

## FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

### OWYHEE RIVER ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION FEASIBILITY REPORT WITH INTEGRATED ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

March 2025

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Walla Walla District (Corps) and the Shoshone-Paiute Tribe have conducted an environmental analysis in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended. The Feasibility Report with Integrated Environmental Assessment (FR/EA) for the *Owyhee River Ecosystem Restoration*, dated March 2025, addresses the feasibility of restoring riparian and aquatic habitat and ecosystem functionality in and along the Owyhee River on the Duck Valley Indian Reservation in southern Idaho.

The FR/EA, incorporated herein by reference, evaluated various alternatives that would restore ecosystem function within the Owyhee River watershed. The Tentatively Selected Plan is Alternative 6, which includes restoration of approximately 55 acres of wet meadow habitat, 4 acres of riparian habitat, and 11,370 linear feet of side channel. Owyhee River Ecosystem Restoration Monitoring and Adaptive Management Plan is included as an Appendix E. Monitoring is expected to last no more than 10 years.

In addition to a “no action plan,” three action alternatives were evaluated. Section 3 describes the alternative formulation process, and Section 5 describes the alternative comparison and selection process.

A summary assessment of the potential effects of the Tentatively Selected Plan are listed in Table 1:

**Table 1. Summary of Potential Effects of the Tentatively Selected Plan**

	Insignificant effects	Insignificant effects as a result of mitigation	Resource unaffected by action
Geology and Soils	x	-	-
Hydrology	x	-	-
Floodplains			
Wetlands	x	-	-
Water Quality			
Aquatic Resources	x	-	-
Wildlife	x	-	-
Vegetation	x	-	-

Land Use	X	-	-
Aesthetics/Visual Resources	X	-	-
Cultural and Historic Resources	X	-	-
Economics/Socioeconomics	X	-	-
Cumulative Effects	X	-	-

All practicable and appropriate means to avoid or minimize adverse environmental effects were analyzed and incorporated into the Tentatively Selected Plan. No compensatory mitigation nor a biological assessment/opinion for Endangered Species Act compliance is required as part of the Tentatively Selected Plan.

A 30-day public review of the Draft FR/EA and the Draft Finding of No Significant Impact will begin on or around March 10, 2025.

USACE plans to initiate the Section 106 process during public review. Currently, USACE does not anticipate adverse effects resulting from the preferred alternative, but that determination will be made after consultation and prior to a final report.

Section 404 of the Clean Water Act regulates discharge of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States, including wetlands. Any 404 discharge would require Section 401 Water Quality Certification from the appropriate certifying authority, according to where the discharge would occur. The project would receive an Individual Water Quality certification from the Shoshone-Paiute Tribe.

See Chapter 7 of the FR/EA for a discussion of how the Tentatively Selected Plan complies with other laws, regulations, and Executive Orders.

All applicable laws, Executive Orders, regulations, and local government plans were considered in the evaluation of the alternatives. I have taken into consideration the technical aspects of Owyhee River Ecosystem Restoration, best scientific information available, and public comments received. It is my determination that the Tentatively Selected Plan does not constitute a major Federal action that would significantly affect the quality of the human environment; therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement is not required.

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LTC Kathryn Werback  
District Commander

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Date