Ft. Laramie Canal Tunnel 1 & 2 Rehabilitation Project

NEPA Public Meeting and Comment Period

January 8 & 9, 2025

With You Today:

Bureau of Reclamation

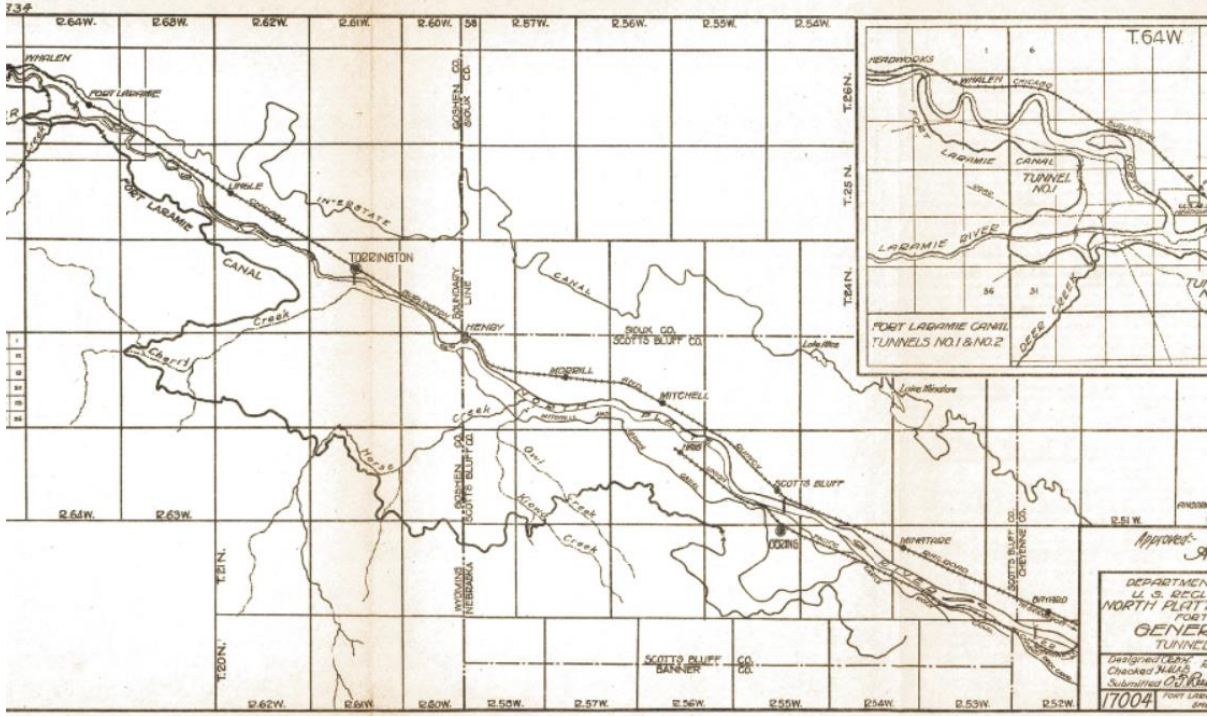
- Stacey Johnston – Chief, Contracts and Compliance Branch
- Shain Wright – Environmental Specialist
- Nathan Shelley – Archaeologist

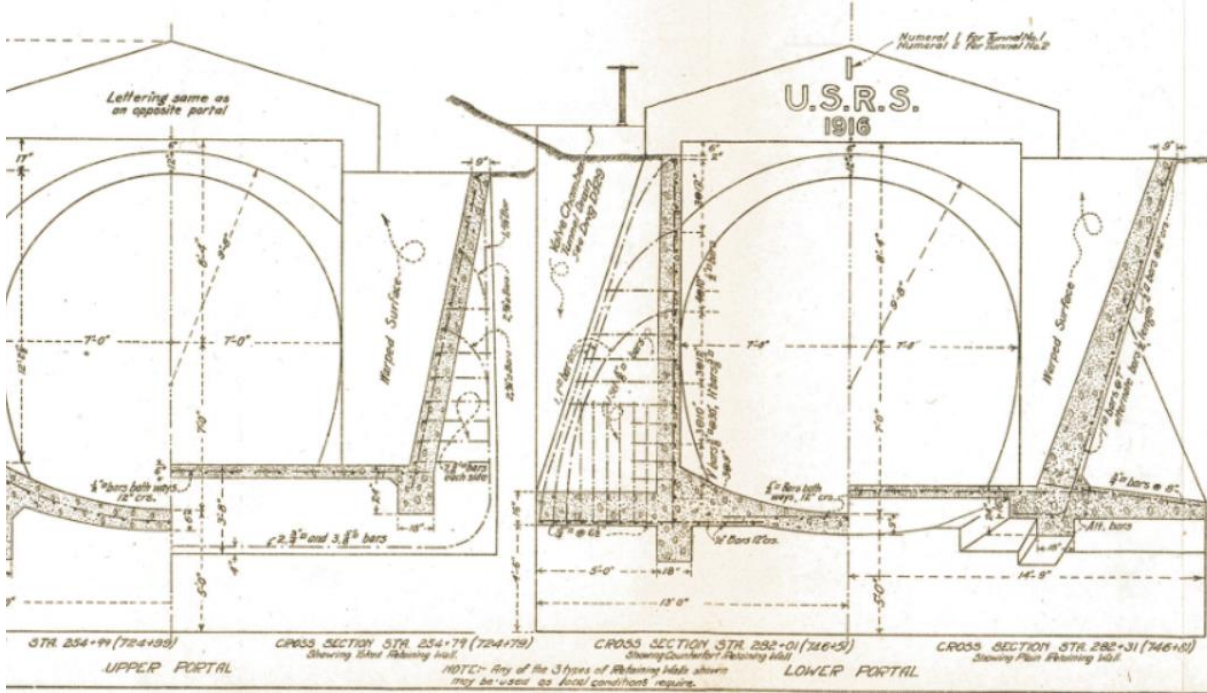
HDR

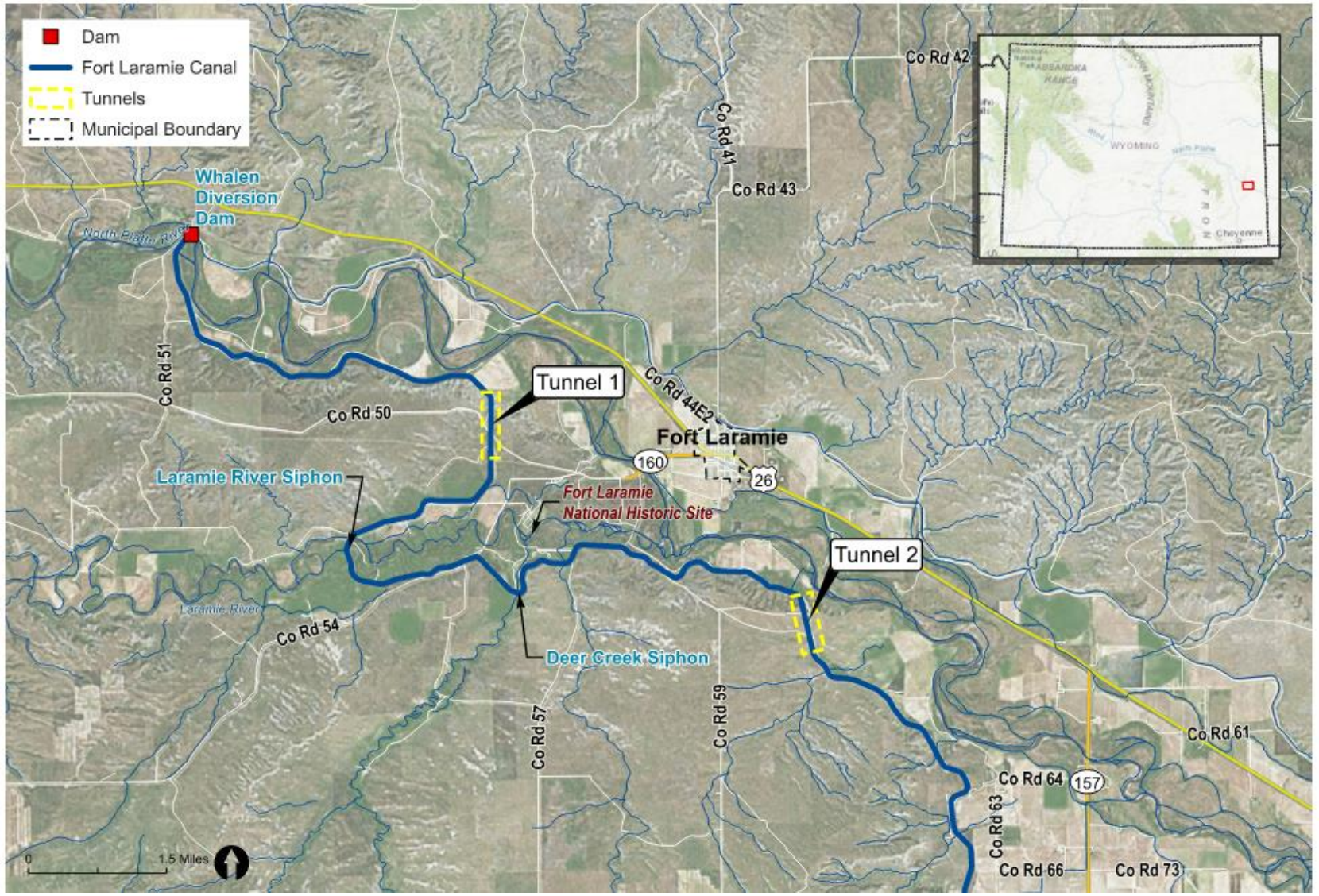
- Brad Johnson, PhD – Environmental
- Marcus Krall, P.E. – Project Manager
- Ally M. Titus – Public Involvement

North Platte Project

- Constructed by US Reclamation Service (present day US Bureau of Reclamation) beginning 1905
- 13-irrigation districts
- Fort Laramie Canal
  - Serves Goshen and Gering Fort-Laramie Irrigation Districts
  - ~107,387-acres GID/GFL
  - 1,532-CFS permitted capacity





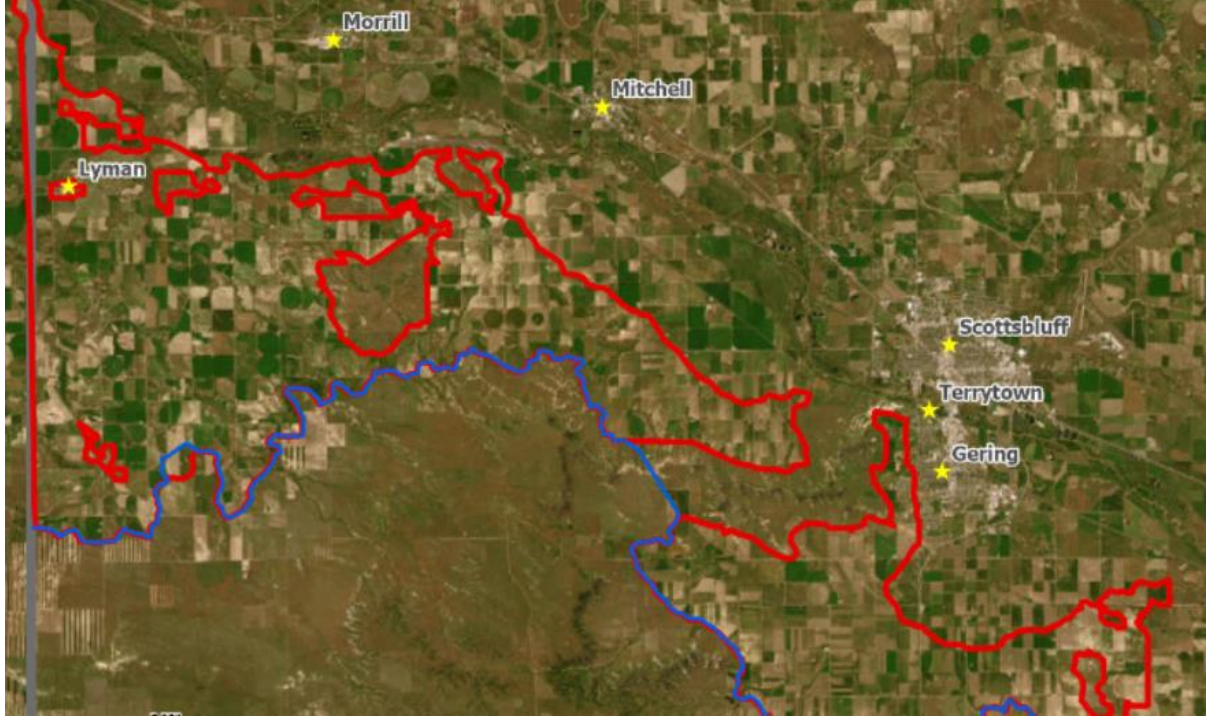


Goshen Irrigation District Infrastructure

- Whalen Diversion
- Siphons
  - Laramie
  - Deer Creek
  - Boxelder
- Canals
  - Main Canal: 85 mi
  - Cherry Creek: 17.4 mi
  - Springer Main: 19.4 mi
  - East Springer: 13.9 mi
- Two ~1/2 mile long Tunnels

Gering-Fort Laramie Irrigation District Infrastructure

- 45 miles of canal
- 13 siphons
- 1.5-mile-long Tunnel No. 3
- 300 miles of laterals and pipelines
- 90 miles of drain ditches

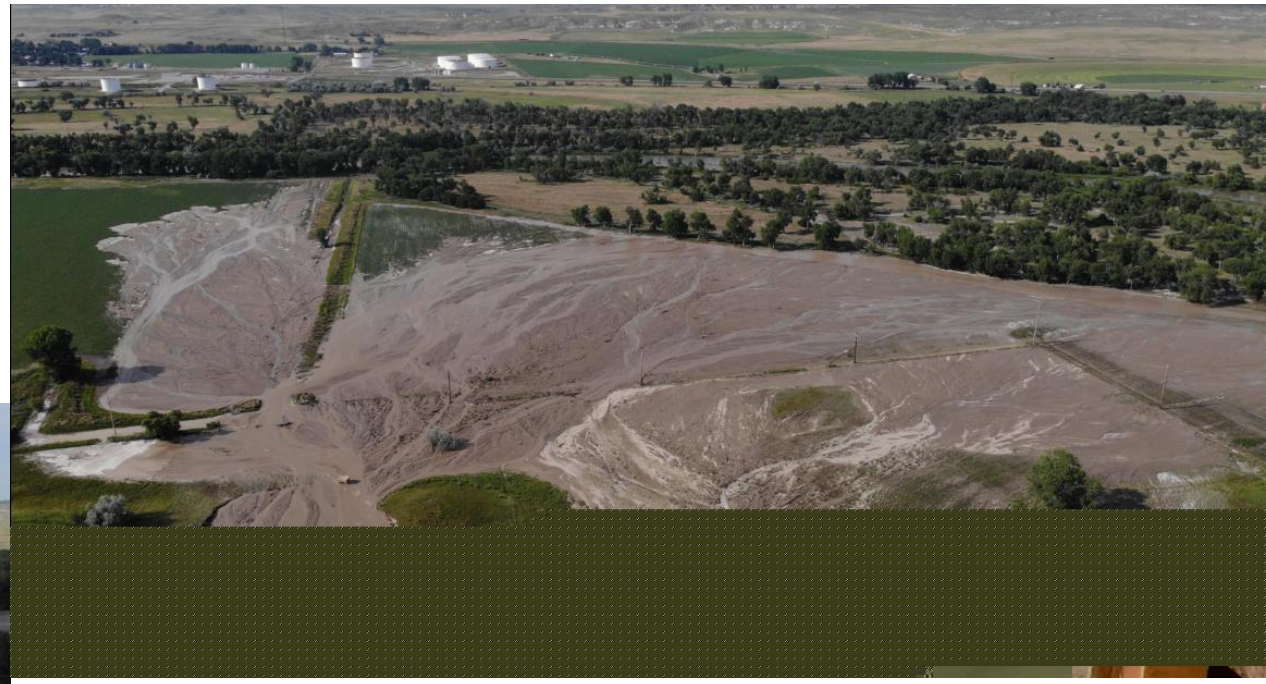


Tunnel No. 2 Collapse

- July 17, 2019, SCADA alarms 12:45 a.m.
- Personnel on-site by 1:30 a.m.
  - Diversion closed by 3:00 a.m.
- Emergency services notified
- Sinkhole above Tunnel No. 2 identified
- Canal breach upstream

Sinkhole above Tunnel No. 2 Identified

Blocking the canal and breaching it upstream



National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

What is NEPA?

NEPA requires federal agencies to:

1. Assess the impacts associated with proposed activities.
2. Analyze impacts to alternatives.
3. Disclose impacts to the public.
4. Provide opportunities for public review and input.

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

NEPA Process

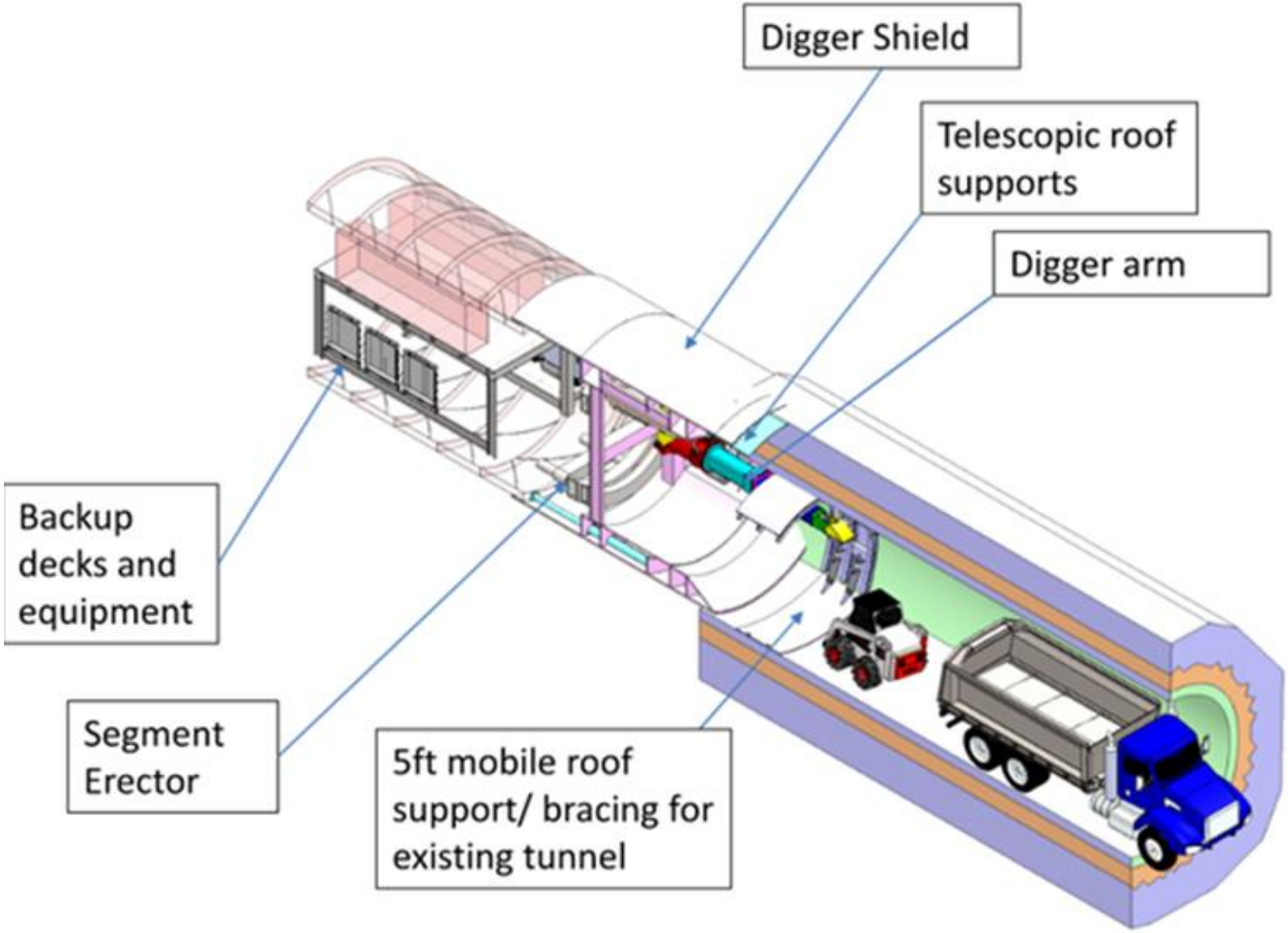
- Gather relevant information.
- Prepare draft EA.
  - Develop alternatives
  - Analyze impacts
- Public comment period.
  - (Jan. 7- Feb. 7)
- Revise EA based on comments.
- If appropriate, prepare a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI).

Alternatives Considered

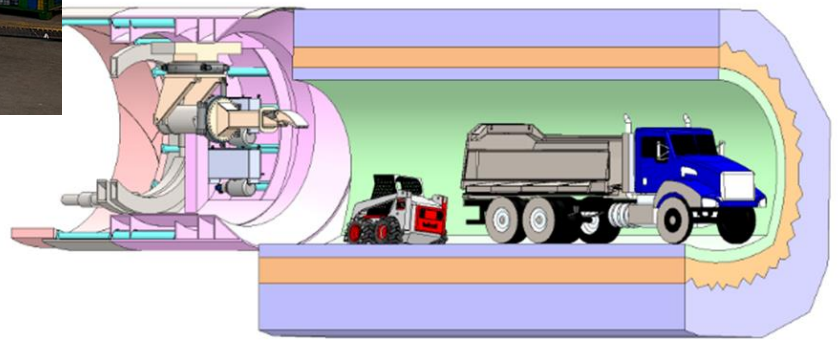
Category	Alternative	Description
Removal	Open Cut	Excavation and removal of existing tunnels with installation of concrete lined channels
	Cut and Cover	Excavation and installation of new reinforced concrete tunnel system
Rehabilitation	Excavation and Replacement	Excavate existing tunnel lining with a digger shield and replace with segmented concrete lining.
	SEM: On-Alignment	Tunnel replacement along existing alignment
	SEM: New Alignment	Tunnel replacement along new alignment
Repair	Structural Renewal – Steel Liner	Structural steel lining
	Structural Renewal – CFRP	Carbon fiber reinforced polymer (CFRP) lining

Proposed Action: Tunnel Rehabilitation

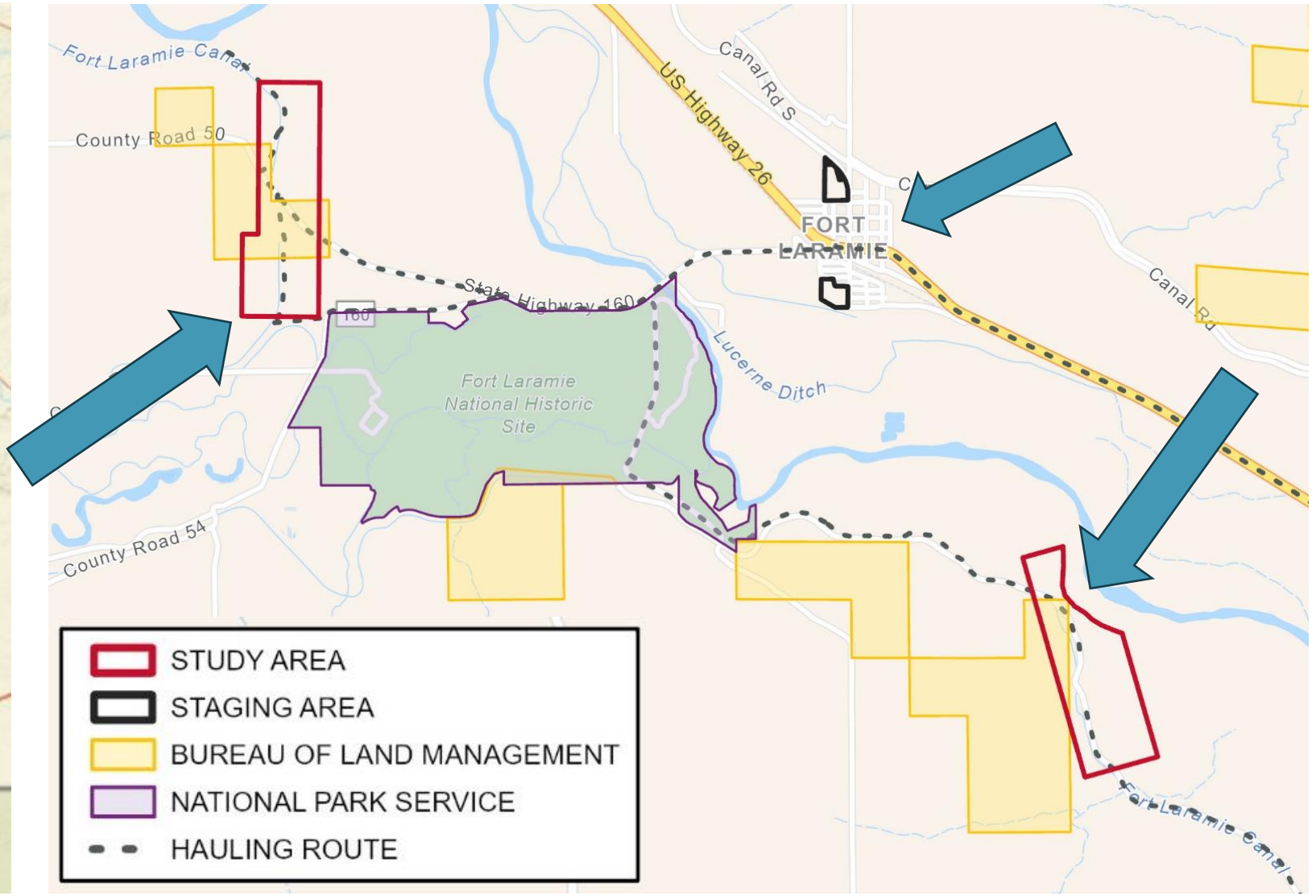
- Rehabilitate the tunnels with the use of a digger shield
  - Placement of spoils on canal banks
- Limited road improvements and access into the canal
- Staging yards in Fort Laramie and near tunnels
  - Federal, state, and private lands
- Administrative and maintenance activities in Fort Laramie

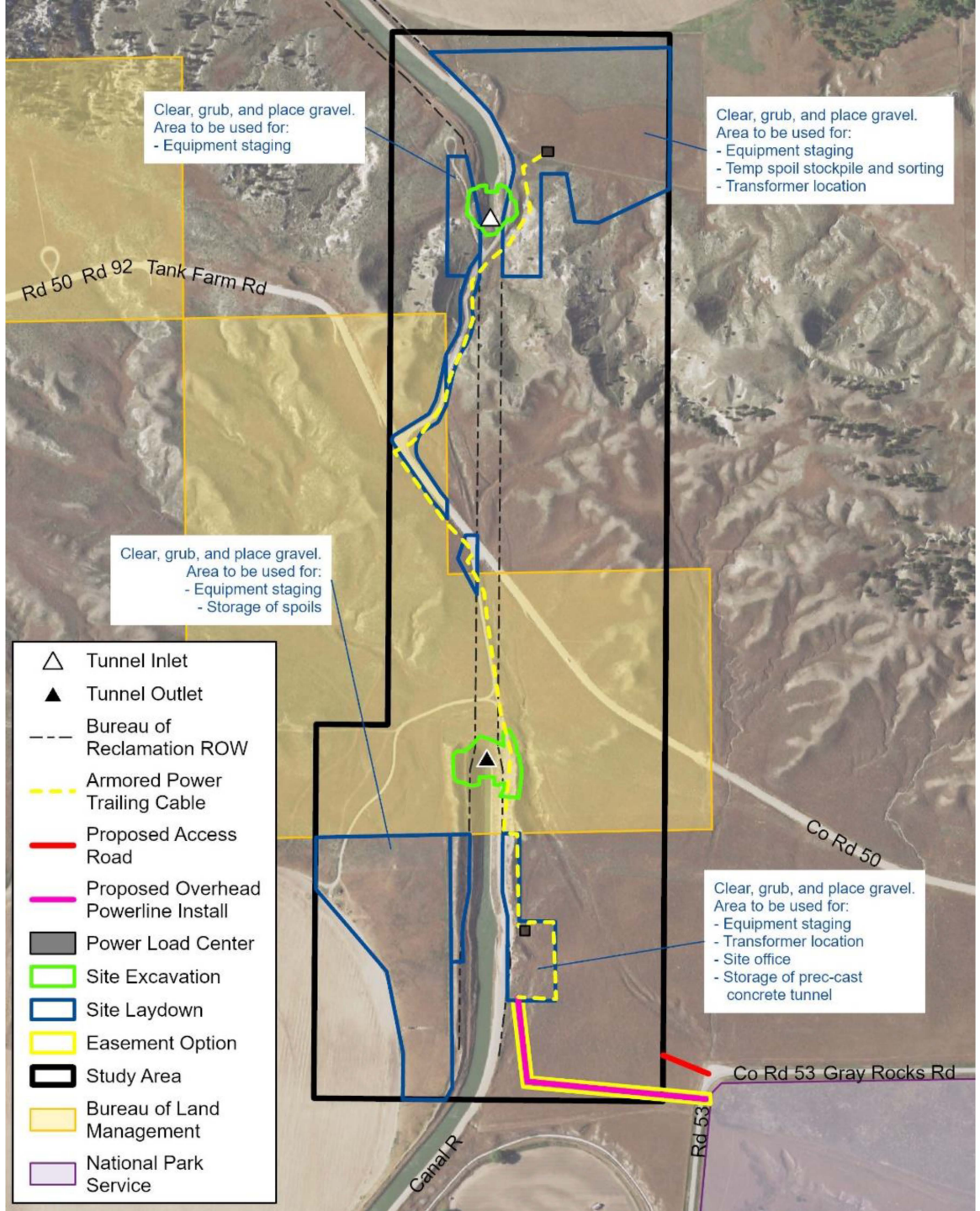


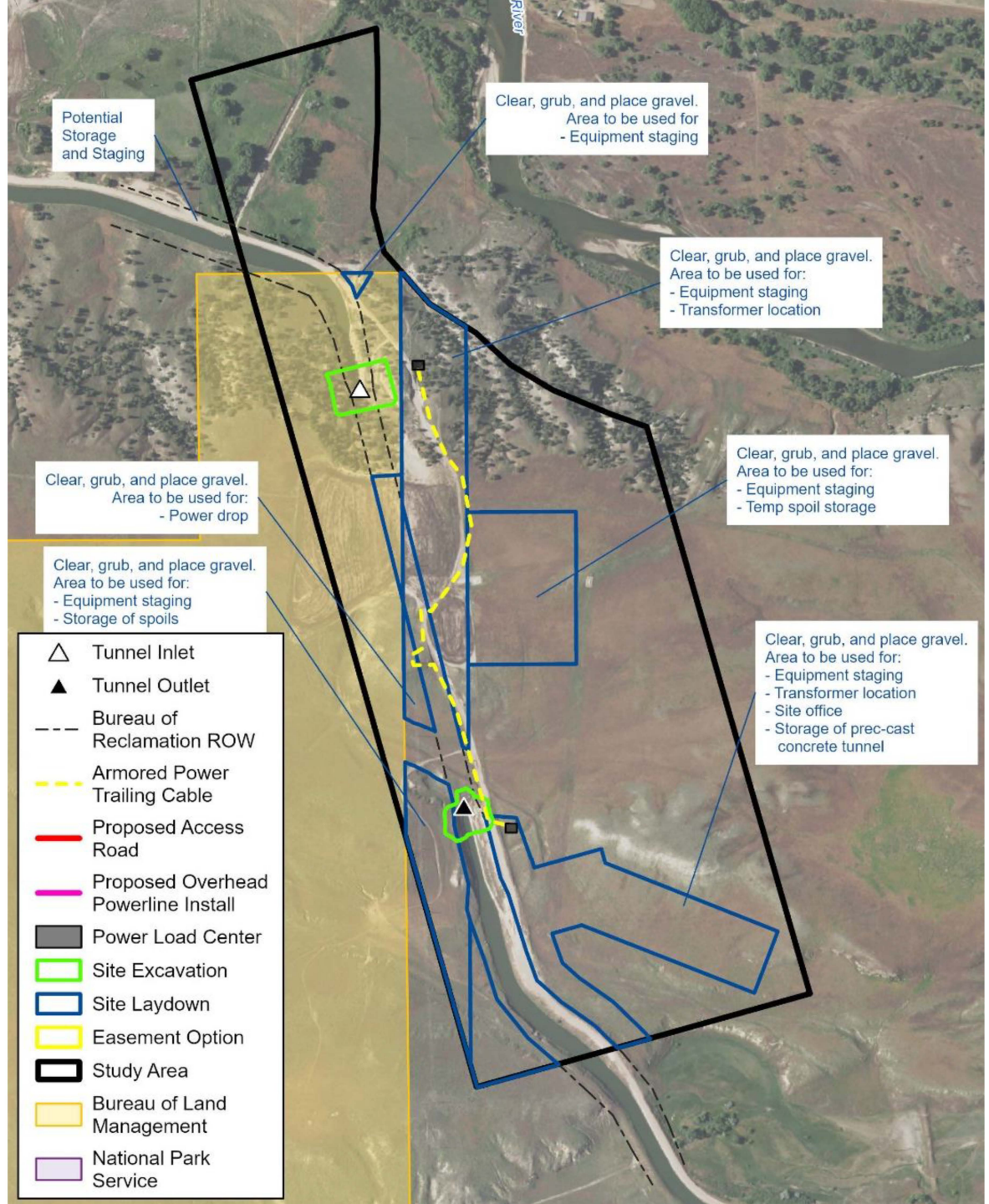
Proposed Action: Tunnel Rehabilitation Cont.



Project Area




Clear, grub, and place gravel.
Area to be used for:
- Equipment staging
Clear, grub, and place gravel.
Area to be used for:
- Equipment staging
- Temp spoil stockpile and sorting
- Transformer location
Rd 50
Rd 92
Tank Farm Rd
Clear, grub, and place gravel.
Area to be used for:
- Equipment staging
- Storage of spoils
Co Rd 50
Clear, grub, and place gravel.
Area to be used for:
- Equipment staging
- Transformer location
- Site office
- Storage of prec-cast concrete tunnel
Co Rd 53
Gray Rocks Rd
Rd 53
Canal R
Tunnel Inlet
Tunnel Outlet
Bureau of Reclamation ROW
Armored Power Trailing Cable
Proposed Access Road
Proposed Overhead Powerline Install
Power Load Center
Site Excavation
Site Laydown
Easement Option
Study Area
Bureau of Land Management
National Park Service


Potential Storage and Staging
Clear, grub, and place gravel.
Area to be used for
- Equipment staging
Clear, grub, and place gravel.
Area to be used for:
- Equipment staging
- Transformer location
Clear, grub, and place gravel.
Area to be used for:
- Power drop
Clear, grub, and place gravel.
Area to be used for:
- Equipment staging
- Temp spoil storage
Clear, grub, and place gravel.
Area to be used for:
- Equipment staging
- Storage of spoils
Clear, grub, and place gravel.
Area to be used for:
- Equipment staging
- Transformer location
- Site office
- Storage of prec-cast concrete tunnel
Tunnel Inlet
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Providing comments

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Tips for substantive comments

- Uses facts to question adequacy, accuracy, methodology or assumptions of analysis
- Includes specific references to chapters, pages, figures, etc.
- Presents relevant new information.
- Proposes new reasonable alternative or revision to alternatives analyzed.
- Identifies why portion of the document are unclear.

COMMENT PERIOD

Jan. 7 – Feb. 7, 2025

www.usbr.gov/gp/nepa/sopa.html