

Jordan River Parkway Trail

West Jordan Utah

Draft Environmental Assessment
May 2013



CHAPTER 1

PURPOSE AND NEED

BACKGROUND

West Jordan City is proposing to construct a new segment of the Jordan River Parkway Trail between approximately 8230 South and 9000 South on the west side of the Jordan River. This document describes the proposed project and invites your comments on the proposal.

PURPOSE AND NEED

The Jordan River Parkway Trail is a continuous, non-motorized, paved trail system adjacent to the Jordan River, which flows from Utah Lake north to the Great Salt Lake, crossing Davis, Salt Lake and Utah counties. The trail system is complete with the exception of four gaps that total approximately 3.5 miles in three municipalities: Salt Lake City, West Jordan, and Bluffdale. The City of West Jordan is proposing to construct a new segment of the Jordan River Parkway Trail, approximately 1.37 miles in length, between approximately 8230 South and 9000 South which would complete the trail gap in West Jordan. When the four gaps in the Jordan River Parkway Trail are completed, 45 miles of trails will link three counties along the Jordan River corridor. Maps of the entire Jordan River Parkway can be viewed or downloaded at <http://parks.slco.org/jordanRiverParkway/index.html>. An annotated copy of the Jordan River Parkway Trail map showing the project area is included as Figure 1.

The Jordan River Parkway Trail will connect diverse populations to the metro area's most significant green-space corridor via alternative transportation and provide educational and recreational opportunities compatible with ecological restoration objectives on the property. The new trail segment would include a 0.1 mile connecting spur from the Gardner Village TRAX Station to the existing Jordan River Parkway Trail located at 7800 South on the west side of the Jordan River. The U.S. Department of the Interior through its America Great Outdoors initiative has indentified the completion of the Jordan River Parkway Trail including the West Jordan City segment of the trail as a priority.

PURPOSE OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND DECISIONS TO BE MADE

The proposed trail alignment would cross lands owned by the United States under the jurisdiction of the Utah Reclamation Mitigation and Conservation Commission [Mitigation Commission]. West Jordan City has requested an easement from the Mitigation Commission allowing for the construction of the trail on

The National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) requires all Federal agencies to analyze and disclose the environmental impacts of their actions. The purpose for NEPA is twofold. First, NEPA requires Federal agencies to be well informed of the environmental consequences of their actions with the intent that better decisions will result. Second, NEPA requires Federal agencies to inform and involve the public and other agencies in the decision making process, also with the intent that better decisions will result.



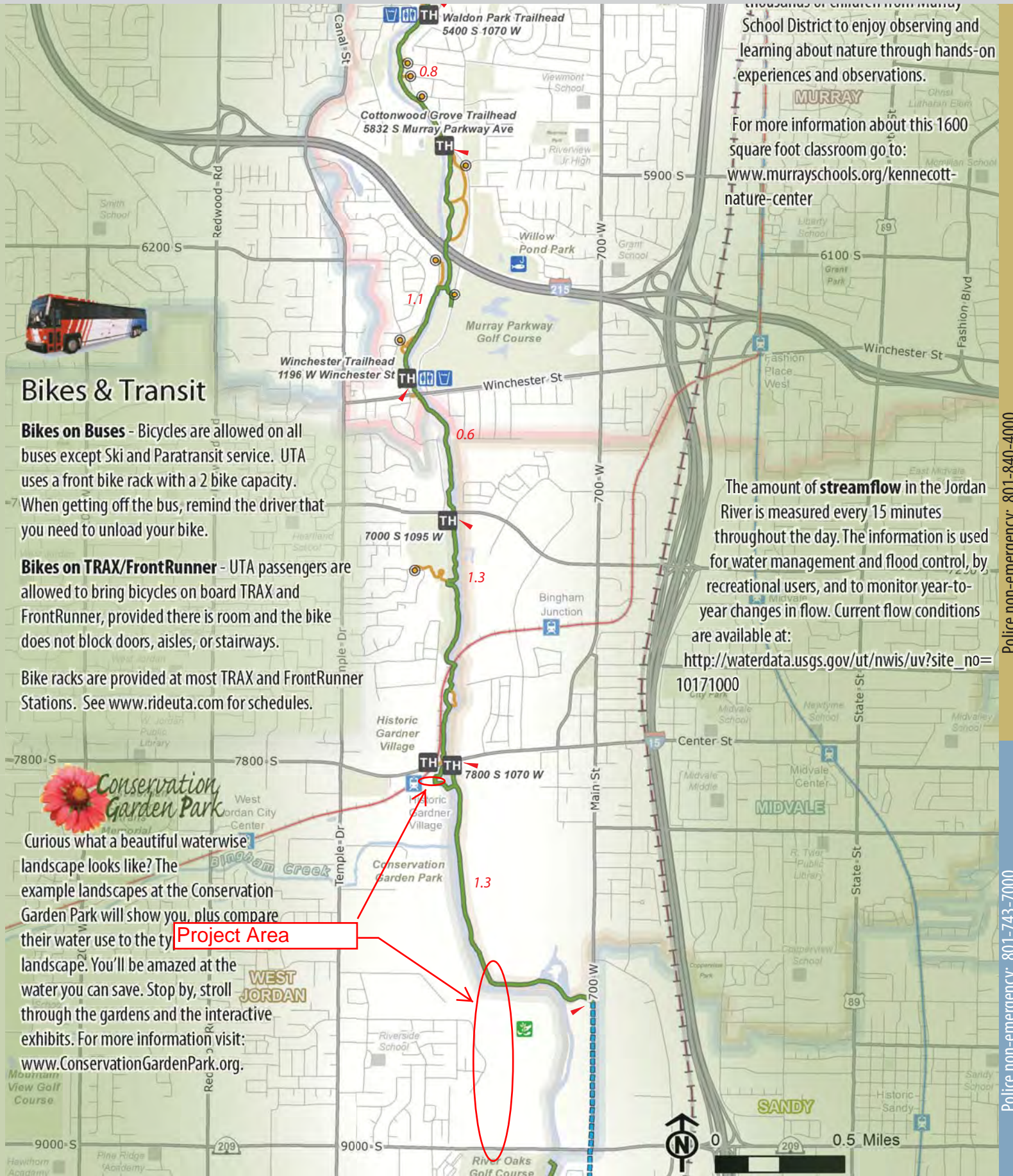
Jordan River Parkway Trail

North Segment

Section 4

Figure 1

Trailhead	Main Trail	TRAX Station	Planned FrontRunner Route
Equestrian Parking	Spur Trail	FrontRunner Station	Urban Fishery
Neighborhood Access	Equestrian	Future FrontRunner Station	Restoration Area
Restroom / Water Fountain	Suggested Detour	TRAX Route	Dog Park
Mileage between points	Bike Route to Transit	FrontRunner Route	Wildlife Viewing Area



Police non-emergency: 801-840-4000

Police non-emergency: 801-743-7000

lands owned by the United States. The decision to issue an easement to West Jordan City is a Federal action subject to The National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA).

Based on the analysis presented in this Environmental Assessment (EA), comments from the public, agencies and other interested parties, the Executive Director of the Mitigation Commission will decide whether or not to issue an easement to West Jordan City for trail construction. If the impacts of trail construction would not have significant environmental impacts, the Mitigation Commission would make a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI). If issuance of the easement and trail construction would result in significant impacts an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) would be required prior to proceeding.

CHAPTER 2

PROPOSED ACTION AND NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this Chapter is to describe in more detail the Proposed Action and No Action Alternatives.

PROPOSED ACTION

Under the Proposed Action the Mitigation Commission would issue an easement to the City of West Jordan allowing for the construction of the trail over lands owned by the United States. Construction would begin in the summer of 2013 and be completed fall of 2013. The main segment of trail construction would be approximately 1.15 miles in length between 8230 South and 9000 South as shown in Figure 2. Beginning on the north end of the project at approximately 8230 South, a 10 foot wide pedestrian bridge spanning the Jordan River would be constructed to connect the existing Jordan River Parkway Trail on the east side of the river to the proposed trail on the west side of the river (Photo Point 3 (PP3), Figure 2). On the west side of the river the trail would run south within the Rocky Mountain Power transmission line corridor to approximately 8600 South. At 8600 South and Millrad Bend Road an access point would be constructed to connect the local residential neighborhood to the proposed trail system (PP6, PP7). The access trail at 8600 South would be approximately 0.11 miles in length and would span the North Jordan Canal with a 10 foot wide bridge where it would connect to the main north/south trail on the west side of the river. The trail would then run east to the west boundary line of the Mitigation Commission parcel and continue south on the Mitigation Commission property generally along the property line to approximately the south boundary of the parcel (PP5). The trail would then travel back to the west onto the Rocky Mountain Power parcel to the toe of the slope of the North Jordan Canal road (PP8). The trail would travel south along the toe of the slope of the canal road to an underpass to be constructed at 9000 south (PP10, PP13, PP14). Trail construction would also include a small connecting spur from the Gardner Village TRAX Station to the existing Jordan River Parkway Trail located at 7800 South on the west side of the Jordan River. The total length of trail, including the two connecting spurs would be approximately 1.37 miles. Trail amenities would include interpretive signage, benches and boardwalks.

Chapters 1 and 2 of this document are all most readers need to read to understand the problem that requires Federal action and the probable environmental impacts that would result if the proposed project were implemented. Chapter 3 and the Appendices provide more detailed information regarding the probable environmental impacts.

Figure 2



Pedestrian Bridge



Photopoints (clickable link)

Jordan River Parkway Trail

Existing

Proposed

Construction 2013 Sandy City

Land Ownership

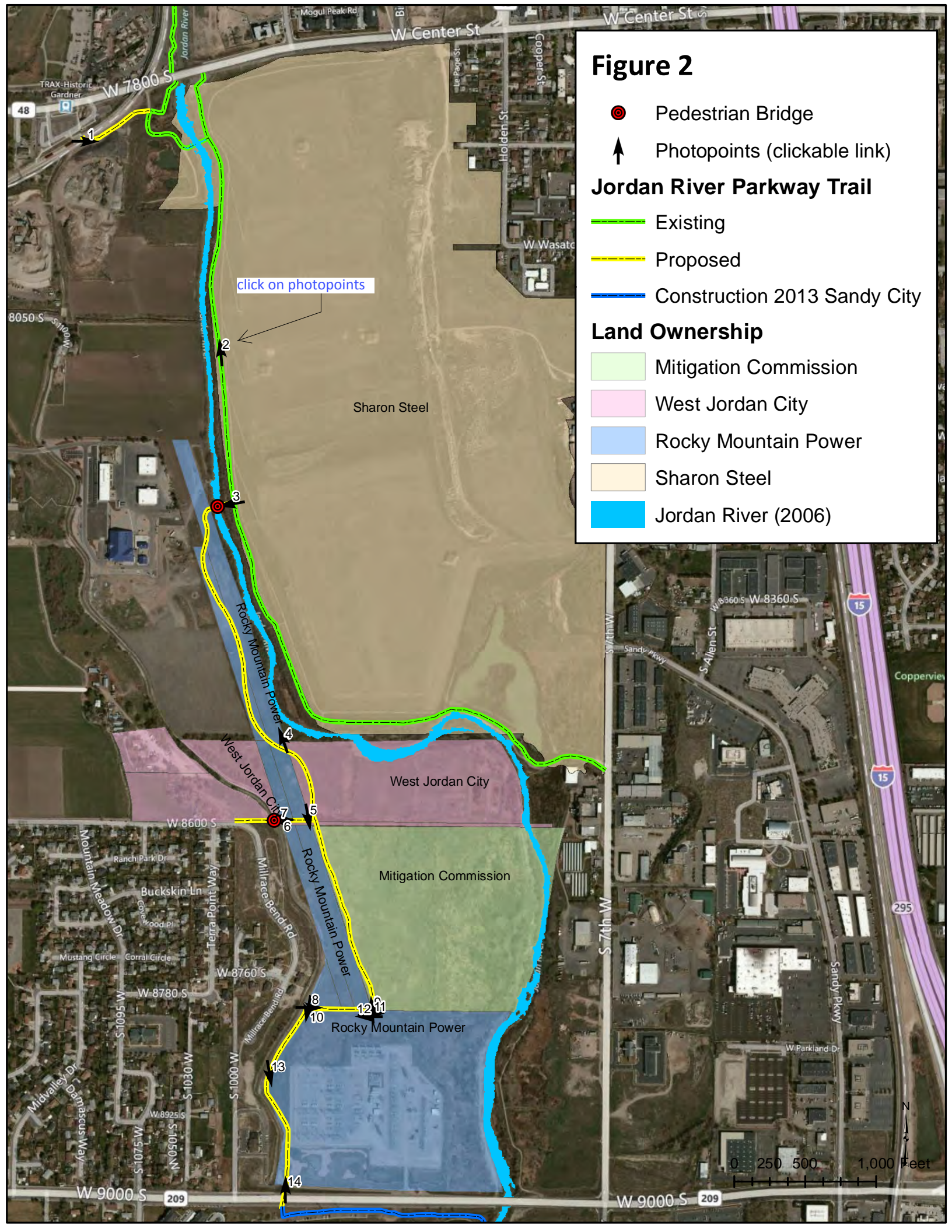
Mitigation Commission

West Jordan City

Rocky Mountain Power

Sharon Steel

Jordan River (2006)



*This is your opportunity to weigh in on the analysis. Comments on this Draft Environmental Assessment are being requested no later than June 24, 2013. Comments can be sent by email to rmingo@usbr.gov or by mail to: Richard Mingo
Utah Reclamation Mitigation and Conservation Commission
230S. 500 East, Suite 230
SLC, UT 84102*

No ACTION ALTERNATIVE

NEPA requires the No Action Alternative be considered in the Environmental Analysis process. The No Action Alternative serves as a baseline against which to compare other alternatives. Under the No Action Alternative the Mitigation Commission would not issue an easement to the City of West Jordan and the trail would not be constructed on the United States owned properties.

The environmental effects of the proposed project are described in detail in Chapter 3 but are summarized

below in Table 1.

Table 1 Summary of Environmental Effects

Resource	Proposed Action Alternative		No Action Alternative
Vegetation	2.5 acres of upland habitat, primarily pasture grasses, Russian olive and noxious weeds, would be paved for the trail. None of the 2.5 acres that would be impacted include cottonwoods which provide greater structural diversity and habitat for avian species.		Same as Proposed Action
Wetlands	No direct wetland impacts. The trail near the Gardner Village Trax Station comes within 10 feet of a small 0.07 acre wetland. Indirect impacts to this wetland would be mitigated during construction by silt fencing and flagging.		Same as Proposed Action
Threatened, Endangered and Sensitive Species	No impacts to Proposed, Threatened, Endangered and Sensitive Species		Same as Proposed Action
Wildlife Habitat	No significant impacts to wildlife habitat. None of the 1.37 acres that would be impacted include cottonwoods which provide greater structural diversity and habitat for avian species.		Same as Proposed Action
Fisheries	The Jordan River would not be altered and water quality would not be impacted. No impacts to fisheries would result.		Same as Proposed Action
Recreation	Significant beneficial impacts would be achieved by completing the gap in the Jordan River Parkway Trail in West Jordan, providing an additional 1.37 miles of trail, providing direct access to local residential area, and providing access to trail system via public transit.		Same as Proposed Action
Visual Resources	No Impacts. The aesthetic nature of the site would not change significantly since the trail is being constructed in a highly altered landscape.		Same as Proposed Action
Cultural Resources	No eligible cultural resources were identified in the project area and therefore no impacts would result.		Same as Proposed Action
Socioeconomics	No direct impacts. There would be indirect beneficial impacts by providing additional outdoor recreational and educational opportunities.		Same as Proposed Action
Water Quality	No changes are anticipated in water quality, temperature or dissolved oxygen.		Same as Proposed Action
Air Quality	There would be no long term direct or indirect impacts from the Proposed Action. Short term impacts resulting from emissions of construction equipment would be significantly below the Federal air quality standards.		Same as Proposed Action
Hazardous Wastes	The proposed project would not affect or be affected by any of the hazardous waste sites.		Same as Proposed Action
Land Use	No Impacts	West Jordan City funding would need to be used for purchase of an easement from Rocky Mountain Power reducing available funding for future river restoration efforts. West Jordan owned and operated trail would be constructed on the adjacent Rocky Mountain Power parcel rather than property that will likely be transferred from the Mitigation Commission to West Jordan City complicating future management. Rocky Mountain Power would have incompatible land uses in the transmission corridor.	

CHAPTER 3

AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

A Draft Environmental Assessment was initially released for public review and comment in 2003 for the restoration of a reach of the Jordan River. Included in that analysis was a proposal to complete the Jordan River parkway Trail, similar to what is being proposed here. Funding for the project was not secured and the project was never implemented. The need for the trail has persisted and new potential funding sources have been identified. Much of the environmental analysis presented in the 2003 EA is still valid while portions needed updating. This EA references and utilizes some of the analysis presented in the 2003 EA while other sections have been updated and supplemented.

INTRODUCTION

This Chapter describes the environment that could be affected by the proposed project and the environmental effects that would result if the proposed project were implemented. The proposed trail is 1.37 miles in length, 10 feet wide with a 2.5 foot shoulder on either side (15 foot total width) covering an area of approximately 2.5 acres. Of the 1.37 miles of proposed trail, about 0.25 miles falls within the federally owned Mitigation Commission property, about 0.5 acres. The project area in relation to landownership is described in Table 2 and Figure 2. Although only a relatively small portion of the proposed trail falls on the Mitigation Commission properties, 18% of the total length, and would require an easement from the Mitigation Commission, the impacts to the environment for the entire 1.37 miles trail are analyzed in this document.

Under the No Action alternative, the Mitigation Commission would not issue an easement to West Jordan City allowing for the construction of the trail on Mitigation Commission properties. Since the Mitigation Commission parcel makes up only 18% of the total proposed trail construction, it is assumed that West

Jordan City would not abandon their plans for the trail and that an alternative alignment would be pursued. West Jordan City has already entered into agreements with Rocky Mountain Power for an easement allowing for construction of the trail both north and south of the Mitigation Commission parcel. It is likely that West Jordan City would enter into a similar agreement with Rocky Mountain Power allowing for construction directly west of the Mitigation Commission parcel as well. ***Therefore, under the No Action alternative it is assumed that the trail would still be constructed but rather than the trail following the western boundary of the Mitigation Commission parcel, the trail would follow the eastern boundary of the adjacent Rocky Mountain Power parcel, a westward shift of 25 to 50 feet.***

Table 2 Summary of Land Ownership Within Trail Alignment

Land Owner	Length of Trail (miles)	Area of Trail (acres)
Mitigation Commission	0.25	0.48
Rocky Mountain Power	0.85	1.54
West Jordan	0.17	0.31
Trax Right of Way	0.09	0.15
Total	1.37	2.5

VEGETATION

Affected Environment

Information on the existing vegetation on the project area was gathered from the Jordan River Natural Conservation Corridor Report and a wetland delineation for the site that was performed in 2000 (H&C, 2000) and updated in the fall of 2012. An inventory of cottonwoods, Russian olive, tamarisk and box elder was completed in the spring of 2013. Habitat types found in the study area are primarily agricultural and upland areas intermixed with large expanses of Russian olive near the banks of the Jordan River, tamarisk is also common. Grasses make up the majority of the understory, with the dominant species including crested wheatgrass (*Agropyron cristatum*), western wheatgrass (*Agropyron smithii*), intermediate wheatgrass (*Agropyron intermedium*), Kentucky bluegrass, bulbous bluegrass (*Agropyron bulbosa*), and downy brome (*Bromus tectorum*). There is only one small, 0.07 acre, jurisdictional wetland in the project area (see wetlands section).

Environmental Effects

Proposed Action Approximately 1.37 acres of upland habitat would be paved for the trail. The Rocky Mountain Power powerline corridor between 8200 South and 8600 South and the West Jordan parcel are currently leased for grazing. Vegetation on these parcels is primarily pasture grasses. Grazing has been eliminated from the Mitigation Commission parcel which is also composed of primarily pasture grasses and Russian olive. Because of reduced grazing pressure, grasses on the Mitigation Commission parcel provide greater wildlife habitat values relative to the adjacent properties that are heavily grazed. A grove of mature cottonwood trees (*Populus fremontii*) that are important habitat for birds is located on the eastern portion of the Mitigation Commission parcel; none of the 1.37 acres impacted by the trail would impact these trees. Noxious weeds are common in the project area include Scotch cottonthistle (*Onopordum acanthium*), Nodding plumeless thistle (*Carduus nutans*), and hoary cress (*Cardaria draba*) are some of the most common noxious weed species on the properties.

No Action Impacts on vegetation would be the same as described for the proposed action with the exception of the 0.25 mile section that would be constructed on the Rocky Mountain Power parcel rather than the Mitigation Commission parcel. Vegetation in this 0.25 mile section is

similar on both the RMP and Mitigation Commission parcels, although the habitat on the Mitigation Commission is in better condition because of the elimination of grazing (PP 5).

WETLANDS

Affected Environment

The United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) has jurisdiction over waters of the United States including wetlands pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. Under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, no discharge of dredged or fill material is permitted in waters of the U.S. if there is a less environmentally damaging practicable alternative that would result in a discharge of fill material to waters of the U.S.

The project area was inventoried for wetlands in the fall of 2012 (Appendix 1). USACE reviewed the wetland inventory in April 2013. Only one wetland site has been identified in the project area. The wetland is approximately 0.07 acres in size located near the Gardner Village Trax Station.

Wetlands are defined as, "... those areas that are inundated or saturated by surface or ground water at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and that under normal circumstances do support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions. Wetlands generally include swamps, marshes, bogs, and similar areas."

Environmental Effects

Proposed Action There would be no direct impacts to wetlands under the Proposed Action. The trail near the Gardner Village Trax Station, comes within 10 feet of a small 0.07 acre wetland. Trail design would ensure that the hydrology supporting the wetland would not be altered by trail construction and use. Indirect impacts to this wetland would be mitigated during construction by flagging the wetland site and ensuring no construction activity, equipment or personnel would be allowed into the wetland. Silt fencing and/or batting would be installed along the edge of the wetland nearest the trail to ensure that no sediments are washed into the wetland during construction. Silt fencing and batting would be removed after construction. Runoff from the hardened trail would not be collected and directed into the wetland.

No Action Impact on wetlands would be the same as the Proposed Action.

THREATENED, ENDANGERED AND SENSITIVE SPECIES

Affected Environment

A list of Threatened (T), Endangered (E) and Candidate (C) species and State-sensitive species (SS) that may occur in the project area was developed from the USFWS and Utah Division of Wildlife Resources in 2012. The species that may occur in the project area are described in Table 3.

Table 3**Threatened (T), Endangered (E) and Candidate (C) Species and State-sensitive list (SS) That May Occur In The Project Area**

Species	Status	Occurrence Potential
June sucker <i>Chasmistes liorus</i>	E	Unlikely
Least chub <i>Lotichthys phlegethontis</i>	C	Unlikely
Greater sage grouse <i>Centrocercus urophasianus</i>	C, SS	Unlikely
Yellow-billed cuckoo <i>Coccyzus americanus</i>	C	Unlikely
Canada lynx <i>Lynx canadensis</i>	T	Unlikely
Long-billed curlew <i>Numenius americanus</i>	SS	Unlikely
Western pearl shell <i>Margarita falcate</i>	SS	Unlikely
Burrowing owl <i>Athene cunicularia</i>	SS	Unlikely
Short eared owl <i>Asio flammeus</i>	SS	Unlikely

Environmental Effects

Proposed Action The proposed action will not affect any Federally listed or candidate species or their habitat or State sensitive species.

The June sucker does not occur in the Jordan River, as there is not appropriate spawning habitat for this species.

A least chub refuge population occurs in Salt Lake County, but outside of the project area.

There is no suitable habitat for sage grouse, long-billed curlew, short-eared owl, burrowing owl, western pearlshell and Canada lynx and are not known to occupy the area.

Suitable nesting habitat does not exist on the project site for western yellow-billed cuckoo, which is thought to need large (100-acre minimum) tracts of contiguous riparian forest. The project site is not likely to provide foraging habitat for this species either, as no suitable breeding habitat is found near the project site.

**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 (this document).

Environmental Effects

Impacts to Proposed, Threatened and Endangered Species and State of Utah Sensitive Species are described in the Threatened, Endangered and Sensitive section. Impacts to wildlife including migratory birds are described in the in this section.

Based on the lack of suitable habitat and records of occurrence within the area, the proposed action is not anticipated affect any of the sensitive species listed above.

No Action Impacts would be the same as described for the Proposed Action.

WILDLIFE HABITAT

Affected Environment

Riparian habitat is an extremely important habitat type for birds in Utah. Only 3 percent of the land area in Utah can be classified as riparian, yet the highest diversity of birds in the state is found in riparian areas. It is estimated that two-thirds of all avian species that occur in Utah use riparian habitat during some point of the year. More than thirty species of birds have been observed on the Mitigation Commission and West Jordan parcels including black-billed magpies (*Pica hudsonia*), red-winged blackbirds (*Agelaius phoeniceus*), red-tailed hawks (*Buteo jamaicensis*), Bullock's orioles (*Icterus bullockii*), mallards (*Anas platyrhynchos*), and California gulls (*Larus californicus*). Yellow warblers (*Dendroica petechia*) were observed in the vegetation along the river at the southern end of the study area. Little work has been done to assess other terrestrial wildlife populations such as rodents, bats, reptiles, and ungulates. However observations of all of these groups of animals have been reported along the Jordan River (Smith and Greenwood 1984).

Environmental Effects

Proposed Action The 1.37 acres of uplands that would be impacted by trail construction are vegetated primarily with pasture grasses and noxious weeds. A mature cottonwood gallery located on the southeast end of the Mitigation Commission parcel provides structural diversity and habitat that benefits avian species. The trail would be approximately 1,000 feet west of this area. Much of the remaining habitat on the West Jordan City and Rocky Mountain Power parcels are heavily grazed and do not provide important habitat for wildlife species. No large trees or snags are anticipated to be lost and the impacts on wildlife are anticipated to be minimal.

Construction of the trail will result in greater public access and visitor use along the trail corridor. Wildlife that is sensitive to the sites and sound human activity might be displaced to locations further away from the trail. Figure 3 shows the cottonwood habitat located on the southeast end of the Mitigation Commission parcel furthest away from the proposed trail. This riparian forest provides important habitat for wildlife as it is used by many avian species during different life stages. Figure 3 also shows distances of 500 and 1000 feet from the centerline of the trail and visibility of the trail from the cottonwood gallery. Red indicates higher visibility while blue indicates low visibility. While much of the trail is visible from a 40' height in the cottonwood gallery, it is located approximately 1,000 ft away from the trail. Since use on the trail would be limited to pedestrian foot or bike traffic the indirect impacts to wildlife are anticipated to be minimal. Planning for wildlife habitat restoration on the West Jordan and Mitigation Commission parcels has been conducted in coordination with planning for the preferred trail alignment (Proposed Action), and will concentrate wildlife (particularly avian

Figure 3 Indirect Wildlife Impact Analysis

Jordan River Parkway Trail

- Existing
- Proposed
- Construction 2013 Sandy City

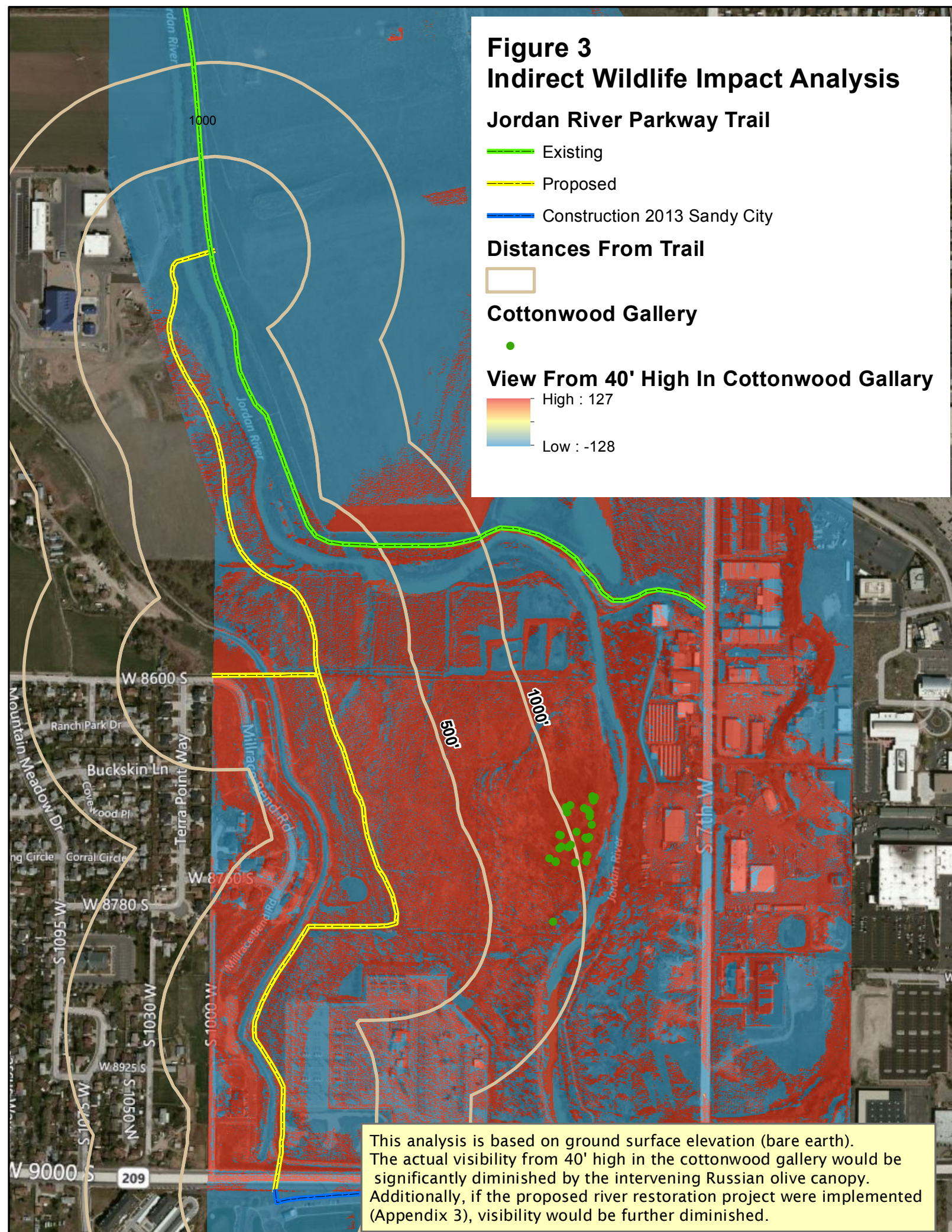
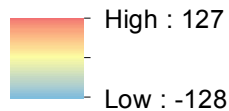
Distances From Trail



Cottonwood Gallery



View From 40' High In Cottonwood Gallery



This analysis is based on ground surface elevation (bare earth). The actual visibility from 40' high in the cottonwood gallery would be significantly diminished by the intervening Russian olive canopy. Additionally, if the proposed river restoration project were implemented (Appendix 3), visibility would be further diminished.

species) habitat and use on the central and eastern portions of these properties in order to minimize the impacts of the trail on wildlife use.

No Action Impacts would be the same as described for the Proposed Action.

FISHERIES

Affected Environment

The Jordan River currently supports fish species that are adapted for warm water, including many species that tolerate poor water quality. A survey conducted by Bio/West in 1990 found 20 species of fish inhabiting the Jordan River. Only three of these are native to the Jordan River. As the river is a contiguous system, it can be assumed that any of these species may be found in the project reach.

Three fish species known to occur in the Jordan River are native; these are Bonneville cutthroat trout (*Oncorhynchus clarki utah*), Utah chub (*Gila atraria*), and Utah sucker (*Catostomus ardens*). The remaining species are non-native/introduced, and include common carp (*Cyprinus carpio*), walleye (*Stizostedium vitreum*), white bass (*Morone chrysops*), channel catfish (*Ictalurus punctatus*), green sunfish (*Lepomis cyanellus*), western mosquito fish (*Gambusia affinis*), fathead minnow (*Pimephales promelas*), goldfish (*Carassius auratus*), mountain sucker (*Catostomus platyrhynchus*), black bullhead (*Ameiurus melas*), brown trout (*Salmo trutta*), rainbow trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*), smallmouth bass (*Micropterus dolomieu*), largemouth bass (*Micropterus salmoides*), bluegill (*Lepomis macrochirus*), black crappie (*Pomoxis nigromaculatus*), and yellow perch (*Perca flavescens*). Carp and Utah sucker were the most abundant species in the river at the time of the survey.

Environmental Effects

Proposed Action Under the Proposed Action the Jordan River would not be altered and water quality would not be impacted (see water quality). No impacts to fisheries would result.

No Action Same as described for the Proposed Action.

RECREATION

Affected Environment

Limited recreational opportunities exist in the project area under existing conditions. There is no public access through the project area from any direction.

As described in the Purpose and Need section, the project area is only one of four gaps in the Jordan River Parkway Trail along its 45 mile length from Davis County to Utah County. At present, the trail travels north/south along the east side of the Jordan River between 7800 South and 8500 South. At 8500 South the trail daylight onto 700 West. To connect to the Jordan River Parkway Trail at 9000 South trail users need to travel north/south along 700 W. and east/west on 9000 South (State Highway 209), a very busy highway.

Environmental Effects

Proposed Action Under the Proposed Action, there would be a substantial increase in recreational opportunities by connecting already constructed segments of the Jordan River Parkway Trail. In addition to connecting already constructed segments of the Jordan River Parkway trail, the Proposed Action would provide an additional 1.37 miles of new paved trail. The project would provide access to the Jordan River Parkway Trail from the UTA Trax Gardner Village Station. This would make the Jordan River Parkway Trail easily accessible from throughout the Salt Lake valley via UTA's interconnected public transit to those user who might not otherwise have access. The trail would also provide direct access from the 8600 South residential community via the footbridge over the North Jordan Canal.

The trail would provide outdoor educational and interpretive opportunities. The Proposed Action addresses the underlying need for the project; to improve outdoor recreational opportunities for the public.

No Action Impacts would be the same as described for the Proposed Action.

VISUAL RESOURCES

Affected Environment

The Jordan River runs from Utah Lake to Salt Lake and is surrounded by mountains to the east, south, and west. The Wasatch Range rises dramatically from the valley floor on the east. The mountains provide a scenic backdrop to the project area (PP6, PP8).

Located in the immediate vicinity of the project area is a golf course to the south, commercial and residential development to the east and west, and open space along the river to the north, including the Sharon Steel Tailings site. Rising above the north side of the Big Bend, the capped Sharon Steel tailings can be seen as a grassy knoll .



An electrical power substation operated by RMP is located in the southern portion of the project area. Overhead utility lines run from the substation north through the project area. There are no structures in the Big Bend area. Much of the open land in the area has been grazed by cattle and horses. In these areas, grass is cropped close to the ground, and the shrub layer is dominated by Russian olive (*Elaeagnus angustifolia*) and tamarisk (*Tamarix*

ramosissima). The Mitigation Commission parcel has been fenced to exclude cattle since it was acquired in 1998. Habitat conditions have been improved by this effort although Russian olive and tamarisk are still common. The Jordan River runs along the northern portion of the site,

with the capped Sharon Steel Tailings located to the east of the river. The river is deeply incised within steep and eroded banks; the riparian zone adjacent to the river is dominated by Russian olive and tamarisk. The site has apparently been used for dumping in the past as the presence of an old car, several 55-gallon barrels, and other debris demonstrates.

The site can be viewed by the public from bridges crossing the river at 7800 South and 9000 South. From the bridge at 7800 South, looking upstream (south), the view is of the riparian corridor. The view at 9000 South looking downstream (north) is of the river corridor dominated by Russian olive and tamarisk.

Environmental Effects

Proposed Action Visual resources would be temporarily affected during the initial construction phase of the project due to construction vehicles on site, exposed soil, and stockpiles of soil.

At 7800 South the trail would follow the toe of the slope of the existing UTA Trax corridor, with a cement and asphalt recycling operation located directly to the south (PP1). From 8200 South to 8700 South the trail would be in or immediately adjacent to the Rocky Mountain Power power corridor with two different power transmission lines located in the corridor (PP4). From 8700 South to 9000 South the trail would follow the toe of the slope of the North Jordan Canal road with the Rocky Mountain Power substation directly to the east (PP13, PP14). The aesthetic nature of the site would not change significantly since the trail is being constructed in a highly altered landscape.

No Action Impacts would be the same as described for the Proposed Action.

CULTURAL RESOURCES

Affected Environment

Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act requires all Federal Agencies to identify the impacts their actions would have on cultural and historical resources. In accordance with these responsibilities, an intensive cultural resource survey was completed in 2011 and updated in 2013 for areas not covered by the 2011 survey. The survey consisted of a team of archeologists walking parallel transects spaced no more the 15 meters apart. The Utah State Division of History was also consulted to determine if any prior recordings on the site had been completed.

Executive Order 3215- Indian Trust Assets

Indian trust assets are defined as legal interests in property held in trust by the United States for Indian tribes or individuals, or property that the United States is otherwise charged by law to protect. The United States has a trust responsibility to protect and maintain rights reserved by or granted to American Indians or Indian individuals by treaties, statutes and executive orders. This trust responsibility requires that all Federal agencies take all actions reasonably necessary to protect this trust.

Environmental Effects

There are no Indian trust assets associated with the project and therefore none affected by the Proposed Action.

Environmental Effects

Proposed Action No eligible resources were identified and the State Historic Preservation Officer concurred by letters dated August 3, 2011 and March 25, 2013 that no eligible resources would be impacted by the Proposed Action (Appendix 2).

No Action Impacts would be the same as described for the Proposed Action.

SOCIOECONOMICS

Affected Environment

The City of West Jordan has been growing steadily for the last 10 years. According to West Jordan city Census 2010 results, the population of the area was approximately 103,712 people. The estimated population for 2011 is 105,675 people. From 2000 to 2010, the West Jordan city population growth percentage was 51.8% (or from 68,336 people to 103,712 people (U.S. Census Bureau, 2011).

Salt Lake County is the heart of government activities, financial services, and is the center of the transportation infrastructure in the state of Utah. About 48 percent of all the state's jobs are located in this county. There is a net inflow of workers commuting into the Salt Lake area from all of the surrounding counties. In 2010, the population of Salt Lake County was estimated at 1,048,985 (U.S. Census Bureau, 2011).

Executive Order 12898- Environmental Justice

This Executive Order requires Federal Agencies to consider and disclose any disproportional effect their actions may have on minority and low income populations.

Environmental Effects

There would be no disproportional environmental effects on minority and low income populations as a result of this project.

Environmental Effects

Proposed Action The completion of the Jordan River Parkway Trail would not likely have a significant direct financial economic impact to West Jordan or Salt Lake County. The trail would however, be a very desirable amenity to the community by providing outdoor recreational and educational opportunities. These opportunities help local communities develop of sense of place, make them desirable places to live and locate businesses, ultimately benefiting the local economy.

No Action Impacts would be the same as described for the Proposed Action.

LAND USE

Affected Environment

Land ownership in the project area is shown on Figure 2. The Mitigation Commission purchased the 42-acre parcel of property in 1998 with the intent to work with local municipalities and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to restore, protect and enhance some of the few remaining open areas along the Jordan River that have substantial potential for providing wildlife, and compatible recreation and conservation opportunities. West Jordan City subsequently purchased the 35-acre parcels to the north. It is the intent of West Jordan City,

Mitigation Commission, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to restore some of the natural geomorphology and hydrologic processes of the Jordan River on the properties by reconnecting the river to an active floodplain. The restoration project is briefly described in Appendix 3 Big Bend Habitat Restoration Project. The proposed restoration site is one of the last remaining largely undeveloped sections of floodplain within the Jordan River corridor, and thus 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 could improve both aquatic and terrestrial habitat over what presently occurs on-site. Upon completion of the restoration project, it is the Mitigation Commission's intent to transfer the Mitigation Commission properties to West Jordan City to be managed for their wildlife and compatible recreation and conservation opportunities. The river restoration and land transfer project are being considered in a separate NEPA analysis. In the interim, West Jordan has leased their property for cattle grazing on a year to year basis.

The Rocky Mountain Power parcel is used as an electric transmission line corridor as well as a buried sewer line for much of its length. Because of the nature of the use of their property, it is Rocky Mountain Powers preference not to construct the trail on their property. Where no reasonable or prudent alternatives exist, Rocky Mountain Power has considered providing access for the trail on a case-by-case basis.

Environmental Effects

Proposed Action Under the Proposed Action land use in the project area would remain much the same. West Jordan City and the Mitigation Commission would continue with their plans to restore the natural riverine processes and floodplain habitat of the Jordan River and provide for compatible recreation uses such as the proposed Jordan River Parkway Trail. The West Jordan property would likely no longer be made available for grazing.

No Action Under the No Action Alternative West Jordan City would be required to purchase an additional easement from Rocky Mountain Power to construct the trail within the Rocky Mountain Power parcel. The funding for the easement would reduce the amount of funding West Jordan City has available for the river restoration work. Funding limitations for river restoration could further delay the restoration project or limit the options that could be implemented. After completion of the restoration project, it is the Mitigation Commission's intent to transfer the property to West Jordan City (the impacts of this action will be analyzed in a separate NEPA document). If the property were transferred to West Jordan City, it would be more efficient from a management perspective for West Jordan's trail to be constructed on what will likely be their property rather than the adjacent Rocky Mountain Power parcel.

The Rocky Mountain Power parcel serves a primary purpose as a transmission line corridor. Public use in the corridor is not considered a compatible use. Rocky Mountain Power has been willing to work with West Jordan City where there are no other reasonable alternatives for the trail alignment. Where options are available, Rocky Mountain Power would prefer not to encumber their property with an easement and to preclude incompatible land uses such as a public trail.

WATER QUALITY

Affected Environment

The Jordan River runs for approximately 58 river miles from Utah Lake to the Great Salt Lake. Its watershed encompasses approximately 800 square miles. The river is exposed to many water quality challenges along its length, as it runs primarily through developed land.

There are eight water quality stations located along the length of the Jordan River that are maintained by the Utah Department of Environmental Quality (UDEQ). Water quality of the Jordan River has been monitored continuously by the UDEQ since 1975.

To be in compliance with Section 305b of the Clean Water Act, the UDEQ Division of Water Quality is responsible for developing and implementing water quality programs in the State. To assist with these programs, the State has classified waters into six beneficial uses and developed numeric water quality standards to protect these uses. The primary designated beneficial uses for the Jordan River are recreation and esthetics (Class 2), aquatic life (Class 3), and agriculture (Class 4).

There is one UDEQ water quality monitoring station (#4994170) located in the project area at 7800 South, the downstream end of the project reach. Water quality data for a suite of metals, ammonia nitrate, and other water quality constituents are collected periodically at this station. Data contained in the Draft 2010 Utah Integrated Report, Water Quality Assessment 305(b) (UDEQ, Division of Water Quality, 2010) shows that the section of the Jordan River running through the proposed West Jordan Mitigation Commission parcels are considered "High Priority" Total Maximum Daily Load due to high water temperatures and low dissolved oxygen.

Environmental Effects

Proposed Action Under the Proposed Action the Jordan River would not be altered. The footprint of the proposed trail and new hardened surface area is relatively small, only 2.5 acres over 1.37 miles. Because of the small surface area of the hardened trail and distance from the Jordan River, no changes are anticipated in water quality, temperature or dissolved oxygen.

No Action Same as described for the Proposed Action.

AIR QUALITY

Affected Environment

Utah's air quality standards are based on the Federal National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) that were established through the Federal Clean Air Act of 1969 and are monitored and enforced by the Utah Division of Air Quality. In 1990, the Clean Air Act was amended, and require that any Federally funded project must not cause or contribute to any violation of a NAAQS. A conformity determination is required for each pollutant where the total of direct and indirect emissions caused by a Federal action in a non-attainment area exceeds USEPA's *de minimis* threshold levels (tons/year).

Areas that are not in compliance with the NAAQS are referred to as nonattainment areas. Areas that were once designated as nonattainment and subsequently demonstrated to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) that it will attain and maintain a particular standard for a period of 10 years are referred to as maintenance areas. EPA must approve the demonstration.

Salt Lake County is currently designated:

Nonattainment for:

- Sulfur dioxide (SO₂) since 1992 Re-designation to Maintenance is pending
- Particulate matter of 10 micrometers or less (PM₁₀) since 1992 Re-designation to Maintenance is pending
- Fine particulate matter of 2.5 micrometers or less (PM_{2.5}) since 2009

Maintenance for:

- Carbon monoxide (CO) since 1999
- Ozone (O₃) since 1999
- (Precursors are ROG and NO_x)

Attainment/Unclassified for:

- Nitrogen dioxide (NO₂)
- Lead (Pb)

Environmental Effects

Proposed Action Potential impacts to air quality are limited to construction-related activities and are short-term. Since use of the trail is limited to pedestrian and cycling activities, no long term impacts on air quality are anticipated.

Temporary impacts include emissions exhaust from construction equipment, fugitive dust generated by a variety of construction activities, and exhaust from worker trips to and from the construction site. An air quality impact analysis was conducted in 2013. Estimated emissions of each pollutant were calculated using the following formula:

$$\text{emissions} = (\text{daily hours of operation}) \times (\text{emission factor for equipment type}) \times (\text{total project days of operation per type of equipment}).$$

Table 4 provides a Summary of the estimated emissions resulting from the project. Estimated emissions are significantly below the Federal de minimis threshold levels established by the EPA for conformity analyses. Therefore, a conformity determination is not required for all emission types and no short or long term impacts on air quality are anticipated.

No Action Impacts would be the same as described for the Proposed Action.

HAZARDOUS WASTES

Affected Environment

An assessment of hazardous, toxic, and radiological waste (HTRW) following the standard practice established by the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM E 1527-05) for

Table 4

Emission Calculations for Construction Activities (Including a Bridge, Asphalt Trail, and Culvert)

<div>Table 4</div> <div>EMISSIONS SUMMARY</div> <div>Criteria Pollutants for Alternative 5 (Worst-Case)</div>					
Description	Emissions (tons per year (tpy))				
	Nitrogen Oxides	Carbon Monoxide	Reactive Organic Gas	Sulfur Oxides	Particulate Matter
	NOx	CO	ROG	SOx	PM
Off-Road Mobile	1.79	0.89	0.23	<0.01	0.09
On-Road Mobile	0.17	0.40	0.05	<0.01	0.01
Fugitives	---	---	<0.01	---	4.11
GRAND TOTAL	1.96	1.29	0.27	<0.01	4.21
De Minimis Levels	100	100	100	100	100

<div>TABLE - 01a</div> <div>EMISSIONS SUMMARY</div> <div>Criteria Pollutants for Alternative 5 (Worst-Case)</div>					
Description	Emissions (tons per year (tpy))				
	Nitrogen Oxides	Carbon Monoxide	Reactive Organic Gas	Sulfur Oxides	Particulate Matter
	NOx	CO	ROG	SOx	PM
Off-Road Mobile Source Emissions					
Excavators	0.30	0.17	0.04	<0.01	0.02
Paving Equipment	0.13	0.07	0.02	<0.01	0.01
Rollers	0.17	0.11	0.03	<0.01	0.01
Rubber Tired Dozers	0.41	0.19	0.05	<0.01	0.02
Rubber Tired Loaders	0.15	0.08	0.02	<0.01	0.01
Scrapers	0.39	0.17	0.05	<0.01	0.02
Water Truck	0.22	0.08	0.03	<0.01	0.01
Welders	0.02	0.01	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01
Sub-Total	1.79	0.89	0.23	<0.01	0.09
On-Road Mobile Source Emissions					
Asphalt Trucks	0.02	0.01	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01
Concrete Trucks	0.02	0.01	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01
Dump Trucks	0.02	0.01	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01
Tractor-Trailers	0.05	0.02	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01
Delivery Trucks	0.01	0.01	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01
Worker Commute	0.04	0.37	0.04	<0.01	<0.01
Sub-Total	0.17	0.40	0.05	<0.01	0.01
Fugitives					
Construction Activity	---	---	---	---	4.11
Asphalt Off-Gas	---	---	<0.01	---	---
Sub-Total	---	---	<0.01	---	4.11
GRAND TOTAL	1.96	1.29	0.27	<0.01	4.21
De Minimis Levels	100	100	100	100	100

Note: these emissions calculations are extraordinarily conservative (i.e., very high vs. actual anticipated emissions), and still far below the Federal General Conformity De Minimis Levels that would require further analysis, such as dispersion modeling.

Phase I Environmental Site Assessments was conducted by URS Corporation in March 2013. The Phase I Report is included as Appendix 4.

Three historic sources of hazardous waste exist near the project area. The Sharon Steel superfund site is located across the Jordan River adjacent to the restoration area. This area has been capped, and sampling events through the year 2000 have demonstrated that the site has been remediated. The Midvale Slag site is located immediately north and west of the project area. Bingham Creek enters the Jordan River 3,000 feet north of the project area. The Kennecott Copper Mine is located 12 miles upstream on Bingham Creek. The mine acts as a source of lead in the creek. In the mid-1990's, lead levels were as high as 5,000 milligrams per kilogram (mg/kg) near the confluence of Bingham Creek and the Jordan River; these have since been remediated to appropriate human health and environmental exposure-based levels.

Environmental Effects

Proposed Action The proposed project would not affect or be effected by any of the hazardous waste sites.

No Action Impacts would be the same as described for the Proposed Action.

Cumulative Impacts

The regulations for implementing NEPA described "cumulative impacts" as:

"... the impact on the environment which results from the incremental impact of the action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions regardless of what agency (Federal or non-Federal) or person undertakes such other actions. Cumulative impacts can result from individually minor but collectively significant actions taking place over a period of time."

Two potential cumulative impacts could potentially occur as a result of the proposed action. The first is a small incremental loss of wildlife habitat that would occur with construction of the proposed trail. As described in the Wildlife Section, the habitat that would be has already been significantly impaired by historic land uses. The second is the beneficial impact of connecting sections of Jordan River Parkway Trail segments that have already been constructed. Providing quality outdoor recreation opportunities to the public can lead to a greater appreciation of wildlife and wildlife habitat. So while a small amount of poor quality habitat may be lost, the addition of compatible outdoor recreational opportunities will hopefully lead to an appreciation and ethic the will ultimately benefit wildlife.

CHAPTER 4

CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

One of the primary purposes of NEPA is for Federal Agencies to inform and involve the public and other relevant Federal, State, and local entities of the likely environmental impacts of their proposed actions. In this regard the following agencies have been consulted in the preparation of this environmental analysis.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Utah Division of State History
Utah Division of Wildlife Resources
West Jordan City
Rocky Mountain Power

Photo Point 1 Gardner Village Trax Station
Spur Trail



Photo Point 2 Typical Section Jordan River
Parkway Trail



Photo Point 3 Proposed Pedestrian Bridge and
Connection to Existing Trail

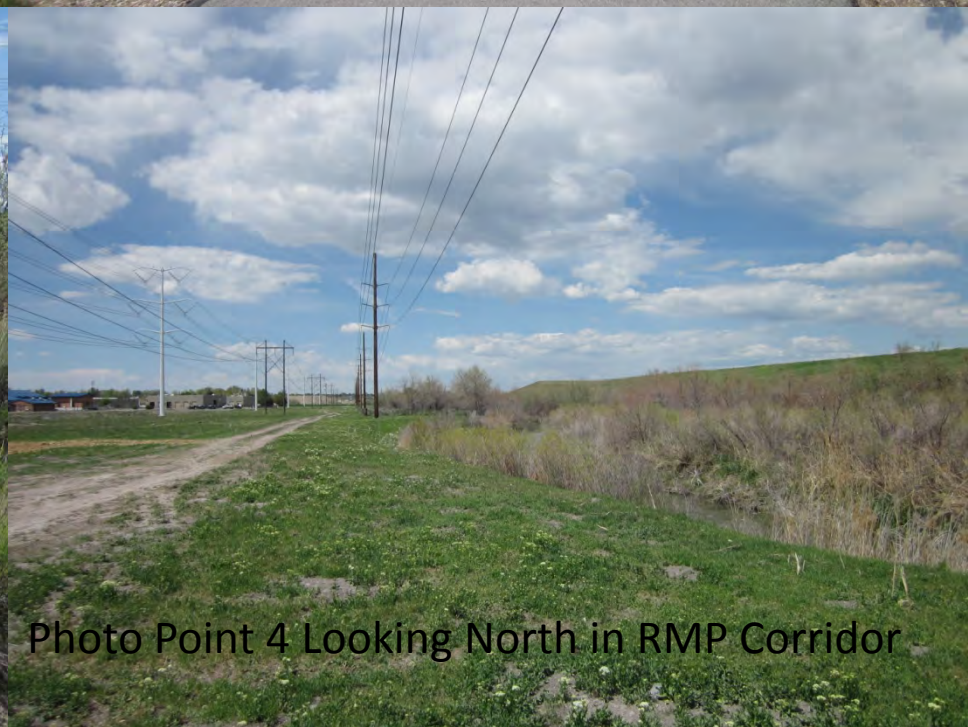


Photo Point 4 Looking North in RMP Corridor

Photo Point 5 Looking south, Mitigation Commission Property on left of Power Lines



Photo Point 6 Looking East, RMP in Foreground, WVC left of Fenceline Background, Mitigation Commission Right of Fenceline Background



Photo Point 7 Looking West, Connecting Spur From 8600 South and North Jordan Canal Crossing



Photo Point 8 Looking East, RMP Parcel Left and Right of Fenceline, Mitigation Commission in Background



Photo Point 9 Looking North, RMP on Left,
Mitigation Commission Right of Power Lines



Photo Point 10 Looking South, North Jordan
Canal Road on Right, RMP Substation on Left in
Background



Photo Point 11 Southwest Corner of Mitigation
Commission Parcel



Photo Point 12 Southwest Corner of Mitigation
Commission Parcel Looking West





Appendix 1

Wetland Delineation

www.mitigationcommission.gov/news

Appendix 2

SHPO Consultation Documentation



State of Utah

GARY R. HERBERT
Governor

GREG BELL
Lieutenant Governor

Department of Heritage and Arts

Julie Fisher
Executive Director

State History

Wilson G. Martin
Director

MITIGATION COMMISSION
OFFICIAL FILE COPY
CLASSIFICATION _____
PROJECT _____
FOLDER _____ CONTROL _____

MAR 27 2013

CODE	INITIALS
mc01	mcu
mc02	
mc05	

March 25, 2013

Michael C. Weland
Executive Director
Utah Reclamation Mitigation and
Conservation Commission
230 South 500 East, Suite 2320
Salt Lake City Utah 84102-2045

RE: Jordan River Trail Between 7800 South and 9000 South, West Jordan, Utah U-12-EO-1138

For future correspondence, please reference Case No. 02-0053/13-0308

Dear Mr. Weland:

The Utah State Historic Preservation Office received your request for our comment on the above-referenced undertaking on March 21, 2013.

We concur with your determinations of eligibility and effect for this undertaking.

This letter serves as our comment on the determinations you have made, within the consultation process specified in §36CFR800.4. If you have questions, please contact me at 801-245-7263.

Sincerely,

Chris Merritt, Ph.D.
Senior Preservation Specialist



State of Utah

GARY R. HERBERT
Governor

GREG BELL
Lieutenant Governor

Department of Community and Culture

MICHAEL HANSEN
Acting Executive Director

State History

WILSON G. MARTIN
Acting Director

August 3, 2011

Ms. Nikki Polson
CESPK-PD-RC
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
1325 J Street
Sacramento CA 95814-2922

RE: West Jordan, Utah Section 206 Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Project

In reply please refer to Case No. 02-0053

Dear Ms. Polson:

The Utah State Historic Preservation Office received your request for our comment on the above referenced undertaking.

We concur with the COE determination of **No Historic Properties Affected, 36 CFR 800.4(d)(1)** for this undertaking, SL 342 DOE, SL 652 NP.

This letter serves as our comment on the determinations you have made, within the consultation process specified in §36CFR800.4. If you have questions, please contact me at 801-533-3555 or Jim Dykmann at 801-533-3523.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Lori Hunsaker", written over a circular stamp or seal.

Lori Hunsaker
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer
Archaeology

UTAH STATE
HISTORY

UTAH STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
ANTIQUITIES
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
RESEARCH CENTER & COLLECTIONS

300 S. RIO GRANDE STREET, SALT LAKE CITY, UT 84101-1182 · TELEPHONE 801 533-3500 · FACSIMILE 801 533-3503 · HISTORY.UTAH.GOV

Appendix 3

Big Bend Habitat Restoration Fact Sheet

America's Great Outdoors:

A Promise for Future Generations

City of West Jordan: Jordan River "Big Bend" Habitat Restoration Project



Aerial view of restored habitat on the Jordan River near 10600 South, south of the Big Bend Project Area. Side-channel wetlands surrounded by native vegetation provide habitat for migratory birds, and provide open space and opportunities for wildlife viewing.
Photo: Great Salt Lake Audubon

Background

The restoration project was originally proposed to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service by the City of West Jordan in 1997. Seed money for the restoration is being provided through the Sharon Steel Natural Resource Damage Assessment Fund to restore migratory birds and their supporting habitat that were injured by contaminant releases from site operations. Settlement funds have been supporting restoration on the Jordan River since 1991. The Big Bend project is the final and most ambitious restoration effort to be supported with settlement funding.

Jordan River Trail

The restoration project is adjacent to the soon to be completed section of the Jordan River Trail (JRT) in the City of West Jordan. The regional trail is 45 miles long connecting two counties along the Wasatch Front providing recreation access to over one million people. When complete the JRT will be a major intermodal network connected with mass-transit hubs and east-west connector trails, providing opportunities for alternative transportation and recreation.

In 2010, the JRT was nominated by the Utah Governor's Office to the U.S. Department of Interior (DOI)'s "America's Great Outdoors" Initiative (AGO). This was one of two projects selected in Utah with the goal of connecting Americans to the outdoors.

For more information, please contact:
City of West Jordan
Chuck Tarver (801) 569-5062
charlest@wjordan.com

Big Bend Habitat Restoration Project

The Big Bend Habitat Restoration Project is located in the City of West Jordan, Utah, north of 90th South, adjacent to the Jordan River Trail. The goal of the project is to restore 70 acres of habitat for migratory birds and other wildlife by constructing a new meandering channel and wetlands that will reconnect the floodplain with the river. When completed, the project will provide one mile of restored river channel, wetland habitat, riparian habitat, and upland habitat, and urban fisheries.

Restoration of the Jordan River channel and floodplain will significantly reduce sediment and organic matter currently being eroded into the river. This will protect surface and drinking water quality, and provide a retention basin during high runoff and floods. The project will also increase recreation opportunities for the public. Amenities such as boardwalks and interpretive signage on the adjacent Jordan River Trail will allow people to see and learn about the wildlife, culture and history of the area. Once completed, the Big Bend Restoration will become one of the "gems" of the Jordan River Parkway trail system.



Partners - Connecting People with Nature

The restoration project lead is the City of West Jordan with assistance from diverse partners including: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Utah Reclamation Mitigation and Conservation Commission, and the National Park Service, Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program.



The Jordan River Trail will run along the west side of the project area, providing trail users with a natural open-space and opportunities to view wildlife.
Photo: Jim Olsen, www.utahhikes.net

The City is actively seeking partners and funding to implement the project including the construction of the new meander channel and additional trail amenities such as viewing platforms, boardwalks, interpretive signage, and possibly an urban fishery feature.

Produced by the National Park Service.
Lead partners of this cooperative project:



West Jordan: Jordan River "Big Bend" Restoration Map



Wetlands on the site provide wildlife habitat and viewing opportunities, improve water quality, and can provide a flood retention basin that protects downstream properties.



Features such as boardwalks, viewing platforms, and signage will connect people with nature along the Jordan River Trail.



Urban fisheries can help to focus recreation, minimizing human impacts on the remainder of the site while still providing recreation opportunities.

Trail alignments are shown in approximate locations and do not represent actual ROWs. Ownership labels are shown for descriptive purposes only and may be shortened from actual legal descriptions. Produced by National Park Service Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program

0 0.06 0.12 Miles



Legend

- JRP Trail
- North Jordan Irrigation Canal
- Proposed West Jordan City Gap
- Proposed Neighborhood Connection
- Proposed Sandy City Gap
- Proposed Habitat Restoration Area
- Proposed River Meander
- Pedestrian Bridge
- Pedestrian Underpass

Appendix 4

Phase I ESA Report

<http://www.mitigationcommission.gov/news>