



Utah Reclamation Mitigation & Conservation Commission
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COMMISSIONERS
Brad T. Barber, Chair
Robert L. Morgan
Gene Shawcroft

Dear Reader:

September 25, 2018

West Jordan City and the Utah Reclamation Mitigation and Conservation Commission (Mitigation Commission), a Federal Agency, have proposed to create or enhance riparian, riverine, wetland and upland habitat along a reach of the Jordan River at approximately 8600 South in West Jordan, Utah. The environmental impacts of the proposed project were described in a Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) which was sent out for public review and comment in March 2018. We received many great comments on the Draft EA and the project has been revised accordingly. A summary of the changes made to the Draft EA describing those revisions is enclosed for your review.

Based on the analysis presented in the EA and the comments we received from the public and other interested parties, I have selected Alternative 1 as the alternative the Mitigation Commission would support for implementation by West Jordan City. The Selected Alternative will restore riverine and supporting upland habitat along this reach of the Jordan River to a greater extent than the other two action alternatives, while still providing an appropriate balance of compatible outdoor recreational and educational opportunities. My decision is to encumber the 43-acre federal parcel with a conservation easement and transfer the parcel to West Jordan City, so they can implement the Selected Alternative. The basis for my decision is documented in the attached report, referred to as a Finding of No Significant Impacts (FONSI). The Final EA is also available for you to download and review at our website www.MitigationCommission.gov.

I recognize that because of funding limitations, the project may require a phased implementation approach and that the Mitigation Commission, West Jordan City and others will establish a framework to guide project implementation (i.e., which project features are to be constructed first and which are to be constructed later when sufficient funding becomes available). This framework will ensure that the ecological restoration components of the project proceed concurrent with recreation-oriented components of the project, but not necessarily at the same pace. For instance, trails, parking and the fishing pond may proceed prior to construction of the new river channel. The framework for project implementation may come in the form of the contract transferring the federal property to West Jordan City or other similar mechanism. The Mitigation Commission may authorize West Jordan City, through a permit or license agreement, to initiate a limited amount of work on the 43-acre parcel while it is still in ownership of the United States and this may occur at any time.

If you have any questions, please contact Richard Mingo at (801) 524-3168 or by email rmingo@usbr.gov.

Sincerely,

Mark A. Holden
Executive Director

**Finding of No Significant Impact
Big Bend of the Jordan River
Habitat Restoration and Federal Land Transfer**

September 2018

DECISION

Upon review of the analysis presented in the Environmental Assessment (EA) and in careful consideration of public comment and coordination with other interested parties, I have selected Alternative 1 (hereafter referred to as the Selected Alternative), as the alternative the Mitigation Commission would support for implementation by West Jordan City. The Selected Alternative will restore riverine and supporting upland habitat along this reach of the Jordan River (the Big Bend site) to a greater extent than the other two action alternatives considered in the Draft EA, while providing an appropriate balance of compatible outdoor recreational and educational opportunities.

My decision is, to transfer the 43-acre federal property to West Jordan City; to encumber the 43-acre federal parcel with a conservation easement; and to require implementation of the Selected Alternative by West Jordan City.

BACKGROUND

The Jordan River begins as the outlet for Utah Lake and flows northward to the Great Salt Lake. Agricultural development, urban encroachment, and channelization of the river for flood control resulted in significant degradation of the natural river ecosystem. The Jordan River corridor was significantly modified by channel straightening and was relocated several times from the early 1930s to the mid-1950s. The most drastic changes to the Jordan River in the project area occurred prior to 1952, by which time long segments of the river had been re-aligned and confined between levees to accommodate the Sharon Steel milling and smelting plant. The Sharon Steel site is located immediately north (downstream) of the proposed restoration area, as shown in Figure 1.

Modifications to the Jordan River channel have greatly impacted the natural mechanics of the river and decreased its stability and function. Channel realignment, dredging and channelization activities occurring in the 1950s were particularly damaging to the river's natural riparian processes, and consequently the habitat of the Jordan River. These actions increased the river's channel gradient and flow velocity, which in turn has caused increased head cutting, channel bed degradation, and stream bank erosion. As a result of this channel instability, much of the remaining riparian, wetland, aquatic and upland habitats have been lost or impaired. Continuing bank erosion, particularly during high-water events (such as occurred as recently as 2011) is resulting in the loss of remnant habitats within and adjacent to the channel.

Historically, the project area was dominated by willow stands, cottonwoods, and other species native to the area. These native species contributed to a diversity of habitat types and provided

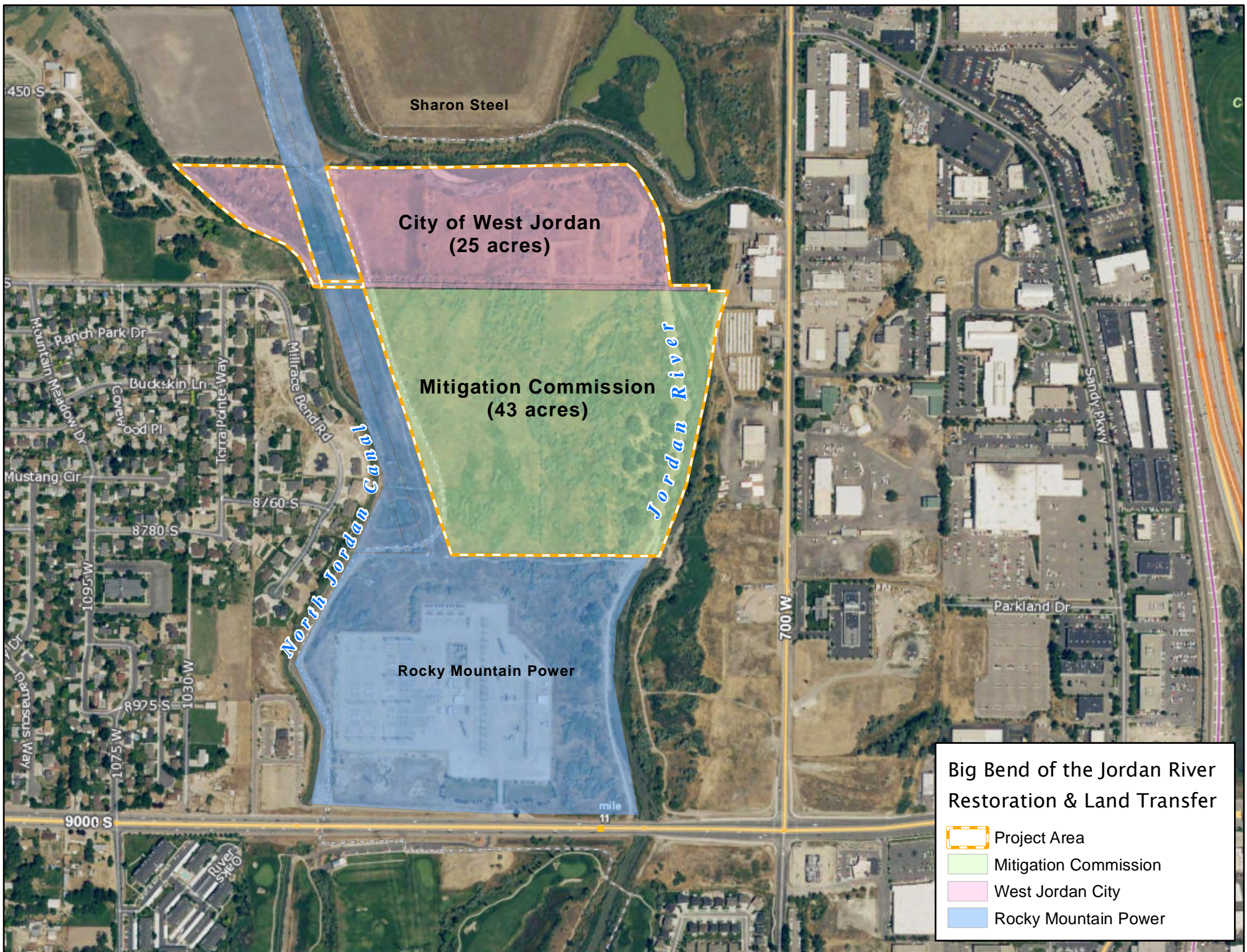


Figure 1 Project Area Map

important functions in the river's ecosystem. As a result of channelization, wetland and riparian vegetation along the Jordan River has deteriorated. Channel bed degradation caused the river's water table (water surface elevation) to lower with respect to the floodplain, resulting in a loss of connection between the root zone of floodplain vegetation and shallow groundwater associated with the river. Consequently, most of the project site is currently vegetated with non-native species that provide relatively poorer habitat value to native wildlife compared to native plant species. Russian olive (*Elaeagnus angustifolia*) has replaced Fremont cottonwood (*Populus fremontii*) as the dominant overstory species. The native woody component of the understory, primarily sandbar willow (*Salix exigua*), Wood's rose (*Rosa woodsia*), and golden currant (*Ribes aureum*) has been replaced with introduced grasses, weedy forbs, and salt cedar (or Tamarisk, *Tamarix ramossissima*). This condition and loss of natural riverine ecological processes and associated native vegetation is similar to what has occurred over large portions of the entire Jordan River corridor.

The proposed restoration site is one of the last remaining large undeveloped sections of land within the Jordan River corridor and provides a unique opportunity to restore the degraded ecosystem structure, function, and dynamic processes of the river to a more natural condition. **Restoring both aquatic and terrestrial ecosystem functions would improve both aquatic and terrestrial habitat over what presently occurs on-site, which is the underlying purpose for the project.**

SELECTED ALTERNATIVE

The features of the Selected Alternative are described in greater detail in the Final EA. It is recognized that the features described in the Final EA are preliminary and conceptual in nature, the details of which will be more fully developed as West Jordan City moves into final design of the project. The scope of the project and environmental impacts, however, will remain as described in the EA.

The project area is approximately 68 acres in size, of which 43 acres (68%) is owned by the United States under the administration of the Mitigation Commission, and 25 acres (32%) is owned by West Jordan City as shown in Figure 1. The 25-acre West Jordan City parcel is presently encumbered by a conservation easement which is enforced by the State of Utah Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands. Under the Selected Alternative, the conservation easement will be amended to include the 43-acre federal parcel, and concurrently the Mitigation Commission will transfer ownership of the 43-acre federal parcel to West Jordan City for project implementation. West Jordan City would subsequently transfer a portion of the 68-acre parcel that will become the new bed and bank of the Jordan River to the State of Utah Forestry Fire and State Lands as required by State of Utah statute. The 68-acre parcel would be managed for ecological restoration and compatible recreational uses consistent with the conservation easement.

Under the Selected Alternative, the main channel of the Jordan River would be realigned into a new meandering channel located west of its present location as depicted in Figure 4.¹ A boulder

¹ Figures and Appendices in this document are a subset of those found in the Final EA. To maintain consistency and ease of reference, the numbers have not been changed but are therefore no longer sequential in this document.

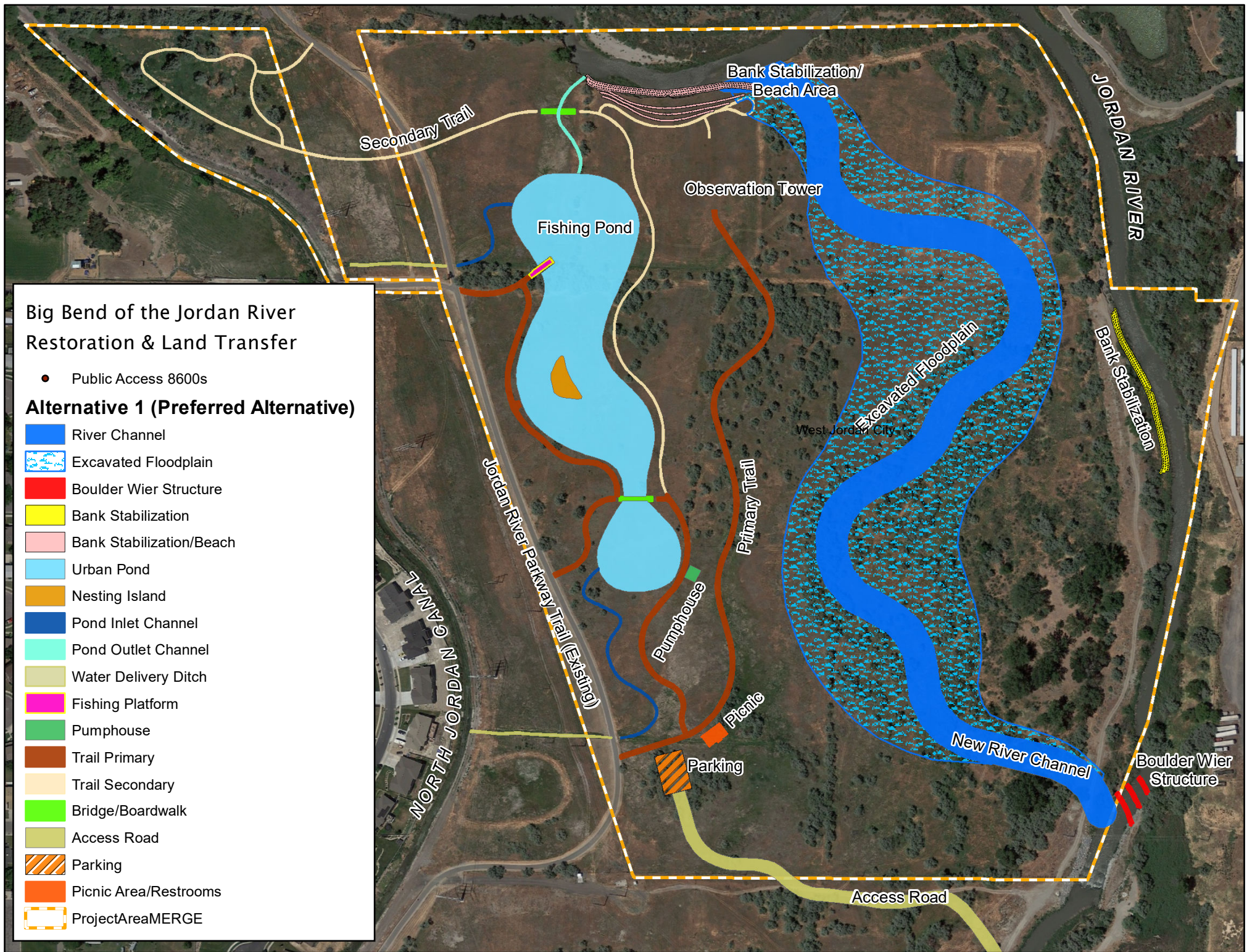


Figure 4 Alternative 1 Project Features

weir structure would be constructed across the main channel of the Jordan River that would push a majority of the Jordan River flow into the new channel with a smaller amount of water continuing down the existing channel. The new main channel would have a top width of approximately 70 feet and an average depth of 3.5 feet and would convey flows up to approximately 600 cfs. When flows are greater than 600 cfs in the new channel, the river would overtop the bank and spread out onto the new channel's floodplain area, which would vary in width from 300 to 500 feet. This periodic overbank flooding would provide the conditions necessary to support a healthier riparian corridor compared to existing conditions.

The new meandering channel would have a greater diversity of desirable riverine features including varying bank heights and steepness, and varied channel forms (riffles, runs, and pools) compared to the existing channel. Habitat would include large woody debris, stream boulders and plantings along the bank. The main channel would be constructed to allow the river to move laterally across the floodplain except in areas where large woody debris and boulders would be placed to protect infrastructure and desirable habitat areas.

A fishing pond would be constructed between the existing Jordan River Parkway Trail and the newly constructed Jordan River channel. The fishing pond would vary in depth with a maximum depth of approximately 15 feet and a surface area of approximately 4 acres. The pond would receive water from two existing diversions out of the North Jordan Canal utilizing water rights currently owned by West Jordan City and the Mitigation Commission, with additional water to be acquired by West Jordan City if needed. It is anticipated the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources would stock the pond with species appropriate to the water quality and habitat conditions of the pond and the pond would be open to fishing in accordance with State of Utah fishing regulations.

A viewing platform would be constructed between the pond and the new river channel along with a network of trails. Trails would be confined to the western half of the project site to minimize disturbance to the wildlife habitat restoration area planned for the eastern portion of the site. Approximately 3/4 mile of primary trails would connect the parking area, viewing platform, fishing pond, Jordan River Parkway Trail, picnic area, restrooms and fish cleaning station. Primary trails would be constructed of a suitable surface (e.g., compacted crusher fines or other soft surface materials) consistent with the conservation easement while still meeting the guidelines of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Primary trails would be 8 to 12 feet wide to accommodate multiple uses safely and would not exceed 5 percent slope.

Approximately 3/4 miles of secondary trails would also be constructed consisting of a native surface, compacted crusher fines, or wood chips, as appropriate. The secondary trails would allow users to circumnavigate the pond and connect to other recreational amenities at the project site. Secondary trails would typically be 2 to 4 feet wide.

Access and parking for the site would be provided off 9000 South using the existing Rocky Mountain Power entrance, the terms of which would be negotiated between Rocky Mountain Power and West Jordan City. The 26-foot wide access road runs parallel to the existing Jordan River channel, before turning northwest into the proposed parking area located on the south end

of the Mitigation Commission parcel. The parking area would provide approximately 19 total spaces, 2 of which would meet ADA guidelines.

A split-rail fence located on the toe of the slope of the viewing platform berm would generally demark the area that would receive more public use compared the habitat preservation area, east of the split-rail fence. Signage would be installed on the split-rail fence to discourage park visitors from entering the habitat preservation area, particularly during certain times of year such as nesting season. The recreation use area (the area west of the split-rail fence), which includes the fishing pond, viewing platform, trails, picnic tables, parking and restroom, would be approximately 31 acres in size (46% of the project area) (Figure 6). The remaining 37 acres east of the split-rail fence would focus primarily on habitat restoration. In addition to the split-rail fence, the proposed meander channel would also provide a natural barrier to habitat located on the east side of this new river channel (16.6 acres) further insulating this area from frequent public use.

REASON FOR THE DECISION

Restoring both aquatic and terrestrial ecosystem functions of the Jordan River corridor is the underlying need for the project and the Big Bend site is one of the last remaining large undeveloped sections of land within the Jordan River corridor where this can be done. The project provides a unique opportunity to restore the degraded ecosystem structure, function, and dynamic processes of the river to a more natural condition. I have chosen the Selected Alternative to support for implementation because this alternative provides the greatest long-term opportunity to restore ecological function and associated wetland and riparian habitats in the project area. The new meandering river channel through the project area would be approximately 2,575 feet in length with a floodplain width as wide as 500 feet in places. The restored floodplain area would create approximately 15.3 acres of wetland and riparian habitat; more than double the area compared to Alternative 2, the Small Floodplain Alternative. Upland areas outside the restored floodplain would be reseeded and planted with native plants. The restoration area will be revegetated with a mix of native plants including a variety of native trees, shrubs, grasses, forbs, and wetland species as appropriate for various micro-habitat zones created on the site. A permanent irrigation system would be installed to help establish native vegetation and to provide supplemental water when necessary (e.g., during drought).

The Selected Alternative would provide numerous outdoor recreational opportunities that are compatible with the underlying ecological objectives of the restoration project including a 4-acre fishing pond, soft surface trails, a viewing platform, picnic tables, parking and restrooms. Educational and interpretive features would also be incorporated into the project. The 43-acre parcel would be protected from future development by amending the existing conservation easement on the West Jordan City parcel to include the 43-acre federal parcel. This would ensure the combined 68-acre parcel is managed under consistent requirements and guidelines protecting the project area for its ecological and recreational values.

My authority to transfer land out of federal ownership is provided by Section 301(h)7 Title III of Public Law 102-575 which states,

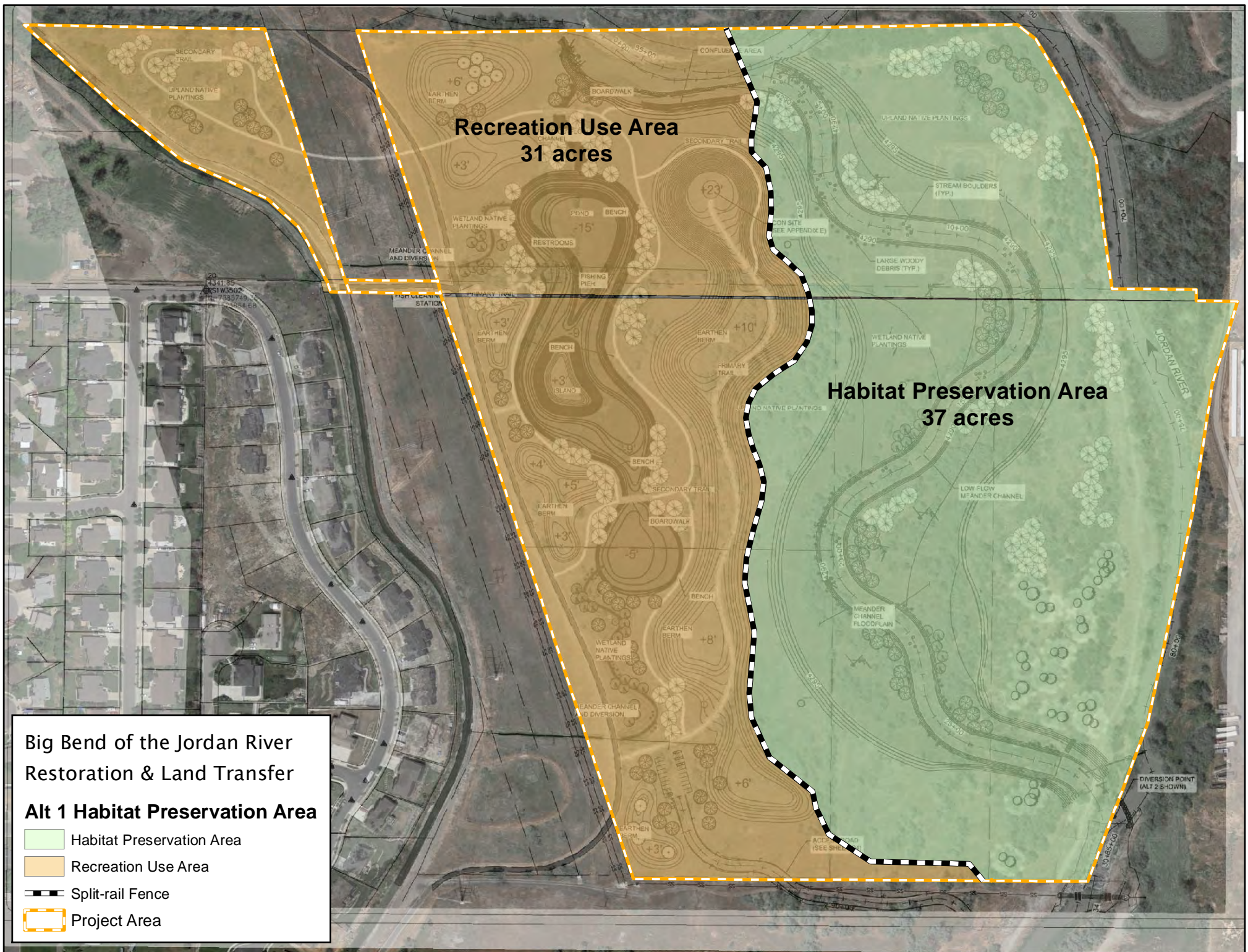


Figure 6 Alternative 1 Habitat Preservation Area

“The Commission may acquire and dispose of personal and real property and water rights, and interests therein, . . . in order to carry out the purposes of this Act.”

The Mitigation Commission originally acquired the 43-acre federal parcel in two separate transactions dating back to 1998, the intent of which was to serve as a catalyst to encourage local communities and others to protect, restore and enhance some of the last remaining natural areas along the Jordan River corridor. The Big Bend restoration project has been part of the Mitigation Commission’s vision since its inception and has been included in all subsequent planning efforts, most recently in the 2016 Mitigation and Conservation Plan:

“West Jordan City, with assistance from the Commission, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service and others are leading a renewed planning effort to develop and implement a comprehensive habitat restoration and recreation development plan for the combined properties. The plan will be analyzed in an Environmental Assessment currently underway with the Mitigation Commission in a lead role. One aspect of the proposed project analyzed in the EA will be the proposed disposition of the Commission’s property to West Jordan City.”

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

One of the primary purposes of NEPA is for Federal Agencies to inform and involve the public and other Federal, State, and local entities of the likely environmental impacts of their proposed actions. Our initial public involvement efforts started in November 2013 with the release of a Scoping Notice describing the proposed project. The Scoping Notice was sent to approximately 225 individuals and agencies to solicit input from interested parties regarding issues that should be addressed in the EA and to provide an opportunity to suggest alternatives that would address the underlying need for the project. The Scoping Notice is included as Appendix 3 of the Final EA.

Based on input received during scoping, a Draft EA was completed and sent to approximately 105 adjacent property owners, businesses, non-governmental organizations and governmental agencies in March 2018 for review and comment. Notice of the availability of the EA was posted on the property and made available at the Salt Lake County Public Library in West Jordan City. Distribution of the Draft EA is summarized in the following Table.

Distribution of Draft Environmental Assessment

Local	Federal
West Jordan City	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Sandy City Corporation	U.S. Department of the Interior
Salt Lake County	U.S. National Park Service
Riverton City Corporation	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
State	Business
Utah Division of Wildlife Resource	North Jordan Irrigation
Utah Forestry Fire and State Lands	Draper Irrigation Company

Utah Division of Water Rights	Rocky Mountain Power
Utah Department of Environmental Quality, Division of Water Quality	Fur Breeders Agricultural Cooperative
Utah State Historical Preservation Office	Gardner Heritage Farm, LLC
Utah Geological Survey	Ridgeline Capital, L.C.
Utah State Historical Preservation Office	Westlake Angus Ranch, LLC
Utah Public Lands Coordination Office	River Restoration Inc.
Other Agency	Conservation
Jordan Valley Water Conservancy District	Tracy Aviary
Jordan River Commission	Salt Lake Fish and Game
	Audubon in Utah
Other	
Adjacent Property Owners (75)	Adjacent Water Right Owners (10)

Eighteen (18) comment letters were received in response to the Draft EA. Appendix 5 of the Final EA provides a summary of the comments received on the Draft EA along with a response to those comments. Appendix 6 includes copies of the individual comment letters. On May 24, 2018, the Mitigation Commission, West Jordan City and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service met at West Jordan City Hall with several individuals who commented on the Draft EA to provide them an opportunity to ask questions and provide comments on the proposed project. In response to comments and the May 24, 2018 meeting a number of changes were made to the proposed action that are now incorporated into the Selected Alternative.

SUMMARY OF MITIGATION

The following mitigation measures and best management practices will be implemented as part of the project.

- In order to mitigate potential noise impacts from the operation of pumps pressurizing the irrigation system, the pumphouse would be insulated and doorway openings would be constructed to face east away from residential areas. Trees, shrubs and other landscape plantings would be utilized to mask the pumphouse from the viewshed of homes located west of the project area.
- Vegetation removal, trimming, and grading of vegetated areas will be scheduled outside of the peak bird breeding season to the maximum extent practicable. West Jordan City will Consult with Utah Division of Wildlife Resources and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to identify peak breeding months for local bird species.
- Equipment shall be cleaned to remove noxious weeds/seeds and petroleum products prior to moving on site.

- Fueling machinery shall occur off site or in a confined, designated area to prevent spillage into waterways and wetlands.
- Proper construction techniques, such as utilizing water, mulching, or applying surfactants on areas with high fugitive dust potential, will minimize dust emissions. The constructor will be required to contact the Utah Division of Air Quality and obtain any needed emissions permitting for construction and will implement best management practices to minimize emissions as practicable.
- Excavated soils shall be sorted into mineral soils and top soils. When backfilling a disturbed site, top soils shall be placed on top to provide a seed bed for native plants.
- Excavated material and construction debris may not be wasted in any stream channel or placed in flowing waters or adjacent wetlands; this will include material such as grease, oil, joint coating, or any other possible pollutants. Excess soil material not intentionally placed into a channel must be wasted at an upland site away from any channel or removed from the site.
- Use boulders, root-wads, and other natural materials from local sources to stabilize streambanks and in the active stream channel rather than using concrete, asphalt, steel, or other human-made materials to the maximum extent feasible.
- Use erosion-control environmental commitments where project construction will disturb soil. These areas are expected to be along channel-construction and -modification areas, construction access roads, floodplain grading areas, setback berms, and stockpile areas. The procedures will be designed to stabilize soils, restore vegetation to a desired plant community, and to prevent infestation by noxious plants and to avoid erosion.
- Care shall be taken to minimize sedimentation resulting from bank or stream bed disturbance.
- Remove and stockpile topsoil to a depth of 1 foot (or less if topsoil layer is less than 1 foot deep) for site restoration.
- Secure additional topsoil of suitable quality for revegetating disturbed sites from areas that will have minimal impacts on important fish and wildlife habitats.
- Implement the weed-control program in the vegetation management plan to control noxious weeds resulting from project implementation.
- Reclaim disturbed areas to desired riparian, wetland or upland plant communities as soon as possible after construction. Require the contractors to use specified plant materials and reclamation techniques.
- Select plant species for rehabilitating disturbed areas and erosion control based on soil type, root stabilizing characteristics, consistency with composition of contiguous native plant communities, ability to compete with undesirable vegetation, and compatibility with restoration goals.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

After considering the environmental effects described in the Environmental Assessment and in consideration of the required Mitigation Measures and Best Management Practices, I have determined that the Selected Alternative will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment considering the context and intensity of impacts (40 CFR 1508.27). Thus, an Environmental Impact Statement will not be prepared. The decision is based on the following:

1. *The impacts of this project are not considered to be significant upon the human environment, either to society as a whole or to the affected region, interests and locality.*

The Environmental Effects of the Selected Alternative are summarized in Table 4 of the Final EA. None of the Environmental Effects of the project are considered significant. While the Selected Alternative provides the greatest long-term opportunity to restore ecological function and associated wetland and riparian habitats in the project area, it consequently has the greatest construction area footprint. Approximately 48-acres or 71% of project area would be disturbed during construction. These impacts would be temporary and mitigated by removing Russian olive out over a period of 5 to 20 years as new native vegetation plantings become established. This phased approach would ensure avian species would continue to be provided habitat as newly restored areas develop.

2. *There will be no significant effects on public health and safety.*

There are no anticipated impacts to public health and safety. In addition to the mitigation measure outlined in the previous section, permanent barriers would also be placed at selected locations between the access road and the Jordan River for public safety purposes. Irrigation practices in the project area would be converted from flood irrigation to pressurized irrigation. Flood irrigation is known to produce habitat for mosquitoes which are vectors for the transmittal of disease to human populations such as West Nile virus.

3. *There will be no significant effects on the unique characteristics of the area. This action will have no detrimental effects on prime farmland, rangeland, floodplains or wetlands.*

There are no unique characteristics in the project area and therefore none will be impacted.

4. *The effects on the quality of the human environment are not likely to be highly controversial. There is no known scientific controversy over the impacts of the project.*

There was no controversy raised regarding the degree to which the human environment would be impacted by the proposed project.

5. *Based on the effects analysis, there are no effects which may be highly uncertain or involve unique or unknown risks.*

The EA did not identify any effects which were highly uncertain. The number of vehicles parking in the Millrace Bend residential neighborhood area and entering the project area on foot via the pedestrian bridge over the North Jordan Canal was considered to be speculative. The pedestrian bridge over the North Jordan Canal was constructed as part of the Jordan River Parkway Trail in 2014. The proposed picnic area will be located to be closer to the parking area at the south end of the project area further away from the pedestrian bridge, with the intent to discourage the public from parking in the Millrace Bend area and to use the designated public parking.

6. *The action would not set a precedent for future actions other than those described and analyzed in the Environmental Assessment.*

The Selected Alternative would not set a precedent for future actions other than those described and analyzed in the Environmental Assessment.

7. *The cumulative impacts of the project are not significant.*

There are no known cumulative impacts resulting from the project. The project would restore some of the ecological function and associated habitat that has been cumulatively impacted over years of development and alteration of the river and adjacent properties.

8. *The action will have no significant adverse effect on districts, sites, highways, structures, or objects listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.*

There are no eligible or listed sites or properties in the project area and therefore no impacts.

9. *The action will not adversely affect any endangered or threatened species or habitat that have been determined to be critical under the Endangered Species act of 1973. No Federally listed Endangered Species occur in the project area.*

No anticipated impacts on threatened, endangered or special status species.

10. *The action will not violate Federal, State, and local laws or requirements for the protection of the environment. Applicable laws and regulations were considered. The action is consistent with the Mitigation Commission's Mitigation and Conservation Plan and the purposes for which these properties were acquired.*

The action is consistent with Federal, State, and local laws and is consistent with the Mitigation Commission's Mitigation and Conservation Plan and the purposes for which the properties were acquired. The project is supported by and will be implemented by West Jordan City.

Findings Required by Other Relevant Laws and Regulations

This decision complies with Executive Order 13186 - Responsibilities Of Federal Agencies To Protect Migratory Birds. This Executive Order requires Federal Agencies to describe the effects of their actions on migratory birds, with an emphasis on species of concern, in the environmental analyses required by NEPA. Proposed, Threatened and Endangered Species and State of Utah Sensitive Species are described starting on page 8 of the Final Environmental Assessment. There will be no adverse effects to these species. Habitat conditions for migratory birds are expected to increase with the project.

This decision complies with Executive Order 13112 on Invasive Species which directs that federal agencies not authorize activities which would increase the spread of invasive species.

Disturbed surfaces would be replanted with an appropriate seed mix to control the spread of noxious weeds.

This decision complies with Executive Order 12898-Environmental Justice. In general, there would be no disproportional environmental effects on minority and low-income populations as a result of this project. The project however may displace a small number of indigent and transient individuals who are known to trespass on the property on occasion.

This decision complies with Executive Order 3215- Indian Trust Assets. There are no Indian trust assets associated with the project and therefore none affected by the Proposed Action.

This decision is consistent with Executive Order 12580 - Superfund Implementation. The Selected Alternative provides partial mitigation for the Sharon Steel Tailings Superfund Site. The Mitigation Commission is working cooperatively with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Trustee of the mitigation project and West Jordan City.

This decision is consistent with Presidential Barack Obama's Memorandum -- Climate Change and National Security September 21, 2016. Under any of the action alternatives, the project area would restore natural ecological processes, including increased amounts of large woody vegetation and increased soil microbial communities and function, both of which would tend to function as a carbon sink and to increase shading of both water and ground (e.g., by the presence of an upper riparian canopy), reducing surface and water temperatures in the vicinity of the canopy.

IMPLEMENTATION DATE


I recognize that because of funding limitations, the project may require a phased implementation approach and that the Mitigation Commission, West Jordan City and others will establish a framework to guide project implementation (i.e., which project features are to be constructed first and which are to be constructed at a later date when sufficient funding becomes available). This framework will ensure that the ecological restoration components of the project proceed concurrent with recreation-oriented components of the project, but not necessarily at the same pace. For instance, trails, parking and the fishing pond may proceed prior to construction of the new river channel. The framework for project implementation may come in the form of a Memorandum of Understanding, in the deed transferring the property to West Jordan City or other similar mechanism. The Mitigation Commission may authorize West Jordan City, through a permit or license agreement, to initiate a limited amount of work on the 43-acre parcel while still in ownership of the United States and this may occur at any time after my signature on this document.

FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information please contact Richard Mingo, Natural Resource Specialist; Utah Reclamation Mitigation and Conservation Commission; 230 South 500 East #230; Salt Lake City, Utah 84102 (Phone 801 524-3146).



Mark A Holden, Executive Director



Date

Summary of Changes Made to the Big Bend Environmental Assessment From the March 2018 Draft to the September 2018 Final

1. During the public comment period it was learned that in 2001 the City of West Jordan placed a conservation easement on their 25-acre parcel to, *“protect and enhance forever the important wetland resources, natural wildlife habitat, recreational, open space and scenic qualities of the [property] in an effort to restore the natural values of the Jordan River.”* The conservation easement is held by the Utah Division of Forestry Fire and State Lands (FFSL) which is responsible for enforcing the terms of the easement. Prior to transferring the 43-acre federal parcel to West Jordan City and prior to construction, it is the intent of West Jordan City, FFSL and the Mitigation Commission to amend the conservation easement to include the 43-acre federal parcel so it covers the entire 68-acre project area.

The Final EA has been modified to recognize the conservation easement and the limitations it places on future development. FFSL has made a preliminary review of the proposed project and has suggested that the preferred alternative is substantially consistent with the conservation easement with the exception of hard surface trails. Therefore, the EA has been changed to replace paved trails with crushed gravel or similar surface trails. The intent of which is to make the trails compliant with the conservation easement but still provide the firmness and stability so that individuals of all abilities will have access to the project area. The project will not be implemented until after FFSL has made final determination as to the consistency of the proposal with the conservation easement.

2. The Final EA has been modified to describe the pump and pumphouse that would be used to pressurize the irrigation system used to irrigate new vegetation planted in the project area. The pumphouse, which was previously planned for construction adjacent to the North Jordan Canal, will be moved east of the fishing pond and screened with landscaping in order to mitigate any visual or auditory impacts to local residents. Door openings to the pumphouse would face east away from residential areas so as to direct sound coming from the inside of the pumphouse away from residential areas when the door of the pumphouse is open.
3. Under Alternative 1 (The Preferred Alternative) and Alternative 2, the picnic tables have been relocated to be adjacent to the parking area located on the south end of the project area, near the Rocky Mountain Power substation which will minimize the distance over which the public would need to carry their picnic supplies. This will also tend to encourage the public to park in the designated parking area and not in the residential neighborhood at 8600 South.
4. The Final EA has been modified to recognize that water rights held by the Mitigation Commission and West Jordan City are valid only through the irrigation season April 1 to October 31. Water delivered to the fishing pond via the North Jordan Canal outside the irrigation season will require a change in use or the acquisition of supplemental water rights that would be available for delivery outside the irrigation season.

5. Chapter 4, Consultation and Coordination, has been updated to reflect comments on the Draft EA. Appendices 5 and 6 were added to the EA, Comment Letters and Responses to Comments. Comments and responses were the genesis of many of the changes made to the Draft EA.

6. The Final EA has been modified to recognize that a 225-foot long section of the south bank of Jordan River has been stabilized by West Jordan City since the Draft EA was released in March 2018.