



United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
Snake River Area Office
230 Collins Road
Boise, ID 83702-4520

IN REPLY REFER TO:

SRA-1208
2.1.4.17

Subject: Request for Comments Regarding the Proposed Warm Springs Preserve Restoration and Enhancement Project in Ketchum, Idaho

Dear Interested Party:

The Bureau of Reclamation received a proposal from the Wood River Land Trust (WRLT) for a WaterSMART (Sustain and Manage America's Resources for Tomorrow) grant to restore and enhance Warm Springs Creek and the Warm Springs Preserve property in Blaine County, Idaho. In 2022, the City of Ketchum took possession of 65 acres of the Warm Springs Ranch property and established the Warm Springs Preserve for public use. The City of Ketchum has partnered with the WRLT and various stakeholders including the Friends of the Warm Springs Preserve to create a renewed landscape to enhance the streamside park. The enhancement of the Warm Springs Preserve property includes a wide range of objectives related to recreation and restoration. Primary components of this project include restoration of aquatic habitat within the existing creek, creation of side channels, enhancement of floodplain connectivity, flood conveyance improvements, and establishment of native plant communities. Specific project elements include the following:

- Improvement of the Warm Springs Preserve diversion by creating a constructed riffle and removing the existing concrete headworks. The existing headworks will be replaced with a channel that is designed to divert perennial flow into the proposed diversion/side channel (“Baldy Channel”). The inlet of the Baldy Channel will include a gated steel and/or concrete water control structure.
- Instream earthwork (excavation and fill) within the existing mainstem channel to create pools, point bars, and constructed riffles to develop a more complex riverine network.
- Installation of large and small woody debris structures to promote in-channel complexity, force hydraulic response (scour, deposition, split flow, floodplain connection, sediment sorting, and overall hydraulic diversity), and provide cover for juvenile trout.
- Floodplain earthwork (excavation) to lower the floodplain to allow more frequent activation on a semi-annual basis (2-year recurrence interval flood or greater) and to create off-channel habitat including multiple perennial side channels and a small oxbow pond.
- Installation of two bridges where the parking lot access road crosses a proposed floodplain swale and the proposed Baldy Channel.

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* PARTIAL

- Revegetation by means of planting native species within the riparian zone and transplanting local vegetation harvested near the project site, as available.
- Improvement of pedestrian connection points to adjacent neighborhoods; River Run Lodge and Warm Springs Village.
- Establishment and accommodation of walking trails, off-leash dog access, informal activities (i.e., frisbee golf, dog walking), open fields for informal gatherings (i.e., picnics), Nordic ski trails, a public restroom/water bottle refill station, wayfinding signage, donor recognition elements, history of the property/donor interpretive signage, picnic tables, and benches.

More details on the proposed project can be found in the enclosed scoping information package.

Scoping is a public involvement process used to determine the scope of issues to be addressed and identify issues related to a proposed action. Comments received in response to this solicitation will be used to identify potential environmental issues related to the proposed action and to identify alternatives to the proposed action that meet the purpose of and need for the project.

Please send your written comments electronically to sra-nepa-comments@usbr.gov by **September 20, 2024**, or mail or hand-deliver to:

Mr. Rich Jackson
Natural Resource Specialist
Bureau of Reclamation
Snake River Area Office
230 Collins Road
Boise, ID 83702

Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, please be advised that your entire comment, including your personal identifying information, may be made publicly available at any time. While you may request that we withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

The primary contact for questions or comments for this analysis, accessibility needs, or other information is Mr. Jackson, and he can be reached at (208) 383-2285. If you are deaf, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability, please dial 7-1-1 to access telecommunications relay services.

Sincerely,

Bryan Horsburgh
Area Manager

Enclosure