

# Lower Duchesne Wetlands Project

## Questions & Answers

### CONSTRUCTION

**Q: What construction activities will take place under the LDWP's Proposed Action?**

- A:**
- Specific construction activities within each of the Project's proposed three management areas are depicted in Maps 1, 2 and 3 on the following pages.
  - General construction activities include:
    - re-watering oxbows
    - connecting oxbows to form contiguous wetland systems
    - creating marsh complexes
    - clearing Russian olive and tamarisk
    - replanting river areas with native woody trees and shrubs
    - eliminating grazing within the project area
    - other management practices to benefit wildlife

**Q: What is the estimated construction schedule?**

- A:** The Proposed Action would be constructed over a seven year period, at a minimum.
- Land acquisition would be among the first activities initiated and would begin in the Uresk Drain area, where the least amount of private land is required for the project.
  - Offers from willing sellers in other project areas would be considered at any time as those opportunities arise.
  - Mosquito and weed control measures would also be implemented upon initiation of the project.
  - Construction of wetland features including berms, wetland depressions and oxbow connections would proceed according to the success and schedule of land acquisitions.
  - Planting of native riparian vegetation would occur on a block-by-block basis, with each planting block consisting of about a 120-acre area. Approximately one planting block of riparian habitat would be planted each year.
  - All land disturbed during construction of wetland features would be planted the same year it is disturbed unless disturbances continue over more than one year.

**Q: What's next?**

- A:**
- A Record of Decision will be signed 30 days after releasing the Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The Record of Decision documents the alternative selected from the EIS and the rationale for that selection.
  - After this decision is made the Project will begin.

**Q: Why is the Project necessary?**

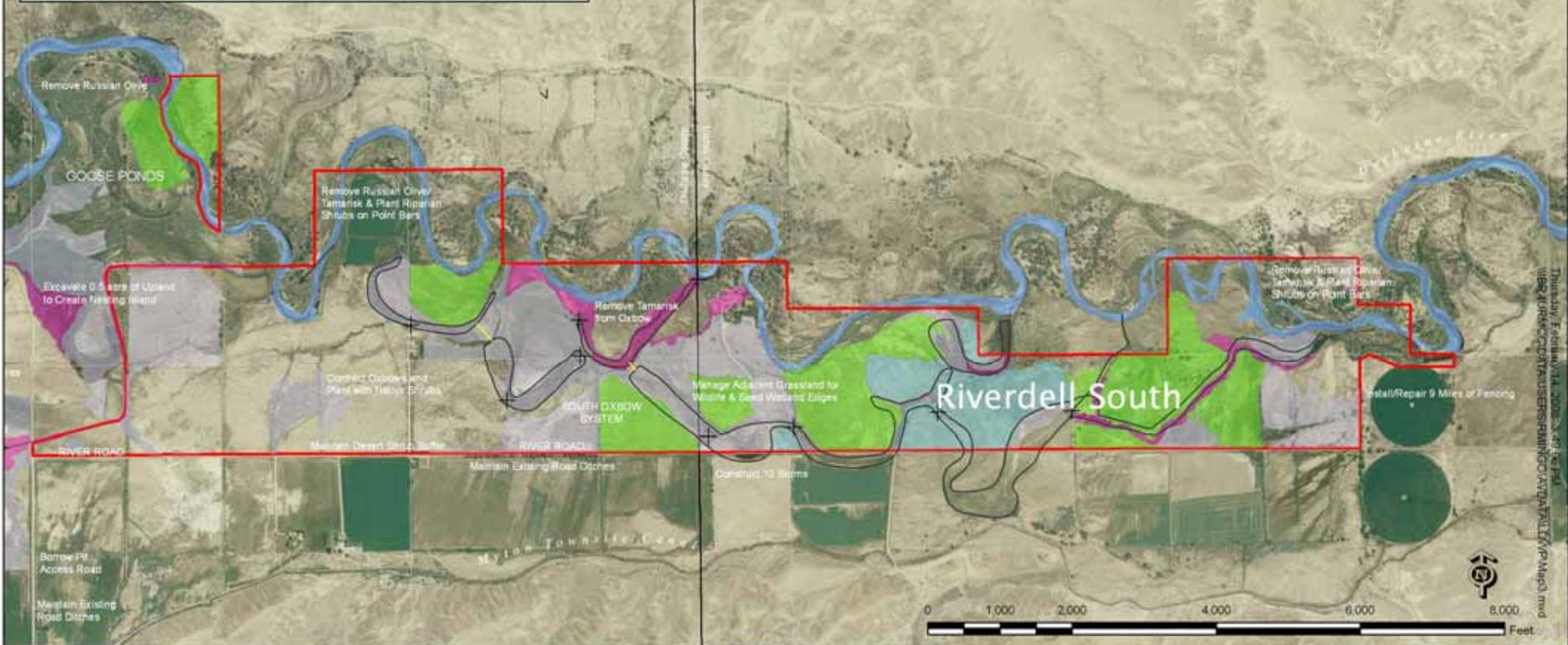
- A:** The underlying need for the Project is to restore wetland and wildlife habitat that has been impacted by construction and operation of the Central Utah Project.

**Map 1.**  
**Proposed Construction Features on the Riverdell South Site Under the Proposed Action**

- ⊕ Berm Location
- Project Features**
- Oxbow
- Oxbow Connection
- Wetlands Under Baseline Conditions**
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- New Wetland Areas Under Proposed Action**
- EMERGENT MARSH
- GRASSLAND
- WET MEADOW
- Proposed Action and Phase Alternatives
- Public Land Survey Section Lines

**Riverdell South Management Prescriptions**

- Replant 163 acres of degraded or cleared cottonwood forest and riparian shrub.
- Seed 227 acres of wetland edges.
- Remove Russian olive and tamarisk from 87 acres.
- Maintain 240 acres of desert shrub as a buffer from River Road.
- Construct 10 berms along the South Oxbow. Berms to average 225 feet long, 4 feet high with 3:1 slopes. Install water control structures in each berm.
- Excavate channels between 4 oxbows to restore a contiguous 7 oxbow system.
- Construct approximately 1 acre of temporary access roads to the berms.
- Install 9 miles of new fencing to exclude livestock. Riverdell North is not included in the Proposed Action.
- Continue to irrigate 223 acres of grassland or fallow grass fields but eliminate grazing and manage for wildlife nesting and cover.



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**Map 2.**  
**Proposed Construction Features on the Uresk Site**

**Project Features**

- Berm
- Pipeline

**New Wetland Areas Under Proposed Action**

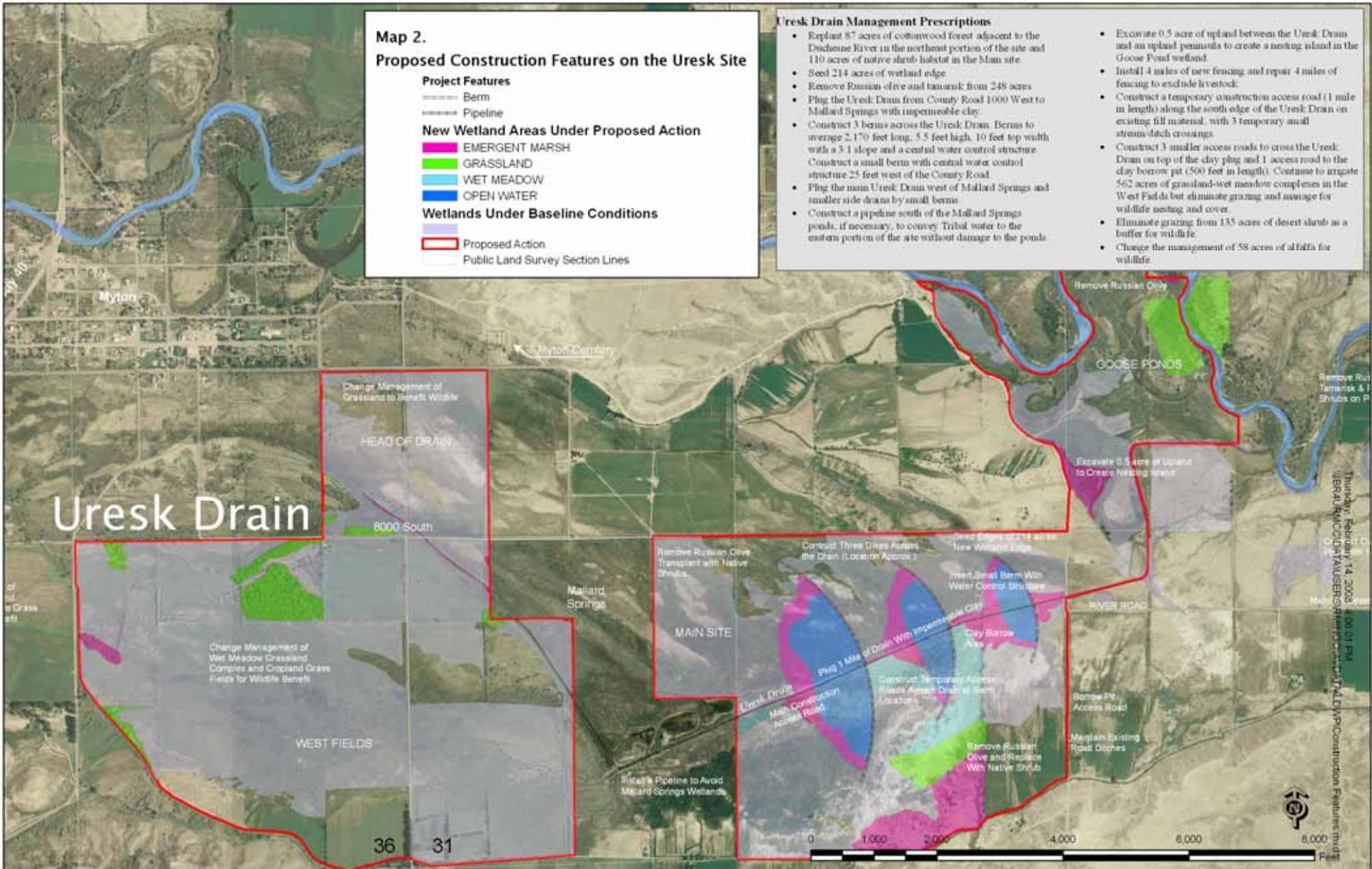
- EMERGENT MARSH
- GRASSLAND
- WET MEADOW
- OPEN WATER

**Wetlands Under Baseline Conditions**

- Proposed Action
- Public Land Survey Section Lines

**Uresk Drain Management Prescriptions**

- Replant 87 acres of cottonwood forest adjacent to the Duchesne River in the northeast portion of the site and 110 acres of native shrub habitat in the Main site.
- Seed 214 acres of wetland edge.
- Remove Russian olive and tamarisk from 248 acres
- Plug the Uresk Drain from County Road 1000 West to Mallard Springs with impervious clay.
- Construct 3 berms across the Uresk Drain. Berms to average 2,170 feet long, 5.5 feet high, 10 feet top width with a 3:1 slope and a central water control structure. Construct a small berm with central water control structure 25 feet west of the County Road.
- Plug the main Uresk Drain west of Mallard Springs and smaller side drains by small berms.
- Construct a pipeline south of the Mallard Springs ponds, if necessary, to convey Tribal water to the eastern portion of the site without damage to the ponds.
- Excavate 0.5 acre of upland between the Uresk Drain and an upland peninsula to create a nesting island in the Goose Pond wetland.
- Install 4 miles of new fencing and repair 4 miles of fencing to exclude livestock.
- Construct a temporary construction access road (1 mile in length) along the south edge of the Uresk Drain on existing fill material, with 3 temporary small stream/ditch crossings.
- Construct 3 smaller access roads to cross the Uresk Drain on top of the clay plug and 1 access road to the clay borrow pit (500 feet in length). Continue to irrigate 562 acres of grassland-wet meadow complexes in the West Fields but eliminate grazing and usage for wildlife nesting and cover.
- Eliminate grazing from 135 acres of desert shrub as a buffer for wildlife.
- Change the management of 58 acres of alfalfa for wildlife.



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