, or degradation of wetlands, and to preserve and enhance the natural and beneficial values of wetlands when undertaking federal activities and programs. It has been the goal of the USACE to avoid or minimize wetland impacts associated with their planned actions.

Implementation of the proposed action would not result in the destruction, loss, or degradation of wetlands.

4.8 Executive Order 12898, Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations

This Executive Order of 1994 directs federal agencies to make achieving environmental justice part of its mission by identifying and addressing, as appropriate, disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects of its programs, policies, and activities on minority populations and low-income populations in the United States and its territories and possessions, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and the Commonwealth of the Mariana Islands.

USACE determined that implementation of the Proposed Action Alternative would comply with this Executive Order.

4.9 Executive Order 13045, Protection of Children from Environmental Health Risks and Safety Risks

This Executive Order of 1997 directs federal agencies to make it a high priority to identify and assess environmental health risks and safety risks that may disproportionately affect children and ensure that its policies, programs, activities, and standards address disproportionate risks to children that result from environmental health risks or safety risks.

USACE determined that implementation of the Proposed Action Alternative would comply with this Executive Order.

4.10 Executive Order 13985, Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government

This Executive Order of 2021 directs federal agencies with advancing equity for all, including communities that have long been underserved, and addressing systemic racism in our Nation's policies and programs. By advancing equity, the Federal Government can support and empower all Americans, including the many communities in America that have been underserved, discriminated against, and adversely affected by persistent poverty and inequality.

USACE determined that implementation of the Proposed Action Alternative would comply with this Executive Order.

4.11 Executive Order 13990, Protecting Public Health and the Environment and Restoring Science to Tackle the Climate Crisis

This Executive Order of 2021 directs federal agencies to immediately review, and take action to address, Federal regulations promulgated and other actions taken during the previous four years that conflict with national objectives to improve public health and the environment; ensure access to clean air and water; limit exposure to dangerous chemicals and pesticides; hold polluters accountable, including those who disproportionately harm communities of color and low-income communities; reduce greenhouse gas emissions; bolster resilience to the impacts of climate change; restore and expand our national treasures and monuments; and prioritize both environmental justice and employment.

USACE determined that implementation of the Proposed Action Alternative would comply with this Executive Order.

4.12 Executive Order 14008, Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad

This Executive Order of 2021 places the climate crisis at the forefront of foreign policy and national security planning. "The United States will work with other countries and partners, both bilaterally and multilaterally, to put the world on a sustainable climate pathway. The United States will also move quickly to build resilience, both at home and abroad, against the impacts of climate change that are already manifest and will continue to intensify according to current trajectories."

USACE determined that implementation of the Proposed Action Alternative would comply with this Executive Order.

4.13 Executive Order 14096, Revitalizing Our Nation's Commitment to Environmental Justice for All

This Executive Order of 2023 builds on and supplements the foundational efforts of Executive Order 12898 in Section 4.7 and directs federal agencies, as appropriate and consistent with applicable law, to identify, analyze, and address disproportionate and adverse human health and environmental effects and hazards of federal activities, including those related to climate change. It also directs agencies to actively facilitate meaningful public participation and just treatment of all people in agency decision-making.

USACE determined that implementation of the Proposed Action Alternative would comply with this Executive Order.

5 Consultation, Coordination, and Public Involvement

USACE distributed this EA and FONSI for a 15-day public review and comment period between August 23, 2023, and September 7, 2023. Notification letters went to the following agencies, organizations, and tribes: City of Pocatello, City of Blackfoot, Idaho Department of Environmental Quality, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, Idaho State Historical Society/ State Historic Preservation Office, National Marine Fisheries Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture-Rural Development, Portneuf Soil and Water Conservation District, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Sagebrush Steppe Land Trust, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Bannock County, Bannock County Farm Bureau, Bingham County, Bingham County University of Idaho Extension Office, Southeastern Idaho Public Health, Idaho Department of Commerce, Idaho Department of Lands, Idaho Department of Transportation, Idaho Department of Water Resources, Environmental Protection Agency, Inland Northwest Land Conservancy, Nature Conservancy of Idaho, Idaho State Journal, and the Shoshone-Bannock, Northwest Band of the Shoshone, Kalispel, Kootenai, Nez Perce, and Sho-Pai tribes. One comment was received that required no response.

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