



# FEMA

**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**  
Deer Creek Road Bridge Bank Protection Project  
Blaine County  
FEMA-PDMC-PJ-10-ID-2010-009

Blaine County applied for fiscal year 2010 funding under the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Pre-Disaster Mitigation-Competitive (PDM-C) grant program for a bridge/bank protection project in central Idaho. The grant program is administered by FEMA to fund pre-disaster mitigation planning and projects that primarily address natural hazards. The mitigation project includes bank protection along the Big Wood River near the Deer Creek Road Bridge.

The Proposed Action would stabilize about 340 feet of the west bank of the Big Wood River by armoring it with a 4-foot thick rock revetment. Approximately 1,500 cubic yards of rock fill would be placed below the ordinary high water mark (OHWM) along the Big Wood River and approximately 300 cubic yards of associated bank excavation is proposed. The rock revetment includes two contiguous segments: the upstream portion (240 linear feet), and the downstream portion (100 linear feet). The project is designed to provide erosion protection up to a 25-year flood event and would require limited maintenance to repair displaced rock fill approximately every 5 to 10 years. Work would be performed by County employees and private contractors.

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 and FEMA's implementing regulations, FEMA prepared a Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) to identify and evaluate potential environmental effects resulting from the alternatives presented in the EA and to

determine whether to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) or a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI). Alternatives evaluated in the EA include: 1) No Action, and 2) the Proposed Action to stabilize the bank. Other alternatives were considered but not carried forth and are described in the EA. The Draft EA was made available for public review and comment on March 16, 2011; no substantive comments were received. The Proposed Action is the preferred alternative because the No Action alternative would not address the purpose and need stated in the Draft EA and there are no other practical alternatives. Thus, the proposed action is selected.

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**FINDINGS**

Based upon the PDM grant application, preliminary site design, Final EA, and Attachment A and in accordance with 1) FEMA's regulations in 44 CFR Part 10 for environmental consideration, including Executive Orders (EOs) addressing floodplains (EO 11988), wetlands (EO 11990), and environmental justice (EO 12898); and 2) the Council of Environmental Quality's regulations in 40 CFR Chapter 5 for implementing NEPA, FEMA determined the proposed project will not significantly affect the quality of the natural and human environment. As a result of this FONSI, an EIS will not be prepared (44 CFR Part 10.8) and the project, as described in the grant application and attached EA, may proceed.

**APPROVAL**



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Mark G. Eberlein  
Regional Environmental Officer  
FEMA Region 10

4-18-11

Date

**Attachment A:**

**PERMITTING, PROJECT CONDITIONS, AND MITIGATION MEASURES**

The County will be required to comply with the following project conditions and mitigation measures, as part of the grant award:

- The County shall obtain all required local, State, and Federal permits and approvals prior to implementing the Proposed Action Alternative and comply with all conditions imposed. These include, but are not limited to, the following:
  - Blaine County Floodplain Ordinance permitting per the requirements of the National Flood Insurance Program (including a FEMA No-rise Certification for Floodways). The No-rise Certification requires an engineering analysis be performed by a registered professional engineer.
  - A Stream Alteration Plan, to be approved by Blaine County and the IDFG.
  - Permits from the IDEQ and IDWR for in-water work.
  - A Nationwide Permit 13 for bank stabilization from the USACE.
- The County is responsible for selecting, implementing, monitoring, and maintaining BMPs to control erosion and sediment, reduce spills and pollution, and provide habitat protection. Specific BMPs for dewatering include the following:
  - A State of Idaho-qualified fisheries biologist shall be on site during dewatering procedures to electro-shock and transplant fish to the flowing portion of the Big Wood River as needed.
  - Discharge of pumped sump water shall be routed into a temporary above-ground settling tank (Baker Tank or similar structure) and treated with a sand filter, as necessary to achieve less than 5 nephelometric turbidity units below the background level, before release into the river. Any groundwater can be pumped directly downstream to the Big Wood River, assuming that it is low in turbidity.
- Any change to the approved scope of work will require re-evaluation for compliance with NEPA and other laws and Executive Orders.
- In the event that potentially significant cultural resources are discovered during project activities, and in compliance with State and Federal laws protecting cultural resources, including Section 106 of the NHPA, work in the immediate vicinity shall cease, the area secured, and the SHPO and FEMA notified.
- In the unlikely event that a Canada lynx is observed during project activities, work in the immediate vicinity shall be discontinued and the IDFG and USFWS notified.

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- Vegetation removal should occur in late summer and early fall, outside of the typical migratory bird nesting season, which ranges from March through August. If clearance activities must take place during the nesting season, a breeding bird survey shall be conducted by a qualified professional before removal activities to avoid or minimize harm.
- Construction shall occur during the low water season. However, if construction is required during the flood season, as determined by the local floodplain administrator, all construction equipment shall be staged in an area not susceptible to flood waters or be readily transportable out of the floodplain to avoid any flood damage.