



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers®**

Walla Walla District

## **LITTLE WOOD RIVER, GOODING, IDAHO**

### **DRAFT INTEGRATED LETTER REPORT AND ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**

#### **APPENDIX B, SECTION 905(B) REPORT**

DRAFT

## **EXPEDITED RECONNAISSANCE STUDY**

### **Section 905(b) (WRDA 86)**

#### **Little Wood River, Gooding, Idaho**

CENWW-PM-PD (19 July 2000)

#### **1. STUDY AUTHORITY.**

- a. This study is authorized by Section 416, Water Resources Development Act of 1999 which reads.

“The Secretary shall conduct a study to determine the feasibility of restoring and repairing the Lava Rock Little Wood River Containment System to prevent flooding in the city of Gooding, Idaho.”

- b. The study received \$100,000 in fiscal year 2000 to conduct the reconnaissance phase.

#### **2. STUDY PURPOSE.**

The purpose of the Reconnaissance Study is to determine whether there is a Federal interest in restoring and replacing the Lava Rock Little Wood River Containment System. The reconnaissance phase also includes developing a Project Study Plan (PSP) and executing a Feasibility Cost Sharing Agreement (FCSA) that is supported by both the Federal and non-Federal interests. The primary areas of concern to be addressed in the study are coordination with the local sponsor and development of a scope of work and project funding.

#### **3. LOCATION OF PROJECT/CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT.**

- a. The study area is located on the Little Wood River in the city of Gooding, Idaho. A project area map is included (see Figure 1 and Figure 4).
- b. The study area is located in Congressional District 2:

Senator Craig  
Senator Crapo  
Congressman Simpson

#### **4. DISCUSSION OF PRIOR STUDIES, REPORTS AND EXISTING WATER PROJECTS.**

A Planning, Design and Analysis (PDA) study was initiated in March 1998 to determine a feasible alternative to repair a section of channel lining to avoid damage to a school, bridge and street in the immediate vicinity during the next major flood event.

A Project Cooperation Agreement (PCA) was in the process of being signed so that construction could commence in October 1998. However, the Idaho State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) noted that the existing project had significant historic implications. Work to construct the lava rock wall was funded by the Works Project Administration (WPA) and constructed by the Civil Conservation Corps (CCC) between 1937 and 1941. The work stopped at the outbreak of World War II. SHPO required that the repair work be completed in a manner that would match the existing wall.

The project was redesigned in the spring of 1999 and the PCA was signed and construction was to commence in October 1999. However, contractors were too busy and unable to submit bids. Therefore, the contract was not awarded.

The city of Gooding was informed of the Water Resources Development Act of 1999, Section 416 and requested that the current PCA be postponed until further notice. The purpose of this postponement is to view the outcome of the Reconnaissance Study.

## 5. PLAN FORMULATION.

### a. Identified Problems:

The existing lava rock wall has failed in several locations (see Figure 2) along its length of approximately 1 mile in the city of Gooding. The lava rock wall provides armoring to the streambank to prevent erosion. Roads, bridges, schools and buildings can be damaged by localized flooding and streambank erosion in the locations where the lava rock wall has failed.

Fish and wildlife habitat conditions through the proposed project site are severely degraded as a result of major modification of the stream. This has lead to severe degradation of riparian and instream biota. All alternatives will be designed to protect existing habitat or mitigate for its removal. Methods to enhance habitat will also be explored.

### b. Alternative Plans:

- 1) Alternative 1 – Without Project.
- 2) Alternative 2 – Remove existing lava rock wall and replace with a concrete wall that has a textured surface that would resemble the existing lava rock wall.
- 3) Alternative 3 – Remove existing lava rock wall and replace with a concrete wall that has a lava rock façade.
- 4) Alternative 4 – Remove existing lava rock wall and replace with a new lava rock wall.
- 5) Alternative 5 - Restore the existing walls upstream of Oregon Street and remove then replace the existing walls downstream of Oregon Street with concrete walls.

c. Evaluation of Alternatives:

Of the many alternative combinations that could be developed in the feasibility study, the study team selected a primary alternative to serve as the basis for discussion of a reconnaissance plan and identify Federal interest in pursuing further studies. In coordination with non-Federal sponsors and for the purpose of this analysis, the primary alternative was identified as Alternative 5 (see Figure 3). Based on the limited evaluations to date, it appears that Alternative 5 would be technically feasible, compliant with environmental laws/regulations and could be justified for implementation.

6. FEDERAL INTEREST.

In accordance with Chapter 3 of ER 1105-2-100, the Federal interest as per Section 1 of the Flood Control Act of 1936 declared flood control to be a proper Federal activity since improvements for flood control purposes are in the interest of the general welfare of the public. The estimated average annual benefits which can be attained through cumulative time savings is \$893,654. This was calculated based on information collected for assessed property values and infrastructure replacement in the study area. The estimated first cost is \$7,063,000 with an average annual cost over a 50-year period of \$493,000. This yields a benefit-to-cost ratio of 1.8.

In conclusion, it is considered highly likely that the identification of an economically feasible, environmentally acceptable project will result from feasibility investigations.

7. PRELIMINARY FINANCIAL ANALYSIS.

The City of Gooding has been identified as the local sponsor for the study. The sponsor is aware that it will be responsible for 50% of the costs for the feasibility phase studies. The sponsor is also aware that it will be responsible for 35% of the implementation costs for the flood control project. The sponsor has been provided information of proposed changes to Section 14 of WRDA 2000 that would increase responsibility to 50%. The sponsor is presently preparing its funding package for the feasibility study. A letter of intent from the City of Gooding is attached.

8. SUMMARY OF FEASIBILITY STUDY ASSUMPTIONS.

There is sufficient Federal interest to warrant a Project Study Plan (PSP). This plan would provide a wall that will prevent future flood related damage.

Alternatives will be designed to protect existing habitat or mitigate for its removal. Methods to enhance habitat will also be explored however few, if any, opportunities exist for wetlands restoration. Existing in-stream water uses and the level of water quality will be maintained as specified by established Idaho Water Quality Standards.

The lava rock wall was documented as a historically significant structure and that documentation is on file with Idaho SHPO.

## 9. FEASIBILITY PHASE MILESTONES.

The following table presents a preliminary schedule of major milestones that would be associated with the feasibility phase study.

Milestone Schedule

Milestone	Approximate Date
Execute Feasibility Cost Sharing Agreement	December 2000
Initiate Feasibility Phase Study	January 2001
Prepare A/E Scope of Work	January 2001
Negotiate with A/E	February 2001
Engineering Appendix	
Surveys and Mapping	March 2001
Hydrology and Hydraulic Studies/Report	May 2001
Geotechnical Studies Report	March 2001
Site Development Analysis/Report	April 2001
Structural Designs Studies Report	April 2001
Engineering and Design Analysis Report	June 2001
Socioeconomic Studies/Report	
Economic Analysis Report	April 2001
Social Studies Report	March 2001
Ability to Pay Report	April 2001
Financial Analysis Report	April 2001
Real Estate Analysis / Documents	July 2001
Environmental Studies / Report	
Environmental Assessment Package	July 2001
Mailing List	February 2001
Ensure Design and Construction Methods	March 2001
EA and FONSI	July 2001
Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act Report	June 2001
HTRW Studies / Report	March 2001
Cultural Resource Report	June 2001
Cost Estimates	July 2001
Public Involvement Documents	July 2001
Plan Formulation and Evaluation Report	March 2001
Draft Report Documentation	February 2002
Final Report Documentation	April 2002
Washington Level Report Approval	October 2002
Management Documents	September 2002
Project Management Plan	September 2002
Programs and Project Management Documents	September 2002

# 10. FEASIBILITY PHASE COST ESTIMATE.

A preliminary cost estimate to perform the feasibility phase study is \$739,600 and the duration is expected to be approximately 20 months. These estimates will be refined in the PSP.

Milestone	Cost
<b>50% FEDERAL SHARE</b>	
Prepare A/E Scope of Work	\$7,650
Negotiate with A/E	\$2,250
Engineering Appendix	\$88,100
Socioeconomic Studies/Report	\$26,300
Real Estate Analysis / Documents	\$15,000
Environmental Studies / Report	\$35,800
Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act Report	\$6,650
HTRW Studies / Report	\$8,500
Cultural Resource Report	\$2,500
Cost Estimates	\$3,600
Public Involvement Documents	\$2,850
Plan Formulation and Evaluation Report	\$16,650
Draft Report Documentation	\$34,200
Final Report Documentation	\$1,650
Washington Level Report Approval	\$16,000
Management Documents	\$22,950
Project Management Plan	\$1,650
Programs and Project Management Documents	\$33,100
Quality Control Plan	\$10,800
Contingency (10%)	\$33,600
<b>TOTAL FEDERAL SHARE</b>	<b>\$369,800</b>
<b>50% SPONSOR SHARE</b>	
<b>IN-KIND SERVICES</b>	<b>\$15,000</b>
Prepare A/E Scope of Work	\$7,650
Negotiate with A/E	\$2,250
Engineering Appendix	\$88,100
Socioeconomic Studies/Report	\$21,300
Real Estate Analysis / Documents	\$5,000
Environmental Studies / Report	\$35,800
Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act Report	\$6,650
HTRW Studies / Report	\$8,500
Cultural Resource Report	\$2,500
Cost Estimates	\$3,600
Public Involvement Documents	\$2,850
Plan Formulation and Evaluation Report	\$16,650
Draft Report Documentation	\$34,200
Final Report Documentation	\$1,650
Washington Level Report Approval	\$16,000
Management Documents	\$22,950
Project Management Plan	\$1,650

Programs and Project Management Documents	\$33,100
Quality Control Plan	\$10,800
Contingency (10%)	\$33,600
<b>SPONSOR CASH FUNDS</b>	<b>\$354,800</b>
<b>TOTAL SPONSOR SHARE</b>	<b>\$369,800</b>
<b>TOTAL FEASIBILITY PHASE STUDY COST</b>	<b>\$739,600</b>

#### 11. RECOMMENDATIONS.

The recommendation resulting from the reconnaissance level investigations is that the Walla Walla District proceed with the PSP and proceed with a cost-shared feasibility study with the City of Gooding as the local cost-sharing sponsor. A preliminary cost estimate to perform the feasibility study of the Little Wood River in Gooding Idaho is \$739,600 and the duration is expected to be approximately 20 months. These estimates will be refined in the PSP.

#### 12. POTENTIAL ISSUES AFFECTING INITIATION OF FEASIBILITY PHASE.

There are no potential issues that would affect the initiation of the feasibility phase.

#### 13. VIEWS OF OTHER RESOURCE AGENCIES.

Several resource agencies attended a meeting and walk through of the proposed project. Everyone agrees the lava rock walls need to be replaced and in some areas repaired to protect the infrastructure in the City of Gooding. Resource agencies agree that measures to eliminate further degradation of habitat features and water quality be incorporated into project design. Where degradation can not be avoided, actions must be taken to mitigate for the loss.

The lava rock wall built by the CCC is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. The wall has been documented, photographically, and is on file with Idaho SHPO.

#### 14. PROJECT AREA MAP.

See Figure 1 and Figure 4.

/S/

RICHARD P. WAGENAAR  
LTC, EN  
Commanding

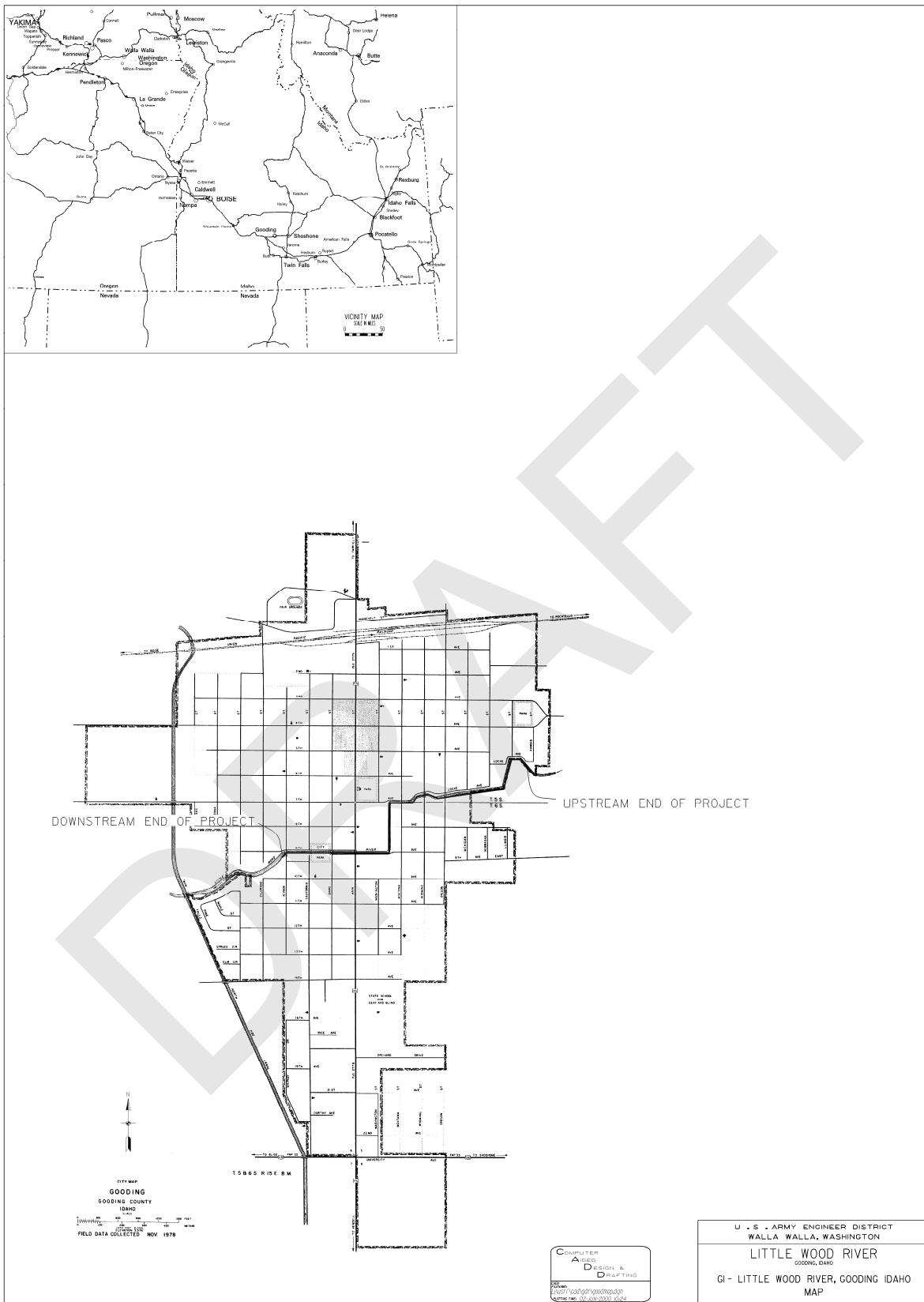


Figure 1 - Project Area Map



Figure 2 - Damaged section of wall between Main Street and Idaho Street.

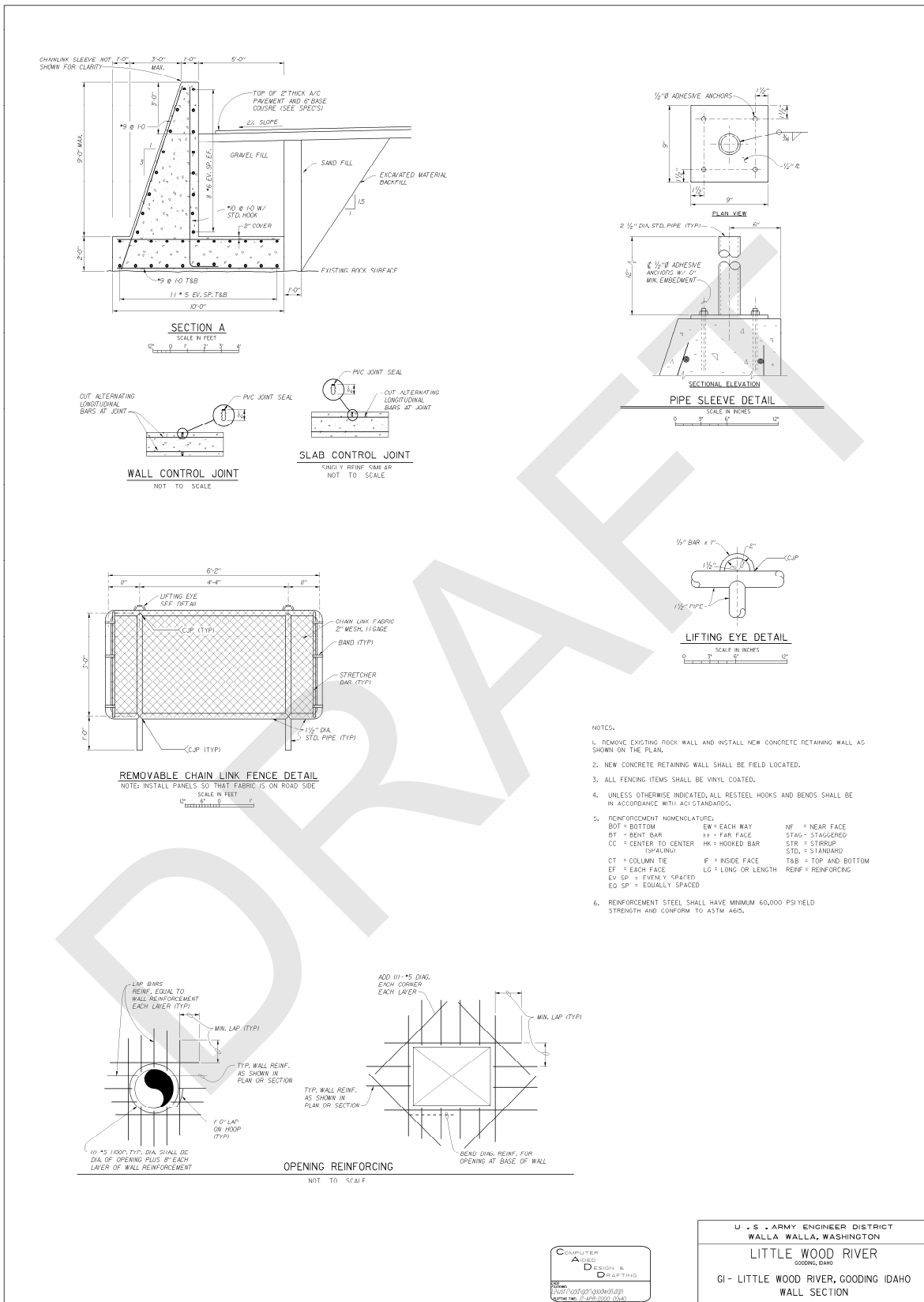


Figure 3 - Alternative 5 Wall Section

