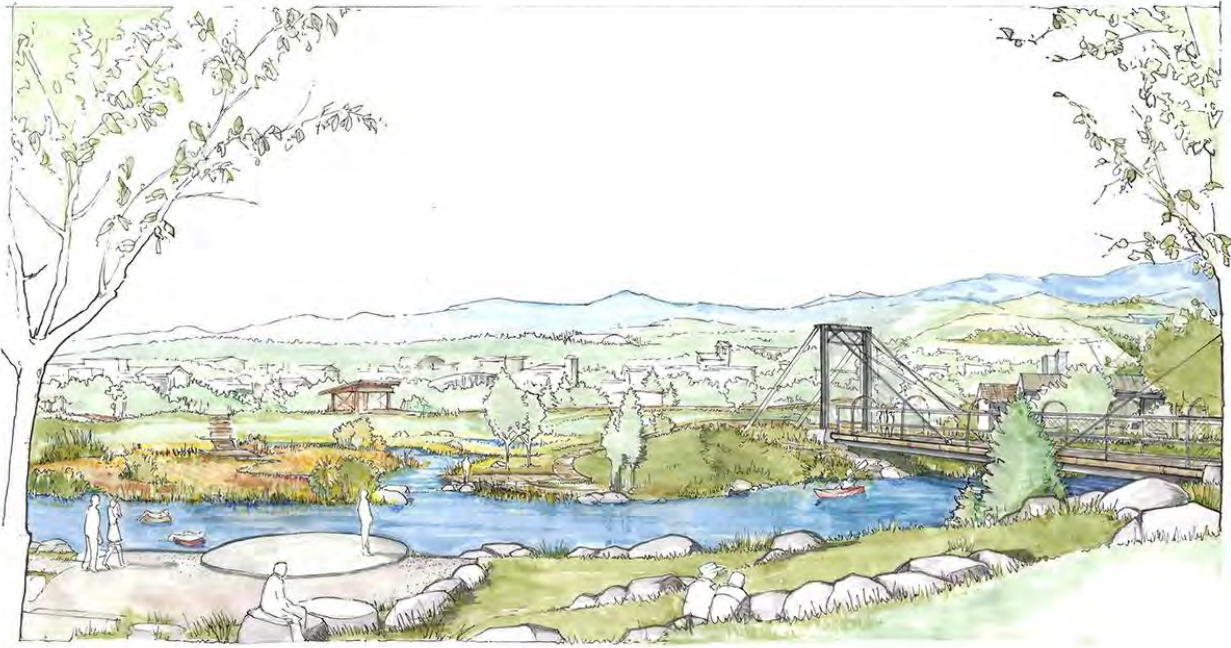


Rainey Park Stream Restoration and Wetland Creation



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D.2.2.2.4 Executive Summary

March 28, 2023

Applicant

City of Pocatello

Pocatello, Bannock County, Idaho

The City of Pocatello seeks to implement a river restoration project on the Portneuf River in Pocatello, Idaho. Within Pocatello the health of the Portneuf River has been severely compromised by its flood protection levees and concrete channel, which removed hundreds of acres of wetlands when installed. Restoration will be accomplished by moving the river's existing riprapped levee, constructed in 1968 by the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), to enclose an area of City-owned property. A wetland and side channel will be installed within the levee, along with ADA-accessible river access for anglers and floaters. Additionally, a stormwater pond will be installed to capture the first flush of sediment-laden waters off of City streets. This project builds on the concepts developed in the 2016 Portneuf River Vision Study (City of Pocatello/USACE 2016) and includes a wide range of environmental goals including improving hydrologic functions by increasing floodplain, wetland, and riparian habitat areas, as well as improving water quality. The proposed wetland creation and levee-moving project is part of a larger park project, which includes parking lot and park improvements on both sides of the river. Funding requested in this funding opportunity will help fund the river and wetland restoration and stormwater pond portion of the project only. These other parts of the project will be built in future phases.

The proposed project will take one year to complete, with construction estimated to begin in July 2025 and to be completed by June 2026.

The proposed planning efforts are not focused on a Federal facility and will not involve federal land.

D.2.2.2.5 Project Location

The Rainey Park Stream Restoration and Wetland Creation project is located just south of downtown Pocatello, Idaho, south of Interstate 86, west of Interstate 15, and adjacent to South Arthur Avenue and Terry Street (Figure 1). The latitude and longitude of the project is 42°51'15.74" N and 112°26'45.45" W (<https://goo.gl/maps/yvTK8JfedF4VHPfZ7>) and it lies within Section 35, T6S, R34E, Boise Meridian. Along the project site, the Portneuf River is constrained on both sides by riprapped levees of the Portneuf River Flood Control Project.

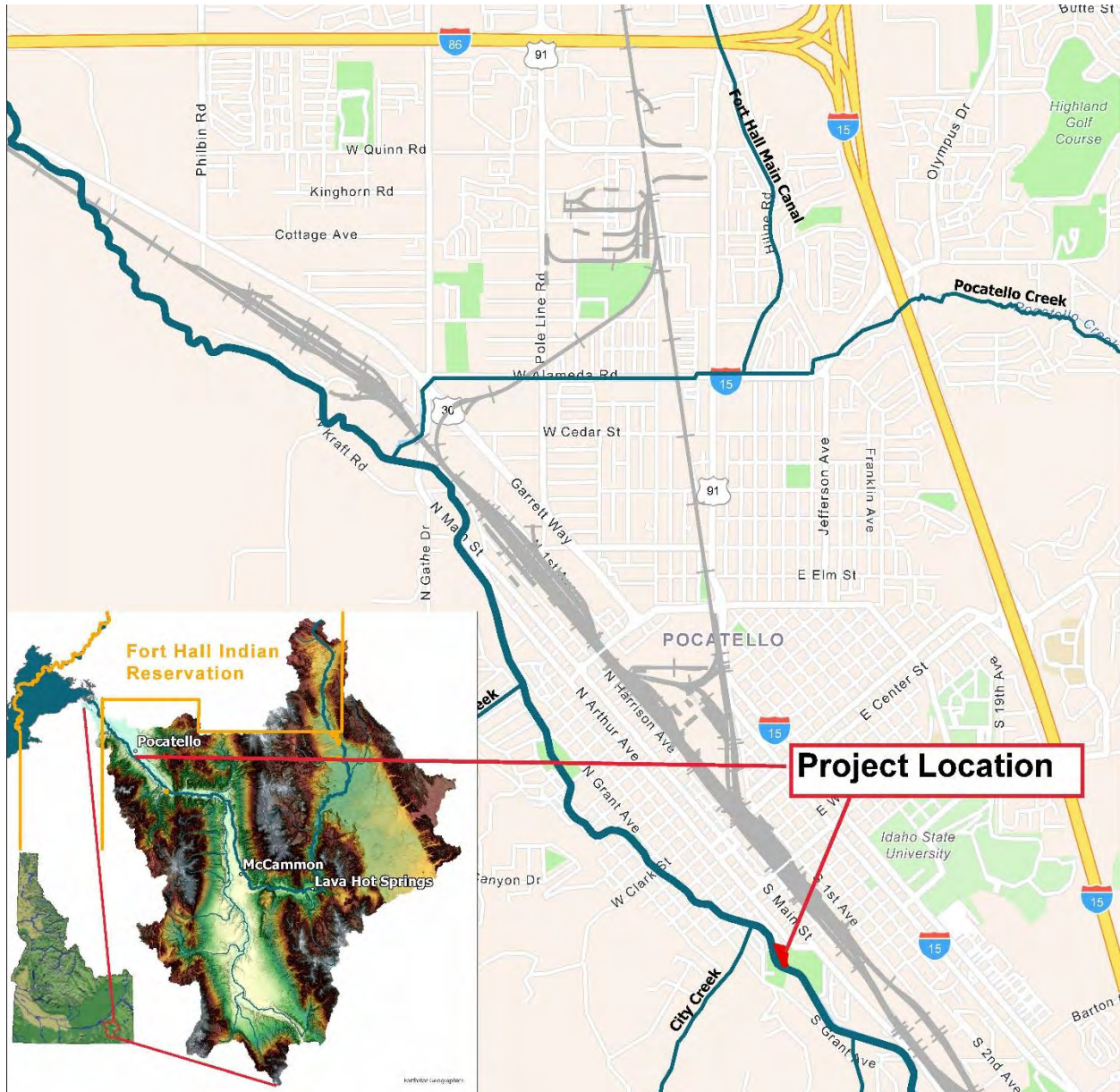


Figure 1. Project Location –Downtown Pocatello, Idaho. Inset shows the Portneuf Watershed. The Portneuf River flows northwest in Pocatello towards the Snake River and American Falls Reservoir.

D.2.2.2.6 Technical Project Description

The proposed project seeks to improve urban river health and access by creating a wetland with a side channel within the Portneuf River flood control project in Pocatello, Idaho. Additionally, a stormwater pond will be constructed just up gradient of the proposed wetland to capture the first flush of runoff from City streets. The wetland and side channel will be created by moving the river's levee, constructed in 1968 by the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), to enclose an area of City-owned property. This project builds on the concepts developed in the 2016 Portneuf River Vision Study (City of Pocatello/USACE 2016) and includes a wide range of environmental goals including improving hydrologic functions by increasing floodplain, wetland, and riparian habitat areas, as well as improving water quality. The project will also provide ADA-accessible river access for anglers and floaters.

The proposed stormwater pond installation, wetland creation, and levee moving project is part of a larger park improvement project (Figure 2) which includes parking lot and park improvements on both sides of the river. These other parts of the project will be built in future phases.

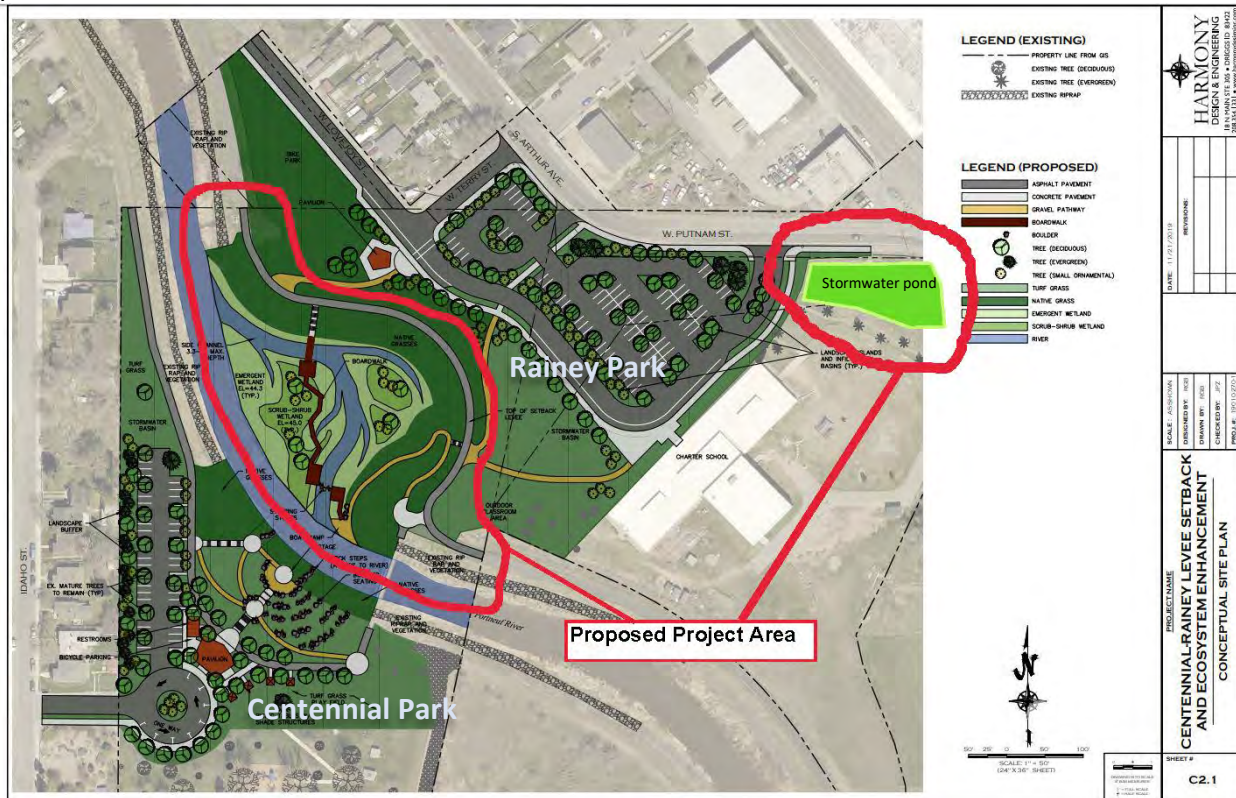


Figure 2. Concept Plan for the entire Centennial-Rainey Ecosystem Enhancement Project

Currently, the project area where the wetland and side channel will be installed consists of riprapped river levee and an unused grass ballfield (Figure 3). The stormwater pond will be installed in a historic Portneuf River oxbow that is now filled with a mix of native/non-native grasses.



Figure 3. Existing Conditions for the entire Centennial-Rainey Ecosystem Enhancement Project

A close-up of the levee that will be moved as part of this project is shown in Figure 4. This levee has created a barrier between the public and the river with its 3:1 slopes and large 1.5' - 3' rock riprap about halfway down. The levees run on both sides of the river for 4.6 miles, ending just north of this project, where 1.6 miles of concrete channel runs north through downtown Pocatello. The proposed project site is one of the few parcels of public land on the Portneuf River



within City limits. The nearest public river access is over 2 miles away on the north edge of the City (just north of where the concrete channel ends).

Figure 5 is a picture of the area, looking northeast across the river at the levee that will be moved with the proposed project, shortly after the levees were installed in 1968. These 4.6 miles of levees and 1.6 miles of concrete channel severely compromised the health of the Portneuf River. Trees are not permitted to be planted alongside them and additional vegetation is required to be maintained at 6" in height. The proposed project seeks to add taller vegetation within the levees and demonstrates ecological restoration within this flood control project.



Figure 5: View of the Levee looking Northeast.

This City seeks to implement a restoration project that will make a marked difference to the health of the ecosystem, demonstrate the potential of additional restoration in this area, and make Rainey Park a destination for floaters, fisherpersons, and river watchers in Pocatello.

The waterline that is shown in Figure 5 running across the river is in the location of a current pedestrian bridge across the river. Figure 6 is a current picture of the levees in the area.



Figure 6: Current day photo of levees at proposed project site, with some shrub and grass regrowth on the inset floodplain within the flood control levees. Photo looks upstream at existing bridge across the Portneuf.



Figure 7: Portneuf River Vision Riprap Levees

The proposed project is the second project in a long line of restoration efforts to rehabilitate the Portneuf River ecosystem.

The first project was the installation of water access points for floating and fishing, which this project will also include.

The City wants to transform the Portneuf River from a closed off waterway to a front door amenity.

Within the levees and concrete channel there is no public river access, except by scrambling over the levee rocks in a couple locations.

The proposed project demonstrates what is feasible in this semi-arid and heavily developed ecosystem. It connects an urban community to its riparian habitat with the installation of something precious and otherwise rarely seen in the valley: a wetland.



Figure 8. Proposed park concept, looking across the river at the proposed wetland, new side channel and relocated levee.

The above image depicts the entire park project on both sides of the river. It looks across the river at the proposed wetland and side channel.

The proposed project scope includes setback of approximately 625 linear feet of right bank levee, addition of a side channel, river and wetland access, and wetland construction. These features will all be discussed separately.

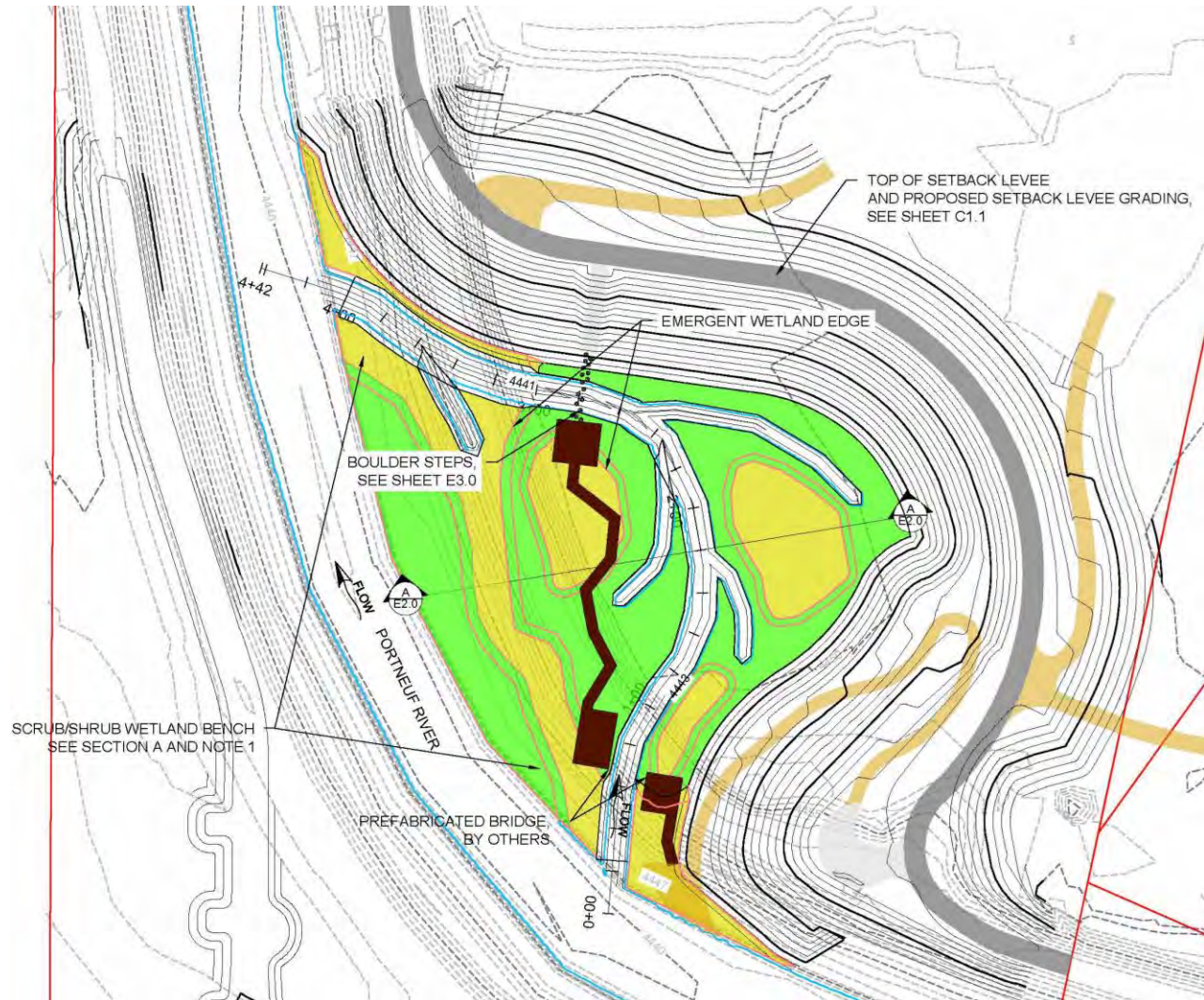


Figure 9. Proposed wetland and side channel, along with new levee location and stream access. You can faintly see where the levee used to run under the edge of the new wetland.

RIVER RESTORATION (SIDE CHANNEL) DESIGN

The proposed side channel is intended to increase the complexity of riverine and floodplain habitats and to provide hydrologic support for the proposed wetland complex. The proposed side channel has been designed to have perennial flow during low flow conditions in an average water year (50th percentile) and consists of a gravel-cobble gradation. The side channel banks include bioengineering revegetation treatments and biodegradable erosion control fabric installed to resist erosion in the first few years while revegetation treatments are becoming established.

WETLAND DESIGN

The proposed wetland will serve as a demonstration of the value of floodplain wetlands and the type of habitat enhancement that is possible along the Portneuf River, restore one (1) acre of the hundreds of acres of wetlands that were removed when the levees were installed, and mitigate wetland impacts associated with the levee moving project.

The planned project wetland will consist of both emergent and scrub-shrub zones. Emergent zones will be located along the mainstem Portneuf and constructed side channel, and the scrub-shrub zones will be located on slightly elevated benches surrounded by the emergent zones.

LEVEE DESIGN

The levee design was developed with the goal of maintaining the authorized purpose of the federal project (that is, flood control). Documents related to the original design and construction of the levee were reviewed to determine parameters related to the authorized purpose/design.

The lower half of the existing riverside levee slopes are lined with riprap for erosion protection. The proposed improvements include a new setback levee to provide space for the wetland described above, as well as to allow for access to the river. Project desires such as recreation, ADA access, ease of maintenance, and river-community connectivity, result in a wider, flatter levee design that will be more robust than the existing levees. Riprap slope protection is included at locations that are subjected to erosive velocities. The top of the levee will be a 10' wide paved walking/biking trail, connecting to existing trail at either end.

RIVER ACCESS DESIGN

Currently users have to cross a rough path across the levee rocks to reach the water. The proposed project includes (at its south end) an ADA accessible path down to the river, with a bridge and boardwalk over the proposed wetland, and stepping stones and stairs back up to the levee top at the north end of the proposed project side. These features will help a wide variety of residents and visitors connect with the Portneuf River and a wetland in Pocatello.

STORMWATER POND DESIGN

In order to capture the first flush of stormwater runoff, which is heavily laden with silts in the Pocatello area, a stormwater pond will be installed just east of the proposed wetland. It will capture sediment laden runoff from 450 acres of City streets, infiltrating it into the ground. To make this happen, water will be diverted into this proposed pond from a 48" stormwater pipe that discharges into the Portneuf River at the downstream (north) edge of the proposed wetland.



Figure 10: Stormwater in Project Area

Figure 10 shows the proposed stormwater pond and connecting manhole/pipe in red. The City's existing stormwater pipe is shown in pink. The proposed project would direct water off the street and from the stormwater pipe into this new pond. The existing pipe to the Portneuf River would be left in place to accommodate overflow storm events.

D.2.2.2.7 Applicant Category and Eligibility of Applicant

The City of Pocatello is a Category A applicant (local authority).

The proposed project fits into Category C:

- Improving stream channel structure and complexity;
- Improving channel/flood plain connectivity;
- Stream restoration to improve [...] riparian habitat;
- Restoring backwater/flood plain areas (for larval and juvenile fish and other wildlife species) to enhance and maintain rearing as well as feeding and foraging habitats;
- Using or restoring natural features to address water management issues;
- Restoration projects that enhance commercial recreational, subsistence, or Tribal ceremonial fishing, and river-based recreation.

The proposed project was conceived as part of the 2016 Portneuf River Vision Study. USACE and City of Pocatello led this effort, along with community members representing state agencies (Idaho Fish & Game, Idaho DEQ, Idaho Transportation Department), an institution of higher education (Idaho State University), local government (Bannock County), local organizations (Bannock Transportation & Planning Organization, Neighborworks Pocatello, Old Town Pocatello, Portneuf Greenway Foundation, Valley Pride, Portneuf Health Trust), businesses (Simplot, Idaho Power, Veteran’s Memorial Building), and residents. <https://river.pocatello.gov/>

The Portneuf River Vision Study was supported by the Portneuf Watershed Partnership (PWP), with many of its members serving on the Vision Study committee. The PWP is a collaborative organization that seeks “to improve surface and groundwater resources in the greater Portneuf watershed through partnership, outreach, research monitoring and restoration activities.” The PWP is made up of local elected officials, tribal members, state and federal land management agencies, non-profit organizations, and local businesses. The PWP meets monthly to share activities, information and resources for improved watershed management. The organization sponsors special projects that address the concerns of the stakeholders including restoration activities and public outreach. <https://portneufwatershed.org/>

D.2.2.2.8 Performance Measures

The applicant will work with Idaho State University biologists and geologists, as well as Idaho Department of Environmental Quality and Idaho Fish & Game to develop a multi-year monitoring plan that will assess the impact of the project on water quality, and communities of riparian plants, fish, and wildlife. Specifically, total fish biomass and fish and amphibian species counts will be performed. Abundance and community composition of aquatic riparian arthropods and macroinvertebrates will be surveyed. Riparian condition will be monitored for a minimum of 5 years using photo points and green line surveys in areas where planting and other restoration techniques are applied. Additionally, an aquatic resource delineation has already been performed by Biota Research and Consulting using the 2010 Regional Supplement to the Corps of Engineers Aquatic Resource Delineation Manual. This is further discussed under Evaluation Criteria, E.1.5.

D.2.2.2.9 Evaluation Criteria

E.1.1 Evaluation Criterion A: Project Benefits (25 points)

E.1.1.1.1 General Project Benefits

Address the following questions for all project types as applicable to your project. Proposals containing a well-supported description and quantification of benefits will receive more points.

Explain how the project will *benefit ecological values that have a nexus to water resources or water resources management*, including benefits to plant and animal species, fish and wildlife habitat, riparian areas, and ecosystems that are supported by rivers, streams, and/or other water sources, or that are directly influenced by water resources management.

In your response, identify the specific ecological values benefitted and how those ecological values depend on, or are influenced by, water resources or water resources management.

Ecological Values Benefit

This project will produce clear ecological benefits to the fish, wildlife, and habitats of southeastern Idaho. As the Portneuf River meanders north out of the sagebrush steppe and agricultural uplands and into its levee and concrete channel through the City of Pocatello, it is often the only surface water for miles. The historic riparian wetlands (visible in 1941 aerial photographs) in Pocatello were all removed with the installation of the levees and concrete channel. While some wetlands have reformed within the levees, reaching approximately 5 feet back from the water's edge, these are minimal in their extent. The proposed project will re-create a healthy riparian wetland, providing needed habitat for invertebrates, amphibians, birds, fish and small mammals. It is likely to get use from area mule deer and moose as well. There is little structural diversity within the levees or concrete channel to slow down water or provide quality habitat for fish and other aquatic life.

Because so much of the habitat along the Portneuf River is degraded within the 6.2 miles of levees and concrete channel, providing a habitat lift with this project will greatly improve the ecosystem health along the entire river corridor through Pocatello.

If the project will benefit *aquatic or riparian ecosystems* within the watershed (e.g., by reducing flood risk, reducing bank erosion, increasing biodiversity, or preserving native species), explain the extent of those benefits (i.e., magnitude and geographic extent). Estimate expected project benefits to ecosystems and provide documentation and support for this estimate, including a detailed explanation of how the estimate was determined.

Aquatic or Riparian Ecosystems Benefit

Aquatic organisms stand to benefit greatly from this project:

- Improved vigor of riparian wetlands and streambank vegetation boosts input of terrestrial invertebrate prey to aquatic organisms and can fuel growth in local fish populations.
- Riparian vegetation prevents sediment and chemicals generated from adjacent land uses from entering rivers, helping to improve water quality for amphibians and other aquatic organisms.
- Capturing sediment with the proposed stormwater pond (to prevent it from entering the river) limits sediment from choking out downstream spawning areas and benthic macroinvertebrate production hotspots, increasing recruitment and improving growth. The proposed wetland will also capture sediment.
- Riparian vegetation provides roosting structure and nectar resources for pollinators.
- Riparian vegetation provides cool air refugia for invertebrates, amphibians, and reptiles.
- Developing alcove and backwater habitats helps survival of young fishes.
- Floodplain wetlands improved by this project provide valuable habitat for migrating and breeding waterfowl.

If the project will benefit *specific species and habitats*, describe the species and/or type of habitat that will benefit and the status of the species or habitat (e.g., native species, game species, federally threatened or endangered, State listed, or designated critical habitat). Describe the extent (i.e., magnitude and geographic extent) to which the project will benefit the species or habitat, including an estimate of expected project benefits and documentation and support for the estimate.

If the proposed project will benefit *federally listed threatened or endangered species*, address the following:

- Is the species subject to a recovery plan or conservation plan under the ESA?
- What is the relationship of the species to water supply?
- What is the extent of the proposed project that would reduce the likelihood of listing or would otherwise improve the status of the species?
- Is the species adversely affected by a Reclamation project?

Species and Habitats Benefit

The proposed project will improve habitat for:

Yellowstone cutthroat trout

The vertical-sided concrete flume and the riprap-lined channel which borders both ends of the concrete channel that encompasses the Portneuf River in Pocatello is a barrier at most flows to upstream fish movement. During mid-summer when most of the upriver flow is diverted, river depth in the channel is extremely shallow. This project will benefit Yellowstone cutthroat trout by providing security with increased habitat complexity where there currently is close to none, creating fish nursery areas in the created wetlands, and providing a mechanism to remove sediment from the Portneuf River.

Northern leopard frog

The Northern Leopard Frog is designated as a Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) in Idaho. Streams that are allowed to meander provide better habitat for amphibians and reptiles. In fact, land use changes that increase the availability of moisture, cover, and water, especially in arid environments, will provide the greatest reduction in potential impacts related to a changing climate for amphibians and reptiles. Additionally, Northern Leopard Frogs have been isolated into two (2) populations upstream and downstream of the City of Pocatello since the installation of the flood control project. The proposed project will make significant progress towards reconnecting these isolated populations.

Monarch butterfly

The Monarch Butterfly is designated as an SGCN in Idaho and is a candidate for listing under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). Riparian and wetland habitats can support milkweed for Monarch larvae and flowering shrubs and perennial flowers for nectar resources.

Yellow-billed cuckoo

The Yellow-billed cuckoo (YBC) is designated as an SGCN in Idaho and is an ESA threatened species. YBC are highly nomadic and follow important insect food resources to raise their young quickly. YBC have been documented breeding just north of Pocatello on the main stem Snake River and have been observed at stopover sites around eastern Idaho. Creating riparian habitat and potential food resources along the Portneuf River may benefit YBC as they move north to breeding habitats on the Snake River.

Additionally, the proposed project will benefit multiple Idaho SGCN, including American avocet, American bittern, Common nighthawk, Grasshopper sparrow, Olive-sided flycatcher, Sage thrasher, Sagebrush sparrow, Sandhill crane, Short-eared owl, Trumpeter swan, White-faced ibis, Hoary bat, Silver-haired bat, Townsend's big-eared bat, Little brown myotis, and native pollinators. As with amphibians, many of these species are known to use riparian habitats up and downstream of Pocatello, and this project has the potential to create and island of habitat for them within the urban zone.

Will the project address *drought conditions or drought-related impacts on water supplies, habitat, species, or the ecosystem as a whole? Is yes, describe past and current drought conditions and impacts and forecasted drought conditions and anticipated impacts. How will this project help build resilience to drought?*

Healthy wetlands and floodplains slow water during high flow (floods) and release it slowly during low flow (drought). They also improve aquifer recharge through infiltration. The Portneuf River Ecosystem has been highly impacted by recent drought years. The proposed project will be the only sizeable floodplain and wetland within the 6.2-mile flood control project. Its importance as a habitat refuge becomes much more critical during drought years. Recent drought years have dropped river flows to 25 CFS in summer months (from 250 CFS in the fall/winter). Low water summers are predicted to continue. The proposed side channel stream will dry up during these dry months. To ensure that the proposed wetland stays green during these long, hot and dry summers, the City intends to provide some irrigation within the wetland area. This will not only improve the summertime aesthetics of the area for the urban population, but will provide additional habitat for wetland species.

Finally, about 20' below the river is a shallow aquifer, which may be recharged by river flows and stormwater flows within the proposed project. This will help maintain water levels within the Lower Portneuf Valley Aquifer, which is the City of Pocatello's sole source for drinking water.

If the project will result in long-term improvements to water quality (e.g., decrease sediment or nutrient pollution, improve water temperature, or mitigate impacts from floods or drought), explain the extent of those benefits (i.e., magnitude and geographic extent). Estimate the expected project benefits to water quality and provide documentation and support for this estimate, including a detailed explanation of how the estimate was determined.

The proposed project is expected to yield long-term improvements in water quality in a 303(d) listed stream: the Portneuf River. The River has a TDML, which targets reductions in sediment, phosphorous, nitrogen, oil & grease, and bacteria. Sediment is the primary pollutant of concern in the proposed project area.

Water Quality improvements will occur with the proposed project by expanding the river's floodplain, and installing a riverine side channel and wetland, which will capture some of the river's sediment and nutrient load, including potential for processing and even removal of some of the latter. As this project is located in a section of river that is within a levee and concrete channel for 6.2 miles, the improvements will be highly impactful. The levees and channel were designed to limit sediment from settling out.

Additionally, the proposed stormwater pond, which will be designed to capture 95% of storm events, will capture at least 2-3 tons of sediment each year from 450 acres of City streets and property. This value was calculated from estimated load calculations for City stormwater runoff during 2021 and 2022 (which were low water years so we also assume that the total volume of sediment captured will be larger). Continuous flow monitors and turbidity probes have been

placed in three City stormwater drainages for the past 2-3 years, including the Rainey Park drainage that feeds into the proposed stormwater pond. Data is collected every 15 minutes from these sensors. Suspended sediment concentration (SSC) grab samples were also collected to enable load calculation. The City worked closely with ISU and Idaho DEQ staff to estimate the load in the Rainey Park drainage.

Removing this sediment source will make an impact to Portneuf River water quality, particularly as it is also high in salts (from salting roads). The City of Pocatello is working to eliminate most of its stormwater drainages from direct discharge into the Portneuf River as current City sediment discharges greatly exceed the river's TMDL standard. The mean SSC load in the Portneuf River at Pocatello is 52.7 tons/day, with the load exceeding the Portneuf River's TMDL standard (35mg/L for low flow and 80mg/L during high flow conditions) on 58% of all days (based on continuous monitoring performed every 15 minutes).

The collected sediment in the proposed pond will be removed from the pond by the City periodically and placed onto upland areas. Sediment is the biggest pollutant in the Portneuf River in the Pocatello area. Other listed pollutants in City runoff include nitrogen, phosphorous, oil & grease, and bacteria. They all sorb onto sediment. Recently, the agricultural community upstream of Pocatello has dramatically decreased sediment inputs from their fields. The expected sediment settlement from the new wetland and stormwater pond will help the City of Pocatello also make a marked improvement to water quality by reducing its sediment contributions.

E.1.1.2 Subcriterion A.2: Multiple Benefits

Explain how and to what extent the project will benefit multiple water uses. Address the following:

If the project will benefit multiple water uses (e.g., benefits to ecological values AND benefits to other water uses, including municipal; agricultural; Tribal; commercial, recreational, subsistence, or Tribal ceremonial fishing; and river-based recreation), explain how and to what extent the project will benefit multiple water uses.

Reducing sediment inputs to the river and restoring floodplain function will benefit multiple downstream water users by improving water quality, slowing and reducing high flows, and releasing water later in the season after it has been cleaned by the wetland. Benefitted users include:

- Shoshone Bannock tribal members who consider the downstream Fort Hall Bottoms of the Portneuf River an important cultural and subsistence area;
- Hydropower at American Falls dam due to reduced sediment load into the reservoir;
- Agricultural users downstream on the Snake River; and
- River recreationists (floaters, swimmers, and anglers). Portneuf River use for recreation has increased considerably in recent years, and demographic changes in the West suggest that these trends will continue. The development of an ADA-accessible access ramp and improving habitat further increases the value of this area to consumptive and non-

consumptive users alike. Indirectly, the river access aids river health by concentrating use and preventing user-developed access points and river launches.

This project will be an invaluable demonstration of a first big step toward restoring wetland and floodplain function of a river that has been channelized through the Pocatello area. The proximity to this population center and the science resources of ISU position it as a great demonstration project to promote restoration throughout the region.

E.1.2 Evaluation Criterion B: Collaborative Planning (20 Points)

Strategy or Plan: Is your proposed project supported by a specific strategy or planning document? If so, identify the strategy or planning document by name and address the following questions:

- When was the plan or strategy prepared and for what purpose?
- What types of issues are addressed in the plan? For example, does the plan address water quantity issues, water quality issues, and/or issues related to ecosystem and watershed health or the health of species and habitat within the watershed?
- Is one of the purposes of the strategy or plan to increase the reliability of a water supply for ecological values?

In December 2016, the Portneuf River Vision Study (see Appendix and <https://river.pocatello.gov/documents/planning/2016.RiverVision.ExecutiveSummary.final.small.pdf>) was completed by the USACE under the authority of Section 22 of the Water Resource Development Act (WRDA) of 1974, as amended. The 2016 Vision Study provides a master plan for the Portneuf River that was developed as a collaborative effort between the USACE and the City, with significant public input. The Vision Study provides a shared community vision that integrates existing policies, plans, and innovative ideas for the future of the Portneuf River within and outside of the flood control project.

The Vision of the Portneuf River Vision Study is to: “Restore the Portneuf River corridor in order to revitalize environmental, recreational, and economic opportunities while increasing community pride, connectivity, and quality of life.”

The Portneuf River Vision Study has four guiding principles: 1) Ecosystem Health (including water quality and quantity); 2) Access and Recreation; 3) Community Engagement; and 4) Economic Development. Dozens of goals and action items fall into each of these categories.

Strategy or Plan Development: Was the strategy or plan developed through a collaborative process by:

- A watershed group, as defined in Section 6001(6) of the Cooperative Watershed Management Act? **OR**
- A water user and one or more stakeholders with diverse interests (e.g., stakeholders representing different water use sectors such as agriculture, municipal, Tribal, recreational, or environmental)?

The Vision Study was developed through a collaborative process involving stakeholders representing a variety of sectors including: municipal, recreational, environmental, business, residential, and other concerns.

Describe who was involved in preparing the plan and whether the plan was prepared with input from stakeholders with diverse interests (e.g., water, land, or forest management interests; and agricultural, municipal, Tribal, environmental, and recreation uses)? Describe the process used for interested stakeholders to provide input during the development of the strategy or plan. For some Tribal strategies or plans, collaboration could include working with entities representing multiple interests within the Tribe (e.g., Tribal water agencies; Tribal fish and wildlife agencies, cities, or towns on Tribal land; Tribal fisheries; Tribal industries; and agriculture).

The 40-member Vision Study Working Group included landowners along the Portneuf River, community leaders, planners, environmentalists, industry representatives, scientists, and engineers. The Working Group synthesized public input to develop goals and recommendations that would meet the community’s desires for the river. As part of the public involvement process, over 600 community members attended presentations, 500 learned about the project at community events, 150 attended project open houses and over 1000 community members provided input through two 20-minute long separate online surveys asking them to rank their preferences for various restoration initiatives. At each of these events, feedback was received and incorporated into the planning documents. Thousands more residents learned about the project through TV and radio ads and social media.



If the strategy or plan was prepared by an entity other than the applicant, explain why it is applicable to the proposed project. Describe whether and how the applicant was involved in the development of the strategy or plan. If the applicant was not involved in the development, explain why.

- For Tribal strategies or plans that were developed collaboratively with multiple Tribal interests, but did not include collaboration with external entities, provide an explanation as to why collaboration with entities external to the Tribe were not involved in the development of the strategy or plan.

The Shoshone Bannock Tribes were invited to be part of the Vision Study working group and received regular updates. The Vision Study area did not include land/water on the Fort Hall Indian Reservation. Since this time, the Tribes have engaged with the City in designing interpretive signage for River Access points.

Strategy or Plan Support for Project: Describe how the plan or strategy provides support for your proposed project.

- Does the proposed project implement a goal or need identified in the plan?
- Describe how the proposed project is prioritized in the referenced plan or strategy.

The Vision Study found that the top community priorities for the river are to improve water quality and ecosystem health and to enhance recreation and access. **The proposed Rainey Park Stream Restoration and Wetland Creation Project was identified in the Vision Study as a top priority short-term project (labelled as 'Centennial Park Project') that meets the community's vision.** A concept plan for the proposed project was included in the Vision Study, which creates space for water trail access, fishing opportunities, riparian habitat and floodplain restoration, seasonal constructed wetlands, greenway trail extensions, interpretive and educational signage, and picnic area development.

In 2018, students in the Utah State University Landscape Architecture Department further developed the Vision Study concept plan for the Centennial-Rainey project. Working closely with the City, they conducted additional community outreach as part of this effort. A more specific design for the project was developed and additional elements included wetland boardwalks and lookouts, an amphitheater, an outdoor classroom, a nature playground, and a pump track.

In April 2019, the City contracted with Harmony Design & Engineering to further refine the concept plan and prepare a Section 408 modification request (request for alteration of a federal flood control project) to submit to the USACE. In January 2022 60% Design drawings (along with hydrologic analysis, environmental documentation, geotechnical data analysis and engineering) were provided to the USACE for their 60% Design review as part of the Section 408 process.

E.1.3 Evaluation Criterion C: Stakeholder Support for Proposed Project (15 Points)

Describe the level of stakeholder support for the proposed project. Are letters of support from stakeholders provided? Are any stakeholders providing support for the project through cost-share contributions or through other types of contributions to the project?

Explain whether the project is supported by a diverse set of stakeholders, as appropriate, given the types of interested stakeholders within the project area and the scale, type, and complexity of the proposed project. For example, is the project supported by entities representing agricultural, municipal, Tribal, environmental, or recreation uses?

Support for the project is broad across the community. Letters are provided from local, state and federal agencies (Shoshone Bannock Tribes, Idaho Department of Environmental Quality, Idaho Department of Fish & Game, US Fish & Wildlife, US Forest Service, Portneuf Soil and Water Conservation District, and the Idaho Soil & Water Commission) as well as local non-profits (Portneuf Watershed Partnership, Portneuf Resource Council, Chamber of Commerce, Neighborworks Pocatello, Historic Downtown Pocatello, Idaho State University, Pocatello Community Charter School, Portneuf Valley Partners, Portneuf Health Trust, the Nature Conservancy, and the Sagebrush Steppe Land Trust). These non-profit entities represent environmental, health, beautification, education, and recreational interests. All of these entities have been involved in the development of the project plans and the Portneuf River Vision Study. Additionally, the project is fully supported by the Portneuf Watershed Partnership (PWP), a collaborative organization made up of local elected officials, tribal members, state and federal land management agencies, university scientists, non-profit organizations and local industry. The PWP meets monthly to share activities, information, and resources that work toward obtaining the goal of improved water resources. The proposed project was designed with significant input from PWP attendees.

Is the project supported by entities responsible for the management of land, water, fish and wildlife, recreation, or forestry within the project area? Is the project consistent with the policies of those agencies?

The project is supported by both Idaho Fish & Game and the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality. The proposed project was designed with their extensive input (they were on the initial Portneuf Vision Working Group and have provided review and feedback since), and is consistent with their policies. Letters of support are attached from both of these agencies.

Is there opposition to the proposed project? If so, describe the opposition and explain how it will be addressed. Opposition will not necessarily result in fewer points.

No opposition comments have been received about the proposed project.

E.1.4 Evaluation Criterion D: Readiness to Proceed (20 Points)

Up to **20 points** may be awarded based upon the extent to which the proposed project is capable of proceeding upon entering into a financial assistance agreement. Applicants that describe a detailed implementation plan (e.g., estimated project schedule that shows the stages and duration of the proposed work, including major tasks, milestones, and dates, will receive the most points under this criterion).

Describe the implementation plan for the proposed project. Include an estimated project schedule that shows the stages and duration of the proposed work, including major tasks, milestones, and dates. This may include, but is not limited to, design, environmental and cultural resources compliance, permitting, and construction/installation.

Proposals with a budget and budget narrative that provide a reasonable explanation of project costs will be prioritized under this criterion.

Describe any permits and agency approvals that will be required along with the process and timeframe for obtaining such permits or approvals.

The intended timeframe for the proposed project allows ample time for required project permitting review and is as follows:

- 2023 (January) – *Completed*. Submit 60% Design to USACE for 408 review
- 2023 (spring) – Prepare and submit Safety Audit Review to USACE
- 2023 (summer) - USACE reviews *submitted* 60% design drawings and Safety Audit Review for Section 408 review (3-4 months once Safety Audit Review is received)
- 2023 - USACE and Idaho Department of Water Resources review of *submitted* Stream Alteration Permit
- 2024 (winter) – Complete 90% Engineering Design and submit to USACE as part of 408 program requirements. *3 month USACE review*
- 2024 – Assist BOR with NEPA and cultural resources compliance
- 2024 (summer) – Complete 100% Engineering Design, submit to USACE. *3 month USACE review*
- 2024 (summer/fall) Conduct pre-activity surveys of work areas (e.g. fisheries surveys, amphibian surveys, macro-invertebrate surveys, vegetation cross-sections)
- 2024 (fall) - Prepare bid documents
- 2024 (fall) - Prepare additional permits for City of Pocatello (grading permit and erosion and sediment control permit) and Idaho DEQ (Construction General Permit)
- 2025 (winter) Execute contracts and conduct community outreach about the project

- 2025 – Project Construction begins with low water (July), and includes the following items:
 - Levee Moving**
 - Excavate and move levee to new location
 - Install new riprap as required
 - Replace asphalt pathway on top of levee & install concrete path down to the river
 - Revegetate levee
 - Wetland**
 - Excavate and grade wetland area
 - Construct pathways down the levees and through the wetland
 - Revegetate wetland
 - Stormwater Pond (construction may occur at the same time as the levee/wetland work)**
 - Install new manhole in existing stormwater line to divert water into proposed pond
 - Install new stormwater line from new manhole to pond
 - Excavate and grade stormwater pond
 - Revegetate pond
- 2026 – Project Construction ends (June)

Identify and describe any engineering or design work performed specifically in support of the proposed project. If additional design is required, describe the planned process and timeline for completing the design. Priority will be given to projects that are further along in the design process and ready for implementation.

The proposed project is at 60% design and has been submitted to the USACE for their review as a Section 408 alteration of the federal flood control project. The City and their project Engineers had previously submitted 30% design drawings to the Corps and met with them on several occasions to get specifics on what was required for Section 408 60% Design submittal. This included:

- Project Summary
- Engineering Evaluations report, including:
 - Levee Hydraulic Analysis
 - Environmental Documentation, including:
 - Stream alteration permit application (to USACE and Idaho Department of Water Resources)
 - Aquatic Resources Delineation
 - Class III Cultural Resource Inventory (no eligible historic properties or cultural resources will be affected by the project)
 - USFWS documentation that the project site contains no threatened/endangered species, but the candidate species (Monarch Butterfly) is in the vicinity of the project
 - Geotechnical Data Analysis and Engineering
 - 60% Design Drawings
- Real Estate Assessment

- Operation and Maintenance Plan
- Review Plan

The City has a team in place to complete the required Engineering Design work to meet City and USACE requirements. This includes:

1. Harmony Design and Engineering
 - a. Project Manager
 - b. Park Design
 - c. Hydraulics
2. Biota Research and Consulting
 - a. Wetland and Ecosystem
3. JEO Consulting
 - a. Levee
4. STRATA
 - a. Geotechnical

The full 60% Design is available for review at:

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1Uga_g4MtZyo6gVDp2HQLzgwaBaeqYBwO?usp=share_link

Does the applicant have access to the land or water source where the project is located? Has the applicant obtained any easements that are required for the project? If so, provide documentation. If the applicant does not yet have permission to access the project location, describe the process and timeframe for obtaining such permission.

All land where the project is located is owned by the City of Pocatello. There is City water onsite. No easements are needed to conduct this project. The City is required to receive Section 408 permission from the USACE to move the levee. This permission is being applied for, as discussed previously.

As stated on the USACE website, "The Section 408 program verifies that changes to authorized USACE Civil Works projects will not be injurious to the public interest and will not impair the usefulness of the project. This requirement was established in Section 14 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899, which has since been amended several times, and is codified at 33 U.S.C. 408—the section of U.S. Code that gives the program its name."

Identify whether the applicant has contacted the local Reclamation office to discuss the potential environmental and cultural resource compliance requirements for the project and the associated costs. Has a line item been included in the budget for costs associated with compliance? If a contractor will need to complete some of the compliance activities, separate line items should be included in the budget for Reclamation's costs and the contractor's costs.

- Is the project completely or partially located on Federal land or at a Federal facility? If so, explain whether the agency supports the project and has granted access to the Federal land or facility, whether the agency will contribute toward the project, and why the Federal agency is not completing the project. **Note: Other sources of Federal funding cannot be included within the scope of the project proposed for Reclamation funding under this NOFO.** Other Federal agencies can contribute toward the completion of environmental and cultural resource compliance, provide access to land, and provide project oversight as necessary; however, any costs associated with these activities should not be included within the project budget.

Note: Proposed projects must not include activities or costs for the purchase of water or land or to secure a permanent easement. Costs associated with these activities are not eligible project costs and cannot be used to meet the non-Federal cost-share requirement.

The proposed project is not located on Federal land or at a Federal facility. The City is confident that it will be ready to proceed upon entering into a financial assistance agreement with Reclamation, following completion of required NEPA and cultural resources compliance actions. The plans are under review with the USACE and the City has contacted the Idaho Bureau of Reclamation office to discuss the environmental and cultural resources compliance activities. The City has budgeted \$40,000 for completion of the NEPA to account for resources needed for their staff to complete all compliance activities.

E.1.5 Evaluation Criterion E: Performance Measures (5 Points)

Describe the performance measures that will be used to quantitatively or qualitatively define actual project benefits upon completion of the project. Include support for why the specific performance measures were chosen.

All applicants are required to include information about plans to monitor improved streamflows, aquatic habit, or other expected project benefits. Describe the plan to monitor the benefits over a 5-year period once the project has been completed. Provide details on the steps to be taken to carry out the plan.

Wetland and Stream Channel Monitoring: The City of Pocatello will use drone imagery to monitor the changes on the landscape. Additionally, stream channel and wetland cross sections will be conducted by Idaho State University to assess status and trends in habitat conditions. The City of Pocatello supports Idaho DEQ's instream sampling of water quality data (and monthly grab samples) upstream and downstream of the proposed project site. This work will continue, measuring flow rate, turbidity, conductivity, nutrients, and temperature.

This project will also assess biotic responses to restoration. Pre-construction macroinvertebrate and amphibian surveys will be conducted and will be compared to repeated post-construction samples to evaluate response of these invertebrate and amphibian organisms to restoration. Fish populations will be monitored pre-construction at the site and this will be repeated at least once within four years after construction, to determine fish population response. Game cameras are being installed this spring and will be utilized to measure floating use.

Additionally, an Aquatic Resource Delineation was performed by Biota Research and Consulting in May 2019 to determine existing wetland locations within the proposed project area.

Stormwater Pond Impact Monitoring: The City of Pocatello has monitoring equipment in the stormwater pipe associated with the proposed pond. This includes flow monitoring equipment (flodar) and a turbidity sonde. Through a partnership with ISU the City has been monitoring this stormwater pipe for the last two (2) years. This monitoring will continue as part of this proposed project to enable the City to accurately quantify the pounds of sediment diverted from the Portneuf River with the proposed pond.

E.1.6 Evaluation Criterion F: Presidential and DOI Priorities (15 points)

Without repeating benefits already described in previous criteria, describe, in detail, how the proposed project supports a priority(ies) below.

E.1.6.1 Subcriterion No. E1: Climate Change

Points will be awarded based on the extent the project will reduce climate pollution, increase resilience to the impacts of climate change, protect public health, and conserve our lands, waters, oceans, and biodiversity.

For additional information on the impacts of climate change throughout the Western United States, see <https://www.usbr.gov/climate/secure/docs/2021secure/2021SECUREREport.pdf>. To describe how the project will address and build resilience to climate change, consider the following:

How will the project build long-term resilience to drought? How many years will the project continue to provide benefits? Estimate the extent to which the project will build resilience to drought and provide support for your estimate.

Due to the lack of wetland habitat in this stretch of river, the alcove provided by this wetland will provide critical refuge for a number of aquatic and amphibious species to help them withstand the effects of drought. Native species will be selected and planted to withstand seasonal drought and to educate residents about plant selection for drought conditions.

This wetland and stormwater pond will also increase aquifer recharge by promoting aquifer recharge, as previously discussed.

The proposed project will provide benefits indefinitely. The wetland and stormwater pond will always provide for aquifer recharge and critical habitat for aquatic and amphibious species.

In addition to drought resiliency measures, does the proposed project include other natural hazard risk reductions for hazards such as wildfires or floods?

This project will help address natural hazard risk reduction by contributing to flood risk reduction by expanding the river's floodplain.

Will the proposed project establish and use a renewable energy source?

No

Will the proposed project reduce greenhouse gas emissions by sequestering carbon in soils, grasses, trees, and other vegetation?

The wetland and riparian vegetation will contribute to mitigating the effects of climate change by sequestering carbon and buffering against effects of extreme events such as floods or droughts.

Does the proposed project include green or sustainable infrastructure to improve community climate resilience, such as reducing the urban heat island effect, lowering building energy demands, or reducing the energy needed to manage water? Does this infrastructure complement other green solutions being implemented throughout the region or watershed?

The new stormwater pond will qualify as green infrastructure by improving water quality and aquifer recharge, and will complement other green infrastructure stormwater projects being implemented by the City.

Does the proposed project seek to reduce or mitigate climate pollutions such as air or water pollution?

The wetland and stormwater pond in the proposed project will mitigate water pollution caused from extreme rainfall events and increased occurrence of wildfires in the watershed, both of which are exacerbated by climate change.

Does the proposed project have a conservation or management component that will promote healthy lands and soils or serve to protect water supplies and its associated uses?

The proposed project will showcase a healthy riparian corridor and wetland, and will educate residents and visitors about the area. Adjacent school children will be engaged in its management. Its location in a highly visible and heavily used area will broaden its impact.

Does the proposed project contribute to climate change resiliency in other ways not described above?

The proposed project has been designed to be low-water, utilizing native shrubs, grasses and flowers in the wetland and levee areas. The planted material will be irrigated to ensure survival during summer months without rain. However, it will use significantly less water than the existing turf grass. The project will educate residents and visitors about improvements they can make to their own landscapes that are wetlands or adjacent to streams.

By creating a wetland and expanding the floodplain the proposed project will also provide water quality benefits to the Portneuf River, which is impaired for sediment and nutrients at the project site.

E.1.6.2 Subcriterion No. E2: Disadvantaged or Underserved Communities

Will the proposed project serve or benefit a disadvantaged or historically underserved community? Benefits can include, but are not limited to, public health and safety by addressing water quality, new water supplies, or economic growth opportunities.

Describe, in detail, how the community is disadvantaged based on a combination of variables that may include the following:

- Low income, high and/or persistent poverty
- High unemployment and underemployment
- Racial and ethnic residential segregation, particularly where the segregation stems from discrimination by government entities
- Linguistic isolation
- High housing cost burden and substandard housing
- Distressed neighborhoods
- High transportation cost burden and/or low transportation access
- Disproportionate environmental stressor burden and high cumulative impacts
- Limited water and sanitation access and affordability
- Disproportionate impacts from climate change
- High energy cost burden and low energy access
- Jobs lost through energy transition
- Access to healthcare

If the proposed project is providing benefits to an underserved community, provide sufficient information to demonstrate that the community meets the underserved definition in E.O. 13985, which includes populations sharing a particular characteristic, as well as geographic communities, that have been systematically denied a full opportunity to participate in aspects of economic, social, and civic life.

Project location: Census tract 16005001603
Population 2,938

The proposed project is located within an EJ40 Census tract that is considered disadvantaged due to Climate Change. Communities are identified as disadvantaged if they are at or above the 90th percentile for expected agriculture loss rate or expected building loss rate or expected population loss rate and they are above the 65th percentile for low income AND 80% or more of adults 15 or older are not enrolled in higher education.

(<https://www.arcgis.com/apps/mapviewer/index.html?layers=990e8d269a0348cba9ae28b344d2957d>)

Furthermore, according to the Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool, the tract is identified as disadvantaged because it meets more than 1 burden threshold and the associated socioeconomic threshold (<https://screeningtool.geoplatform.gov/en/#14.69/42.85572/-112.44531>) exceeds the percentile requirements. The tract is designated as Low income (73rd

percentile, above the 65th requirement), as people are in households in which income is less than or equal to twice the federal poverty level. The tract also has Lack of indoor plumbing (97th percentile, above 90th threshold). The tract exceeds three (3) of the five (5) climate indicators including: expected population loss rate, projected flood risk, and projected wildfire risk.

Other indicators, while not at an indicator threshold, are still quite high and include: Lead paint (77th out of 90th percentile); asthma (77th out of 90th percentile); low life expectancy (69th out of 90th percentile); proximity to superfund (72nd out of 90th); and transportation barriers (69th out of 90th). The tract is adjacent to two areas of persistent poverty.

Further the DOT mapper has this tract designated as historically disadvantaged. It is composed of two (2) census blocks, of which one is a majority low-moderate income population.

The project location is immediately adjacent to the HUD-designated Opportunity Zone, located approximately eight (8) blocks or just over a half mile from the zone (<https://opportunityzones.hud.gov/>).

The opportunity zone is serviced by the same public transit line and is part of the Historic Downtown Pocatello neighborhoods.

E.1.6.3 Subcriterion No. E.3: Tribal Benefits

Does the proposed project directly serve and/or benefit a Tribe? Will the project improve water management for an Indian Tribe?

Does the proposed project support Reclamation's Tribal trust responsibilities or a Reclamation activity with a Tribe?

Does the proposed project support Tribal resilience to climate change and drought impacts or provide other Tribal benefits, such as improved public health and safety, by addressing water quality, new water supplies, or economic growth opportunities?

Restoring floodplain function will benefit multiple downstream water users by slowing and reducing high flows and releasing water later in the season after it has been cleaned by the wetland. Benefitted users include the Shoshone Bannock tribal members, whose reservation lies downstream of the proposed project, and who consider the downstream Fort Hall Bottoms an important cultural and subsistence area. The project's benefits to local fish populations will directly benefit the Shoshone Bannock Tribes by increasing fishing opportunities in the area.

A letter of support has been attached from the Shoshone Bannock Tribes.

D.2.2.3 Project Budget

D.2.2.3.1. Funding Plan

The City of Pocatello will provide at least 25% of the total project costs. On March 16, 2023, the Pocatello City Council authorized submission of the WaterSMART grant application, including a 25% match funded from the City’s operating budget. Please see the attached City Council Resolution and letter of match commitment for confirmation.

Except for the noted pre-award Engineering Costs, it is anticipated that all costs will be expended after the date of award from Reclamation, on or about December 31, 2023. The funds will be expended during the eligible period of performance for the grant award, with project completion expected in June, 2026.

D.2.2.3.2. Budget Proposal

Table 1. Summary of Non-Federal and Federal Funding Sources

FUNDING SOURCES	AMOUNT
Non-federal entities	
1. City of Pocatello <i>cash</i>	\$154,562
2. City of Pocatello <i>in-kind*</i>	\$390,530
Non-federal subtotal	\$545,092
REQUESTED RECLAMATION FUNDING	\$1,635,276

Table 2. Total Project Cost Table

SOURCE	AMOUNT
Costs to be reimbursed with the requested federal funding	\$1,635,276
Costs to be paid by the applicant	\$545,092
Value of third-party contributions	N/A
TOTAL PROJECT COST	\$2,180,368

Description	Unit	Unit Cost	Qty	Cost
CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT: WETLAND				
Clearing and Grubbing	AC	\$ 3,800	1	\$ 3,800
Erosion and Sediment Control	LS	\$ 5,000	1	\$ 5,000
Grading	CY	\$ 8	12,005	\$ 96,040
Boulder Steps	CY	\$ 100	5	\$ 500
Boulder Installation	CY	\$ 20	5	\$ 100
Channel Cobble	CY	\$ 15	158	\$ 2,370
Cobble Installation	CY	\$ 8	158	\$ 1,264
Topsoil over Excavation	CY	\$ 8	625	\$ 5,000
6" Screened Amended Top Soil	CY	\$ 22	625	\$ 13,750
Topsoil Placement	CY	\$ 8	625	\$ 5,000
Erosion Control - Coir Fabric	EA	\$ 130	18	\$ 2,340
Erosion Control - Coir Fabric Installation	FT	\$ 3	1,962	\$ 5,886
Landscaping/Irrigation - Cuttings	EA	\$ 40	197	\$ 7,880
#5 Shrub	EA	\$ 56	197	\$ 11,032
Seeding / Revegetation	AC	\$ 850	1	\$ 850
Landscaping/Irrigation - Site Cleanup	AC	\$ 2,500	1	\$ 2,500
Mobilization	LS	\$ 9,000	1	\$ 9,000
Footbridge	S.F.	\$ 200	234	\$ 46,800
Crushed Gravel	Ton	\$ 28	36	\$ 1,018
TOTAL				\$ 220,130
25% contingency				\$ 55,032
21% inflation (2 years)				\$ 46,227
TOTAL - WETLAND COSTS				\$ 321,389
CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT: LEVEE MOVING				
Clearing and Grubbing	AC	\$ 1,000	2.40	\$ 2,400
Excavation	CY	\$ 12	2,410	\$ 28,920
Borrow	CY	\$ 20	10,550	\$ 211,000
Machine Placed Riprap	TON	\$ 105	1,103	\$ 115,815
Concrete Sidewalk, thickness 6"	SY	\$ 74	578	\$ 42,772
Plant Mix Pavement - Asphalt, thickness 3"	SY	\$ 50	1,503	\$ 75,150
Crushed Aggregate	TON	\$ 60	530	\$ 31,800
Seedbed Preparation	AC	\$ 500	2.40	\$ 1,200
Seeding, Class D	AC	\$ 4,000	2.40	\$ 9,600
Erosion Blanket	AC	\$ 4,000	2.40	\$ 9,600
Mobilization	LS	\$ 35,000	1	\$ 35,000
Sediment Control	LS	\$ 10,000	1	\$ 10,000
TOTAL				\$ 573,257
25% contingency				\$ 143,314
21% inflation (2 years)				\$ 120,384
TOTAL - LEVEE MOVING COSTS				\$ 836,955

Description	Unit	Unit Cost	Qty	Cost
CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT: STORMWATER POND				
Removal of Asphalt	SY	\$ 10	100	\$ 1,000
Curb & Gutter Removal	LF	\$ 10	60.0	\$ 600
Pond Earth Work	CY	\$ 39.20	3,900	\$ 152,889
Type P Surface Restoration	SY	\$ 75	100	\$ 7,500
12" PVC Stormwater line	LF	\$ 100	100	\$ 10,000
72" Storm Manhole Diversion Structure	LS	\$ 20,000	1	\$ 20,000
Construction Traffic Control	LS	\$ 5,000	1	\$ 5,000
Mobilization	LS	\$ 20,000	1	\$ 20,000
Inlet Structure/Protection	LS	\$ 4,000	1	\$ 4,000
O&M Entrance	LS	\$ 10,000	1	\$ 10,000
TOTAL				\$ 230,989
25% contingency				\$ 57,474
21% inflation (2 years)				\$ 48,508
TOTAL - STORMWATER POND COSTS				\$ 337,244
TOTAL - CONSTRUCTION COSTS				\$ 1,495,588
CONTRACTUAL: ENGINEERING				
*Engineering to date since 7/1/2022 <i>pre-award cost</i>	LS		1	\$143,341
BOR - NEPA	LS		1	40,000
* Safety Audit Review for moving levee (USACE requirement) <i>pre-award cost</i>	LS		1	\$50,000
Project Engineering to complete design and oversee construction implementation (17% of construction costs)	LS		1	\$254,250
TOTAL				\$ 487,591

Description	Unit	Unit Cost	Qty	Cost
PERSONNEL (STAFF TIME)				
	Unit	Rate	Qty	Cost
Science & Environment Administrator Y1	hrs.	\$40	312	\$12,340
Environmental Tech Y1	hrs.	\$26	104	\$2,748
Project Manager Y1	hrs.	\$35	104	\$3,657
Grants Manager Y1	hrs.	\$35	52	\$1,843
Development Engineer Y1	hrs.	\$51	104	\$5,332
Science & Environment Administrator Y2	hrs.	\$41	624	\$25,421
Environmental Tech Y2	hrs.	\$27	208	\$5,660
Project Manager Y2	hrs.	\$36	312	\$11,300.37
Grants Manager Y2	hrs.	\$37	104	\$3,797
City Surveyor Y2	hrs.	\$43	104	\$4,457
Parks Superintendent Y2	hrs.	\$43	104	\$4,472.00
Development Engineer Y2	hrs.	\$53	104	\$5,492
Science & Environment Administrator Y3	hrs.	\$42	260	\$10,910
Environmental Tech Y3	hrs.	\$28	208	\$5,830
Project Manager Y3	hrs.	\$37	104	\$3,880
Grants Manager Y3	hrs.	\$38	104	\$3,910
Parks Superintendent Y3	hrs.	\$44	104	\$4,576
Development Engineer Y3	hrs.	\$54	52	\$2,829
	*TOTAL			\$118,455
FRINGE BENEFITS				
Science & Environment Administrator		44%	\$48,670.87	\$21,308
Environmental Tech		65%	\$14,237.66	\$9,264
Project Manager		53%	\$18,837.24	\$10,008
Grants Manager		34%	\$ 9,550.06	\$3,293
City Surveyor		45%	\$ 4,457.48	\$2,018
Development Engineer		44%	\$13,653.43	\$5,971
Parks Superintendent		24%	\$ 9,048.00	\$2,128
	*TOTAL			\$53,990
INDIRECT COSTS (10%)				
	*TOTAL	10%	\$247,445	\$24,744
	GRAND TOTAL			\$2,180,368

*In-kind match = \$390,530

D.2.2.3.2. Budget Narrative

The budget includes items described in the budget detail and narrative template (see Attachment A) and SF-424C.

Travel, Equipment, Materials and Supplies

We do not anticipate spending any funds in these areas. The project site is located within two (2) miles of Pocatello City Hall and all construction is anticipated to be performed by contracted services.

Contractual - Project Engineering

Engineering contracts will be solicited following 2 CFR 200 and Idaho Code, which includes a qualifications-based procurement process for contracts over \$50,000.

Engineering to date pre-award cost. 60% Design Drawings and Environmental Review documents were completed by Harmony Design and Engineering and submitted to the USACE in January 2023. The costs for the wetland and levee moving portion of this 60% design engineering work that were expended after July 1, 2022 have been included in the budget, as a separate line item. Receipts are available for these expenses (July 2022 – January 2023), which were billed out monthly. Costs (\$143,341) were billed for:

- Levee Plans
- Geotechnical Investigation & Analysis (for moving the levee)
- Section 408 & Permitting

Safety Audit Review pre-award cost. The USACE has required the City to perform a Safety Audit Review to go with our submitted 60% Design Drawings. JEO Consulting has estimated this cost at \$50,000. This Engineering Design work will be performed in spring/summer 2023.

BOR NEPA. The Idaho BOR office has estimated costs for this at \$40,000. The City has already submitted a stream alteration permit with an Aquatic Resource Delineation to USACE, which included a Class III Cultural Resource Inventory (no historic structures identified within project vicinity). No threatened or endangered species occur in the project area.

Project Engineering to Complete Design/Oversee Project Implementation. Harmony Design and Engineering (with subcontractors Biota Research & Consulting and JEO Consulting) provided the City with this cost, estimated at 17% of construction costs (\$259,895).

Project Construction - Contractual

The City anticipates that three (3) contracts will be awarded for the three (3) project areas, with the Levee and Wetland construction being bid out together and a separate contract for revegetation. The Stormwater Pond will likely be a separate contract. Cost estimates for the Levee and Wetland projects were estimated by Harmony Design and Engineering. City of Pocatello Engineering staff estimated the stormwater pond construction costs. All estimated costs include a 25% contingency and a 21% inflation cost for a 2-year project delay. Construction contracts will be solicited following Idaho Code, which includes sealed competitive bids for projects over \$200,000.

Project Construction includes the following items:

1. Levee Moving

- a. Excavate and move levee to new location
- b. Install new riprap as required
- c. Replace asphalt pathway on top of levee & install concrete path down to the river
- d. Revegetate levee

2. Wetland

- a. Excavate and grade wetland area
- b. Construct pathways down the levees and through the wetland
- c. Revegetate wetland

3. Stormwater Pond

- a. Install new manhole in existing stormwater line to divert water into proposed pond
- b. Install new stormwater line from new manhole to pond
- c. Excavate and grade stormwater pond
- d. Revegetate pond

Match – Personnel, fringe, indirect and cash.

Hannah Sanger, Science & Environment Administrator for the City of Pocatello will manage the project, in conjunction with Rebeca Robison, Engineering Project Manager for the City of Pocatello as well as the City’s Environmental Technician. Assistance will also be provided by the City’s Parks Superintendent, who will ultimately be responsible for project maintenance, as well as additional help from City of Pocatello Engineering Staff and the City’s Grants Manager.

Together this team will work to ensure that the installed design meets City standards, will be easy to maintain, and is in compliance with the WaterSmart grant and all other federal, state, and local requirements. The documented hourly rate for all employees was increased by 3% each year in accordance with average annual rate increases. The budgeted rates represent the actual labor and fringe rates for the identified personnel and positions, and are consistently applied to Federal and non-Federal activities.

Project tasks:

- **Project Management & Coordination:** Environmental Administrator and Engineering Project Manager
- **Project Outreach:** Environmental Administrator and Engineering Project Manager
- **Grant Reporting:** Grants Manager, Environmental Administrator and Engineering Project Manager
- **Project Surveying:** City surveyor
- **Project Design Review:** Development Engineer, Parks Superintendent, Environmental Technician, Environmental Administrator and Engineering Project Manager
- **Project Implementation Review & Oversight:** Development Engineer, Parks Superintendent, Environmental Technician, Environmental Administrator and Engineering Project Manager
- **Project Monitoring:** Environmental Administrator and Environmental Technician (and ISU faculty and students).

Indirect was calculated using the standard 10% de minimis rate.

The City will provide a cash match for costs that exceed personnel, fringe and indirect costs. ISU, particularly faculty and students associated with the University’s Departments of Biological Sciences and Geosciences as well as its Center for Ecological Research and Education, will be working closely with the City to do the project monitoring. Small grants will be written to ISU to fund this student time, in concert with faculty oversight.

D.2.2.5 Environmental and cultural resources compliance

Will the proposed project impact the surrounding environment (e.g., soil [dust], air, water [quality and quantity], animal habitat)? Briefly describe all earth-disturbing work and any work that will affect the air, water, or animal habitat in the project area. Explain the impacts of such work on the surrounding environment and any steps that could be taken to minimize the impacts.

The proposed project will be moving a levee, grading a wetland, and digging a stormwater pond. All of these actions will generate dust and potential erosion. The project budget includes funding for erosion and sediment control. A water truck will need to be utilized to limit dust impacts. Sediment controls will need to be installed to limit impacts to adjacent the Portneuf River. Erosion control matting will also need to be installed for revegetation of steep slopes.

Are you aware of any species listed or proposed to be listed as a Federal threatened or endangered species or designated critical habitat in the project area? If so, would they be affected by any activities associated with the proposed project?

Potential threatened or endangered species include the Western Yellow-Billed Cuckoo and the Monarch Butterfly. The proposed project site is highly degraded and disturbed and does not currently have any habitat for Western Yellow-Billed Cuckoo. If milkweed is present at the project site, however, we will complete surveys for Monarch larvae. There is no designated critical habitat at the project site.

Are there wetlands or other surface waters inside the project boundaries that potentially fall under CWA jurisdiction as "Waters of the United States"? If so, describe and estimate any impacts the proposed project may have.

The Portneuf River is a Water of the US. The City has applied for a stream alteration permit for the proposed project. The proposed project will be greatly beneficial to this waterway.

When was the water delivery system constructed?

N/A

Will the proposed project result in any modification of, or effects to, individual features of an irrigation system (e.g., headgates, canals, or flumes)? If so, state when those features were constructed and describe the nature and timing of any extensive alterations or modifications to those features completed previously.

No

Are any buildings, structures, or features in the irrigation district listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places? *A cultural resources specialist at your local Reclamation office or the State Historic Preservation Office can assist in answering this question.*

A Class III Cultural Resource Inventory has been conducted. There are no structures in the project area that are eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

Are there any known archeological sites in the proposed project area?

A Class III Cultural Resource Inventory has been conducted. There are no known archeological sites in the proposed project area.

Will the proposed project have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations?

No

Will the proposed project limit access to, and ceremonial use of, Indian sacred sites or result in other impacts on Tribal lands?

No

Will the proposed project contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area?

No

D.2.2.6 Required permits or approvals

The proposed project is at 60% design and has been submitted to the USACE for their review under the 408 program. As part of this review, Environmental Documentation has been prepared by Biota Research and Consulting, Inc. (Biota) including:

1. Stream Alteration joint application Permit (submitted to USACE and Idaho Department of Water Resources)
2. Aquatic Resource Delineation
3. Class III Cultural Resource Inventory (conducted by Canon Heritage Consultants, Inc.)

The City of Pocatello will also require permits for construction (grading, sediment & erosion control). Additionally, a NPDES Construction General Permit (CGP) will be required from the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality. The City of Pocatello will work with BOR to complete all required NEPA components.

D.2.2.7 Overlap or Duplication of Effort

The proposal is designed to account for the project components that will be funded by the WaterSMART grant. All proposed costs, including staff time, were calculated to ensure there is no overlap with other project components or phases. All WaterSMART project components will be independently tracked and duplication of efforts will be avoided.

D.2.2.8 Conflict of Interest Disclosure Statement

In accordance with 2 CFR §1402.112, the City certifies that there are no actual or potential conflicts of interest at the time of submission of the grant.

D.2.2.9 Uniform Audit Reporting Statement

In accordance with 2 CFR §200 subpart F, the City's most recently completed annual fiscal year audit was completed in compliance with the Single Audit Requirements. The City's EIN associated with the report is: 82 6000244 and the report is available through the Audit Clearinghouse website.

D.2.2.10 Letters of Support and Letters of Partnership

Please see the attached letters of support for the proposed project. They are from:

- Idaho Department of Environmental Quality
- Idaho Department of Fish and Game
- Idaho State University
- Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission
- Natural Resource Conservation Service
- Portneuf Resource Council
- Portneuf Soil & Water Conservation District
- Portneuf Watershed Partnership
- Sagebrush Steppe Land Trust
- The Nature Conservancy
- Shoshone Bannock Tribes
- US Forest Service
- Pocatello-Chubbuck Chamber of Commerce
- Historic Downtown Pocatello
- Neighborworks Pocatello
- Pocatello Community Charter School
- Portneuf Health Trust
- Portneuf Valley Partners

RESOLUTION NO. 2023- 12

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF POCATELLO, A MUNICIPAL CORPORATION OF IDAHO, APPROVING SUBMISSION OF AN APPLICATION UNDER THE WATERSMART ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES PROJECTS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023, NOTICE OF FUNDING OPPORTUNITY NO. R23AS00089.

WHEREAS, the Portneuf River Flood Control project removed many acres of wetlands within the City of Pocatello; and

WHEREAS, a top priority short-term project from the 2016 Portneuf River Vision Study is setting back the levees at Centennial and Rainey Parks to create an accessible wetland; and

WHEREAS, to submit an application under the WaterSMART Environmental Resources Projects for Fiscal Year 2023 program, per Notice of Funding Opportunity R23AS00089, the applicant is required to adopt an official resolution.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF POCATELLO AS FOLLOWS:

1. The City of Pocatello Mayor has legal authority to enter into an agreement and has the authority to review and support the application being submitted.
2. The Pocatello City Council has reviewed and supports an application for a WaterSMART Environmental Resources project.
3. The City of Pocatello agrees to work with the Bureau of Reclamation to meet established deadlines for entering into a grant or cooperative agreement.

RESOLVED this 16th day of March, 2023.

CITY OF POCA TELLO, a municipal
corporation of Idaho



BRIAN C. BLAD, Mayor

ATTEST:



KONNI R. KENDELL, City Clerk

D.2.2.10 Letters of Support and Partnership

The SHOSHONE-BANNOCK TRIBES

FORT HALL INDIAN RESERVATION
AGRICULTURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
PHONE (208) 478-3860/3878
FAX (208) 478-3893



LAND USE DEPARTMENT
P. O. BOX 306
FORT HALL, IDAHO 83203

March 13, 2023

Bureau of Reclamation
1839 C Street NW
Washington DC, 20240

RE: BOR WaterSMART Grant for Rainey Park Wetland Creation and Restoration

The Shoshone Bannock Tribes are pleased to support the City of Pocatello's Water Smart application for improvements to Rainey Park. The proposed project will greatly improve habitat for fish and wildlife on the Portneuf River in Pocatello. It will also improve water quality with the installation of a stormwater pond. These improvements will make a difference to water resources on the reservation. The Fort Hall Bottoms are a culturally important resource for our community and are located downstream of the proposed project site. We have numerous cutthroat trout breeding in the Bottoms. We look forward to the day when water quality and habitat improvements are such that they swim upstream through Pocatello.

When the levees and concrete channel were installed in the 1960s they disconnected residents from the river. This project is the first step in a long reconnection effort.

This Rainey Park project is a top priority for the Portneuf River Vision, which is a broad coalition of watershed and community partners working to improve the Portneuf River in Pocatello. The River Vision seeks to restore the Portneuf River corridor in order to revitalize environmental, recreational, and economic opportunities while increasing community pride, connectivity, and quality of life.

We are pleased to add our support to this Rainey Park effort and are committed to working with the City and other community partners on project implementation.

Sincerely,

Wyatt Petersen
Interim Land Use Department Director

cc: LUPC
Land Use

Idaho State UNIVERSITY

Department of Biological Sciences
College of Science and Engineering
921 South 8th Avenue, Stop 8007 • Pocatello, Idaho 83209-8007

To: Bureau of Reclamation
1839 C Street NW
Washington DC, 20240

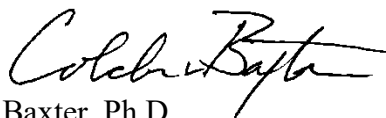
From: Colden V. Baxter, Director, Stream Ecology Center and Center for Ecological Research & Education, Idaho State University

Re: BOR WaterSMART Grant for Rainey Park Wetland Creation and Restoration

I write to commit to and describe support for the City of Pocatello's Water Smart application for improvements to Rainey Park. I am Professor of Ecology at Idaho State University (ISU), and director of ISU's Stream Ecology Center and Center for Ecological Research & Education (CERE). I have 3 decades of experience studying streams and rivers, with special expertise focused on the ecology of river-floodplain linkages like those that are the focus of the proposed project. I also speak on behalf of other colleagues from ISU's Department of Biological Sciences and CERE, who are supportive of this project and committed to contributing to its required monitoring. These include, for example, ISU fish ecologist Dr. Ernest Keeley, who has particular expertise in study of Yellowstone cutthroat trout and other fishes native to the Portneuf River. We have collected data in the vicinity of the project location that can serve as part of a baseline against which to evaluate the project's success, and are committed to additional pre- and post-project surveys. These include data on ecosystem processes that mediate outcomes of the project for water quality, as well as past measures of aquatic (e.g., macroinvertebrates, aquatic insect emergence, fishes) and riparian organisms (e.g., amphibians, birds, bats, spiders) that are a focus for the project. These and other resources associated with ISU will be brought to bear as part of this project's monitoring and evaluation of river and wetland ecosystem processes and aquatic and riparian organisms.

Our faculty have partnered with the City of Pocatello in development and implementation of the Portneuf River Vision, and this project is a top priority. Its improvements to ecosystem health will make a big difference for the fish and wildlife community that will use its habitats, and it will benefit water quality as well. When the levees and concrete channel were installed in the 1960s they disconnected residents from the river. This project is the first step in a long reconnection effort, and is a top priority for the Portneuf River Vision (a broad coalition of watershed and community partners working to improve the Portneuf River in Pocatello). The River Vision seeks to restore the Portneuf River corridor in order to revitalize environmental, recreational, and economic opportunities while increasing community pride, connectivity, and quality of life. We are pleased to add our support to this Rainey Park effort and are committed to working with the City and other community partners on project implementation.

Signed,



Colden V. Baxter, Ph.D.

Director, Stream Ecology Center and Center for Ecological Research & Education, Idaho State University



March 13, 2023

To: Bureau of Reclamation
1839 C Street NW
Washington DC, 20240

From: Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (Idaho DEQ)

RE: BOR WaterSMART Grant for Rainey Park Wetland Creation and Restoration

To Whom It May Concern:

The Idaho DEQ enthusiastically supports the City of Pocatello's Water Smart application for improvements to Rainey Park. This project is to create a wetland adjacent to the Portneuf River which will contribute to ecological restoration of the river in Pocatello. We are excited to see how the benthic and invertebrate communities change in this area after project installation.

We will continue to work with the City of Pocatello on monitoring the Portneuf River upstream and downstream of the project where we have long-term probes in the water and conduct monthly water quality sampling. When the levees and concrete channel were installed in the 1960s, they disconnected residents from the river. This project is the first step in a long reconnection effort.

This Rainey Park project is a top priority for the Portneuf River Vision, which is a broad coalition of watershed and community partners working to improve the Portneuf River in Pocatello. The River Vision seeks to restore the Portneuf River corridor in order to revitalize environmental, recreational, and economic opportunities while increasing community pride, connectivity, and quality of life.

We are pleased to add our support to this Rainey Park effort and are committed to working with the City and other community partners on project implementation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jennifer Cornell".

Jennifer Cornell
Surface Water Quality Manager
Pocatello Regional Office



IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

SOUTHEAST REGION
1345 Barton Road
Pocatello, Idaho 83204

Brad Little / Governor
Jim Fredericks / Director

March 9, 2023

Bureau of Reclamation
1839 C Street NW
Washington DC, 20240

RE: *BOR WaterSMART Grant for Rainey Park Wetland Creation and Restoration*

To whom it may concern,

Please consider this acknowledgment of the City of Pocatello's request for funding through the Bureau of Reclamation *WaterSMART Grants* for the proposed improvements to *Rainey Park and the creation of a wetland on the Portneuf River in Pocatello, Idaho*. The Idaho Department of Fish and Game has worked in cooperation with the City of Pocatello and other Portneuf watershed partners in recent years to improve access, floatability, and riparian habitat on the Portneuf River. The proposed project will replace a concrete channel with a wetland and accessible riparian habitat which will improve connectivity and water quality and create habitat for multiple fish and wildlife species. The IDFG could use the improved habitat and access area to provide fishing and wildlife-viewing opportunities specific to the needs of beginners, youth, people with disabilities, and families.

This project is consistent with the Department's objectives to reestablish connectivity in watersheds and enhance riparian habitats (IDFG 2019b) and increase opportunities for fish and wildlife-based recreation as well as for wildlife viewing and appreciation (IDFG 2019a). We appreciate the opportunity to provide comments on this project and look forward to working with the City of Pocatello and other partners on improving this natural and recreational resource.

Department staff are available to provide any additional technical input or assistance required. Please contact Becky Johnson, Technical Assistance Manager in the Southeast regional office at (208) 236-1258 or becky.johnson@idfg.idaho.gov if you have additional questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dan Garren".

Dan Garren
Regional Supervisor, Southeast Region

DG/bj

Keeping Idaho's Wildlife Heritage

Literature Cited

Idaho Department of Fish and Game [IDFG]. 2019a. Direction: FY 2020-2023 Annual Strategic Plan. Boise (ID): Idaho Department of Fish and Game. Available from: <https://idfg.idaho.gov/sites/default/files/direction-fy2020-2023.pdf>

Idaho Department of Fish and Game [IDFG]. 2019b. Fisheries Management Plan 2019 – 2024. Idaho Department of Fish and Game, Boise, USA. Available from: <https://idfg.idaho.gov/sites/default/files/2019-2024-idaho-fisheries-management-plan-original.pdf?update10-2019>.



United States Department of the Interior

IDAHO FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Idaho Fish and Wildlife Office - Chubbuck

4425 Burley Drive, Suite A

Chubbuck, Idaho 83202

Telephone (208) 237-6975

www.fws.gov/idaho



Bureau of Reclamation
1839 C Street NW
Washington DC, 20240

Subject: BOR WaterSMART Grant for Rainey Park Wetland Creation and Restoration

This letter transmits the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) Idaho Fish and Wildlife Office's (IFWOs) support for the planned project on the Rainey Park in Pocatello, Idaho. We have been working on this effort with the City for many years and are excited to see a restoration project on the Portneuf River in Pocatello coming to fruition. This project is sorely needed by the river and will be a refuge for many fish and wildlife.

We have been working with the City for many years on removing debris jams from the Portneuf River and installing a wetland and pollinator garden at their zoo. This project builds on those earlier efforts. It will restore the ecological health of the Portneuf River by expanding its floodplain and providing needed habitat for fish and wildlife, as well as pollinators.

When the levees and concrete channel were installed in the 1960s they disconnected residents from the river. This project is the first step in a long reconnection effort.

This Rainey Park project is a top priority for the Portneuf River Vision, which is a broad coalition of watershed and community partners working to improve the Portneuf River in Pocatello. The River Vision seeks to restore the Portneuf River corridor in order to revitalize environmental, recreational, and economic opportunities while increasing community pride, connectivity, and quality of life.

This letter offers the IFWOs commitment to continue its collaboration and support for this effort. If you have questions, please contact Matt Bringhurst at (208) 509-2558 or via email at matthew_bringhurst@fws.gov.

Sincerely,
ELLIOT
TRAHER

Digitally signed by
ELLIOT TRAHER
Date: 2023.03.15
13:05:07 -06'00'

for Lisa Ellis
State Supervisor

INTERIOR REGION 9
COLUMBIA-PACIFIC NORTHWEST

IDAHO, MONTANA*, OREGON*, WASHINGTON

*PARTIAL

INTERIOR REGION 12
PACIFIC ISLANDS

AMERICAN SAMOA, GUAM, HAWAII, NORTHERN
MARIANA ISLANDS



POCATELLO COMMUNITY CHARTER SCHOOL

March 23, 2023

TO: Bureau of Reclamation
1839 C Street NW
Washington DC, 20240

FROM: Pocatello Community Charter School (PCCS)

RE: BOR WaterSMART Grant for Rainey Park Wetland Creation and Restoration

Pocatello Community Charter School (PCCS) enthusiastically supports the city of Pocatello's Water Smart application for improvements to Rainey Park. This project will revitalize a park near our school which will provide natural learning environments for students. Our school is a project based school with an outdoor education focus. Some of the expeditions currently taught in our school include pollinators in 1st and 2nd grades and everything water in 5th and 6th grade. This improvement will allow students much easier access to the river for observation and water quality testing. Our 1st and 2nd graders also maintain Monarch Butterfly habitat in an effort in cooperation with the University of Idaho to bring Monarch Butterflies back to Idaho. PCCS also hopes to collaborate with other local schools for similar learning experiences.

Besides the specific benefits to PCCS and other education entities in Pocatello and surrounding areas, the project will also significantly benefit Pocatello as a whole by connecting residents to the Portneuf River, providing wetland access, improving facilities and upgrading parking to better link the City of Pocatello with its trails into the hills. This project ties in with neighborhood and Historic Downtown Pocatello efforts to revitalize downtown Pocatello by providing residents with a modern park that will connect them to the river and local trails. When the levees and concrete channel were installed in the 1960s they disconnected residents from the river. This project is the first step in a long reconnection effort.

PCCS is committed to our support of the Portneuf River Vision and the Centennial Park Project as a top priority. The Portneuf River Vision is a broad coalition of watershed and community partners working to improve the Portneuf River in

Pocatello. The River Vision seeks to restore the Portneuf River corridor in order to revitalize environmental, recreational, and economic opportunities while increasing community pride, connectivity, and quality of life.

We are pleased to add our support to this Rainey Park Wetland Creation and Restoration effort and are committed to working with the City and other community partners on project implementation.

Sincerely,



Michael Mendive
Director
Pocatello Community Charter School
michael.mendive@pccs.k12.id.us



DATE: March 14, 2023

TO: Bureau of Reclamation
1839 C Street NW
Washington DC, 20240

FROM: Sagebrush Steppe Land Trust

RE: **BOR WaterSMART Grant for Rainey Park Wetland Creation and Restoration**

The Sagebrush Steppe Land Trust (SSLT) fully supports the City of Pocatello's WaterSMART application for improvements to Rainey Park. Sagebrush Steppe Land Trust has been working in partnership with the City of Pocatello over the last few years to implement the community's Portneuf River Vision. We believe the **Rainey Park Wetland Creation and Restoration** project is critical to the overall success of this River Vision as the project will improve ecological health of the Portneuf River by expanding its floodplain and providing much needed habitat for fish, wildlife, and pollinators.

In the 1960's, an expansive levee system and concrete channel was installed along the Portneuf River for flood management which resulted in disconnecting residents from the river, segmenting neighborhoods, and loss of essential riparian habitat. Restoring Rainey Park is a top priority for the Portneuf River Vision and a major step toward a broader river restoration effort to restore the Portneuf River corridor.

The Sagebrush Steppe Land Trust is a qualified 503(c)3 conservation organization whose mission serves the public good by protecting, connecting, and enhancing wildlife habitat, working lands, and community spaces in Southeast Idaho, now and for future generations. As part of this mission, SSLT supports community conservation and engagement efforts, such as the Portneuf River Vision, which strive to revitalize ecological, recreational, and economic opportunities while increasing community pride, connectivity, and quality of life.

We are pleased to add our full support to the Portneuf River Vision effort, including the Rainey Park Wetland Creation and Restoration project, and are committed to working with the City of Pocatello and other watershed partners to promote ecological restoration and sustainable river access for the community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Matt Lucia', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Matt Lucia, Executive Director
Sagebrush Steppe Land Trust



Idaho Chapter Office
950 W. Bannock St.
Suite 210
Boise, ID 83702

Tel (208) 343-8826
Fax (208) 343-8892

nature.org

March 20, 2023

TO: Bureau of Reclamation
1839 C Street NW
Washington DC, 20240

FROM: The Nature Conservancy (TNC) – Idaho Chapter

RE: **BOR WaterSMART Grant for Rainey Park Wetland Creation and Restoration**

The Nature Conservancy enthusiastically supports the City of Pocatello's WaterSmart Environmental Water Resources Project application for improvements to Rainey Park. The mission of the Nature Conservancy is to conserve the lands and waters on which all life depends. A core tenant of TNC is conservation through collaboration with local stakeholders. TNC has been working with the City of Pocatello and others on implementing plans for the Portneuf River Vision, a broad coalition of watershed and community partners working to improve the Portneuf River Watershed.

The Rainey Park project is a top priority for the Portneuf River Vision, which seeks to restore the Portneuf River corridor in order to revitalize environmental, recreational, and economic opportunities while increasing community pride, connectivity, and quality of life. When the levees and concrete channel were installed in the 1960s they disconnected residents from the river. This project is the first step in a long reconnection effort, both for the community and the environment.

We are pleased to add our support to this Rainey Park effort and are committed to working with the City and other community partners on project implementation.

Sincerely,

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Neil Crescenti".

Neil Crescenti
Agriculture Program Manager
The Idaho Chapter of The Nature Conservancy

File Code: 2610
Date: March 17, 2023

Hannah Sanger
Science & Environment Administrator
City of Pocatello
PO Box 4169
Pocatello, ID 83205

Dear Hannah:

The Caribou-Targhee National Forest supports the City of Pocatello's Rainey Park Stream Restoration and Wetland Creation Project. The project would improve hydrologic function, water quality, and recreational opportunities in our community.

National Forest lands contribute to the health and vitality of the Portneuf River ecosystem. Forest tributaries provide clean water and productive riparian and aquatic habitat. As a member of the Portneuf Watershed Partnership (PWP), we recognize that this project supports our common goals to protect and improve water quality and aquatic habitat.

The Forest is excited to see the City take on this challenge. If there is anything that we can do to help further your goals with this project, please contact me.

Sincerely,

KIM OBELE

Digitally signed by KIM
OBELE
Date: 2023.03.17 12:46:39
-06'00'

KIM OBELE
District Ranger





SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION COMMISSION

COMMISSION

Erik Olson
Acting Chair

Wendy Pratt
Secretary

Joan Cloonan
Commissioner

Blake Hollingsworth
Commissioner

Richard Savage
Commissioner

Karen Sharpnack
Commissioner

Mitchel Silvers
Commissioner

Delwyne Trefz
Administrator

DATE: March 17, 2022

TO: Bureau of Reclamation
1839 C Street NW
Washington DC, 20240

FROM: ISWCC

RE: **BOR WaterSMART Grant for Rainey Park Wetland Creation and Restoration**

The Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission is pleased to support the City of Pocatello's Water Smart application for improvements to Rainey Park. The proposed project will greatly improve habitat for fish and wildlife on the Portneuf River in Pocatello. It will also improve water quality with the installation of a stormwater pond.

When the levees and concrete channel were installed in the 1960s they disconnected residents from the river. This project is the first step in a long reconnection effort.

This Rainey Park project is a top priority for the Portneuf River Vision, which is a broad coalition of watershed and community partners working to improve the Portneuf River in Pocatello. The River Vision seeks to restore the Portneuf River corridor in order to revitalize environmental, recreational, and economic opportunities while increasing community pride, connectivity, and quality of life.

We are pleased to add our support to this Rainey Park effort and are committed to working with the City and other community partners on project implementation.

Sincerely,

Delwyne Trefz, Administrator
Idaho Soil & Water Conservation Commission



United States Department of Agriculture

March 20, 2023

Bureau of Reclamation
1839 C Street NW
Washington DC, 20240

Dear Bureau of Reclamation:

The Natural Resources Conservation Service is fully supportive of the City of Pocatello's WaterSMART application for improvements to Rainey Park. We have been working on this effort with the City for many years and are excited to see a restoration project occur on the Portneuf River in Pocatello.

The Rainey Park project is a priority project for the Natural Resources Conservation Service. The wetland creation is instrumental in improving fish and wildlife habitat in the area. This project will align with other conservation efforts within the area to improve the Portneuf River.

We are pleased to add our support to this Rainey Park effort and are committed to working with the City and other community partners on project implementation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Taylor Uphoff". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Taylor Uphoff
Acting Conservation Team Lead
Natural Resources Conservation Service



Portneuf Soil and Water Conservation District

214 East Center Street
Pocatello, ID 83201
(208)339-6023
www.portneufswcd.weebly.com

March 9, 2023

Board of Supervisors

KEVIN KOESTER
Lava Hot Springs, ID

SCOTT HENDERSON
Swan Lake, ID

DAVE JACKSON
Tyhee, ID

JUSTIN CASPERSON
Lava Hot Springs, ID

BRAD Kent
Arimo, ID

Associates

DAVE JONES
Swan Lake, ID

HANNAH SANGER
Pocatello, ID

KIT TILLOTSON
Lava Hot Spring, ID

TO: Bureau of Reclamation
1839 C Street NW
Washington DC, 20240

FROM: Portneuf Soil and Water Conservation District (PSWCD)

RE: **BOR WaterSMART Grant for Rainey Park Wetland Creation and Restoration**

PSWCD fully supports the City of Pocatello's Water Smart application for improvements to Rainey Park. We have been working with the City for many years to improve stormwater quality and to implement river restoration projects. The proposed project's emphasis on treating stormwater and creating a wetland within downtown Pocatello enables it to meet the community's need and provide much needed habitat and water quality improvements for the Portneuf River.

When the levees and concrete channel were installed in the 1960s they disconnected residents from the river. This project is the first step in a long reconnection effort.

This Rainey Park project is a top priority for the Portneuf River Vision, which is a broad coalition of watershed and community partners working to improve the Portneuf River in Pocatello. The River Vision seeks to restore the Portneuf River corridor in order to revitalize environmental, recreational, and economic opportunities while increasing community pride, connectivity, and quality of life.

We are pleased to add our support to this Rainey Park effort and are committed to working with the City and other community partners on project implementation.

Sincerely,

Kevin Koester
PSWCD Chairman



Portneuf Watershed Partnership
PO Box 4169
Pocatello, ID 83205
www.portneufwatershed.org

DATE: March 23, 2022

TO: Bureau of Reclamation
1839 C Street NW
Washington DC, 20240

FROM: Portneuf Watershed Partnership (PWP)

RE: **BOR WaterSMART Grant for Rainey Park Wetland Creation and Restoration**

The Portneuf Watershed Partnership is excited to support the City of Pocatello's Water Smart application for improvements to Rainey Park. As an organization, we have been discussing plans for this park for many years, including helping the City with their initial concept and design. This project will be a keystone restoration project in the Portneuf River channel, providing much needed refuge for fish and wildlife.

The PWP's mission is to "improve surface and ground water resources in the greater Portneuf watershed through partnership, outreach, research, monitoring and restoration activities." We are a collaborative organization made up of local elected officials, tribal members, state and federal land management agencies, non-profit organizations and local industry. We meet monthly to share activities, information, and resources that work toward obtaining the goal of improved water resources. Most of the organizations who regularly attend our meetings were also intimately involved in the 2016 Portneuf River Vision Study, which provided the impetus for the proposed project.

We are pleased to add our support to this Rainey Park effort and are committed to working with the City and other community partners on project implementation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Hannah Sanger". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Hannah Sanger
Meeting Coordinator



Portneuf Valley Partners
PO Box 1374
Pocatello, ID 83204
portneufvalleypartners.org

DATE: March 23, 2022

TO: Bureau of Reclamation
1839 C Street NW
Washington DC, 20240

FROM: Portneuf Valley Partners

RE: **BOR WaterSMART Grant for Rainey Park Wetland Creation and Restoration**

Portneuf Valley Partners is pleased to support the City of Pocatello's Water Smart application for improvements to Rainey Park. We have been working on this effort with the City for many years and are excited to see a restoration project on the Portneuf River in Pocatello coming to fruition. This project will be a refuge for many fish and wildlife and is a key component of efforts to reconnect residents with the river.

We have been working with the City for many years on cleaning trash out of the river and have come a long way. When the levees and concrete channel were installed in the 1960s, they disconnected residents from the river. This project is a key step in a long reconnection effort.

This Rainey Park project is a top priority for the Portneuf River Vision, which is a broad coalition of watershed and community partners working to improve the Portneuf River in Pocatello. The River Vision seeks to restore the Portneuf River corridor in order to revitalize environmental, recreational, and economic opportunities while increasing community pride, connectivity, and quality of life.

We are pleased to add our support to this Rainey Park effort and are committed to working with the City and other community partners on project implementation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jedd Thomas". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Jedd Thomas
Past-President and Executive Committee Member



March 15, 2023

To: Bureau of Reclamation
1839 C Street NW
Washington DC, 20240

From: Portneuf Resource Council

RE: BOR WaterSMART Grant for Rainey Park Wetland Creation and Restoration

The Portneuf Resource Council whole-heartedly supports the City of Pocatello's Water Smart application for improvements to Rainey Park. We have been working on this effort with the City for many years and are excited to see a restoration project on the Portneuf River in Pocatello coming to fruition. This project is sorely needed to start restoring a functional river system through Pocatello, and will provide an example of what is needed throughout the river.

When the levees and concrete channel were installed in the 1960's they disconnected the river from its floodplain, eliminated the adjoining wetland areas, and restricted access for people to easily enter the river. This project is the first step in a long reconnection effort.

This Rainey Park project is a top priority for the Portneuf River Vision, which is a broad coalition of watershed and community partners working to improve the Portneuf River in Pocatello. The River Vision seeks to restore the Portneuf River corridor in order to revitalize environmental, recreational, and economic opportunities while increasing community pride, connectivity, and quality of life.

We are pleased to add our support to this Rainey Park effort and are committed to working with the City and other community partners on project implementation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Engle".

Michael Engle
208 284 3825
Chair, Portneuf Resource Council

March 13, 2023

Bureau of Reclamation
1839 C Street NW
Washington DC, 20240

BOR WaterSMART Grant for Rainey Park Wetland Creation and Restoration

Please accept our support for the City of Pocatello's Water Smart application for improvements to Rainey Park. The proposed project not only improves the health of the Portneuf River, it also provides for a myriad of healthy living opportunities for area residents. The project creates fishing access, as well as the opportunity to walk through a wetland. This park is on the Greenway and will allow residents to bike and walk to it.

When the levees and concrete channel were installed in the 1960s they disconnected residents from the river. This project is the first step in a long reconnection effort.

This Rainey Park project is a top priority for the Portneuf River Vision, which is a broad coalition of watershed and community partners working to improve the Portneuf River in Pocatello. The River Vision seeks to restore the Portneuf River corridor in order to revitalize environmental, recreational, and economic opportunities while increasing community pride, connectivity, and quality of life.

Portneuf Health Trust is an initiative driver leader that strives to enhance and improve the health of Southeast Idaho and surrounding areas. We are pleased to add our support to this Rainey Park effort and are committed to working with the City and other community partners on project implementation.

Sincerely,



Shaun Menchaca
President/CEO | Portneuf Health Trust, Inc.



March 09, 2022

TO: Bureau of Reclamation
1839 C Street NW
Washington DC, 20240

FROM: Pocatello-Chubbuck Chamber of Commerce

RE: BOR WaterSMART Grant for Rainey Park Wetland Creation and Restoration

The Pocatello-Chubbuck Chamber is pleased to support the City of Pocatello's application for improvements to Rainey Park. This project will revitalize a park in downtown Pocatello by connecting residents to the Portneuf River, including providing residents with ADA access to a wetland and the Portneuf River. It will also improve habitat in the Portneuf River for fish and wildlife, which our community members greatly value.

This project ties in with neighborhood and Historic Downtown Pocatello efforts to revitalize downtown Pocatello by providing residents with a modern park that will connect them to the river and local trails. When the levees and concrete channel were installed in the 1960s they disconnected residents from the river. This project is the first step in a long reconnection effort.

Revitalizing the Portneuf River through Historic Downtown Pocatello and connecting the two together is high priority for the business community and the Pocatello-Chubbuck Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber supports the Portneuf River Vision Project.

This Rainey Park project is a top priority for the Portneuf River Vision, which is a broad coalition of watershed and community partners working to improve the Portneuf River in Pocatello. The River Vision seeks to restore the Portneuf River corridor in order to revitalize environmental, recreational, and economic opportunities while increasing community pride, connectivity, and quality of life.

We are pleased to add our support to this Rainey Park effort and are committed to working with the City and other community partners on project implementation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Matthew J. Hunter", is written over a white background.

Matthew J. Hunter
President & CEO
Pocatello-Chubbuck Chamber

Pocatello-Chubbuck Chamber of Commerce
P.O. Box 626 Pocatello, ID 83204

Phone: (208) 233-1525
Fax: (208) 233-1527



March 22, 2023

TO: Bureau of Reclamation
1839 C Street NW
Washington DC, 20240

FROM: Historic Downtown Pocatello, Inc.

RE: **BOR Water SMART Grant for Rainey Park Wetland Creation and Restoration**

Historic Downtown Pocatello, Inc., representing downtown property and business owners, fully supports the City of Pocatello's Water Smart application for improvements to Rainey Park. We are excited to see a restoration project on the Portneuf River in Pocatello coming to fruition. This project is a key component of efforts to reconnect residents with the river.

We have been working with the City for many years on improving this park and opening up the levees and concrete channel. When the levees and concrete channel were installed in the 1960s they disconnected residents from the river. This project is a key step in a long reconnection effort.

This Rainey Park project is a top priority for the Portneuf River Vision, which is a broad coalition of watershed and community partners, including Historic Downtown Pocatello, Inc., working to improve the Portneuf River. The River Vision seeks to restore the Portneuf River corridor in order to revitalize environmental, recreational, and economic opportunities while increasing community pride, connectivity, and quality of life.

We are pleased to add our support to this Rainey Park effort and are committed to working with the City and other community partners on project implementation.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Palagi

Stephanie Palagi
President & CEO



Serving Southeast Idaho

NeighborWorks® Pocatello
206 N. Arthur
Pocatello, ID 83204
(208) 232-9468
(208) 232-9231 fax
www.NWPocatello.org

March 9, 2023

Bureau of Reclamation
1839 C Street NW
Washington DC, 20240

RE: BOR WaterSMART Grant for Rainey Park Wetland Creation and Restoration

Neighborworks Pocatello is pleased to support the City of Pocatello's Water Smart application for improvements to Rainey Park. The proposed project is adjacent the Historic Downtown Neighborhood, which is a centrally located and low-income census tract neighborhood where our organization focuses much of its efforts. This neighborhood is connected to the area of the proposed project by a walking/biking path. Once complete, residents would have the benefit of visiting the area to fish, swim and float, as well as walk through the wetland.

When the levees and concrete channel were installed in the 1960s, they fragmented residents from the river and split the neighborhood in half. This project is an important step in connecting residents of the community back to the river.

We know this project at Rainey Park is a top priority for the Portneuf River Vision, which is a broad coalition of watershed and community partners working to improve the Portneuf River in Pocatello. The River Vision seeks to restore the Portneuf River corridor in order to revitalize environmental, recreational, and economic opportunities while increasing community pride, connectivity, and quality of life.

NeighborWorks Pocatello is a progressive alliance between residents, business and government that revitalizes targeted areas (such as the Historic Old Town Neighborhood) by empowering people, creating safe, healthy neighborhoods, providing opportunities for affordable housing and building community pride. The impact this project will make via restoring an important and visible section of the Portneuf River goes hand in hand with our mission.

Again, we are pleased to add our support to this Rainey Park effort and are committed to working with the City and other community partners on project implementation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Dahlquist", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Mark Dahlquist, Executive Director
NeighborWorks Pocatello

D.2.2.3.1 Funding Plan and Letters of Commitment



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR/COUNCIL
911 North 7th Avenue
P.O. Box 4169
Pocatello, Idaho 83205-4169

Office: (208) 234-6163
www.pocatello.us

BRIAN C. BLAD
Mayor

Pocatello City Council:

RICK CHEATUM
LINDA LEEUWRIK
COREY MANGUM
JOSH MANSFIELD
SCOTT MARCHAND
BRENT R. NICHOLS

March 23, 2023

Bureau of Reclamation
1839 C Street NW
Washington DC, 20240

BOR WaterSMART Grant for Rainey Park Wetland Creation and Restoration

The City of Pocatello (City) is pleased to support the proposed Rainey Park grant application. Improvements to this park is a top priority of our community's 2016 Portneuf River Vision Study.

This project will be implemented on City of Pocatello property and includes moving the existing river levee, creating a wetland to replace part of the many acres of wetlands removed when the levees were installed, and installing a new stormwater pond adjacent to the proposed project.

The City is excited to be working with watershed and community partners and river/hiking/biking enthusiasts to implement this project. **To the proposed \$2,180,368.00 project, the City commits a 25% match, using in-kind and cash contributions.**

We are also committed to maintaining the proposed park project. The City's Parks & Recreation Department and Outdoor Recreation Division are heavily invested in this park and will be maintaining the facility.

We are pleased to add our support to this effort. We look forward to working with other partners on developing this recreational resource and connecting local residents to the river and trails out our backdoor.

Sincerely,

Brian C. Blad
Mayor