Chapter 3. Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences

This chapter describes the existing environmental resources that could be affected by the proposed action and alternatives. The following critical elements of the human environment are subject to requirements specified in statute, regulation, or Executive Order and must be considered in this EA. Elements that may be affected are further described in this EA.

3.1 Land Use/Land Ownership

This section describes impacts on land use that could result from construction and operation of the proposed action. The proposed action has the potential to have an adverse impact on land use if it would physically divide an established community or conflict with an applicable land use plan. This section also assesses potential impacts on farmlands that could result from construction and operation of the proposed action. The proposed action would have the potential to adversely impact farmland if it would result in the conversion of an area designated as prime or unique farmland, farmland of local or statewide importance, to a non-agricultural use.

3.1.1 General Land Use

Affected Environment

Land use in the 90.41-acre proposed action area includes public lands (open space, agricultural-forest, floodplain, and scenic conservation), private residential lots, commercial properties, paved roads, community service district lands, wastewater ponds, and undeveloped areas. Adjacent land uses consist of rural residential, mobile home and urban residential development, commercial businesses, public school, church, transportation corridors, public recreational use areas along the Trinity River, forest, and local infrastructure (e.g., wastewater treatment facilities). Open space in the proposed action area is currently occupied by the percolation beds located on Reclamation land. The agricultural-forest type is currently occupied by oxidation ponds located on BLM land.

Current land uses in the proposed action area are consistent with the Lewiston Zoning Quads developed as part of the Lewiston Community Plan (Trinity County 1986). Table 2 summarizes the existing land use, zoning, and the proposed construction activities that would occur as a result of implementation of the proposed action.

Table 2. Land Use Zoning in the Proposed Action Study Area

	ZONING				
EXISTING LAND USE	DESIGNATION	NAME	PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY		
Lewiston Park Mutual Wa	ter Company				
Subdivision	R1	Single family	Replace existing sewers		
Subdivision	PF	Public facilities	Replace existing sewers		
Existing WWTP	RR-1 (MH)	Rural residential- 1 acre minimum and mobile homes	Replace existing WWTP and sewers		
Existing Aerial Pipe	FH (SC)	Flood hazard and scenic conservation	Line or replace existing aerial discharge pipe		
Existing Percolation Beds	os	Open space	Modify existing percolation beds		
Lewiston Community Ser	vices District				
Existing Sewer Collection System	R-1 (MH)	Single family and mobile home	Replace existing sewers		
Existing Sewer Collection System	МН	Mobile home	Replace existing sewers		
Existing Oxidation Ponds	AF-160	Agricultural forest- 160 acre minimum	No improvements to existing oxidation ponds.		
Existing Lift Station 1 & Sewers	C-2	General commercial	Abandon existing lift station and replace sewers		
Existing Lift Station 1 & Sewers	HC	Highway commercial	Relocate existing lift station and replace sewers		

No Action Alternative

Under the no-action alternative, no construction activities would occur and the existing wastewater treatment system would remain in use. Failure to address system inadequacies cited in the various notices of violation that have been issued for each of the three existing systems would defy the SWRCB and Trinity County Health Department compliance requirements. The ramifications of such a choice are far reaching and would most likely result in a building moratorium in Lewiston imposed by the SWRCB followed by declining real estate values. In addition to potential adverse effects on residential land use if the no-action alternative is used, other land uses such as public open space could be adversely affected by sewage spills resulting from the failing systems. Land use may be significantly impacted by the no-action alternative.

Proposed Action

The proposed action will be implemented in accordance with existing County and community land use plans, policies, and regulations. The proposed pipeline would be aligned through commercial, resource, and rural residential lands and would be a compatible use for all of the designated land uses and zoning designations that occur in the proposed action area. The project would not involve a change in existing land use and would not conflict with any habitat conservation plans or natural communities' conservation plans. Approvals from land owners allowing for construction will be in place prior to the onset of construction. Impacts on federal (Reclamation and BLM) lands would be consistent with existing conditions since implementation of the proposed action would not change the uses associated with the existing wastewater treatment facilities located on these lands. The project would not have an adverse effect on land use, rather it would result in a permanent beneficial effect on land use by providing the community with reliable wastewater treatment system.

The proposed action area is, in part, aligned through BLM and Reclamation lands that are zoned as agricultural-forest land (Trinity County Planning Department 2017); however, the proposed action would make use of existing pipeline alignments (with a minor deviation of a new section of pipeline to one of the existing oxidation ponds located on BLM land) and wastewater facilities on these parcels, and would not result in a change in land use or zoning. It is anticipated that the proposed action will be appended to existing BLM and Reclamation land use agreements that LCSD currently possesses. The project would not conflict with existing zoning and would have no impact on public land uses.

Mitigation Measures

No mitigation is required.

3.1.2 Important Farmland

Affected Environment

The proposed action area has not been mapped by the State of California Resources Agency, but given the rugged mountain environment of Trinity County it is unlikely that the Lewiston area contains any lands that would be mapped as Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance by the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program (California Department of Conservation 2017). The Natural Resources Conservation Service shows both Haysum Loam 5 to 9 percent slopes and Haysum Gravelly Loam 5 to 9 percent slopes are present in the proposed action area and are designated as Farmland of Statewide Importance and Prime Farmland if Irrigated, respectively (Natural Resources Conservation Service 2017). The proposed action area is, in part, aligned through BLM and Reclamation lands that are zoned as Ag-Forest land (Trinity County Planning Department 2017). None of the parcels in the proposed action area are currently under a Williamson Act contract, which provides property tax relief to owners of open land or farmland in exchange for a 10-year agreement that the land will not be developed.

No-Action Alternative

Under the no-action alternative, no construction activities would be implemented, and the existing wastewater treatment system would remain in use. There would be no impact on Prime, Unique, Farmland of Local Importance, or Farmland of Statewide Importance.

Proposed Action

The proposed action would make use of existing infrastructure (e.g., pipeline alignments and wastewater facilities) with a minor deviation of a new section of pipeline to one of the existing oxidation ponds located on BLM land, and would not result in the conversion of areas designated as Farmland of Statewide Importance or Prime Farmland if Irrigated to a non-agricultural use. Therefore, no impact on Prime, Unique, Farmland of Local Importance, or Farmland of Statewide Importance as a result of the proposed action would occur.

Mitigation Measures

No mitigation is required.

3.1.3 Formally Classified Lands

Affected Environment

The Trinity River system is a federally designated Wild and Scenic River (WSR). The mainstem Trinity River—from 100 yards below Lewiston Dam to the Cedar Flat confluence (a distance of approximately 97.5 miles)—is classified as a "Recreational River" by the State of California and through a cooperative agreement between BLM and the U.S. Forest Service Shasta-Trinity National Forest. Compliance with both state and federal guidelines for WSRs require that the project activities be designed and constructed to preserve the free-flowing condition and other Outstandingly Remarkable Values associated with the river. Under the federal WSR designation, the Trinity River anadromous and resident fisheries are an Outstandingly Remarkable Value.

An existing 350-foot long aerial pipeline conveys effluent from the WWTP located on the

south side (left bank) of the Trinity River to percolation ponds located on Reclamation lands on the north side (right bank).

Environmental Consequences

No-Action Alternative

Under the no-action alternative, the pipeline over the Trinity River would remain in place. There would be no impact on formally classified lands.

Proposed Action

Under the proposed action, refurbishment or pipe-only replacement of the existing aerial pipeline would not permanently alter the scenic or recreational values associated with the Trinity River, nor would any proposed construction activities impact fisheries. LPMWC has previously replaced one flexible joint to allow for inspection and pipe wall thickness measurement. Slip-lining or replacement with a similar pipeline is proposed as a means of rehabilitating the existing aerial crossing without affecting the existing aesthetic associated with the crossing, which has been in place since 1956. Improvements to the existing pipeline and headwall structures would be constructed in a manner consistent with the existing aesthetic and would be painted using a neutral earthtone color to further minimize its appearance on the landscape. Additionally, all work would occur outside the bed and bank of the Trinity River. Land use at the Trinity River and its WSR Designation would not be affected and impacts would not occur.

In an email sent to the Agency from BLM on May 16, 2017 (pers. comm. W. Kuntz) (Appendix A), BLM concluded a Section 7 Wild and Scenic River effect determination would not be necessary since the proposed action would not encroach upon the bed and bank of the Trinity River.

Mitigation Measures

No mitigation is required.

3.2 Floodplains

This section assesses the potential for the construction and operation of the proposed action to create or be affected by flood hazards. The proposed action has the potential to have an adverse flood hazard impact if it would significantly increase the potential for flooding or impede or redirect flood flows resulting in a significant, adverse impact.

Affected Environment

Several project components cross or are adjacent to the Trinity River and its floodplain. All construction in the vicinity of the river would involve replacing or modifying existing components with no new construction proposed. These project components include a 350-foot long 6-inch pipeline suspended above the Trinity River, the pipeline's support structure on the north bank of the river, and percolation beds located on the north bank of the river adjacent to the pipeline. The percolation beds are located outside of the Federal Emergency Management Agency's documented 100-year flood zone (1-percent probability of flood occurrence in a given year) as well as the 500-year flood zone (0.2-percent probability of flood occurrence in a given year) (PACE Engineering 2016). The pipeline support structure is located within the 500-year flood zone (Federal Emergency Management Agency 2014). All other existing and project components are outside of the 100-year and 500-year floodplains as defined by the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Figure 4, provided below, illustrates the Federal Emergency Management Agency designated flood hazard zones in relation to the action area and proposed project components.

No-Action Alternative

Under the no-action alternative, there would be no changes made to the Trinity River floodplain. There would be no impact on the floodplain.

Proposed Action

Under the proposed action, the existing aerial pipeline above the Trinity River floodplain would be either slip-lined or replaced, and its support structure would be sandblasted and recoated. Although the existing aerial pipeline support structure is located within the 500-year flood zone, proposed improvements to the existing structure would not impact the Trinity River floodplain, create a potential flood hazard, or be at risk of being inundated by a less-than-500-year flood event. These conclusions are consistent with existing conditions. The remainder of the proposed action alignment would be located in uplands and would have no impact on the floodplain.

Mitigation Measures

No mitigation is required.

3.3 Wetlands

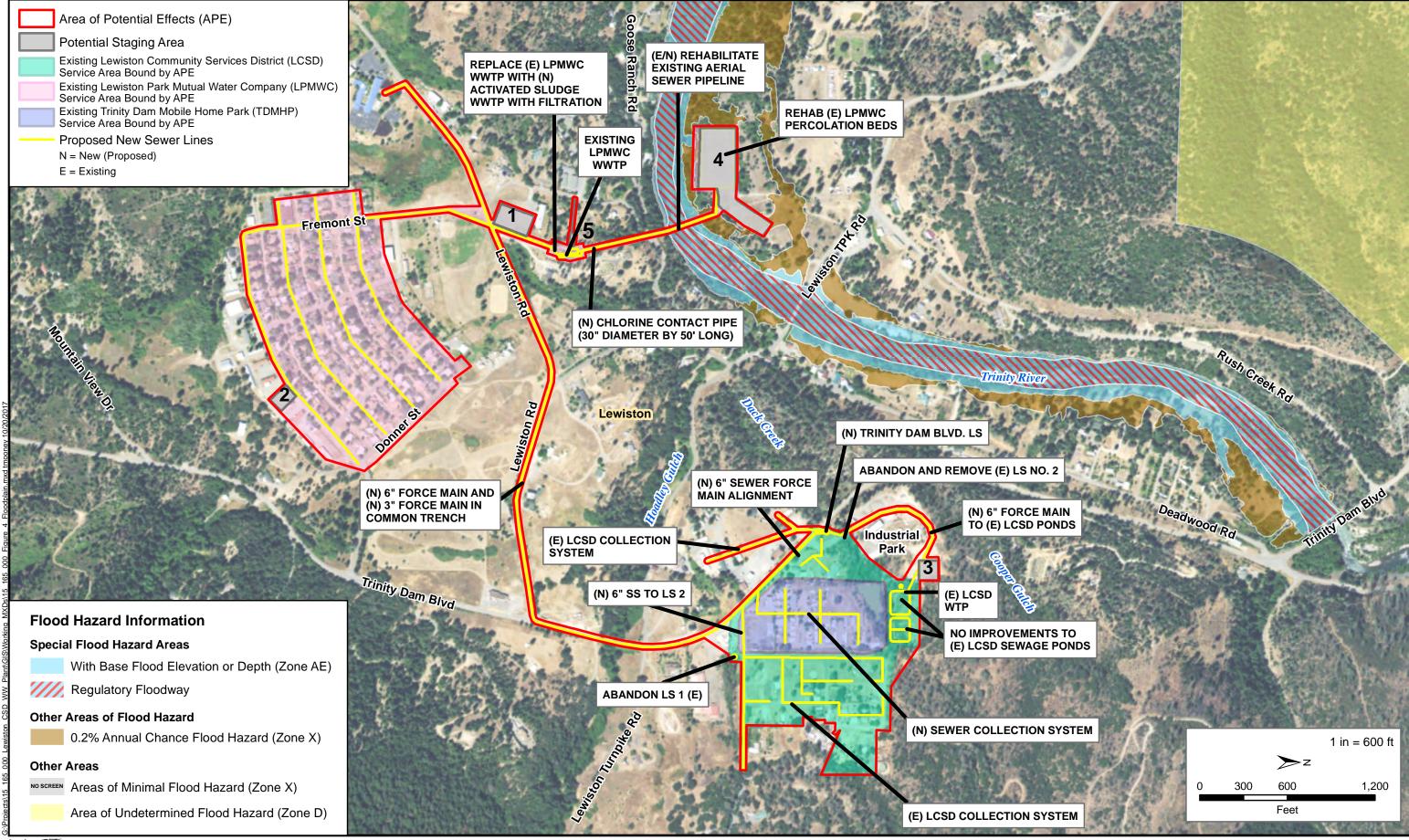
This section describes potential impacts on wetlands that could result from construction and operation of the proposed action. The proposed action would have the potential to adversely impact wetlands if it would result in the direct removal, fill, or otherwise interrupt the hydrology of the wetland.

Affected Environment

Wetlands are protected under a variety of federal regulations, including Executive Order 11990 *Protection of Wetlands* and U.S. Department of Agriculture Regulation 9500-3 *Land Use Policy*, both of which discourage wetland alteration whenever there is an alternative. Regulatory oversight of wetlands falls under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act and permits are administered by the Corps.

A total of 1.066 acres of potential waters of the United States were mapped within the proposed action area and include riparian wetland (0.407 acre), seasonal wetland (0.062 acre), seep spring wetland (0.415 acre), vegetated ditch (0.037 acre, 785 linear feet), intermittent stream (0.014 acre, 279 linear feet), and perennial stream (0.131 acre, 74 linear feet). Six wastewater treatment ponds (1.576 acres), considered excluded features, were also mapped within the proposed action area. The boundaries of all waters of the United States delineated by North State Resources, Inc., (NSR) on June 21 and November 29, 2016 (North State Resources 2017a) are shown in Figure 5.

The Trinity River provides hydrologic conditions that supports adjacent riparian wetlands (Figure 5, page 4 of 7). In addition, a seep-spring wetland (SSW1) has formed in a drainage immediately downslope of the LCSD percolation ponds and the TDMHP sewage pond (Figure 5, page 2 of 7). The wetland seep-spring is tributary to Dack Creek, which flows to the Trinity River. Currently, LS2 is located within SSW1.



North State Resources, Inc.

Lewiston Community Services District Wastewater Project



No-Action Alternative

Under the no-action alternative, no construction activities would occur and the existing system would remain in use. Wetlands would not be disturbed, but would be at risk of being adversely affected by sewage spills that could result from failure of the existing wastewater treatment system. The SSW1 downslope of the LCSD percolation ponds and the TDMHP sewage pond would remain at a heightened risk of experiencing contamination by pollutants likely contained in these ponds. Wetland functions and biological diversity could be at risk under the no-action alternative. Nitrate contamination of groundwater could occur if existing LPMWC effluent remains marginally treated and is concentrated in a location such as the percolation beds. The no-action alternative could have a significant impact on wetlands.

Proposed Action

The proposed action was designed to avoid wetlands to the greatest extent possible. The proposed action would result in temporary impacts on a 0.011-acre wetland (SSW1) (Figure 5, page 2 of 7) that meets the Corps' jurisdictional determination as a water of the United States at one location within the proposed action study area. Temporary impacts on this wetland would result from the abandonment and relocation of LS2, which is located in tributary to Dack Creek and mapped as a seep-spring wetland. Under the proposed action, an upland 8-inch pipe that empties into federally-jurisdictional wetlands (SSW1) would be removed as would a 2-inch surface pipeline that extends from the east to LS2. Both of these pipelines will be removed with minimal temporary impacts on SSW1. No riparian trees or shrubs would be removed, although some herbaceous wetland vegetation would be disturbed during the removal process. The new LS2 would be located in uplands approximately 150 feet away from the original LS; thus, no further impacts on wetlands are anticipated. All other wetlands in the proposed action area would be avoided. No permanent impacts on wetlands would occur as a result of the proposed action.

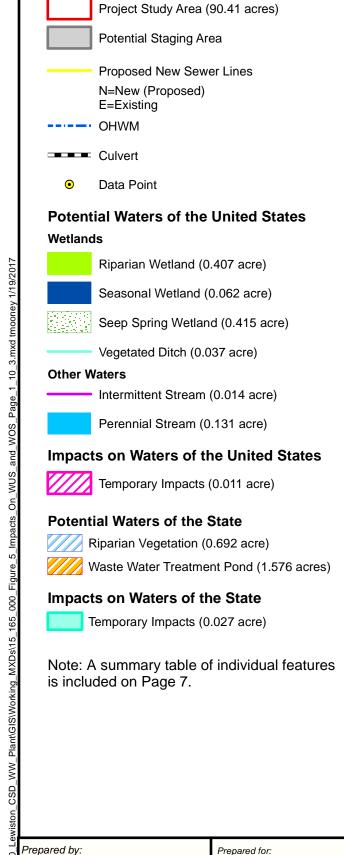
It is anticipated that herbaceous plants temporarily disturbed during construction will fully recover within several years. *Conservation Measure #1—Water Pollution Prevention* and *Conservation Measures #2—Protection of Riparian Habitat* (described in Section 2.1.8), were incorporated into the proposed action design to ensure that temporary impacts on wetlands resulting from implementation of the proposed action will be minimized to the greatest extent feasible. Additionally, *Mitigation Measure #1—Waters of the United States*, below, will also be used to avoid or minimize the potential for project-related impacts on wetlands subject to federal jurisdiction.

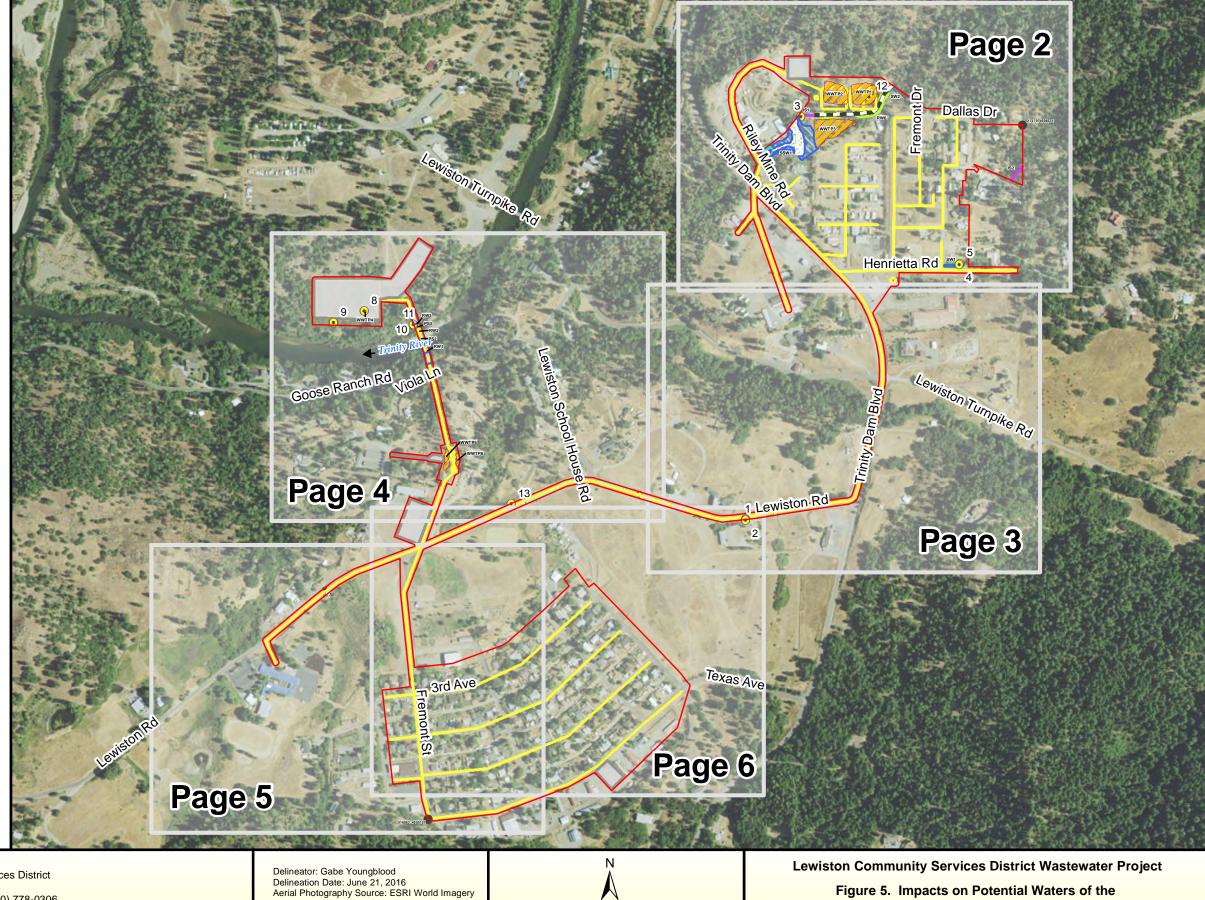
Mitigation Measures

Mitigation Measure #1-Waters of the United States

In addition to implementation of Conservation Measures #1 and #2 (described in Section 2.1.8), the following mitigation measures are recommended to avoid or minimize the potential for project-related impacts on waters subject to federal jurisdiction:

- The discharge of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States, including wetlands, shall be avoided.
- Prior to initiating work involving the disturbance or placement of dredge or fill materials into waters of the United States (to be determined by the Corps), the LCSD shall obtain all regulatory permits and authorizations required by the Corps.
- To the maximum extent practicable, activities that increase the erosion potential in the project area shall be restricted to the relatively dry summer and early fall period to minimize the potential for rainfall events to transport sediment to surface water features. If these activities must take place during the late fall, winter, or spring, then temporary erosion and sediment control structures shall be in place and operational at the end of each construction day and maintained until permanent erosion control structures are in place.
- Any monitoring, maintenance, and reporting required by the Corps shall be implemented and completed. All measures contained in the permits or associated with agency approvals shall be implemented.
- All waters that are temporarily affected by project construction shall be restored as close as practicable to original contours and conditions within 10 days of completion of construction activities.
- Stockpiles that are to remain on site through the wet season shall be protected to prevent erosion (e.g., silt fence, straw bales).
- All waters of the United States that are temporarily affected by project construction shall be restored as close as practicable to original contours and conditions within 10 days of completion of construction activities.
- Removal of existing pipelines associated with abandonment and removal of LS2 shall be conducted manually (i.e., by hand). No heavy equipment will be allowed in adjacent wetlands. Vegetation removal will be limited only to what is needed to remove piping. The existing 2-inch surface piping shall be pumped to remove any sewage before being cut into 50-foot sections and yarded to uplands. Shovels shall be used to remove the 8-inch pipe and soil will be returned by hand and compacted to reduce the potential for erosion.
- Decommissioning of LS2 shall be completed during the summer dry season (typically June 15 through October 15). Wattles shall be placed along the edges of the adjacent stream channel during all phases of work to prevent sediment and any incidental sludge from entering the stream.





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This delineation of waters of the United States is subject to verification by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps). NSR advises all parties that the delineation is preliminary until the Corps provides a written verification.

Coordinate System: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 10N
Projection: Tansverse Mercator
Potum: North American 1983

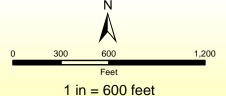
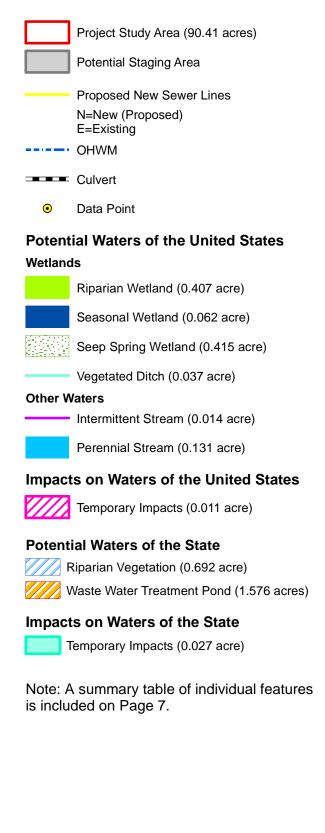
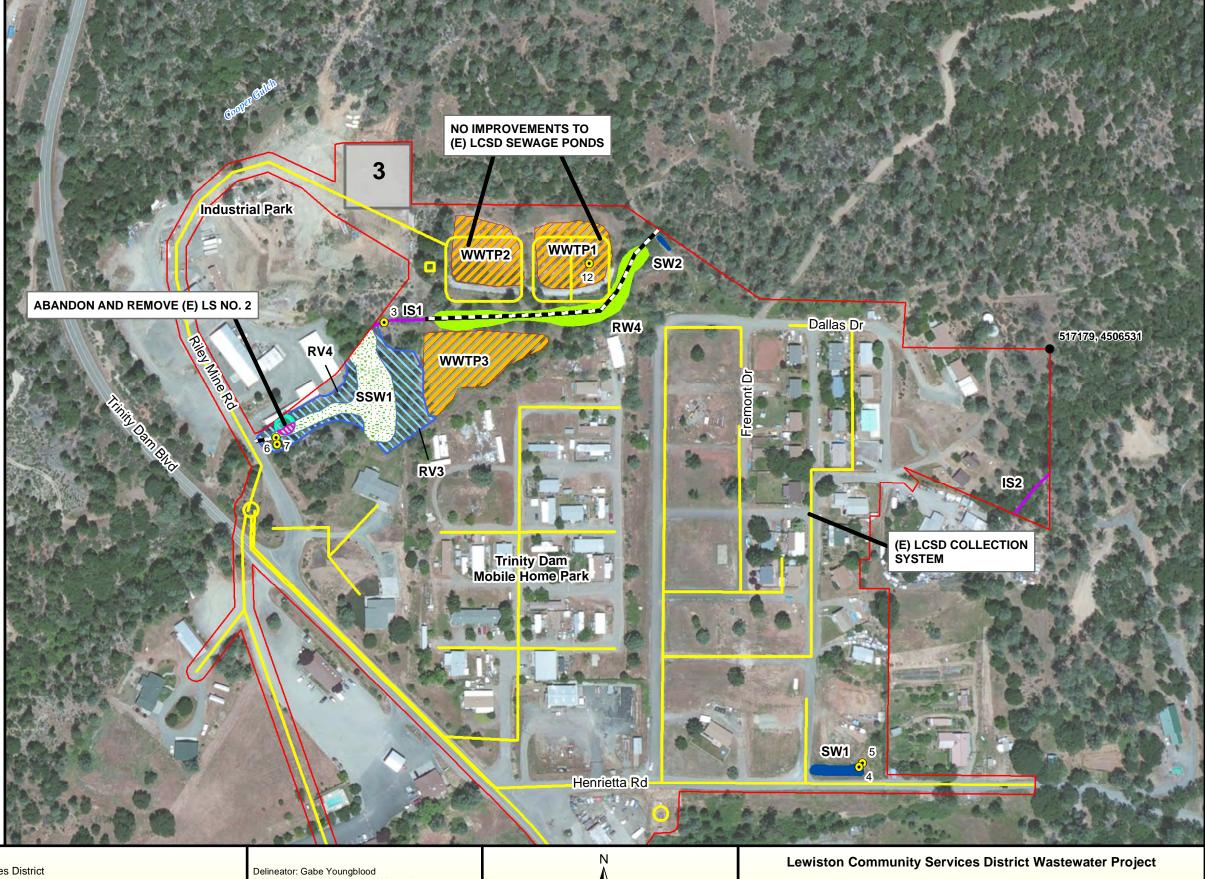


Figure 5. Impacts on Potential Waters of the United States and Waters of the State

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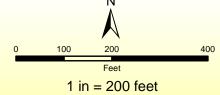
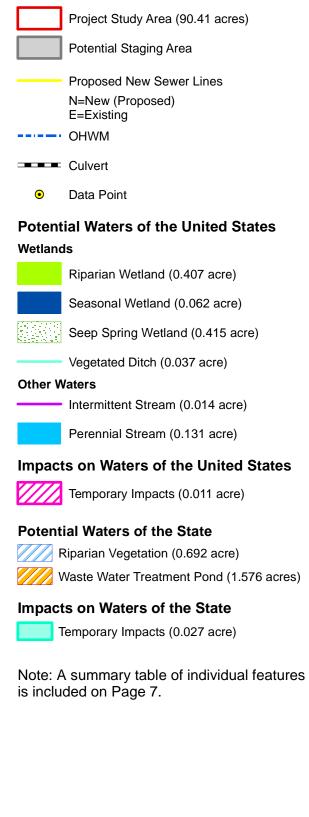
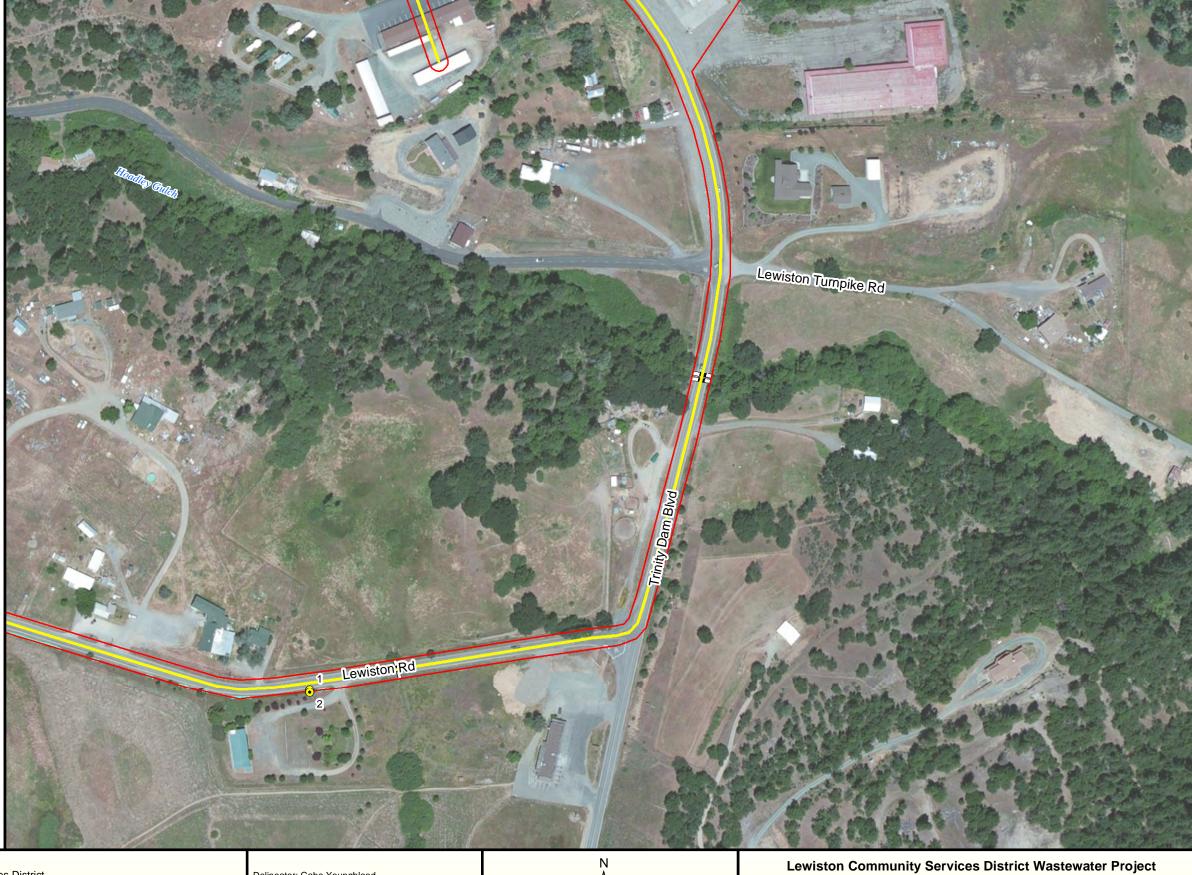


Figure 5. Impacts on Potential Waters of the **United States and Waters of the State**

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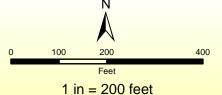
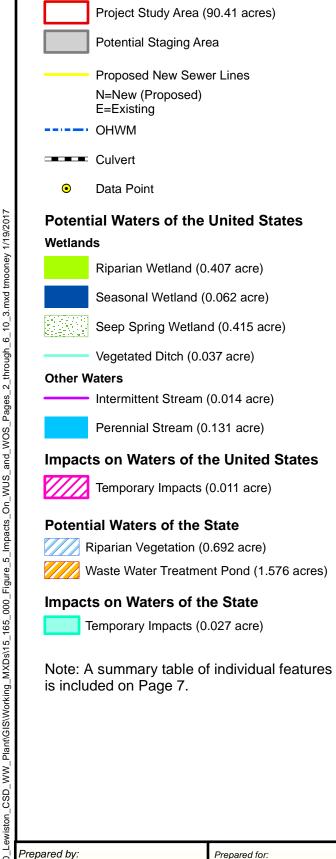
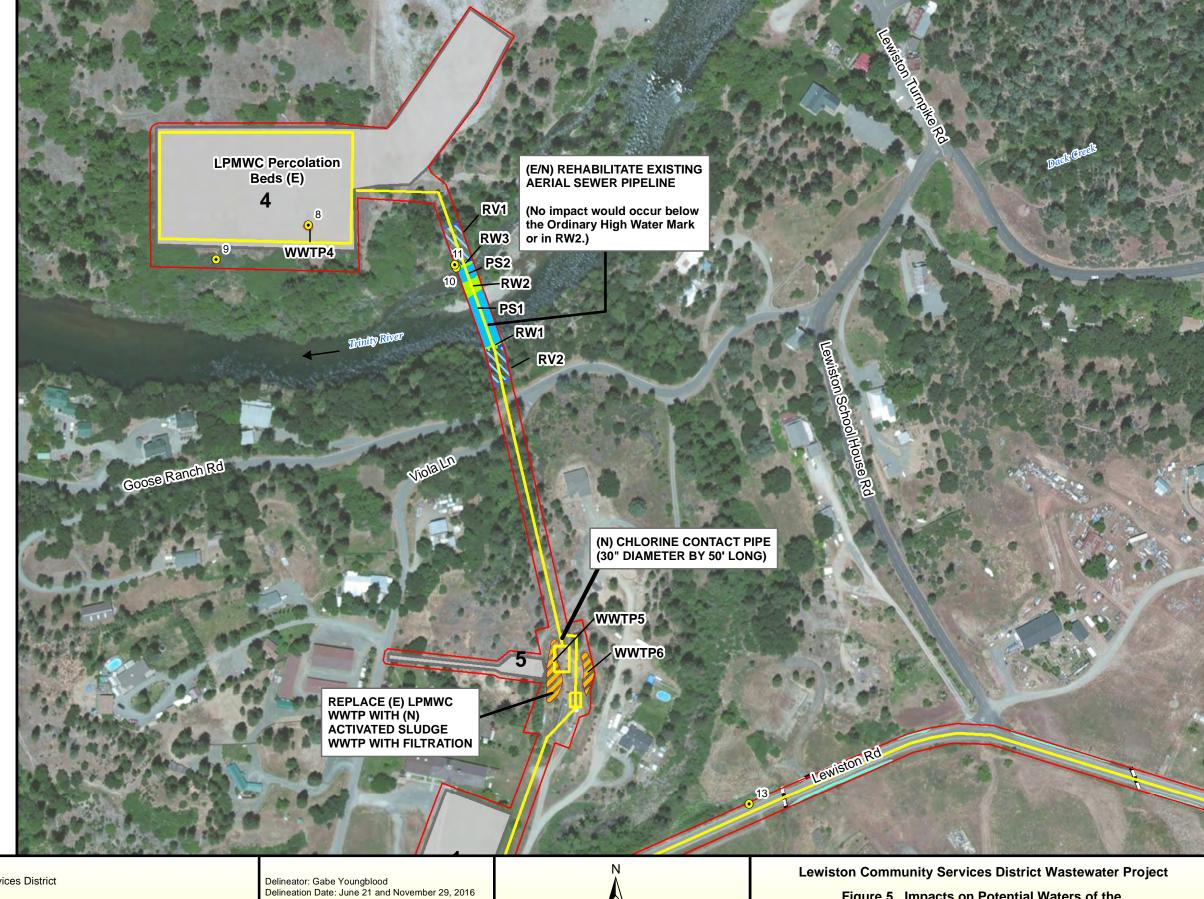


Figure 5. Impacts on Potential Waters of the United States and Waters of the State

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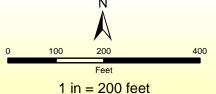
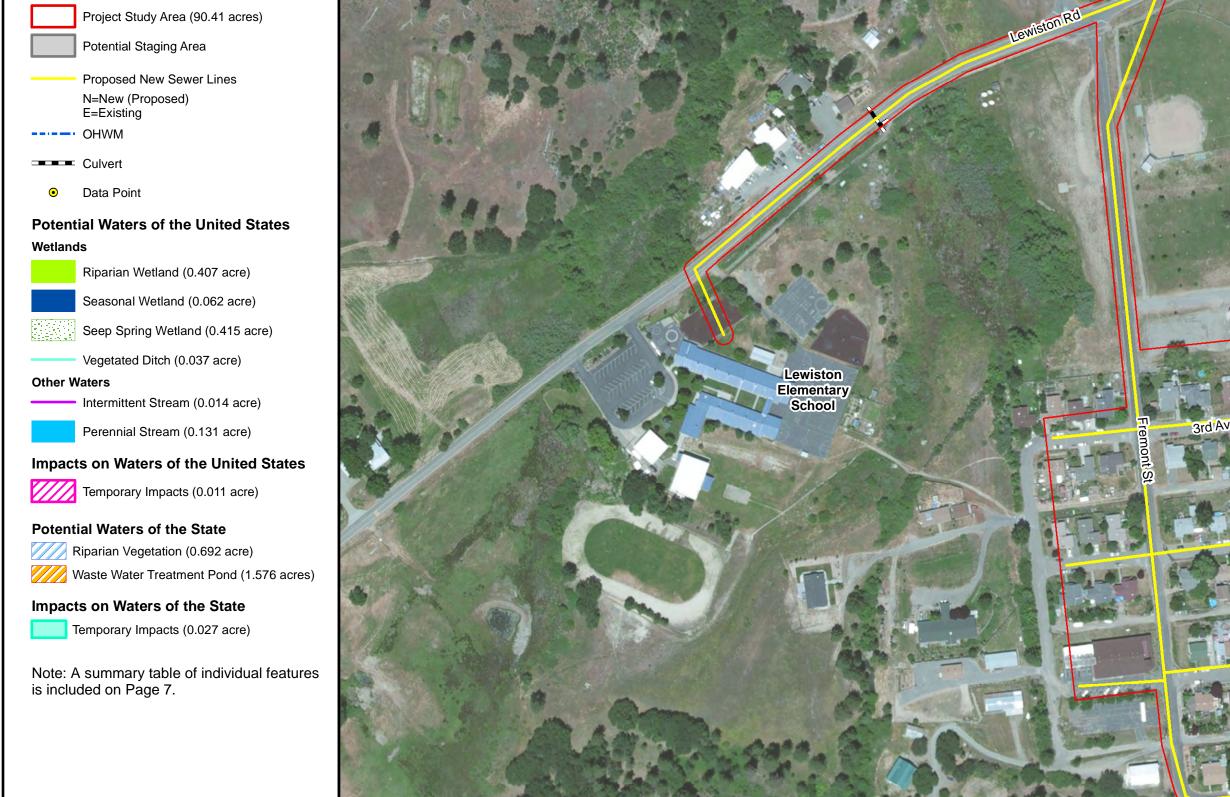


Figure 5. Impacts on Potential Waters of the **United States and Waters of the State**

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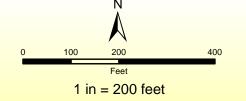


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Lewiston Community Services District Wastewater Project

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Figure 5. Impacts on Potential Waters of the United States and Waters of the State

January 2017

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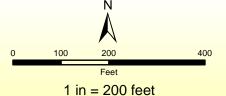


Figure 5. Impacts on Potential Waters of the **United States and Waters of the State**

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Summary of Potential Waters of the United States							
Wetlands							
Label	<u>Type</u>	Cowardin Type	Location (UTM m)	Area (ac)	Length (ft)	Width (ft)	
RW1	Riparian Wetland	PSS1	516048, 4506087	0.006			
RW2	Riparian Wetland	PFO1	516033, 4506124	0.025			
RW3	Riparian Wetland	PSS1	516027, 4506139	0.006			
RW4	Riparian Wetland	PSS1	516027, 4506140	0.370			
Subtotal				0.407			
SW1	Seasonal Wetland	PSS1	517047, 4506263	0.054			
SW2	Seasonal Wetland	PEM1	516933, 4506596	0.008			
Subtotal				0.062			
SSW1	Seep Spring Wetland	PFO1	516743, 4506499	0.415			
VD1	Vegetated Ditch	PEM2	516314, 4505844	0.005	101	2	
VD2	Vegetated Ditch	PEM2	516272, 4505814	0.011	230	2	
VD3	Vegetated Ditch	PEM2	516411, 4505837	0.010	214	2	
VD4	Vegetated Ditch	PEM2	516524, 4505793	0.011	240	2	
Subtotal				0.037	785		
Total Wetlands				0.921	785		
Total Wetlands				0.021	100		
Other Waters							
Label	<u>Type</u>			Area (ac)	Length (ft)	Width (ft)	
IS1	Intermittent Stream	R4SB	516771, 4506545	0.011	164	3	
IS2	Intermittent Stream	R4SB	517168, 4506440	0.003	115	1	
Subtotal				0.014	279		
PS1	Perennial Stream	R3UB1	516041, 4506105	0.102	35	114	
PS2	Perennial Stream	R3UB1	516029, 4506133	0.029	39	34	
Subtotal	1 oronnar outdan	TOOD!	010020, 1000100	0.131	74	0.	
Total Other Wa	ters			0.145	353		
Total Potent	ial Waters of the United State	es		1.066	1,138		
_		-					

Summary of Excluded Waters of the United States								
Isolated Features								
<u>Label</u>	<u>Type</u>	Cowardin Type	Location (UTMm)	Area (ac)	Length (ft)	Width (ft)		
WWTP1	Wastewater Treatment Pond	PEM2	516875, 4506588	0.450				
WWTP2	Wastewater Treatment Pond	PEM2	516820, 4506588	0.416				
WWTP3	Wastewater Treatment Pond	PEM2	516811, 4506520	0.603				
WWTP4	Wastewater Treatment Pond	PEM2	515930, 4506162	0.005				
WWTP5	Wastewater Treatment Pond	PEM2	516089, 4505881	0.069				
WWTP6	Wastewater Treatment Pond	PEM2	516110, 4505882	0.033				
Total Excluded Waters of the United States				1.576				

Impacts on Potential Waters of the United States								
Temporary Impacts								
Wetlands								
<u>Label</u>	<u>Type</u>	Cowardin Type	Location (UTMm)	Area (ac)	Length (ft)	Width (ft)		
SSW1	Seep Spring Wetland	PFO1	516743, 4506499	0.011				
Total Impacts	s on Potential Waters of the Unit		0.011					

Summary of Potential Waters of the State							
Label	<u>Type</u>	Location (UTM m)	Area (ac)	Length (ft)	Width (ft)		
RV1	Riparian Vegetation	516024, 4506152	0.071				
RV2	Riparian Vegetation	516051, 4506076	0.065				
RV3	Riparian Vegetation	516770, 4506499	0.318				
RV4	Riparian Vegetation	516713, 4506488	0.238				
Subtotal			0.692				
WWTP1	Wastewater Treatment Pond	516875, 4506588	0.450				
WWTP2	Wastewater Treatment Pond	516820, 4506588	0.416				
WWTP3	Wastewater Treatment Pond	516811, 4506520	0.603				
WWTP4	Wastewater Treatment Pond	515930, 4506162	0.005				
WWTP5	Wastewater Treatment Pond	516089, 4505881	0.069				
WWTP6	Wastewater Treatment Pond	516110, 4505882	0.033				
Subtotal			1.576				
Total Po	tential Waters of the State		2.268				

Impacts on Potential Waters of the State							
Temporary Impacts							
Label	<u>Type</u>	Location (UTM m)	Area (ac)	Length (ft)	Width (ft)		
RV4	Riparian Vegetation	516713, 4506488	0.027				
Total Impacts on Potential Waters of the State			0.027				

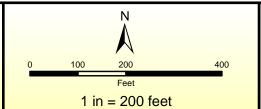


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This delineation of waters of the United States is subject to verification by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps). NSR advises all parties that the delineation is preliminary until the Corps provides a written verification.

Delineator: Gabe Youngblood Delineation Date: June 21, 2016 Aerial Photography Source: ESRI World Imagery

Coordinate System: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 10N Projection: Tansverse Mercator Datum: North American 1983



Lewiston Community Services District Wastewater Project

Figure 5. Impacts on Potential Waters of the United States and Waters of the State

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