

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
FORT HALL WASTEWATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT
SECTION 595 OF THE WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 1999
FORT HALL, IDAHO
October 2023

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Walla Walla District (USACE) has conducted an Environmental Assessment (EA) in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended for USACE's proposed cost share assistance to the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes (hereinafter referred to as Tribes) to implement increments of work associated with their Fort Hall Wastewater System Improvements Project. The Proposed Action is authorized according to Section 595 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1999, as amended by Public Law 108-7 (February 20, 2003), which allows USACE to participate in water-related environmental infrastructure, resource protection, and development projects in several states including rural Idaho. The EA, dated October 2023, discusses the purpose of and need for the Proposed Action and considers the potential environmental effects of the No Action Alternative and the Proposed Action Alternative. Implementation of the Proposed Action is intended to improve the conveyance of wastewater in Fort Hall, Idaho by addressing deficiencies in the existing wastewater system.

Under the Proposed Action, 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. 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.

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 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.

All practicable means to avoid or minimize adverse environmental effects were analyzed and incorporated into the Proposed Action.¹

Potential effects of the Proposed Action to resources are summarized in Table 1. The Proposed Action would have no effect on Aquatic Resources, Historic and Cultural Resources, Recreation, Aquatic and Terrestrial Species including Threatened and Endangered Species, and Water Quality. It would have less than significant effects on Air Quality, Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Climate Change, Noise, Socioeconomics and Environmental Justice, Soils, Vegetation, and Cumulative Effects.

Table 1. Potential Effects of the Proposed Action.

| Resource | Less than significant effects | Insignificant effects as a result of mitigation | Resource unaffected by action |
|--|-------------------------------|---|-------------------------------|
| Air Quality | ☒ | - | - |
| Aquatic Resources | - | - | ☒ |
| Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Climate Change | ☒ | - | - |
| Historic and Cultural Resources | - | - | ☒ |
| Noise | ☒ | - | - |
| Recreation | - | - | ☒ |
| Socioeconomics and Environmental Justice | ☒ | - | - |
| Soils | ☒ | - | - |
| Terrestrial Wildlife Species including Threatened and Endangered Species | - | - | ☒ |
| Vegetation | ☒ | - | - |
| Water Quality | - | - | ☒ |
| Cumulative Effects | ☒ | - | - |

Pursuant to section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973, as amended, USACE determined there would be no effect to threatened or endangered species because there are no ESA-listed species under the US Fish and Wildlife Service and National Marine Fisheries Service jurisdictions within the vicinity of the Proposed Action Area. USACE did not prepare a Biological Assessment and no consultation was required.

Pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, USACE determined that implementation of the Proposed Action will result in no historic properties affected as per 36 CFR part 800.4(d)(1).

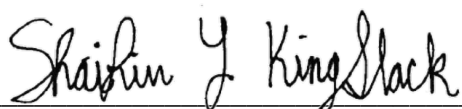
¹ 40 CFR 1505.2(C) all practicable means to avoid and minimize environmental harm are adopted.

The Proposed Action would not result in the discharge of dredged or fill material or pollutants into waters of the United States (WOTUS). The proposed action would involve soil disturbance of more than one acre during construction, 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. The wastewater treatment system uses a land application discharge system and there is no discharge to WOTUS. No Clean Water Act permits would be required.

Section 4 of the EA (*Compliance with Applicable Environmental Laws, Regulations and Executive Orders*) provides a discussion of how the Proposed Action Alternative meets additional compliance requirements.

A 15- day public and state/agency review of the FONSI and EA was completed September 7, 2023. One response was received indicating the respondent had no comments.

All applicable laws, regulations, and Executive Orders were considered in the evaluation of alternatives and potential environmental effects. 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 implementation of the Proposed Action Alternative would not significantly affect the quality of the human environment; therefore, preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement is not required. USACE will provide cost share assistance to the Tribes to implement the Proposed Action Alternative when funds are made available for that purpose.



SHAILIN Y. KINGSLACK
Lieutenant Colonel, EN
Commanding

5 October 2023

Date