IDAHO FALLS POWER

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July 9, 2025

*VIA E-FILING*

Debbie-Anne A. Reese, Secretary
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street, NE
Washington, DC 20426

Subject: Idaho Falls Hydroelectric Project (FERC Project No. 2842) and Gem State Hydroelectric Project (FERC Project No. 2952) Initial Study Report Meeting Summary

Dear Secretary Reese,

Idaho Falls Power (IFP or Licensee), the Licensee of the 24.6-megawatt (MW) Idaho Falls Hydroelectric Project (Idaho Falls Project), Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) No. 2842, and the 22.6 MW Gem State Hydroelectric Project (Gem State Project), FERC No. 2952, herein collectively referred to as the "Projects," electronically files with FERC its Initial Study Report (ISR) for the relicensing of the Projects, in accordance with the requirements of 18 Code of Federal Regulation (CFR) Part 5.

The FERC licenses for both Projects expire on January 31, 2029. Due to the proximity of the Projects to each other, IFP has combined the relicensing process and schedule for both projects into a single proceeding, using the Integrated Licensing Process (ILP). In the ISR and at the planned ISR meeting (scheduled for June 23, 2025), IFP proposed combining the Projects under a single license for the next license term. The Gem State facilities would become a development within the Idaho Falls Project's license number (FERC No. 2842). For the duration of this relicensing process, IFP will continue to file all relicensing materials under both dockets, but the license application and associated exhibits are expected to describe a single project.

On May 13, 2024, IFP filed its Revised Study Plan, which incorporated stakeholder comments on the Proposed Study Plan, as appropriate. There were no comments received on the RSP. On June 5, 2024, FERC issued its Study Plan Determination (SPD). In late June 2024, IFP began implementing studies. On June 11, 2025, IFP filed the ISR, and on June 23, 2025, IFP held a virtual ISR public meeting with stakeholders to provide an update on studies.



RP3 RELIABLE PUBLIC POWER PROVIDER
American Public Power Association

Pursuant to 18 CFR § 5.15(c)(3), IFP hereby electronically files (a) a summary of the ISR meeting on June 23, 2025; (b) an ISR meeting attendance list (Attachment A); and (c) a PowerPoint presentation for the relicensing of both Projects (Attachment B).
IFP reminds stakeholders that FERC's Scoping Document 2 provides the following additional opportunities for comments on the ISR, and requests for modifications to studies or additional studies:

- August 11, 2025: Pursuant to 18 CFR § 5.15(c)(4), relicensing participants file any disagreements on the ISR, modifications to amend the study plan, and requests for new studies;

- September 10, 2025: Pursuant to 18 CFR § 5.15(c)(5), relicensing participants file any response comments to any disagreements, requests for study modifications, utilizing the criteria of 18 CFR § 5.15(d); and

- October 10, 2025: Pursuant to 18 CFR § 5.15(c)(6), FERC staff issues determination to resolve any disagreements and amend the study plan.

In addition to filing the ISR Meeting Summary with FERC, IFP will share the ISR Meeting Summary with relicensing participants on the Idaho Falls and Gem State relicensing website: https://www.ifpower.org/about-us/relicensing. Please contact Richard Malloy, Regulatory Compliance Manager, by phone at 208-612-8248 or via e-mail at rmalloy@ifpower.org with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Richard Malloy
Regulatory Compliance Manager
Idaho Falls Power

Cc: Distribution List (attached)
Bear Prairie – Idaho Falls Power
Finlay Anderson, Olivia Smith – Kleinschmidt Associates

Attachments:
Initial Study Report Meeting Summary
including Attachment A (ISR Meeting Attendance List)
and Attachment B (ISR Meeting PowerPoint)



RP3 RELIABLE PUBLIC POWER PROVIDER
American Public Power Association

**IDAHO FALLS POWER RELICENSING**
**IDAHO FALLS PROJECT (P-2952), GEM STATE PROJECT (P-2842) RELICENSING DISTRIBUTION LIST**

| **Federal Agencies** | |
|---|---|
| Bonneville Power Administration<br>Kevin Mozena, City of Idaho Falls Power Account Executive<br>P.O. Box 3621 Portland, OR 97208-3621<br>kimozena@bpa.gov<br>(503) 230-3000 | FERC<br>Amy Chang, Fisheries & Wildlife<br>Amy.Chang@ferc.gov<br>(202) 502-6145 |
| FERC<br>Maryam Zavareh, OEP Engineer<br>Maryam.Zavareh@ferc.gov | FERC<br>Lauren Townson, Recreation & Cultural<br>lauren.townson@ferc.gov |
| FERC<br>John Matowski<br>John.Matkowski@ferc.gov | U.S. Army Corps of Engineers<br>Sarah Windham<br>Sarah.V.Windham@usace.army.mil |
| U.S. Bureau of Land Management<br>Autumn Clark<br>adclark@usbr.gov | U.S. Bureau of Land Management<br>Deena Teel<br>1405 Hollipark Drive Idaho Falls, ID 83401<br>dteel@blm.gov<br>(208) 524-7533 |
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| U.S. Bureau of Land Management<br>Matt Clarkson, Natural Resource Specialist – Range<br>mclarkson@blm.gov | U.S. Bureau of Land Management<br>Monica B Zimmerman<br>1405 Hollipark Drive Idaho Falls, ID 83401<br>mzimmerman@blm.gov |
| U.S. Bureau of Land Management<br>Robert Taylor<br>rtaylor@blm.gov | U.S. Bureau of Land Management<br>Ryan S Whitworth<br>1405 Hollipark Drive Idaho Falls, ID 83401<br>rwhitworth@blm.gov<br>(208) 524-7533 |
| U.S. Bureau of Land Management<br>1405 Hollipark Drive Idaho Falls, ID 83401<br>BLM_ID_UpperSnakeOffice@blm.gov<br>(208) 524-7500 | U.S. Bureau of Reclamation<br>Brian Stevens<br>bstevens@usbr.gov |
| U.S. Bureau of Reclamation<br>Columbia-Pacific Northwest Region Office<br>230 Collins Rd Boise, ID 83702<br>pninfo@usbr.gov | U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service<br>Allyson Turner<br>1387 S. Vinnell Way, Suite 368 Boise, ID 83709 |

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| (208) 383-2200 | Ally_turner@fws.gov<br>(208) 378-6976 |
| U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service<br>Chris Swanson, State Supervisor<br>1387 S. Vinnell Way, Suite 368 Boise, ID 83709<br>Chris_swanson@fws.gov<br>(208) 378-6976 | U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service<br>Erin Kenison, Supervisory Fish & Wildlife Biologist<br>1387 S. Vinnell Way, Suite 368 Boise, ID 83709<br>erin_kenison@fws.gov<br>(208) 803-4896 |
| U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service<br>Kim Frymire, Biologist, Boise Idaho<br>kimberly_frymire@fws.gov | U.S. Geological Survey - Idaho Water Science Center<br>Roy Bartholomay, Center Director<br>230 Collins Rd. Boise ID, 83702<br>rcbarth@usgs.gov<br>rcbarth@usgs.gov |
| Tribes | |
| Burns Paiute Tribe<br>Calla Hagle, Natural Resources Director<br>100 Pasigo St. Burns, OR 97720<br>Calla.Hagle@burnspaiute-nsn.gov<br>(541) 573-8021 | Burns Paiute Tribe<br>Diane L. Teeman, Cultural<br>100 Pasigo St. Burns, OR 97720<br>Diane.teeman@burnspaiute-nsn.gov<br>(541) 573-8096 |
| Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs Reservation<br>Jonathan Smith, Chairman<br>PO Box C Warm Springs, OR 97761-3001<br>info@warmsprings.com<br>(541) 553-1161 | Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs Reservation<br>Lola Sohappy, Vice Chairman<br>PO Box C Warm Springs, OR 97761-3001<br>info@warmsprings.com<br>(541) 553-1161 |
| Couer d'Alene Tribe<br>Jill Maria Wagner, THPO<br>850 A Street PO Box 408 Plummer, ID 83851<br>jwagner@cdatribe-nsn.gov<br>(208) 686-1572 | Couer d'Alene Tribe<br>Chief James Allan, Chairman<br>850 A Street PO Box 408 Plummer, ID 83851 |
| Couer d'Alene Tribe<br>Zachery Miller, Energy Coordinator<br>zmiller@cdatribe-nsn.gov | Couer d'Alene Tribe<br>Nick Kager, Deputy Tribal Historic Preservation Officer<br>nicholas.kager@cdatribe-nsn.gov |
| Fort Belknap Indian Community of the Fort Belknap Reservation<br>Emmy Filesteel<br>RR1, Box 66 Harlem MT 59526<br>emma.filesteel@ftbelknap.org<br>406-353-3393 | Fort Belknap Indian Community of the Fort Belknap Reservation<br>Michael Black Wolf, THPO<br>656 Agency Main St Harlem, MT 59526<br>mblackwolf@ftbelknap.org<br>(406) 353-2295 |
| Fort McDermitt Paiute and Shoshone Tribes of the Fort McDermitt Indian Reservation, Nevada and Oregon<br>Duane Masters, Sr., Environmental Director | Fort McDermitt Paiute and Shoshone Tribes of the Fort McDermitt Indian Reservation, Nevada and Oregon<br>Dakota York, Tribal Administrator |

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| P.O. Box 457 McDermitt, NV 89422<br>duane.masters@fmpst.org<br>dmasterssr@gmail.com<br>(775) 532-8259 | P.O. Box 457 McDermitt, NV 89421<br>chairman@fmpst.org<br>(775) 532-8259 |
| Kootenai Tribe of Idaho<br>Jennifer Porter, Chairperson<br>100 Circle Drive Bonners Ferry, ID 83805<br>jenniffer@kootenai.org<br>(208) 267-2960 | Nez Perce Tribe of Idaho<br>Keith (Pat) Baird, THPO/Tribal Archaeologist<br>P.O. Box 305 Lapwai, ID 83540<br>keithb@nezperce.org<br>(208) 621-3851 |
| Nez Perce Tribe of Idaho<br>Shannon Wheeler, Chairman<br>P.O. Box 305 Lapwai, ID 83540<br>nptec@nezperce.org<br>(208) 843-7342 | Nez Perce Tribe of Idaho, Water Resource Development<br>Aaron Miles, Natural Resources<br>114 Veterans Dr. Lapwai, ID 83540<br>waterresources@nezperce.org<br>(208) 621-3903 |
| Northwestern Band of Shoshone Nation<br>Dennis Alex, Chairman<br>2575 Commerce Way Ogden, UT 84401<br>dalex@nwbshoshone.com<br>(435) 734-2286 | Northwestern Band of Shoshone Nation<br>George Gover, Tribe Executive Director<br>2575 Commerce Way Ogden, UT 84401<br>ggover@nwbshoshone.com<br>(435) 734-2286 |
| Shoshone-Bannock Tribal Fish and Wildlife Department<br>Chad Colter, Fish & Wildlife Director<br>PO Box 306 Fort Hall, ID 83203<br>ccolter@sbtribes.com<br>(208) 239-4553 | Shoshone-Paiute Tribe<br>Jade Roubideaux, Cultural Resources Director<br>roubideaux.jade@shopai.org<br>(208) 759-3100 ext. 1243 |
| Shoshone-Bannock Tribes of the Fort Hall Reservation<br>Ladd Edmo, Chairman<br>P.O. Box 306 Pima Drive Fort Hall, ID 83203<br>(208) 478-3700 | Shoshone-Bannock Tribes of the Fort Hall Reservation Business Council<br>Lee Juan Tyler, Chairman<br>P.O. Box 306 Pima Drive Fort Hall, ID 83203<br>ltyler@sbtribes.com<br>(208) 478-3814 |
| Shoshone-Paiute Tribe of the Duck Valley Reservation<br>Shanina Hicks, Tribal Administrator<br>PO Box 219 Owhyhee, NV 89833<br>hicks.shanina@shopai.org<br>(208) 759-3100 Ext. 1212 | Shoshone-Paiute Tribes - Fish, Wildlife and Parks Department<br>Marissa Snapp, Environmental Director<br>PO Box 219 Owhyhee, NV 89833<br>snapp.marissa@shopai.org<br>(208) 759-3249 |
| State Agencies | |
| Idaho Consumer-Owned Utilities Association<br>Will Hart, Executive Director<br>P.O. Box 1898 Boise, ID 83701<br>whart@icua.coop<br>(208) 344-3873 | Idaho Department of Environmental Quality<br>Alex Bell, Water Quality Manager<br>444 Hospital Way #300 Pocatello, ID 83201<br>alex.bell@deq.idaho.gov<br>208 528-2679 |
| Idaho Department of Environmental Quality<br>Jennifer Cornell, Water Quality Manager | Idaho Department of Environmental Quality<br>Tambra Phares |

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| 444 Hospital Way #300 Pocatello, ID 83201<br>Jennifer.Cornell@deq.idaho.gov<br>208 236-6160 | 444 Hospital Way #300 Pocatello, ID 83201<br>tambra.phares@deq.idaho.gov |
| Idaho Department of Environmental Quality<br>Troy Saffle, Surface Water Quality Manager<br>1410 N Hilton St Boise, ID 83706<br>Troy.saffle@deq.idaho.gov<br>208 528-2661 | Idaho Department of Fish and Game<br>Brett High, Regional Fish Manager<br>4279 Commerce Circle Idaho Falls, ID 83401<br>brett.high@idfg.idaho.gov<br>(208) 525-7290 |
| Idaho Department of Fish and Game<br>Eric Anderson<br>4279 Commerce Circle Idaho Falls, ID 83401<br>eric.anderson@idfg.idaho.gov<br>208-525-7290 | Idaho Department of Fish and Game<br>Matt Pieron, Upper Snake Region Supervisor<br>4279 Commerce Circle Idaho Falls, ID 83401<br>matt.pieron@idfg.idaho.gov<br>208-525-7290 |
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| Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation<br>Dave Claycomb, Outdoor Recreation Program Bureau Chief<br>P.O. Box 83720 5657 Warm Springs Avenue<br>Boise, ID 83720-0065<br>david.claycomb@idpr.idaho.gov<br>(208) 514-2410 | Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation<br>Garth Taylor, East Region Bureau Chief<br>4279 Commerce Circle, Suite B Idaho Falls, ID 83401<br>garth.taylor@idpr.idaho.gov<br>(208) 525-7121 |
| Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation<br>Phoebe Wallace, Boating Program Manager<br>phoebe.wallace@idpr.idaho.gov | Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation<br>Susan Buxton, Director<br>5657 Warm Springs Avenue, Boise, ID 83716<br>susan.buxton@idpr.idaho.gov<br>208-514-2251 |
| Idaho Governor's Office of Energy and Mineral Resources<br>Kenneth (Kenny) Huston<br>304 N. 8th Street Suite 250 Boise, ID 83720<br>kenny.huston@oer.idaho.go<br>(208) 332-1665 | Idaho Governor's Office of Energy and Mineral Resources<br>Kristina Fugate, Legal Counsel<br>304 N. 8th Street Suite 250 Boise, ID 83720<br>kristina.fugate@oer.idaho.gov<br>(208) 332-1679<br>(562) 367-5981 |
| Idaho Governor's Office of Species Conservation<br>Michael Edmondson, Administrator | Idaho Office of the Attorney General<br>Dan Estes, Public Information Officer |

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| Idaho Office of the Governor<br>Brad Little, Governor<br>PO Box 83720 Boise, ID 83720-0083<br>governor@gov.idaho.gov<br>(208) 334-2100 | Idaho State Department of Agriculture<br>Chanel Tewalt, Director<br>1120 Lincoln Road, Suite C Idaho Falls, ID 83401<br>info@isda.idaho.gov<br>(208) 332-8500 |
| Idaho State Historic Preservation Office<br>Chris Shaver, Compliance Archaeologist<br>Chris.Shaver@ishs.idaho.gov | Idaho State Historic Preservation Office<br>Lindsay Johansson, State Archaeologist<br>Lindsay.Johansson@ishs.idaho.gov |
| Idaho State Historic Preservation Office<br>Tricia Canaday, SHPO Administrator/SHPO Deputy<br>210 Main Street Boise, ID 83702<br>tricia.canaday@ishs.idaho.gov<br>(208) 334-3861 | Idaho State Historical Society<br>Janet Gallimore, Executive Director, SHPO<br>2205 Old Penitentiary Road Boise, ID 83712<br>janet.gallimore@ishs.idaho.gov<br>(208) 334-2682 |
| Idaho State Historical Society<br>Patricia Hoffman, Management Assistant<br>2205 Old Penitentiary Road Boise, ID 83712<br>patricia.hoffman@ishs.idaho.gov<br>(208) 334-2682 | |
| Local Agencies | |
| Bonneville County Commission<br>Roger Christensen, Chairman<br>605 N Capital Avenue Idaho Falls, ID 83402<br>rchristensen@co.bonneville.id.us<br>(208) 529-1350 | City of Ammon<br>Micah Austin, City Administrator<br>2135 South Ammon Road. Ammon, ID 83406<br>maustin@cityofammon.us<br>(208) 612-4000 |
| City of Idaho Falls<br>Bruce Demming<br>1050 Thomas Jefferson St NW, Washington, D.C., 20007 | City of Idaho Falls<br>Gary Bachman<br>1050 Thomas Jefferson St NW, Washington, D.C., 20007<br>gdb@vnf.com<br>202-298-1880 |
| City of Idaho Falls<br>Jasmine Marroquin<br>308 Constitution Way Idaho Falls, ID 83402<br>IFClerk@idahofallsidaho.gov<br>208-612-8415 | City of Idaho Falls<br>Rebecca, Noah Casper<br>308 Constitution Way Idaho Falls, ID 83402<br>mayor@idahofallsidaho.gov<br>(208) 612-8235 |
| City of Shelley<br>Stacy Pascoe, Mayor<br>101 S. Emerson Avenue Shelley, Idaho 83274<br>stacypascoe@cityofshelley.org<br>(208) 357-3390 | County of Bingham<br>Lindsey Dalley, Commission Clerk<br>502 N. Maple Blackfoot, Idaho 83221<br>LDalley@binghamid.gov<br>(208)782-3013 |

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| County of Bingham<br>Pamela Eckhardt, Clerk<br>502 N. Maple Blackfoot, Idaho 83221<br>peckhardt@co.bingham.id.us<br>(208) 782-3160 | County of Bonneville<br>Penny Manning, Bonneville County Clerk<br>605 N. Capital, Idaho Falls, Idaho 83402<br>pmanning@co.bonneville.id.us<br>208-529-1350 |
| Idaho Irrigation District<br>Richard Lockyer, Manager<br>496 E 14th Street Idaho Falls, ID 83404<br>idahowatermap@gmail.com<br>208-390-1211 | Idaho Power Company – Corporate Headquarters<br>Fred Noland, Environmental Manager for Recreation<br>P.O. Box 70 Boise, ID 83707<br>(208) 388-2200 |
| Idaho Power Company – Corporate Headquarters<br>Lisa Grow, President and CEO<br>P.O. Box 70 Boise, ID 83707<br>(208) 388-2200 | Idaho Public Utilities Commission<br>Commission Secretary<br>P.O. Box 83720 Boise, ID 83714<br>secretary@puc.idaho.gov<br>(208) 334-0300 |
| Idaho Public Utilities Commission<br>Stephen Goodson, Policy Analyst<br>stephen.goodson@puc.idaho.gov | Idaho Soil & Water Conservation Commission<br>Delwyne Trefz, Administrator<br>PO Box 83720 Boise, ID 83720-0083<br>Delwyne.Trefz@swc.idaho.gov<br>(208) 332-1790 |
| Idaho Soil & Water Conservation Commission<br>Erik Olson, Chairman<br>PO Box 83720 Boise, ID 83720-0083<br>erik.olson@swc.idaho.gov<br>(208) 332-1790 | New Sweden Irrigation District<br>Kail Sheppard, Manager<br>2350 W 17th St Idaho Falls, ID 83402<br>kailsheppard@gmail.com<br>(208) 523-0175 |
| New Sweden Irrigation District<br>Stuart DeGuilio<br>2350 W 17th St Idaho Falls, ID 83402<br>stuartd.nsid@gmail.com | Progressive Irrigation District<br>Ray Suitter, Manager<br>2585 N Ammon Road Idaho Falls, ID 83401<br>office@progressiveirrigationdistrict.com<br>(208) 522-5898 |
| Snake River Valley Irrigation District<br>Steve Neilson, Manager<br>816 N 700 E Basalt, ID 83218<br>srvid1@gmail.com ; srvid1@hotmail.com<br>208-357-3420 | Water District 1<br>Tony Olenichak<br>900 N Skyline Dr. Ste A, Idaho Falls, ID 83402<br>tony.olenichak@idwr.idaho.gov<br>(208) 525-7161 |
| Woodville Canal Company<br>Rumsey<br>rumseyranch@gmail.com<br>208-523-2197 | Woodville Canal Company<br>Ryan<br>ryan@wattenbargerfarms.com<br>208-243-4644 |
| Other | |
| American Whitewater<br>Thomas O'Keefe, Pacific Northwest Stewardship Director<br>3537 NE 87th St. Seattle, WA 98115-3639 | Burgess Canal & Irrigating Co.<br>Mark Boam, President<br>PO Box 536 Rigby, ID 83442<br>burgesscanal@yahoo.com |

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| okeefe@americanwhitewater.org<br>425-417-9012 | (208) 317-7420 |
| Dalan Andrews<br>676 E 1550 N Shelley, ID 83274 | Greater Yellowstone Coalition<br>Charles Drimal<br>60 E. Little Ave., Suite 101 Driggs, ID 83422<br>cdrimal@greateryellowstone.org |
| Greater Yellowstone Coalition<br>Info<br>60 E. Little Ave., Suite 101 Driggs, ID 83422<br>gyc@greateryellowstone.org<br>(208) 354-1593 | Greater Yellowstone Coalition<br>Kathy Rinaldi<br>60 E. Little Ave., Suite 101 Driggs, ID 83422<br>krindaldi@greateryellowstone.org<br>(208) 354-1593 |
| Greater Yellowstone Coalition<br>Matt Lucia, Idaho Conservation Manager<br>mlucia@greateryellowstone.org | Greater Yellowstone Coalition<br>Scott Christensen, Executive Director<br>60 E. Little Ave., Suite 101 Driggs, ID 83422<br>schristensen@greateryellowstone.org<br>(208) 354-1593 |
| Harrison Canal & Irrigation Co.<br>13520 N 55 E, Idaho Falls, ID 83401<br>208-201-0255 | Idaho Consumer-Owned Utilities Association<br>Will Hart, Executive Director<br>P.O. Box 1898 Boise, ID 83701<br>whart@icua.coop<br>(208) 344-3873 |
| Idaho Falls Post Register<br>John Miller, Managing Editor<br>333 Northgate Mile, PO Box 1800, Idaho Falls, ID 83401<br>jmiller@postregister.com<br>208-522-1800 | Idaho Farm Bureau Federation<br>Braden Jensen, Director of Governmental Affairs<br>PO Box 4848 Pocatello, ID 83205-4848<br>bjensen@idahofb.org<br>(208) 333-7089 |
| Idaho Rivers United<br>Nic Nelson, Executive Director<br>3380 W. Americana Terrace, Suite 140 Boise, ID 83706<br>admin@idahorivers.org<br>nic@idahorivers.org<br>(208) 343-7481 | Idaho Rivers United<br>Nick Kunath<br>3380 W. Americana Terrace, Suite 140 Boise, ID 83706<br>nkunath@idahorivers.org |
| Idaho Sustainability and Energy Coalition<br>Stephanie Walsh, President<br>1828 S 55th W, Idaho Falls, ID 83402<br>stephw@idahosec.org | Idaho Water Users Association<br>Gary Dixon, Director for Idaho Falls<br>101 S. Capitol Blvd. Suite 305, Boise, ID 83702<br>iwua@iwua.org<br>contact@idahowhitewater.net<br>208-344-6690 |
| Love the Wild Foundation<br>Sylvia Medina, Founder/Chair<br>PO Box 50030, Idaho Falls, ID 83405<br>info@lovethewild.org<br>844-328-3344 | Snake River Audubon Society<br>Administrator<br>PO Box 2922, Idaho Falls, ID 83403<br>snakeriveraudinfo@gmail.com |

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| Trout Unlimited - Snake River Cutthroats (Chapter 163)<br>Dan, Chapter President<br>P.O. Box 50914 Idaho Falls, ID 83405<br>snakerivercutthroats@gmail.com | |
| Licensee | |
| Idaho Falls Power<br>Bear Prairie<br>140 So. Capital Idaho Falls, Idaho 83402<br>bprairie@ifpower.org | Idaho Falls Power<br>Richard Malloy, Regulatory Compliance Manager<br>140 So. Capital Idaho Falls, Idaho 83402<br>rmalloy@ifpower.org<br>(208) 612-8428 |
| Idaho Falls Power<br>Jason Cooper<br>jcooper@ifpower.org | |

# ISR MEETING SUMMARY

**Projects:** Idaho Falls and Gem State Hydroelectric Projects (FERC Nos. 2842 & 2952)

**Subject:** Initial Study Report Meeting

**Date:** Monday, June 23, 2025

**Location:** Microsoft Teams Virtual Meeting

**Attendees:** Attendance List (Attachment A)

## AGENDA

- Welcome and Introductions
- Overview of FERC Relicensing Process, Timeline, and Initial Study Report
- Status of Studies
    - Status, Purpose, Participant questions about data summary in report, and planning and schedule, including any need for changes
        - Project Lands and Roads (LAND-1)
        - Recreation Use and Facility Inventory (REC-1)
        - Environmental Justice (EJ-1)
        - Water Quality (WQ-1)
        - Fish Assemblage (AQ-1)
        - Desktop Fish Entrainment (AQ-2)
        - Aquatic Habitat and Sediment Characterization (AQ-3)
        - Wildlife and Rare, Threatened, and Endangered Species (TERR-2)
        - Botanical Resources (TERR-1)
        - Cultural Resources (CR-1)
        - Tribal Resources (TR-1)
- Action Items and Adjourn

## OVERVIEW

This document provides a summary of the Initial Study Report (ISR) meeting for the relicensing of the Idaho Falls and Gem State Hydroelectric Projects, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) Nos. 2842 and 2952. The meeting was held via Microsoft Teams to review with stakeholders the progress and results of the ISR, which was filed with FERC on June 11, 2025.

The ISR can be accessed from FERC's website or the Idaho Falls Power (IFP or Licensee) relicensing website: https://www.ifpower.org/about-us/relicensing/relicensing-documents/. A copy of the meeting PowerPoint presentation is included with this meeting summary as Attachment B.

**Welcome and Introductions**
(Slides 1-4)

Finlay Anderson (Kleinschmidt Associates) opened the ISR meeting at 10:00 a.m. Mountain Standard Time (MST) with an introduction that described the goals and objectives of the ISR meeting and encouraged participation and feedback from participants.

Richard Malloy, Bear Prairie, and Stephen Boorman (IFP) introduced themselves as representatives of the Licensee.

Amy Chang, Lauren Townsen, and John Matowski introduced themselves as representatives of FERC.

Finlay Anderson then led a round of introductions of Tribal, federal, state, and non-profit organizations, and members of the public in attendance.

**Overview of FERC Relicensing Process, Timeline, and Initial Study Report**
(Slides 5-10)

Finlay Anderson reviewed the completed and upcoming Integrated Licensing Process (ILP) schedule milestones. The studies reported in the ISR meeting began in the first ILP study season (2024) and are continuing through the second ILP study season (2025). Preliminary technical memorandums for the studies were filed with the ISR.

Draft technical study reports are to be filed with the Updated Study Report (USR) in June 2026 with final technical study reports to be filed with the Draft License Application (DLA) in September 2026. The Final License Application is to be filed no later than January 2027.

Finlay Anderson reviewed the proposal to combine the Idaho Falls and Gem State Hydroelectric projects under one license (Idaho Falls docket No. P-2842) as part of the new license. All

relicensing documents will be filed under both dockets (No. P-2842 and No. P-2952) during relicensing but will be under the Idaho Falls docket (No. P-2842) in the new license.

**Status of Studies**
(Slides 11-12)

Finlay Anderson reviewed the meeting objectives and status of the studies discussed in the ISR meeting.

**Project Lands and Roads (LAND-1)**
(Slides 13-20)

Olivia Smith (Kleinschmidt Associates) presented the LAND-1 study goals and objectives, study area, preliminary data, variances and modifications, as well as the study schedule. Olivia noted there is a Bureau of Land Management (BLM) parcel at the Lower Plant that IFP is interested in receiving comments on how to proceed with administratively withdrawing from the FERC Project Boundary, given that only a portion of the parcel is necessary for Project purposes and is proposed as being included in the FERC Project Boundary. It was recommended that the BLM provide comments to this meeting summary, but IFP is also open to meeting on the topic.

**Recreation Use and Facility Inventory (REC-1)**
(Slides 21-28)

Matt Harper (SWCA Environmental Consultants [SWCA]) presented the REC-1 study goals and objectives, study area, preliminary data, variances and modifications, as well as the study schedule. Matt explained that the REC-1 study began over Memorial Day weekend (May 2025) and will continue through Labor Day (September 2025). The recreation facility inventory and condition assessment was completed over Memorial Day weekend. Additionally, traffic and pedestrian counters were installed. Matt noted that spot counts and intercept surveys are currently underway, and will continue through Labor Day, coinciding with traffic and pedestrian counter de-installation.

In response to a question from Kim Frymire (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service [USFWS]) about how the pedestrian counters will exclude non-humans (e.g., dogs), Matt explained that the counters were set at specific heights to exclude non-humans.

**Environmental Justice (EJ-1)**
(Slides 29-36)

Emily Waters (SWCA) presented the EJ-1 study goals and objectives, study area, preliminary data, variances and modifications, as well as the study schedule and outreach methodology. Emily noted that although recent presidential Executive Orders no longer require federal agencies to consider environmental justice, IFP is continuing to conduct the EJ-1 study, given that the study plan was approved by FERC in the Study Plan Determination on June 5, 2025.

**Water Quality (WQ-1)**
(Slides 37-45)

Kai Steimle (Kleinschmidt Associates) presented the WQ-1 study goals and objectives, study area, preliminary data, variances and modifications, as well as the study schedule. Kai noted how the August 2024 site visit informed installation locations and monitoring frequency which now include at least a week of continuous data monthly rather than requiring continuous data for the entire study season from June to September.

In response to a question from Alex Bell (Idaho Department of Environmental Quality) about whether the continuous monitoring will include temperature and dissolved oxygen, Kai responded the probes will collect both temperature and dissolved oxygen data assuming they are not tampered with or lost; however, the schedule for probe maintenance will ensure at least a week of continuous data (described above) will be available and suitable for analysis. Kai acknowledged that the temperature sensor requires less maintenance in comparison to the optical sensor used to collect the dissolved oxygen data, however, public access increases the risk of data loss for both parameters. All data will be reported and qualified as needed to reflect any data collection challenges. Richard Malloy (IFP) confirmed there could be continuous data for each probe if nothing happens to the probes, and these data will be retained for use, if necessary.

**Fish Assemblage (AQ-1)**
(Slides 46-66)

Mike Gagner (Kleinschmidt Associates) presented the AQ-1 study goals and objectives, study area, preliminary data, variances and modifications, as well as the study schedule. Mike explained that the AQ-1 study team utilized different sampling techniques to ensure capturing data for each type of habitat above and below the Idaho Falls and Gem State Dams. Fish tissue samples were

collected and will continue to be collected in collaboration with the WQ-1 study to assess the status of mercury in Snake River fish populations. The AQ-1 study was conducted in close collaboration with the Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG), specifically Brett High.

Eric Anderson (IDFG) and Mike Gagner discussed including catch per unit effort in future reports to be shared with IDFG for each species and macrohabitat types in the reservoirs and tailraces by season. Eric also recommended leaving at least one net per reservoir overnight as it would inform whether shorter sets during daylight hours are affecting how and what species are caught. There was discussion about reducing overnight soaks to reduce sucker fish mortality. Mike agreed to call Brett High (IDFG) prior to the July 2025 field effort to confirm approach and said they collected pit tag information in sturgeon when they could for IDFG records.

Kenny Huston (Idaho Office of Energy and Minerals) and Eric Anderson (IDFG) discussed how the recent IFP amendment process for a license variance will likely not have an impact on the relicensing studies, specifically the AQ-3 study, as the variance has been delayed a year after the AQ-3 study will be completed.

**Desktop Fish Entrainment (AQ-2)**
(Slides 67-73)

Steve Rogers (Kleinschmidt Associates) presented the AQ-2 study goals and objectives, study area, preliminary data, variances and modifications, as well as the study schedule. Steve noted how qualitative data may need to be referenced in addition to the quantitative data provided by the Strike Program, which runs off the EPRI database, because the database does not include White Sturgeon, a species of focus for the AQ-2 study. Additionally, Steve noted how the species list was expanded to include Brown Trout, Mountain Whitefish, and Smallmouth Bass. The AQ-2 study team will be working in close collaboration with the AQ-1 study team to understand fish species in the system and how Project operations may affect those species.

**Aquatic Habitat and Sediment Characterization (AQ-3)**
(Slides 74-81)

Steve Rogers (Kleinschmidt Associates) presented the AQ-3 study goals and objectives, study area, preliminary data, variances and modifications, as well as the study schedule. The AQ-3 study schedule was adjusted to begin in fall 2025 alongside the AQ-1 study team and following the July

site visit. Steve invited participants to join a site visit on Wednesday July 23, 2025, to assess channel structure, instream habitat, and discuss areas of interest with stakeholders to inform the AQ-3 study. Interested participants are encouraged to email Olivia Smith at olivia.smith@kleinschmidtgroup.com if they would like to attend.

**Wildlife and Rare, Threatened, and Endangered Species (TERR-2)**
(Slides 83-89)

Steve Fuller (SWCA) presented the TERR-2 study goals and objectives, study area, preliminary data, variances and modifications, as well as the study schedule. Steve explained that the desktop analysis did not show any Yellow-billed cuckoo habitat within the Project Boundaries. In advance of field surveys, SWCA coordinated with USFWS and shared the results of the desktop analysis; USFWS concurred with that conclusion. Therefore, no Yellow-billed cuckoo presence/absence surveys are required. However, that conclusion will be field verified. Steve shared that comprehensive field surveys are currently underway. Steve noted that the TERR-2 study team will also survey during fall 2025 and spring 2026 to conduct avian carcass surveys along Project transmission lines.

In response to a question from Kim Frymire (USFWS) about whether they are seeing Monarch butterfly habitat in the field, Steve responded that yes, there is a decent amount of Milkweed, but they have not seen any Monarch butterflies or caterpillars on Milkweed.

**Botanical (TERR-1)**
(Slides 90-101)

Indya Messier (SWCA) presented the TERR-1 study goals and objectives, study area, preliminary data, variances and modifications, as well as the study schedule. Indya explained how the TERR-1 study team conducted a desktop assessment to identify high potential suitable habitat for special-status plant species prior to conducting fieldwork. The desktop assessment focused on identifying high potential suitable habitat for Ute Ladies'-tresses (ULT), which is the only Endangered Species Act (ESA) species with the potential to occur in the Project Boundaries. Field surveys were conducted in August 2024 in those areas identified as high potential suitable habitat. Data collected during the first study season and a comprehensive botanical inventory is included in the TERR-1 technical memorandum filed with the ISR. Year 1 surveys confirmed the presence of suitable habitat. Thus, the TERR-1 study team is currently preparing for Year 2 fieldwork to recheck those

areas of confirmed suitable habitat. The TERR-1 study team did not locate any ULT plant occurrences during the peak bloom period in August 2024. In addition to rechecking areas of confirmed suitable habitat, during the August 2025 field visit the study team will attempt to survey a portion of the Project Boundary in the Upper Plant's northern reach that was inaccessible in Year 1 due to dense vegetation and low water levels. The TERR-1 study team has been in close coordination with USFWS for the TERR-1 Year 2 mobilization.

In response to a question from Kim Frymire (USFWS) about the purpose of the TERR-1 study team resurveying in August 2025, Indya explained they want to attempt to get past the dense vegetation that prohibited access in August 2024 to check for potential ULT habitat, even though it is unlikely that ULT habitat will be present in that area. Kim noted they will likely only find weeds but appreciates their due diligence.

In response to a question from Chad Colter (Shoshone-Bannock Tribe) about how anticipated low flows might impact the TERR-1 study fieldwork, Indya noted they have been in consultation with USFWS regarding the 2025 ULT bloom period and that although an August 2025 survey will likely mean low flows (similar to August 2024), the survey must occur within the bloom window. Indya explained that there is little flexibility to modify timing. However, a contingency plan to conduct fieldwork assessments with binoculars if unable to access by foot is in place.

**Cultural Resources (CR-1)**
(Slides 102-108)

Kelly Beck (SWCA) presented the CR-1 study goals and objectives, study area, preliminary data, variances and modifications, as well as the study schedule. Kelly explained how the CR-1 study team is preparing to submit technical reports detailing the results of archaeological and architectural history to the Idaho State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO). In November 2024, the CR-1 study team conducted a pedestrian survey to identify archaeological and architectural resources and has been in the field (June 2025) for supplemental surveys. Detailed cultural reports are to be submitted to the Idaho SHPO for review.

In response to a question from Chris Shaver (Idaho SHPO) about how the Area of Potential Effect (APE) was selected, Kelly responded the APE is based on the one-mile buffer around the FERC

Project Boundaries, which was described in the Proposed Study Plan and Revised Study Plan, and will be described in detail in the cultural reports coming to the SHPO office.

Kelly confirmed the CR-1 study team is using the same one-mile buffer APE for the study area and for archival research, that the CR-1 study team did an intensive survey of the smaller study area, and that their architectural historian visited only the locations that intersected the study area. Chris Shaver emphasized making the distinction with reasoning very clear in the cultural reports and that the SHPO uses the term intensive to describe 30-meter intervals or less.

In response to a question from Chris Shaver about Shovel Test Probes (STPs) in low visibility areas with high probability, Kelly responded the CR-1 study team did not conduct any shovel testing. Chris explained Idaho SHPO will need to see an explanation in the cultural reports as to why STPs were not conducted in low visibility areas with high probability and offered to meet with Kelly to discuss the APE, survey requirements, and the cultural reports.

**Tribal Resources (TR-1)**
(Slides 109-115)

Kelly Beck (SWCA) presented the TR-1 study goals and objectives, study area, preliminary data, variances and modifications, as well as the study schedule. Kelly noted the goal is to identify areas that might be considered Traditional Cultural Places (TCPs) and therefore be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, and to consult with Tribes about potentially affected culturally significant resources that might not meet the definition of a historic property. Kelly noted that while the study area for Tribal resources is similar to the APE for cultural resources, Tribes were contacted from the surrounding region who may have a cultural connection to the Snake River and that culturally significant resources that are identified as present within the study area may extend far beyond the boundaries of the study area, as defined for purposes of the FERC relicensing documents. Kelly noted that archival research began in October 2024 and will be ongoing while conducting oral interviews. Invitations for oral interviews to speak with Tribes were distributed in March 2025, and only the Shoshone Paiute Tribe of Duck Valley has expressed interest. Kelly extended the invitation to all interested Tribal representatives to meet for an oral interview.

In response to a question from Jennifer Finn (BLM) about discussions with Tribes about developing a plan of action in compliance with the Native American Graves Protection Resources Act (NAGPRA), Kelly responded they have not started conversations about a NAGPRA action plan but will incorporate that into the final Tribal Resources Technical Study Report.

In response to Chad Colter (Shoshone-Bannock Tribe) about a plan to reengage with Tribes for oral interviews, Kelly responded the TR-1 study team will continue to follow up and try to find the right contacts at each of the six or so Tribes with a cultural connection to the area. Chad suggested Kelly connect with Louise Dixie and Carolyn Boyer Smith at the Shoshone Bannock Tribe.

Lauren Townsen (FERC) mentioned she is the cultural resources contact at FERC for this Project and can be a resource for Kelly if needing to get in contact with Tribes to share contact information or send a letter on behalf of IFP.

Chad Colter emphasized the need to consider Tribal treaty rights, natural resources, and fish, plant, and animal species which may be culturally significant to Tribes in the TR-1 study. Kelly agreed on the importance of including those resources and hopes to collect more information via the TR-1 study oral interviews to capture those from Tribal representatives.

Chris Shaver (Idaho SHPO) emphasized covering the cremation site within the APE and justification for why the Project will not affect it. Chris mentioned speaking with Carolyn at the Shoshone-Bannock Tribe about this as a concern.

Finlay Anderson reminded the group the CR-1 and TR-1 study technical memorandums were filed with the ISR as privileged and will be going forward now that study implementation has begun. Chris Shaver reminded the CR-1 and TR-1 study team to file through Idaho's Idaho Cultural Information System (ICRIS) website.

**Next Steps**
(Slides 116-118)

Finlay Anderson reviewed the upcoming FERC deadlines for IFP to post the ISR meeting summary to the IFP relicensing website and to file with FERC; for relicensing participants to file disagreements or requests to amend a study; for IFP to respond to those disagreements or requests; and for FERC to issue a Director's determination on disagreements and amendments.

IFP closed the meeting at approximately 2:05 p.m. (MST).

# ATTACHMENT A

# ISR MEETING ATTENDANCE LIST

# Idaho Falls & Gem State – ISR Meeting Attendee List

6/23/2025

| Agency | Name, Title | Emails |
|---|---|---|
| Coeur d'Alene Tribe | Zachery Miller, Energy Coordinator | zmiller@cdatribe-nsn.gov |
| Couer d'Alene Tribe - Tribal Historic Preservation Office | Jill Maria Wagner, THPO | jwagner@cdatribe-nsn.gov |
| FERC | Amy Chang, FERC Project Coordinator, Fisheries & Wildlife | Amy.Chang@ferc.gov |
| FERC | John Matowski | John.Matkowski@ferc.gov |
| FERC | Lauren Townson, Recreation & Cultural | lauren.townson@ferc.gov |
| Greater Yellowstone Coalition | Matt Lucia (Idaho Conservation Manager) | mlucia@greateryellowstone.org |
| Idaho Department of Environmental Quality | Alex Bell, Water Quality Manager | alex.bell@deq.idaho.gov |
| Idaho Department of Environmental Quality | Jennifer Cornell, Pocatello Regional Water Quality Manager | Jennifer.Cornell@deq.idaho.gov |
| Idaho Department of Environmental Quality | Tambra Phares, 401- Certification Lead | tambra.phares@deq.idaho.gov |
| Idaho Falls Power | Bear Prairie | bprairie@ifpower.org |
| Idaho Falls Power | Jason Cooper | jcooper@ifpower.org |
| Idaho Falls Power | Richard Malloy, Regulatory Compliance Manager | rmalloy@ifpower.org |
| Idaho Falls Power | Stephen Boorman | sboorman@ifpower.org |
| Idaho Fish and Game | Eric Anderson, Idaho Falls Regional Office | eric.anderson@idfg.idaho.gov |
| Idaho Governor's Office of Energy and Mineral Resources | Kenny Huston | kenny.huston@oer.idaho.gov |
| Idaho Office of the Attorney General | Dan Estes, Public Information Officer | daniel.estes@ag.idaho.gov |
| Idaho Parks and Rec | Phoebe Wallace (boating manager) | phoebe.wallace@idpr.idaho.gov |
| Idaho State Historic Preservation Office | Chris Shaver | Chris.Shaver@ishs.idaho.gov |
| Idaho THPO office | Nick Kager | nicholas.kager@cdatribe-nsn.gov |
| Kleinschmidt Associates | Finlay Anderson, PM | Finlay.Anderson@KleinschmidtGroup.com |
| Kleinschmidt Associates | Kai Steimle, Water Quality | Kai.Steimle@KleinschmidtGroup.com |
| Kleinschmidt Associates | Mike Gagner, Fish Assemblage | Mike.Gagner@KleinschmidtGroup.com |
| Kleinschmidt Associates | Olivia Smith, Assistant PM/Lands | Olivia.Smith@KleinschmidtGroup.com |
| Kleinschmidt Associates | Steve Hocking | Steve.Hocking@KleinschmidtGroup.com |
| Kleinschmidt Associates | Steve Rogers, Desktop/Aquatic Hab & Sediment | Steve.Rogers@KleinschmidtGroup.com |
| Shoshone-Bannock Tribal Fish and Wildlife Department | Chad Colter, Fish & Wildlife Director | ccolter@sbtribes.com |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| SWCA | Emily Waters, Assistant Project Manager | emily.waters@swca.com |
| SWCA | Indya Messier, Botanical Resources | Indya.Messier@swca.com |
| SWCA | Kelly Beck, Cultural/Tribal Resources | kbeck@swca.com |
| SWCA | Matt Harper- Recreation | Matthew.Harper@swca.com |
| U.S. Bureau of Land Management | Deena Teel, Assistant Field Manager Upper Snake Field Office | dteel@blm.gov |
| U.S. Bureau of Land Management | Jennifer Finn, BLM Upper Snake Field Office Archaeologist | jmfinn@blm.gov |
| U.S. Bureau of Land Management | Monica Zimmerman, Outdoor Recreation Planner, BLM Upper Snake Field Office | mzimmerman@blm.gov |
| U.S. Bureau of Land Management | Robert Taylor | rtaylor@blm.gov |
| U.S. Bureau of Reclamation | Jeremy Dalling | jdalling@usbr.gov |
| US Fish and Wildlife Service | Kim Frymire, Biologist, Boise Idaho | kimberly_frymire@fws.gov |

# ATTACHMENT B

# ISR MEETING POWERPOINT

# Idaho Falls Power Relicensing



## INITIAL STUDY REPORT (ISR) MEETING

IDAHO FALLS (P-2842-045) AND GEM STATE (P-2952-073)

MONDAY, JUNE 23, 2025, 10:00 A.M. – 2:00 P.M. (MST)

IDAHO FALLS POWER

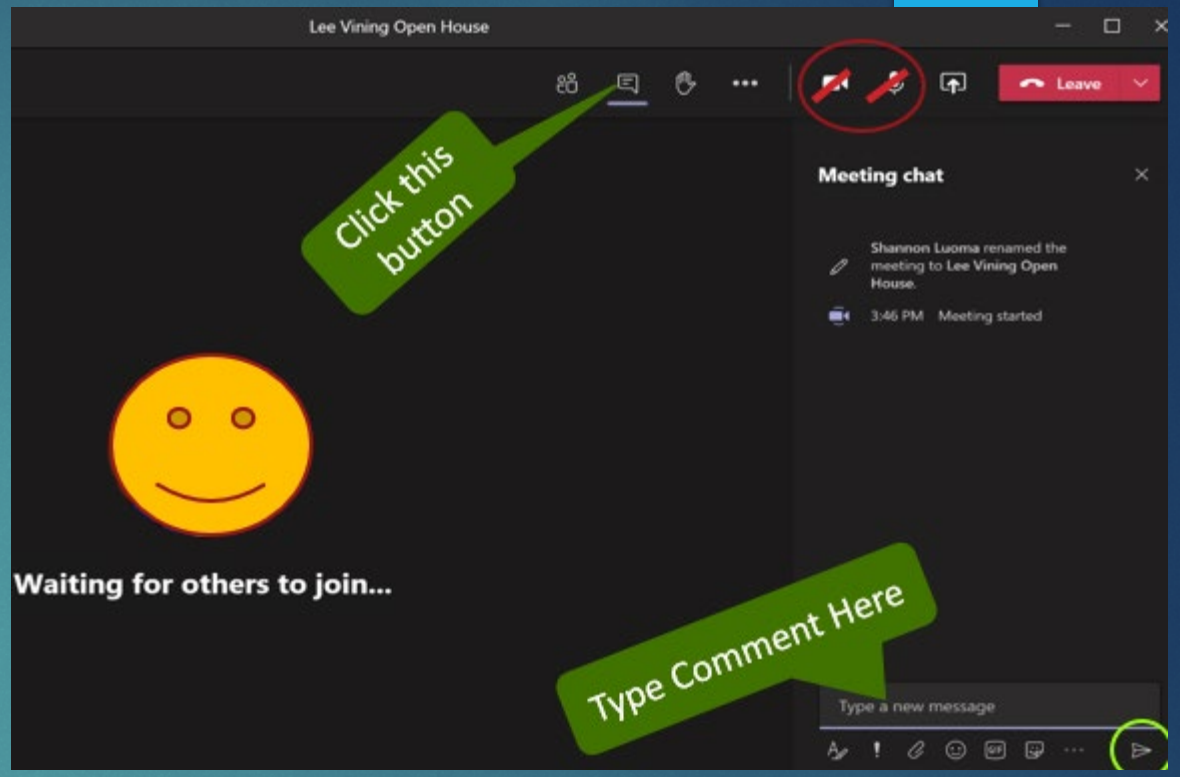


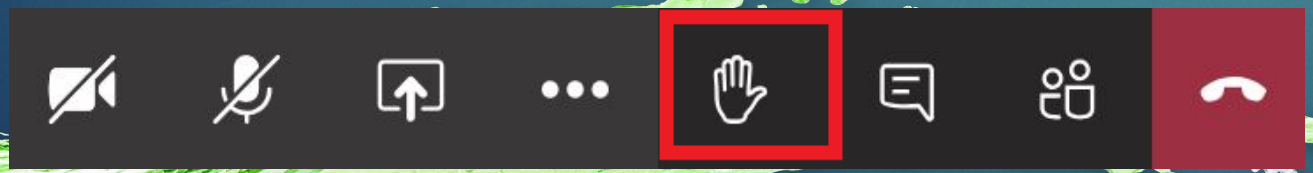
# ISR Meeting Agenda

- Welcome and Introductions
- Overview of FERC Relicensing, Process and Initial Study Report (ISR)
- Status of Studies
  - Purpose
  - Status
  - Participant questions about data summary in report
  - Planning and schedule, including need for changes
- Action Items and Adjourn

# Meeting Tips and Guidelines

- *Note that this meeting is being recorded*
- Please wait to be called on and then unmute your line
  - Introduce yourself (name and affiliation) prior to speaking
- Listen and respect each other
- Stay on topic
- Ask a question by typing it into the chat box during the presentation or by using the raise your hand feature



# Welcome and Introductions:
## Idaho Falls Relicensing Team

**Idaho Falls Power Team**

**Richard Malloy** – Project Manager

**Bear Prairie** – General Manager

**Consulting Team**

**Finlay Anderson** – Project Manager

**Olivia Smith** – Assistant Project Manager

**FERC Team**

**Amy Chang**, FERC Project Coordinator, Terrestrial Resources

**Lauren Townson**, Recreation & Cultural Resources

**John Matkowski**, Aquatic Resources

**Golbahar Mirhosseini**, Engineering

**Resource Leads**

**Olivia Smith** – Project Lands & Roads (LAND-1)

**Matt Harper** – Recreation (REC-1)

**Emily Waters** – Environmental Justice (EJ-1)

**Kai Steimle** – Water Quality (WQ-1)

**Mike Gagner** – Fish Assemblage (AQ-1)

**Steve Rogers** – Desktop Fish Entrainment (AQ-2)

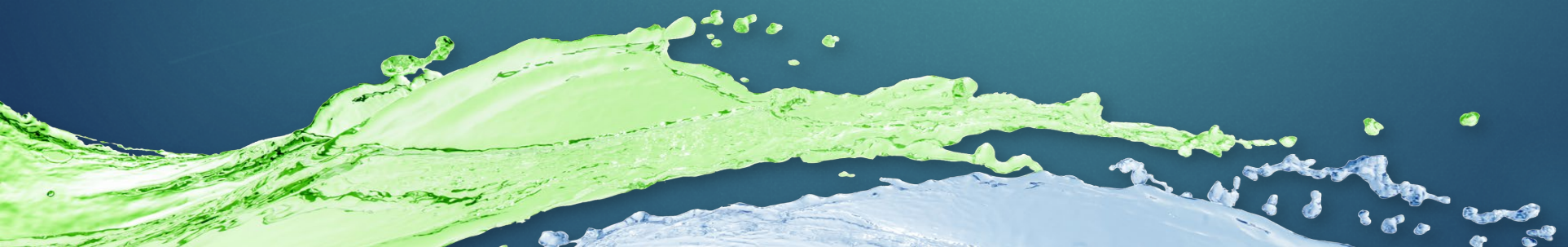
**Steve Rogers** – Aquatic Habitat & Sediment Characterization (AQ-3)

**Steve Fuller** – Wildlife & RTE (TERR-2)

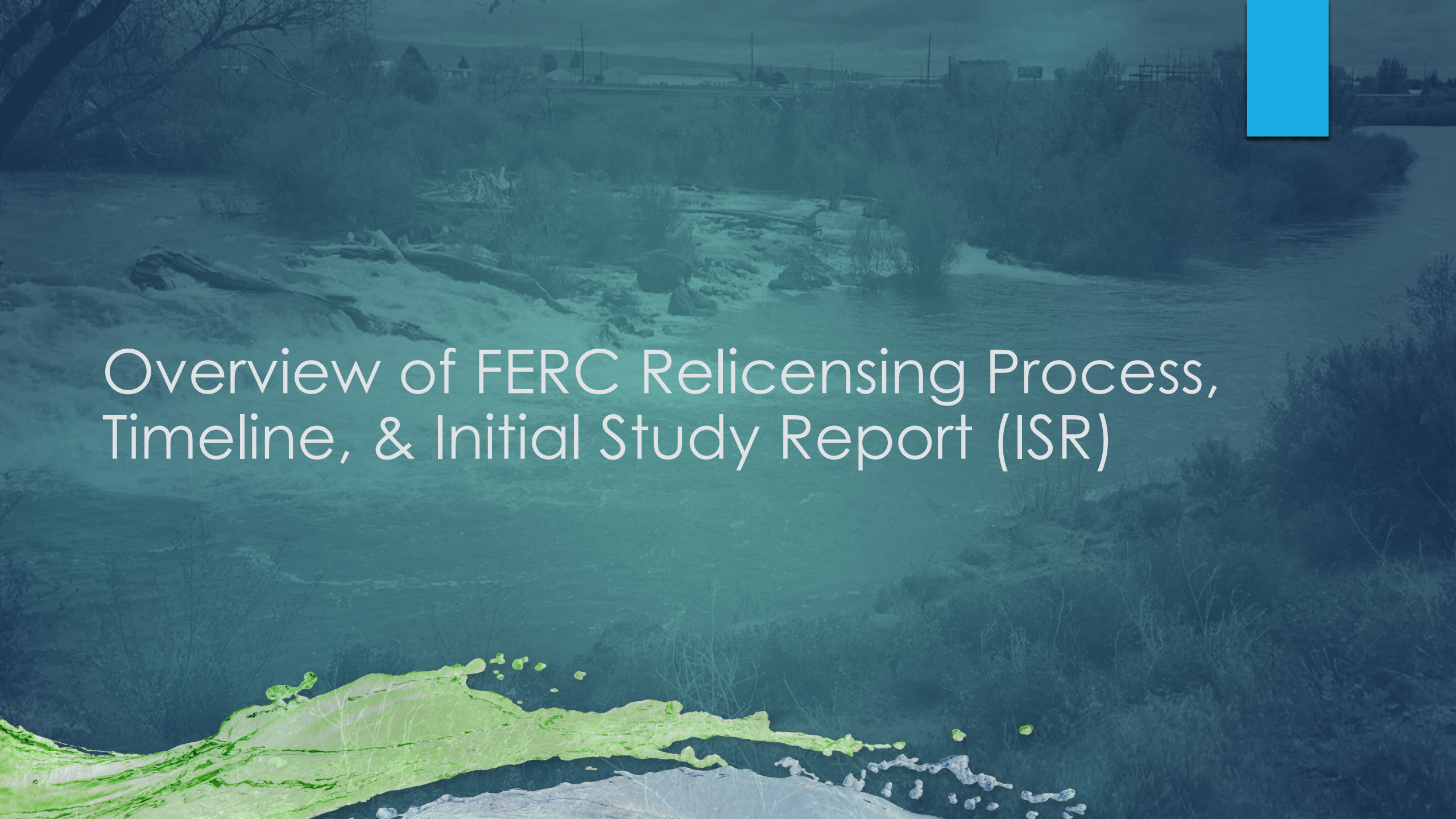
**Indya Messier** – Botanical Resources (TERR-1)

**Kelly Beck** – Cultural Resources (CR-1)

**Kelly Beck** – Tribal Resources (TRI-1)

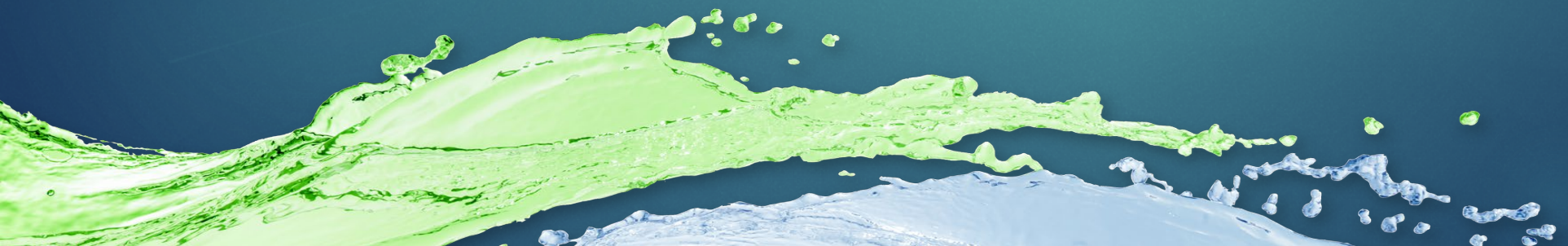


# Overview of FERC Relicensing Process, Timeline, & Initial Study Report (ISR)

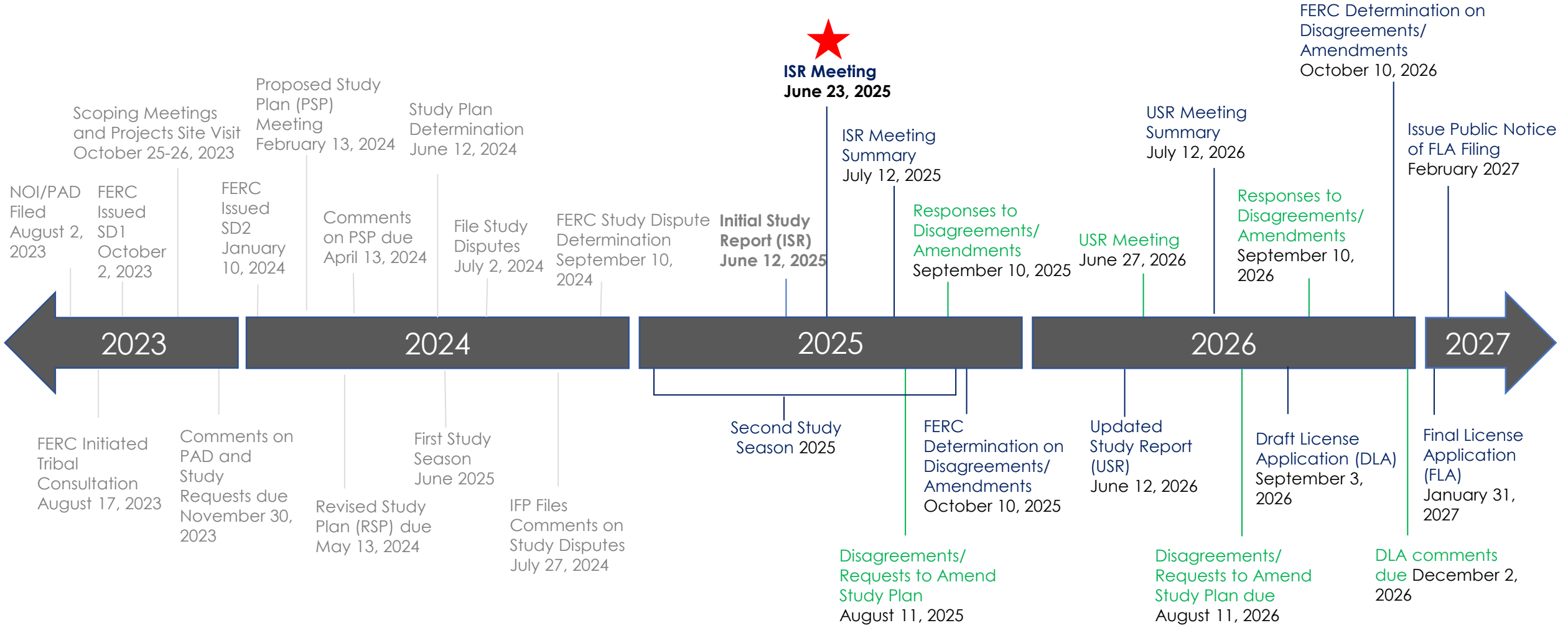


# Regulatory Process and Look Back

- Idaho Falls Power (IFP) is utilizing the Integrated Licensing Process (ILP)
  - The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) and licensing participants engaged throughout process
  - More structured "formal" milestone schedule around studies
- Preliminary Application Document (PAD) and Notice of Intent (NOI) filed August 2023
- Site Visit and FERC Scoping Meeting – October 2023
- Study Plan Development – February to April 2024
- Studies began in 2024, continuing into 2025
- Technical memoranda distributed June 12, 2025



# Project Relicensing Timeline



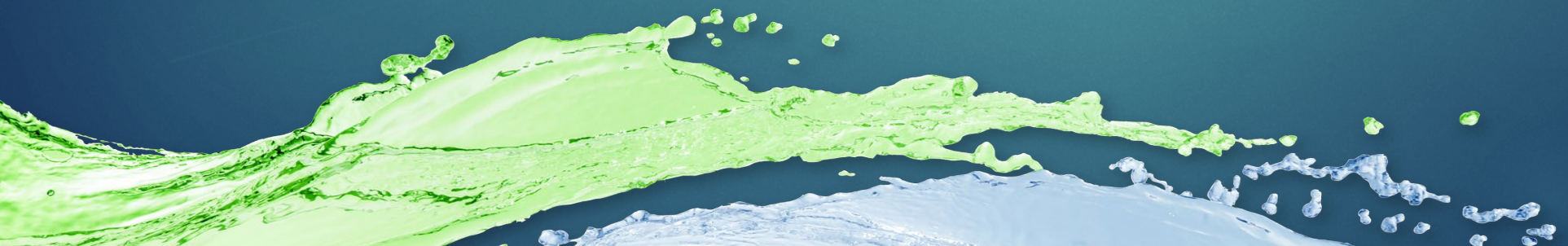

**Legend**
Past Licensing Milestones
FERC ILP Milestones
Stakeholder Opportunities

*The Idaho Falls Relicensing Schedule is for planning purposes only; dates subject to change to account for weekends and holidays.**

# Continued Operation & Combined License Proposal

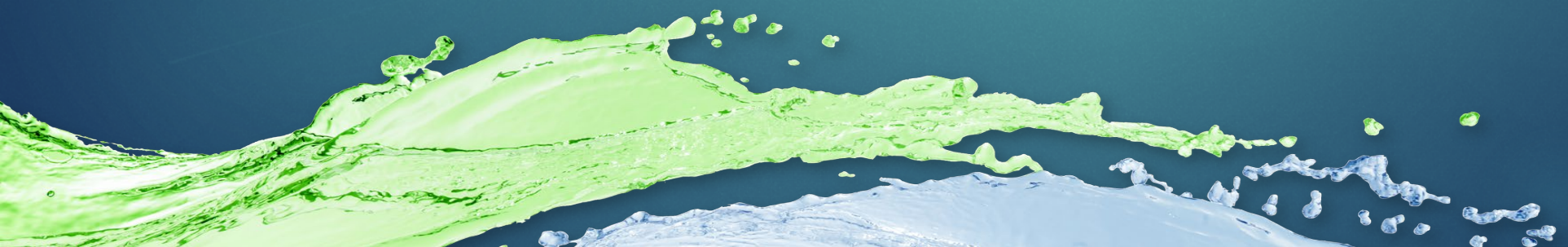
IFP is proposing to continue Project operations at both the Idaho Falls and Gem State facilities as outlined in the existing licenses and is **proposing to combine the projects under one license (Idaho Falls docket number) as part of the new license.**

At this time, there are no new construction, modifications, or new environmental protection, mitigation, and enhancement measures being proposed for either project.



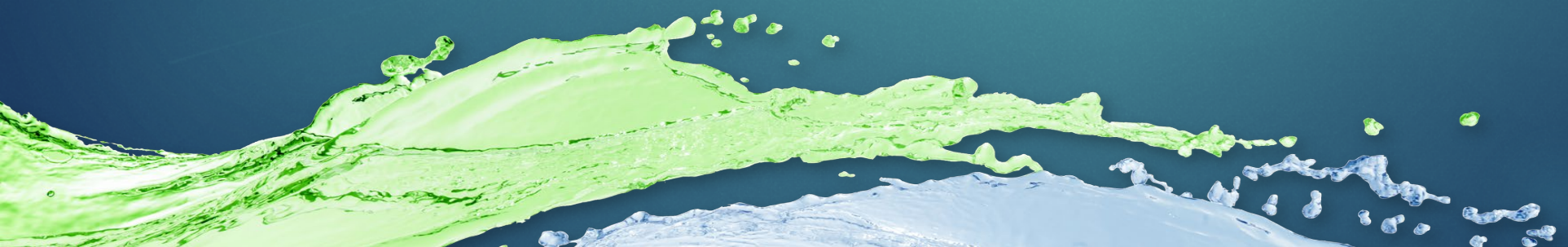
# General Approach for Relicensing – *A Combined Licensing Process*

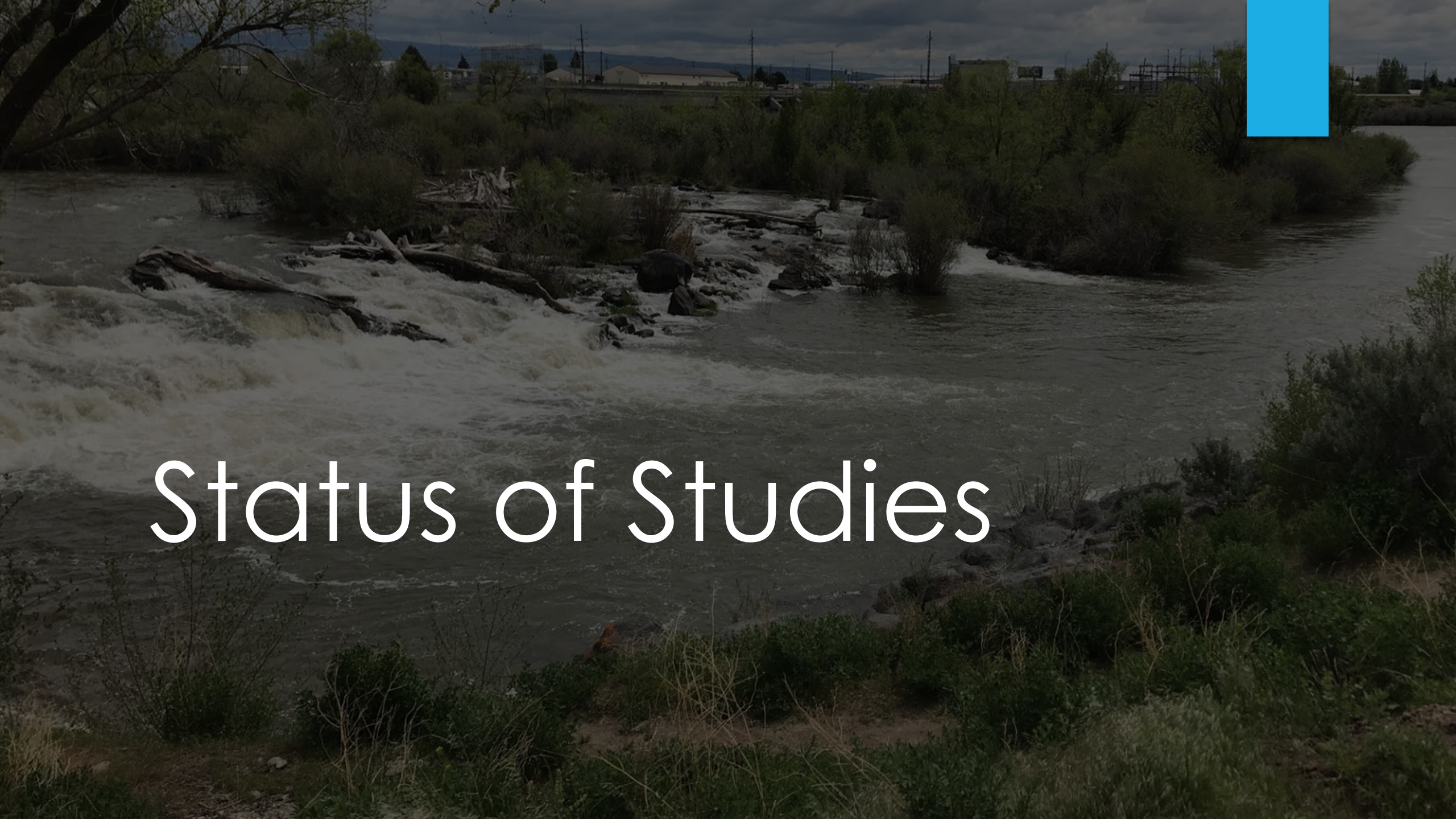
| Benefits: | Logistics: |
| --- | --- |
| ▶ Saves time & money<br>▶ Combines resources<br>▶ Consistent access and messaging for public<br>▶ Aligns with FERC's watershed approach | ▶ Combining documents wherever possible but being clear in communicating license-specific information<br>▶ Filing to both dockets P-2842 & P-2952 during relicensing, but Idaho Falls docket (P-2842) in new license |



# ISR Meeting Objectives

- Update relicensing participants on the process and receive any feedback
- Provide an opportunity for relicensing participant questions about the study results described in the ISR
- Confirm process for requesting new studies or modifications to existing studies

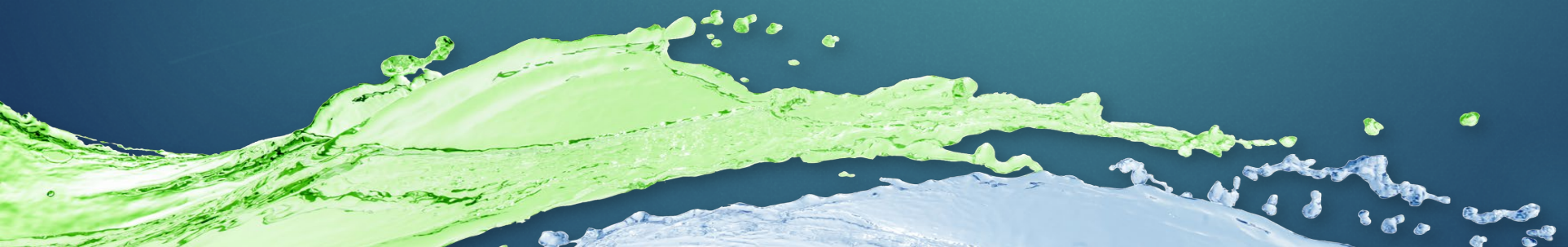




# Status of Studies

# Initial Study Reports

- Project Lands & Roads (LAND-1)
- Recreation (REC-1)
- Environmental Justice (EJ-1)
- Water Quality (WQ-1)
- Fish Assemblage (AQ-1)
- Desktop Fish Entrainment (AQ-2)
- Aquatic Habitat & Sediment Characterization (AQ-3)
- Botanical Resources (TERR-1)
- Wildlife & Rare, Threatened, & Endangered (RTE) Species (TERR-2)
- Cultural Resources (CR-1)
- Tribal Resources (TR-1)





# Project Lands & Roads (LAND-1)

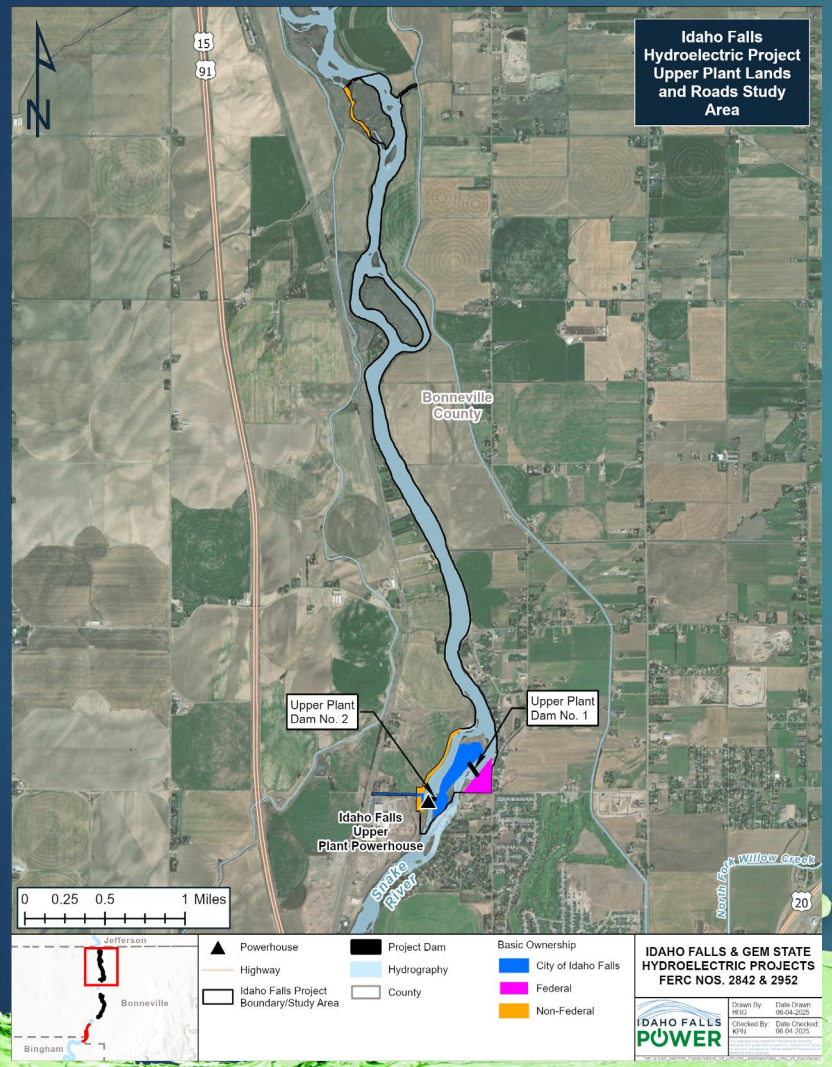


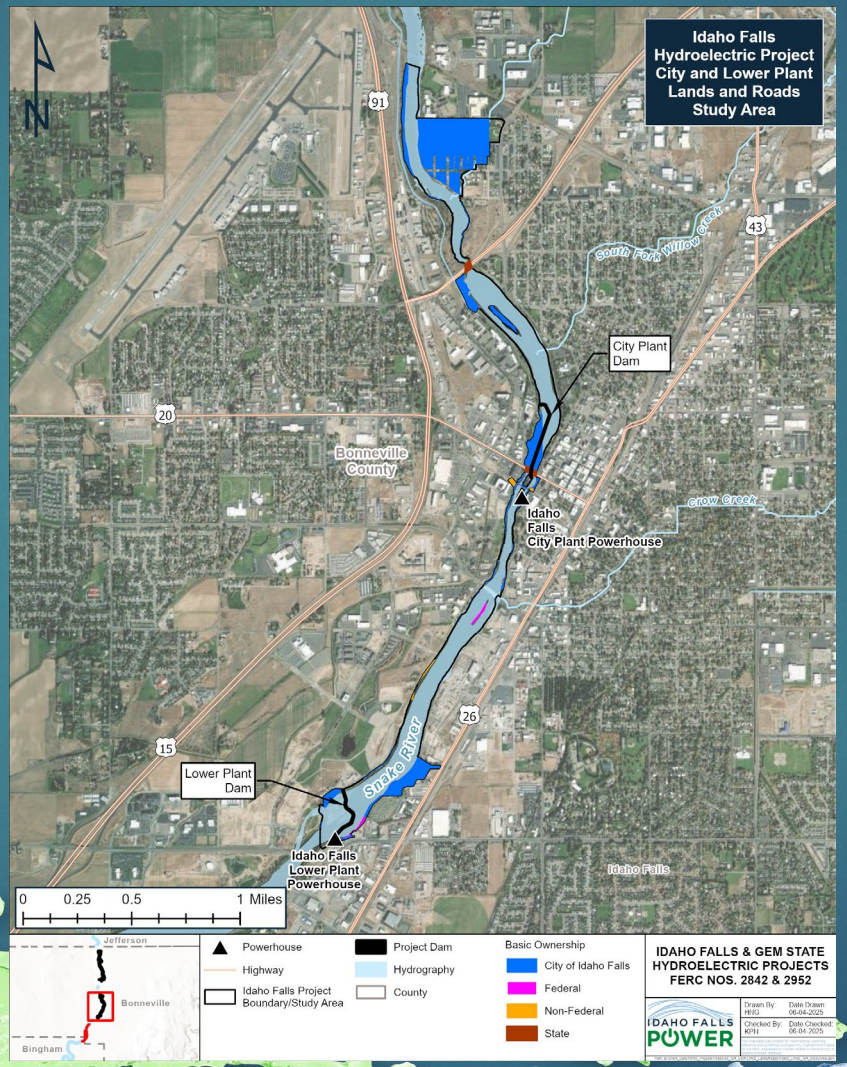
# Project Lands & Roads Study Plan (LAND-1)

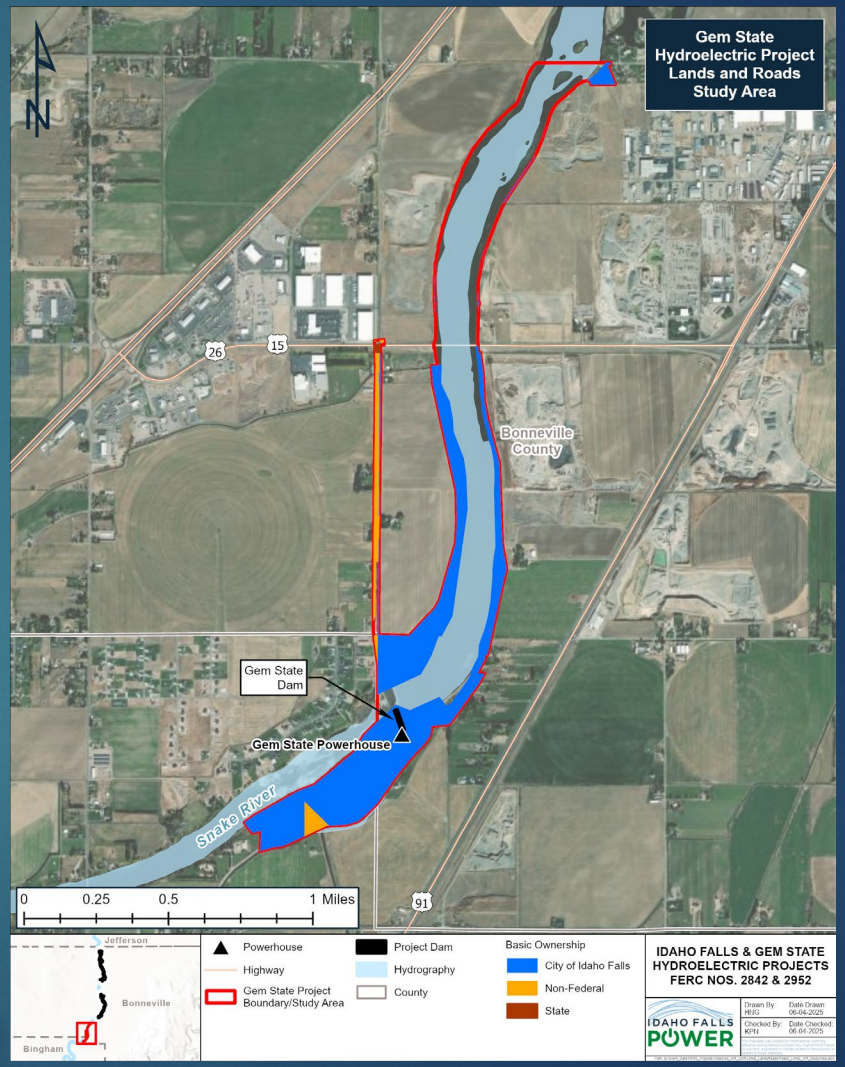
- **Goal**:
  - Gather current information on existing lands and roads within the current Project Boundaries and assess their current usage and functionality.
- **Objectives**:
  - Assess the current Project Boundaries for accuracy, incorporating changes as warranted by new mapping techniques and technology.
  - Confirm base ownership of Project lands in terms of title, easements, and other jurisdictional overlays.
  - Assess parcel(s) of BLM land that may be encumbered by the Projects and for which a withdrawal for power purposes was never completed to determine the appropriate next steps to account for Project use.
  - Assess the Idaho Falls Project and Gem State Project areas for roads used predominantly for project purposes.
  - Assess the Idaho Falls Project and Gem State Project areas for ancillary and unintended uses arising from authorized Project activities.
  - Determine if certain Project facilities (including roads) will be removed or abandoned under the term of the next license and how they will be treated.
  - Identify areas outside the current Idaho Falls Project and Gem State Project Boundaries that may need to be included as Project lands in the new license terms.
  - Coordinate with the REC-1 Study to update recreation areas and the Recreation Plan if necessary.

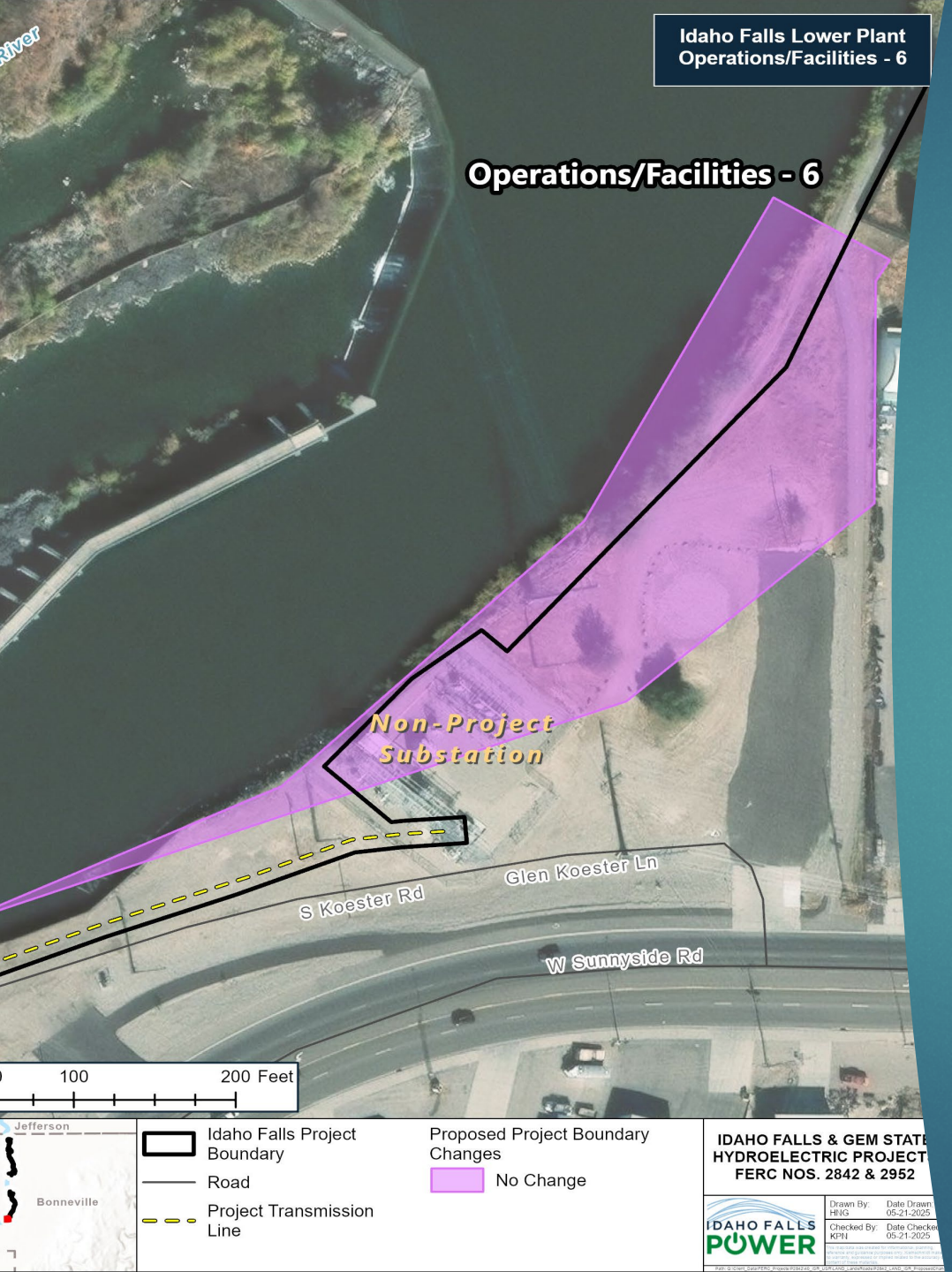
# Project Lands & Roads Study Plan (LAND-1)

## Study Area



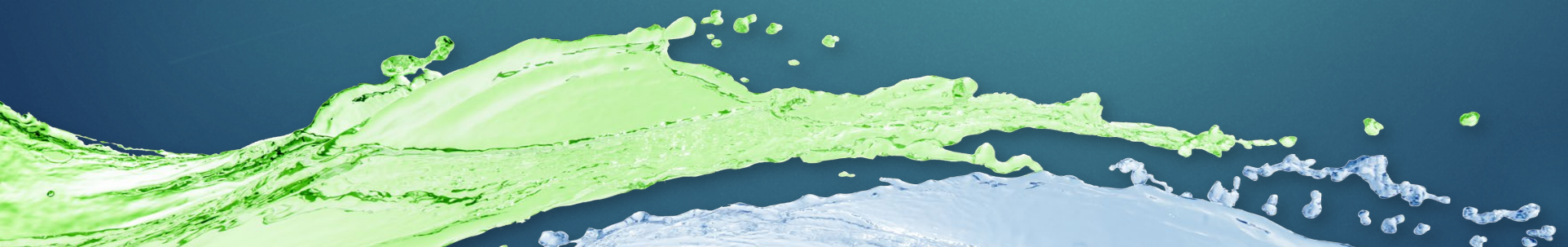



# Project Lands & Roads Study Plan (LAND-1)
## BLM Parcel at Lower Plant

Include in relicensing and administratively withdraw

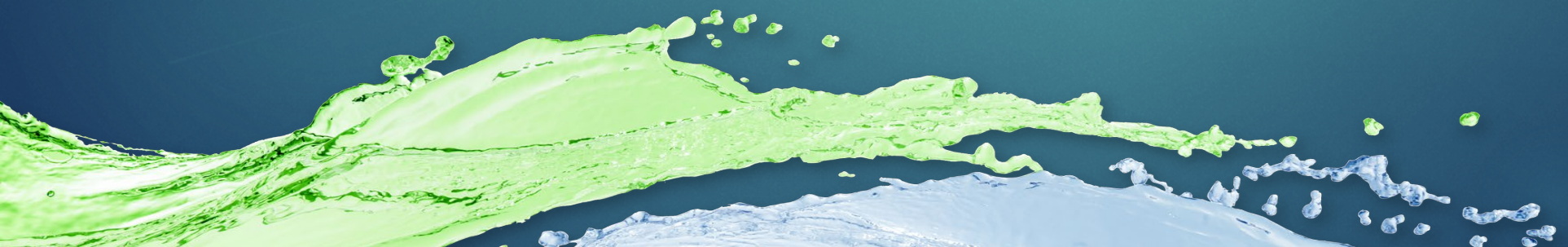
# Project Lands & Roads Study Plan (LAND-1)
## Preliminary Data

- Project Boundaries tightened to follow shoreline
- Licensee has purchased properties that were potentially impacted by potential ice jams and converted them to boat launch and conveyed to the County
- Proposed changes relate to ensuring Project operations and facilities, trails, and roads are accurately included in the proposed Boundary (in close coordination with the REC-1 Study)
- Mapping corrections included improved centerlines and buffers for roads, flowlines, creeks, or transmission lines
- The effort also identifies where historic recreation exhibits and management plans need to be reconciled with the Project Boundaries
- The Project Lands and Roads (LAND-1) technical memo includes a comprehensive list of additions and removals
- Ultimately, changes will result in a single Exhibit G for the combined license



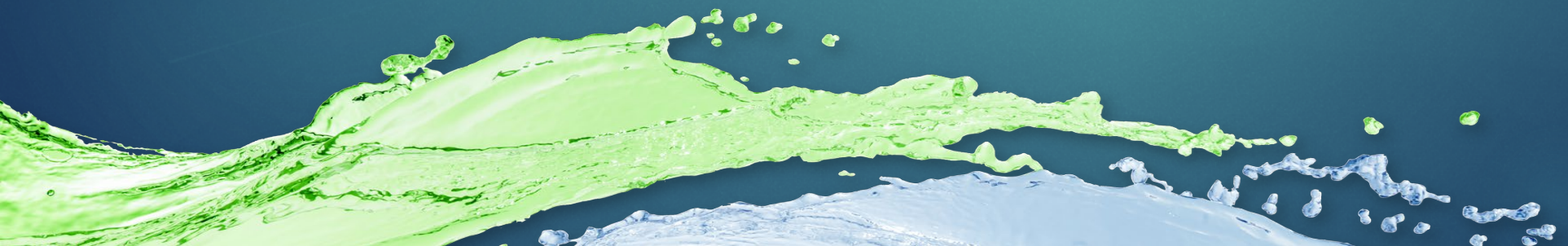
# Project Lands & Roads Study Plan (LAND-1)
## Status

| Status | Variances | Modifications |
|---|---|---|
| Spring 2024 to 2025 | Study schedule delayed from spring 2024 to spring 2025 due to administrative and internal discussions around recreation sites and impact on Project Boundaries. | |
| Combining licenses | | Since the Study Plan Determination (SPD), IFP has decided to combine the two licenses into one license and one Project Boundary. |

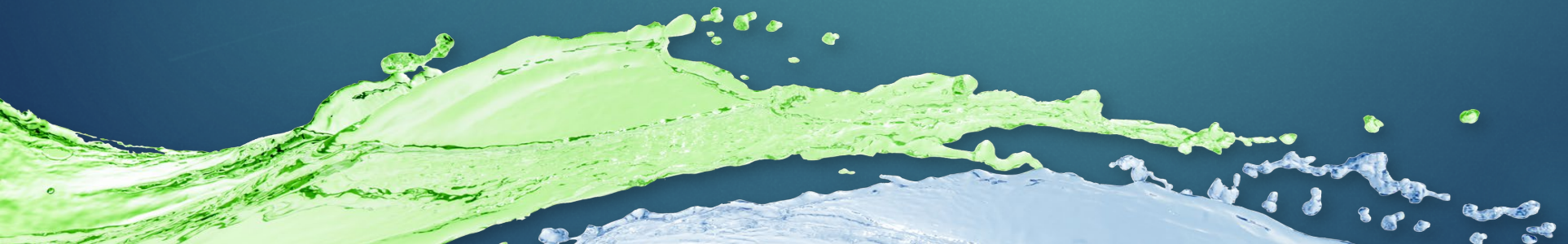


# Project Lands & Roads Study Plan (LAND-1)
## Schedule

| Date | Activity |
|---|---|
| **March 2024** | Compile study data and begin analyses |
| **June 2025** | File ISR technical memo and meeting with stakeholders |
| **Fall/Winter 2025** | Resolve comments and prepare Draft Study Report |
| **June 2026** | File Updated Study Report (USR) and meeting with stakeholders |
| **September 2026** | Distribute Final Study Report in Draft License Application (DLA) |
| **January 2027** | File Final License Application (FLA) |



# Questions?





# Recreation Use & Facilities Inventory (REC-1)



# Recreation Use & Facilities Inventory (REC-1) Goals & Objectives

- **Goal**:
  - Gather current information on recreation facilities, recreational use, and Projects' potential effects to determine existing and future recreation use and capacity at the Idaho Falls and the Gem State Projects.
- **Objectives**:
  - Inventory and identify the condition of the recreation facilities and associated amenities at FERC-approved recreation sites.
  - Identify who owns, operates, and maintains each recreation site and facility.
  - Describe each recreation site and facility in relation to their associated Project Boundaries.
  - Evaluate recreation use at the FERC-approved recreation sites, including both an assessment of the amount of use at each site (including percentage of capacity) and the recreation activities that occur at the site.
  - Collect visitor feedback regarding perception and experience at recreation facilities.
  - Determine the adequacy of the FERC-approved recreation sites and if modifications to the sites would be needed to meet the current or future recreation needs.



# Recreation Use & Facilities Inventory (REC-1) Methods & Schedule

**Methods:**

- Recreation Facility Inventory and Condition Assessment
  - Comprehensive facility inventory to determine what recreation infrastructure is present and its condition status
- Recreation Use Assessment
  - Spot counts and intercept use surveys to determine recreation use, including a quantitative (spot count of recreators and activities being performed) and qualitative account (intercepting recreators to gauge relative use and quality of experience)
  - TRAFx counter installation, including vehicle and pedestrian trail counter types at select locations

**Schedule:**

- Spring 2025 – Recreation Facility Inventory and Condition Assessment
- May to September 2025 – Recreation Use Assessment



# Recreation Use & Facilities Inventory (REC-1) Preliminary Data Collection

- Recreation sites were examined using aerial imagery and existing, on-the-ground knowledge to inform appropriate locations and types (vehicle vs. pedestrian trail) for TRAFx counter installations
- For all but three FERC-approved recreation sites, at least one vehicle counter location was established (for some sites, multiple counters were needed to accommodate multiple entry/exit points)
- Two pedestrian trail counters were chosen to collect pedestrian access across both bridges at Pederson's Sportsman's Park
- A total of 14 vehicle counters and 2 pedestrian trail counters were installed at the Projects (5 vehicle counters at the Gem State Project, and 9 vehicle counters and 2 pedestrian trail counters at the Idaho Falls Project)
- Spot counts were deemed the only reasonable form of data collection at Keefer's Island and Eagle Rock Park
- Maps of exact TRAFx counter locations are included in the Recreation Use & Facilities Inventory (REC-1) technical memo

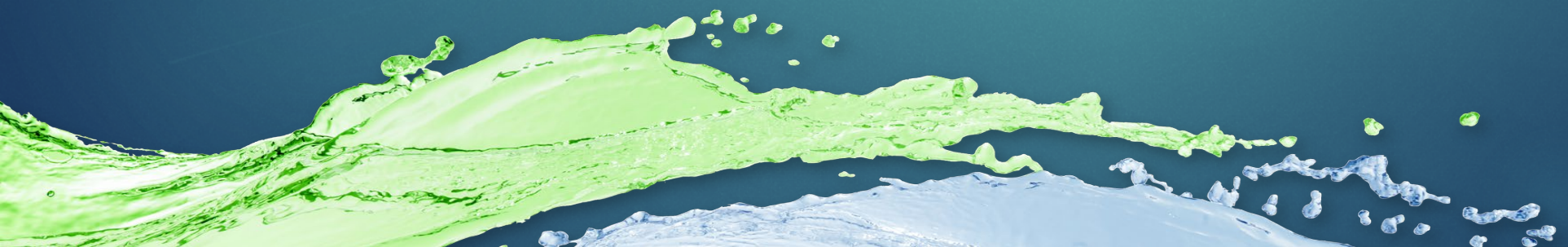


# Recreation Use & Facilities Inventory (REC-1) General Observations

- There appears to be ample recreation capacity in the Project area:
  - The City of Idaho Falls has invested in many (Project and non-Project) recreation opportunities, especially along the Snake River and near the Projects.
  - Other entities also provide recreation options near the Snake River, including efforts to connect the Idaho Falls River Walk.
- FERC has approved and required 14 specific sites to be developed and maintained as part of the Projects' current Recreation Plans from the 1980s. Most of these sites have since been developed, though some are not fully developed due largely to lack of demand and/or safety concerns.
- Following studies and the submission of a Final License Application, FERC will evaluate IFP's proposal—and all other interested party comments—and decide which sites and amenities will be included in the future license to meet the area's needs.

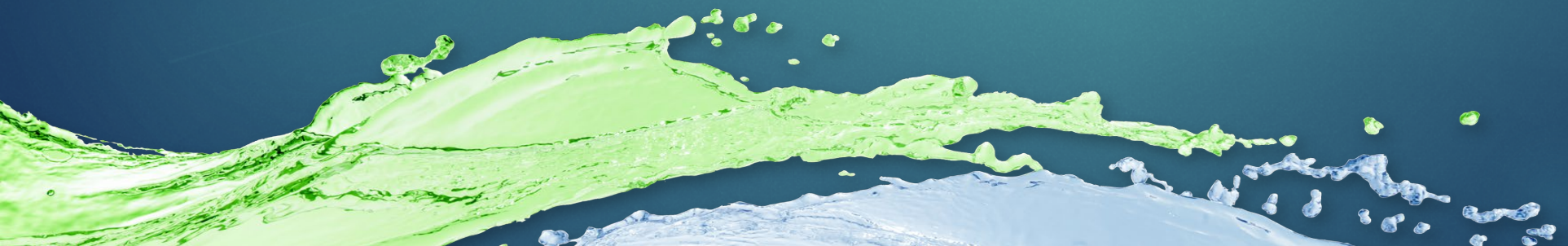
# Recreation Use & Facilities Inventory (REC-1)
## Status

| Status | Variances | Modifications |
|---|---|---|
| Updated REC-1 survey forms | - | Updated the recreation site naming conventions and added recreation activities as user choices with the option to include photos. Other minor edits included rearranging user questions. |
| Recreation sites | - | Two FERC-approved recreation sites (Keefer's Island and Eagle Rock Park) were deemed not feasible for TRAFx counter installation. Instead, vehicle and foot traffic will be quantified using spot counts. |

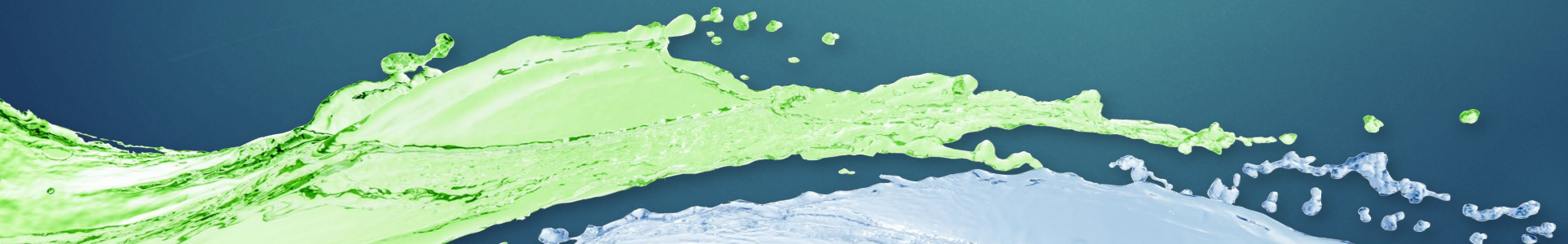


# Recreation Use & Facilities Inventory (REC-1)
## Schedule

| Date | Activity |
|---|---|
| **April 2025** | Compile existing study data and prepare for fieldwork activities |
| **May 2025** | Conduct Recreation Facility Inventory and Condition Assessment and first Recreation Use Assessment / mobilize TRAFx counters |
| **June 2025** | Distribute Initial Study Report technical memo and meeting with stakeholders |
| **Summer 2025** | Conduct Recreation Use Assessments / demobilize TRAFx counters |
| **June 2026** | File Updated Study Report (USR) and meeting with stakeholders |
| **September 2026** | Distribute Final Study Report in Draft License Application (DLA) |
| **January 2027** | File Final License Application (FLA) |



# Questions?

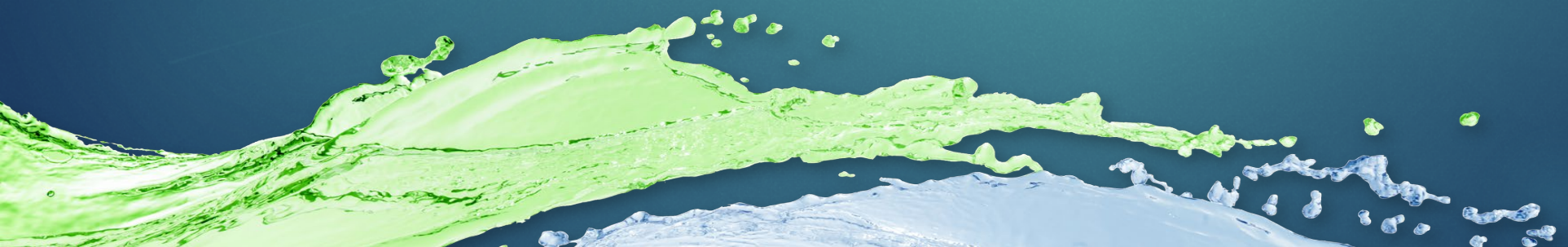


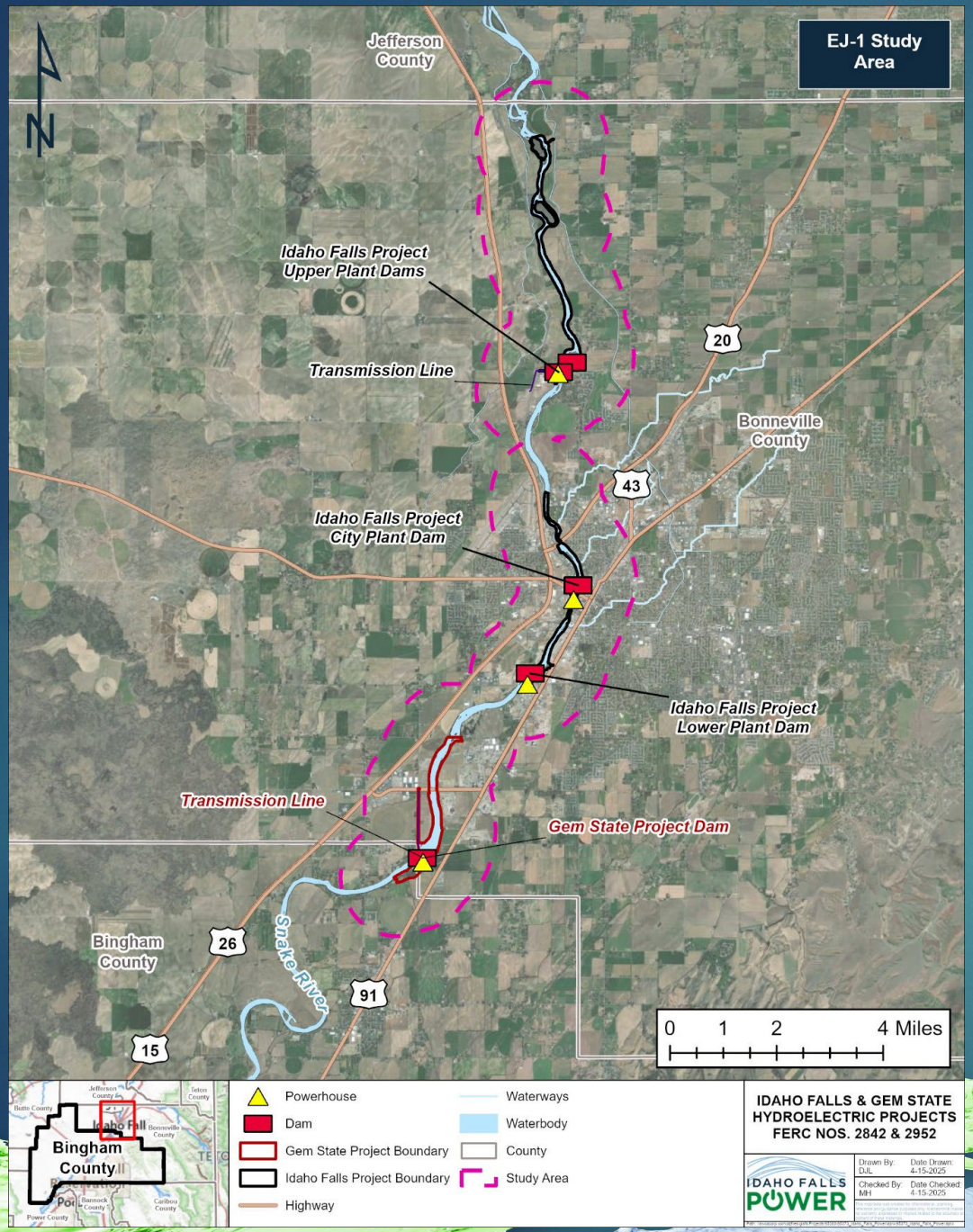


# Environmental Justice (EJ-1)

# Environmental Justice (EJ-1)
## Goal and Objectives

- **Goal**:
  - Identify the potential effects of continued Project operations during the term of a new license on environmental justice communities in both Projects' study areas.
- **Objectives:**
  - Identify the number and location of environmental justice communities within the study area.
  - Identify the number and location of non-English-speaking populations within the study area.
  - Conduct outreach to engage environmental justice communities and non-English-speaking populations in the relicensing process.
  - Discuss (a) the potential effects of relicensing on the identified environmental justice communities, (b) effects that are disproportionately high and adverse, and (c) potential effects on non-English-speaking communities.

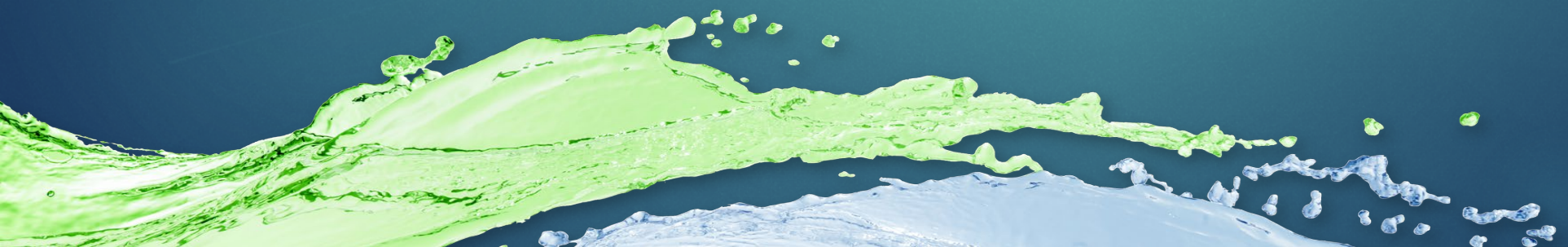





# Environmental Justice (EJ-1)
## Study Area

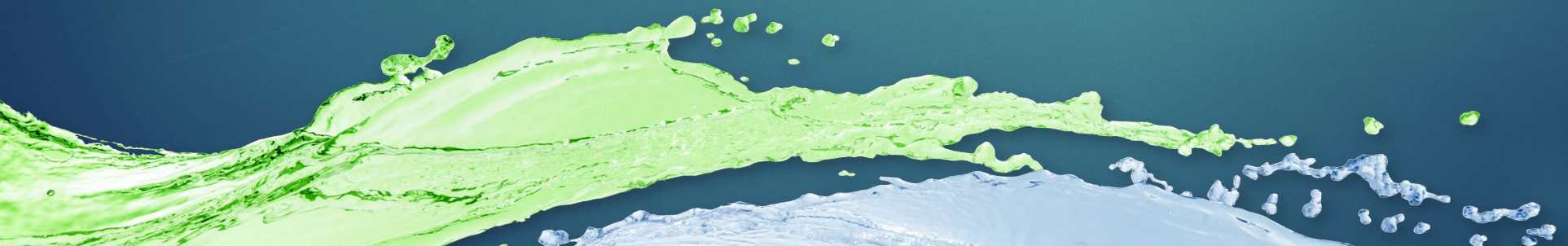
# Environmental Justice (EJ-1)
## Preliminary Data

- 36 census block groups intersect the study area, of which 24 contained environmental justice communities (either minority, low-income, or non-English-speaking, or a combination of the three).
  - Because a block group can contain multiple environmental justice communities, a total of 27 environmental justice communities were identified; 26 of these were in the Idaho Falls study area, and 1 was in the Gem State study area.
  - 36 percent of these groups were identified as belonging to a minority population, and 55 percent were below the poverty level.



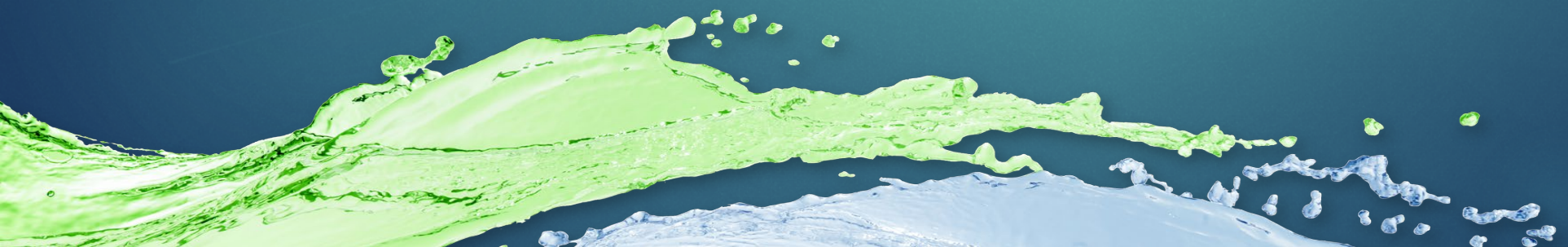
# Environmental Justice (EJ-1)
## Outreach Update

- To support the study objectives of identifying the number and location of environmental justice communities, including non-English-speaking communities, IFP developed a targeted outreach strategy to provide equitable access to information about the Projects within the framework of relicensing.
- IFP distributed 22 bilingual postcards and posted 19 bilingual flyers in high-traffic areas within identified environmental justice communities.
- IFP also developed and published bilingual engagement content on the relicensing website.



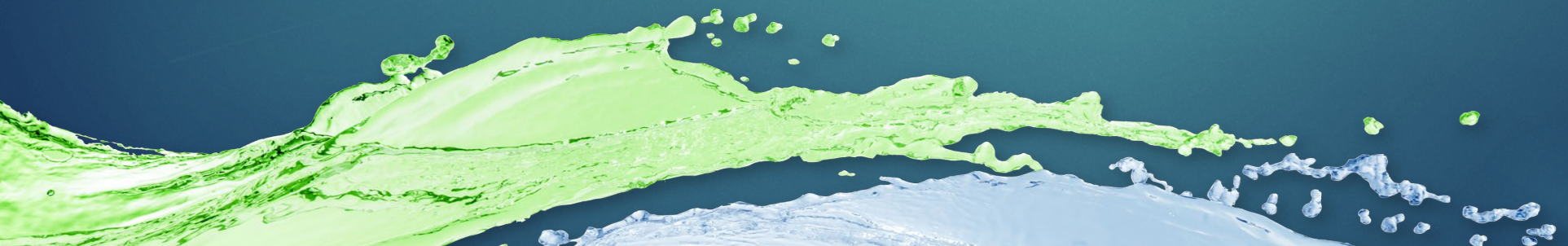
# Environmental Justice (EJ-1)
## Status

| Status | Variances | Modifications |
|---|---|---|
| Fall 2024 | Delayed initial outreach from fall 2024 to spring 2025 to include Project Boundary adjustments, to be completed summer 2025 with ongoing engagement. | - |
| Altered methods due to EOs 12898, 14008, and 14096 | - | Due to the rescinding of EOs 12898, 14008, and 14096, IFP modified study methods to use U.S. Census Bureau data and EPA's NEPAssist tool. |
| Altered method in desktop analysis for identifying low-income populations | - | Census Table C17002 (*Ratio of Income to Poverty*) was selected over Census Table B17017 to ensure a more accurate assessment of the population earning less than 200 percent of the federal poverty level. |

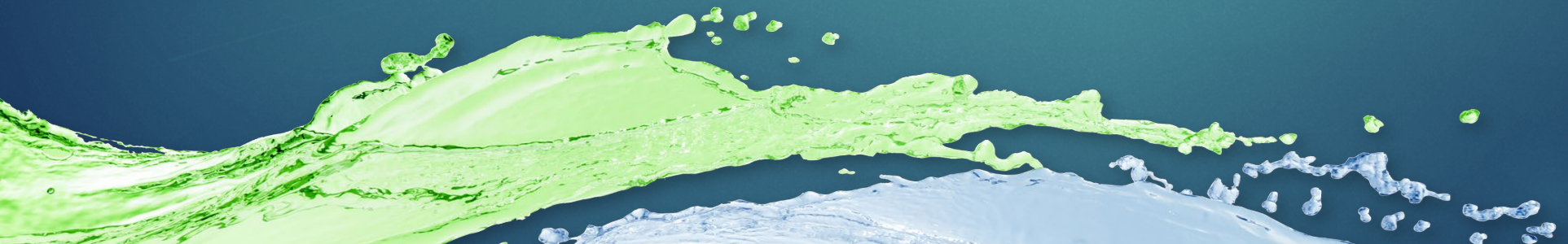


# Environmental Justice (EJ-1)
## Schedule

| Date | Activity |
|---|---|
| **Winter 2024** | Compile EJ-1 study data and conduct analyses |
| **June 2025** | Distribute ISR technical memo and meeting with stakeholders |
| **Fall/Winter 2025** | Resolve comments and prepare Final Study Report |
| **June 2026** | File Updated Study Report (USR) and meeting with stakeholders |
| **September 2026** | Distribute Final Study Report in Draft License Application (DLA) |
| **January 2027** | File Final License Application (FLA) |

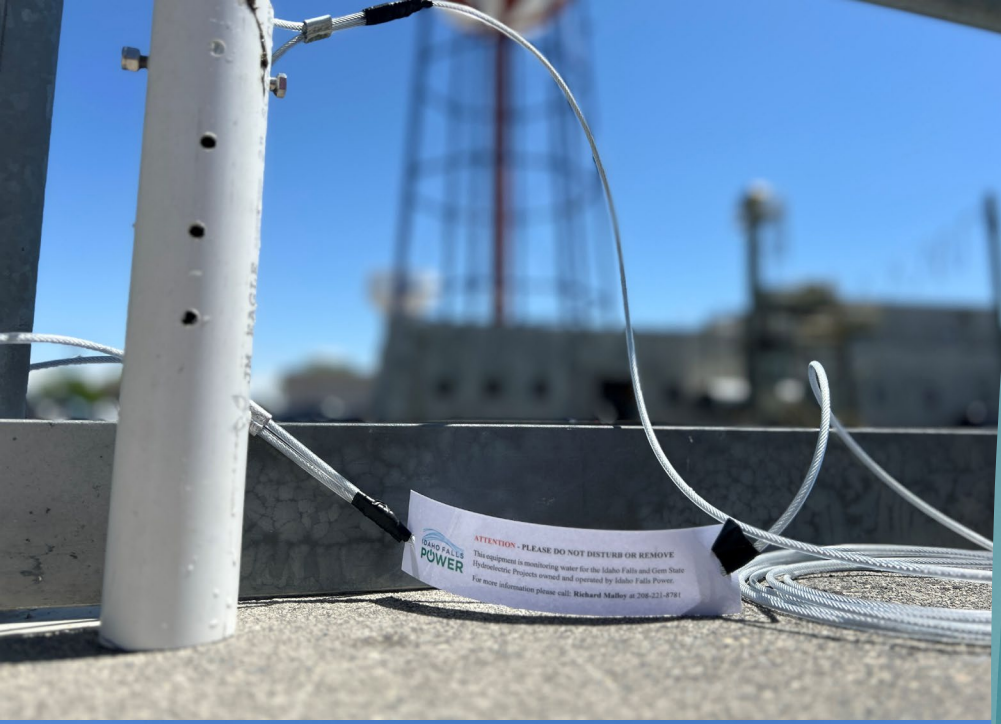


# Questions?





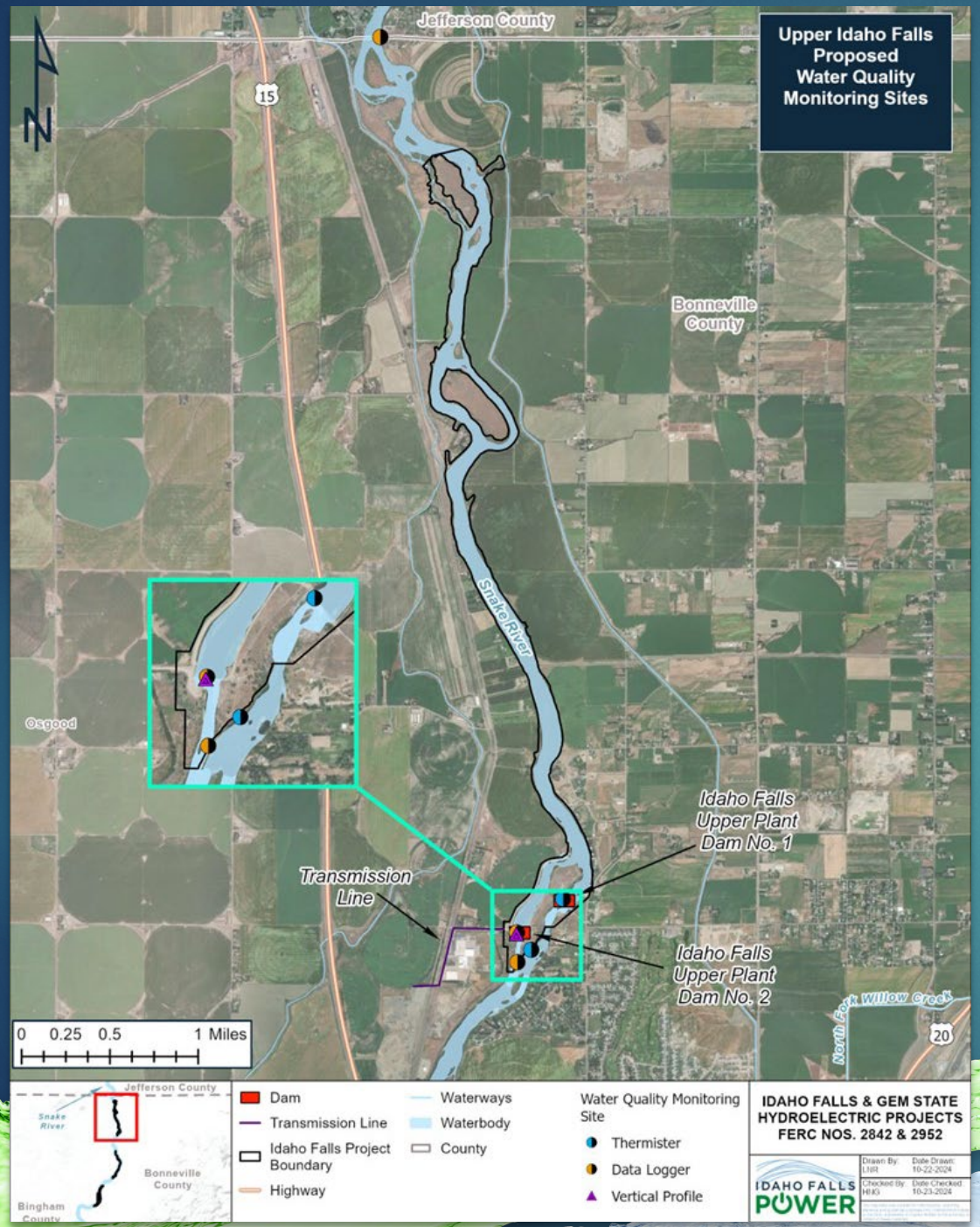
# Water Quality (WQ-1)



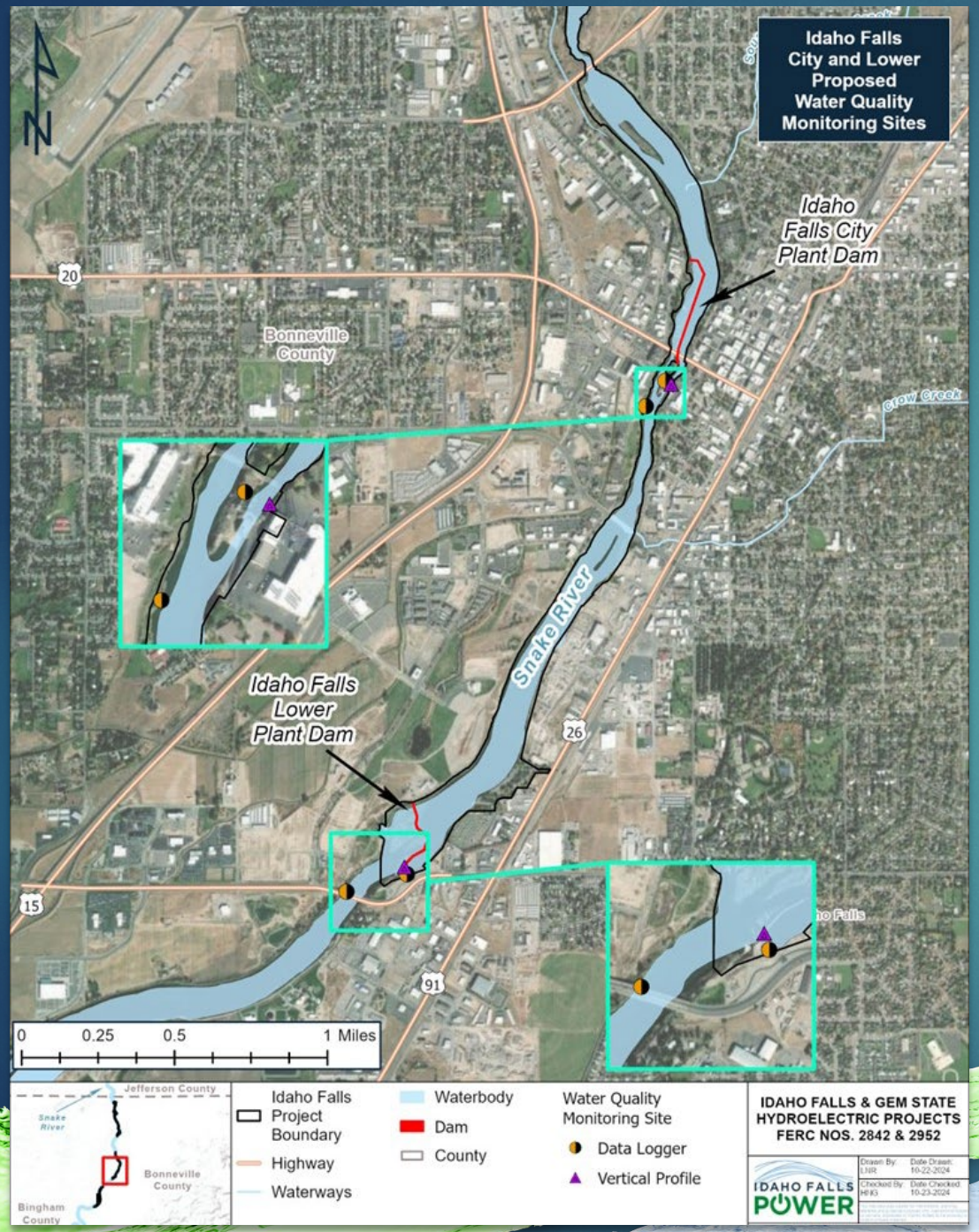



# Water Quality Study (WQ-1) Goals and Objectives

- **Goal:**
  - Characterize water quality in the Snake River in the Idaho Falls Project area and the Gem State Project area.
- **Objectives:**
  1. Characterize water temperature and dissolved oxygen (DO) upstream and downstream of each diversion in the Projects, specifically the Upper Plant, City Plant, Lower Plant, and Gem State dams.
  2. Collect vertical profiles of water temperature and DO in each impoundment.
  3. Analyze fish tissue samples from downstream of the Gem State Project for methylmercury.
  4. Assess the ability of the Projects to comply with water quality standards based on continued operation.




# WQ-1 Study Area Upper Plant



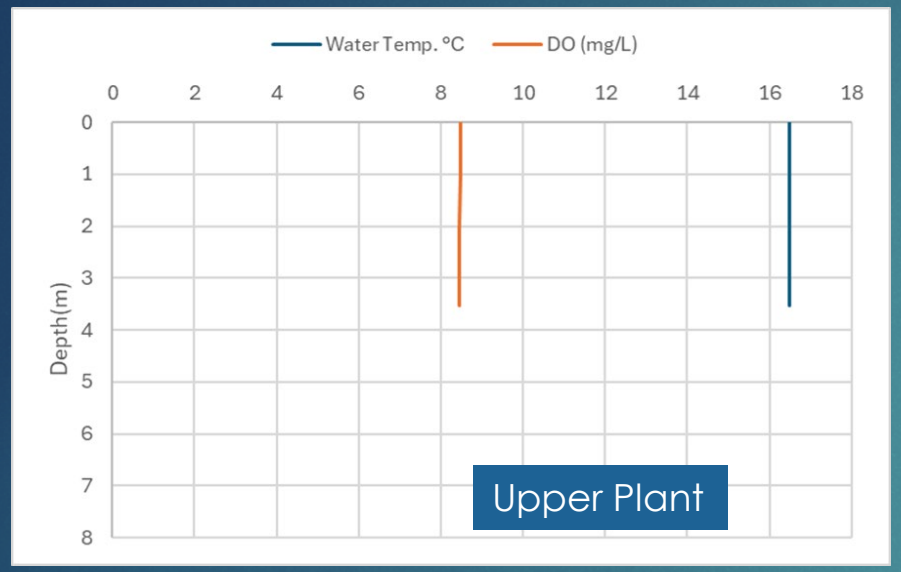

# WQ-1 Study Area
# City & Lower Plant

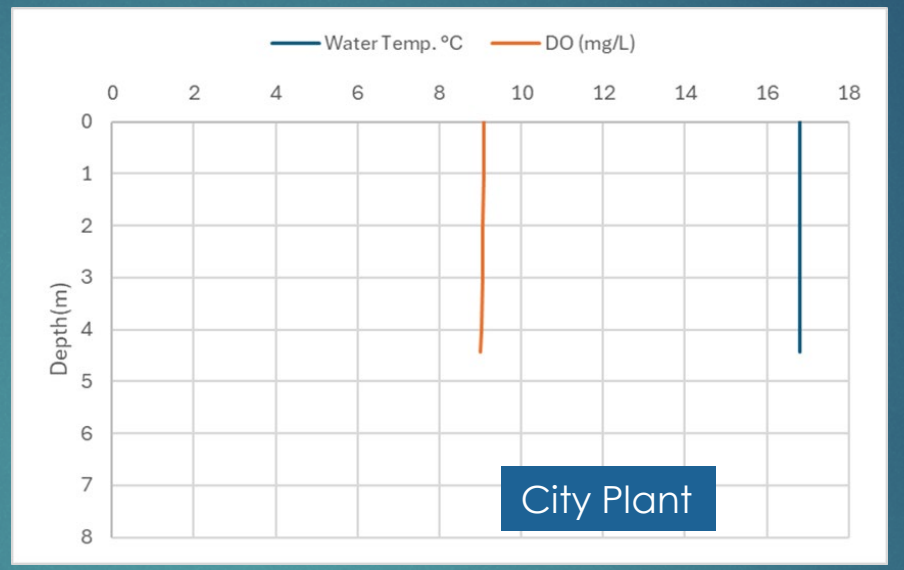


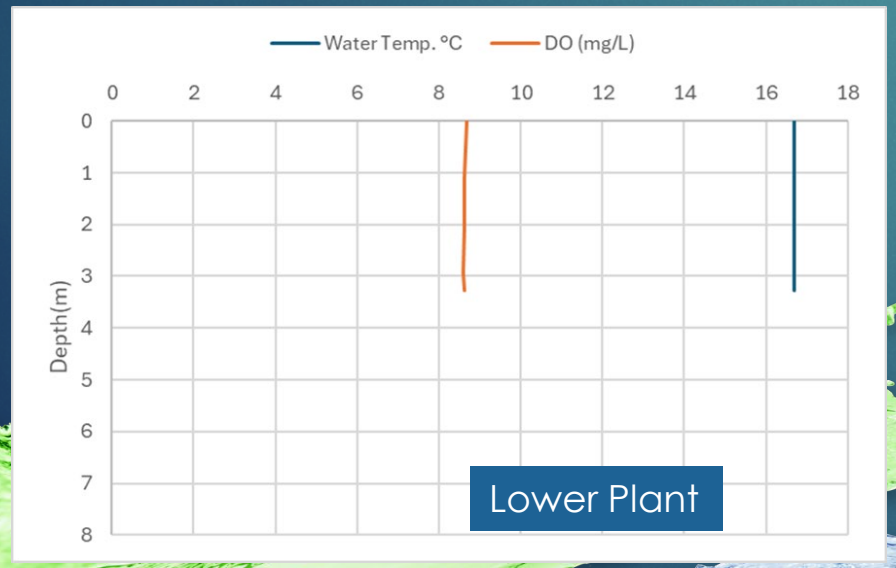

# WQ-1 Study Area Gem State

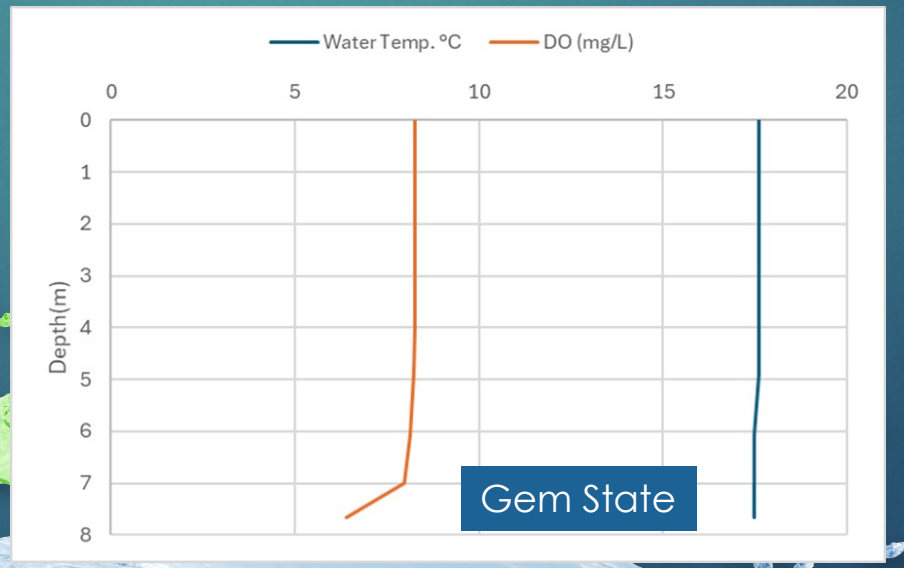
# Water Quality Study (WQ-1)

## Preliminary Data Summary



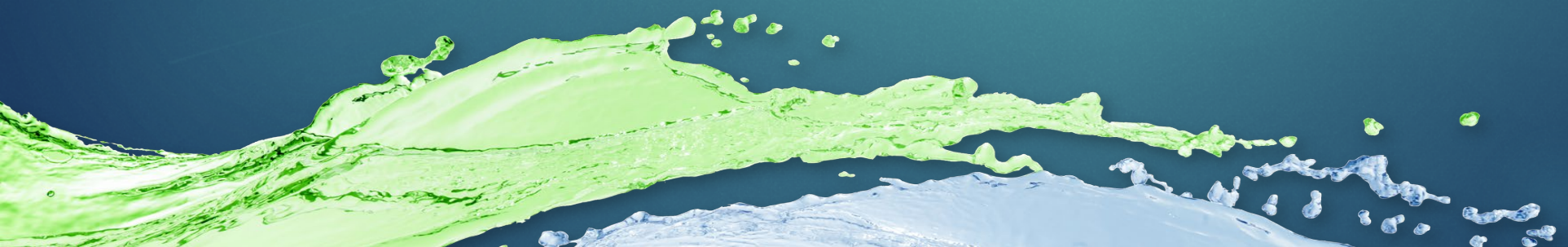




- Vertical profiles collected at the Upper, City, Lower, and Gem State plants on August 14, 2024 revealed impoundments with well-mixed conditions and no evidence of vertical stratification.

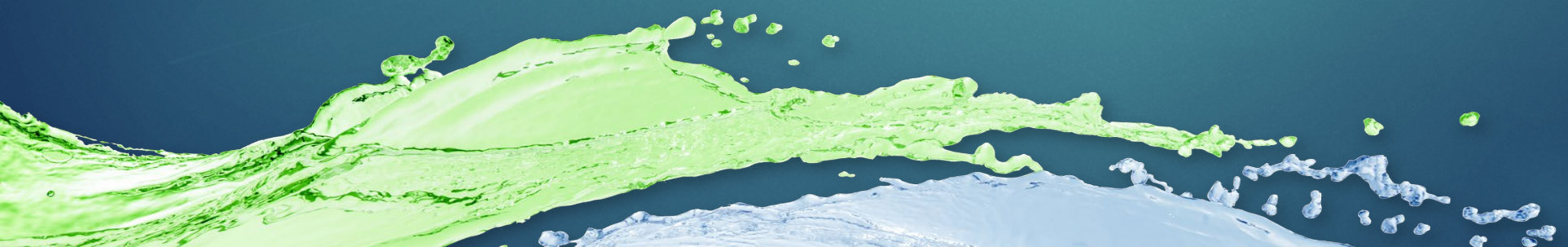
# Water Quality Study (WQ-1)
## Status

| Status | Variances | Modifications |
|---|---|---|
| August 2024 - Site selection - complete | None | Accessibility challenges and potential tampering and biofouling: Continuous monitoring for one week per month. |
| June 2025 - Deployed equipment | None | Lack of access to well-mixed location downstream of Upper Plant: DO/temp loggers deployed at Upper Plant forebay and tailrace; temperature-only loggers deployed at spillway forebay and tailrace. |

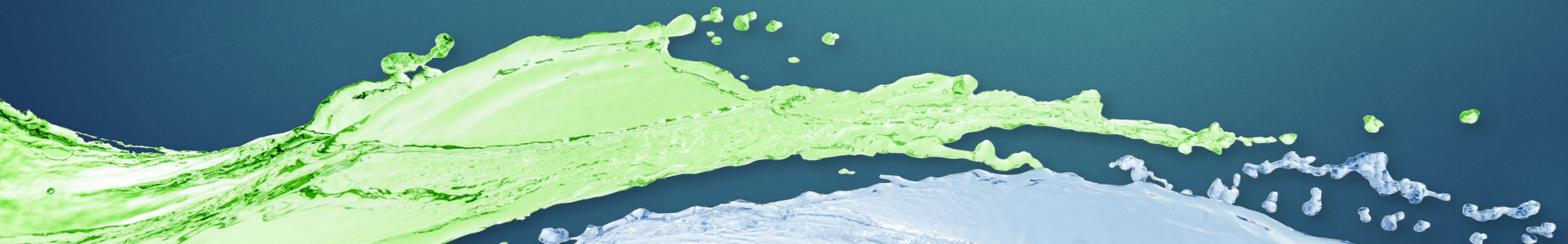


# Water Quality Study (WQ-1)
## Schedule

| Date | Study Plan Development Milestones |
|---|---|
| **August 2024** | Site Selection |
| **Summer 2025 (June-Sept)** | Year 1 Field Sampling |
| **June 2025** | Initial Study Report (ISR) |
| **June 2026** | Updated Study Report (USR) |
| **September 2026** | Draft License Application (DLA) |



# Questions?





# Fish Assemblage (AQ-1)

# Fish Assemblage Study (AQ-1)

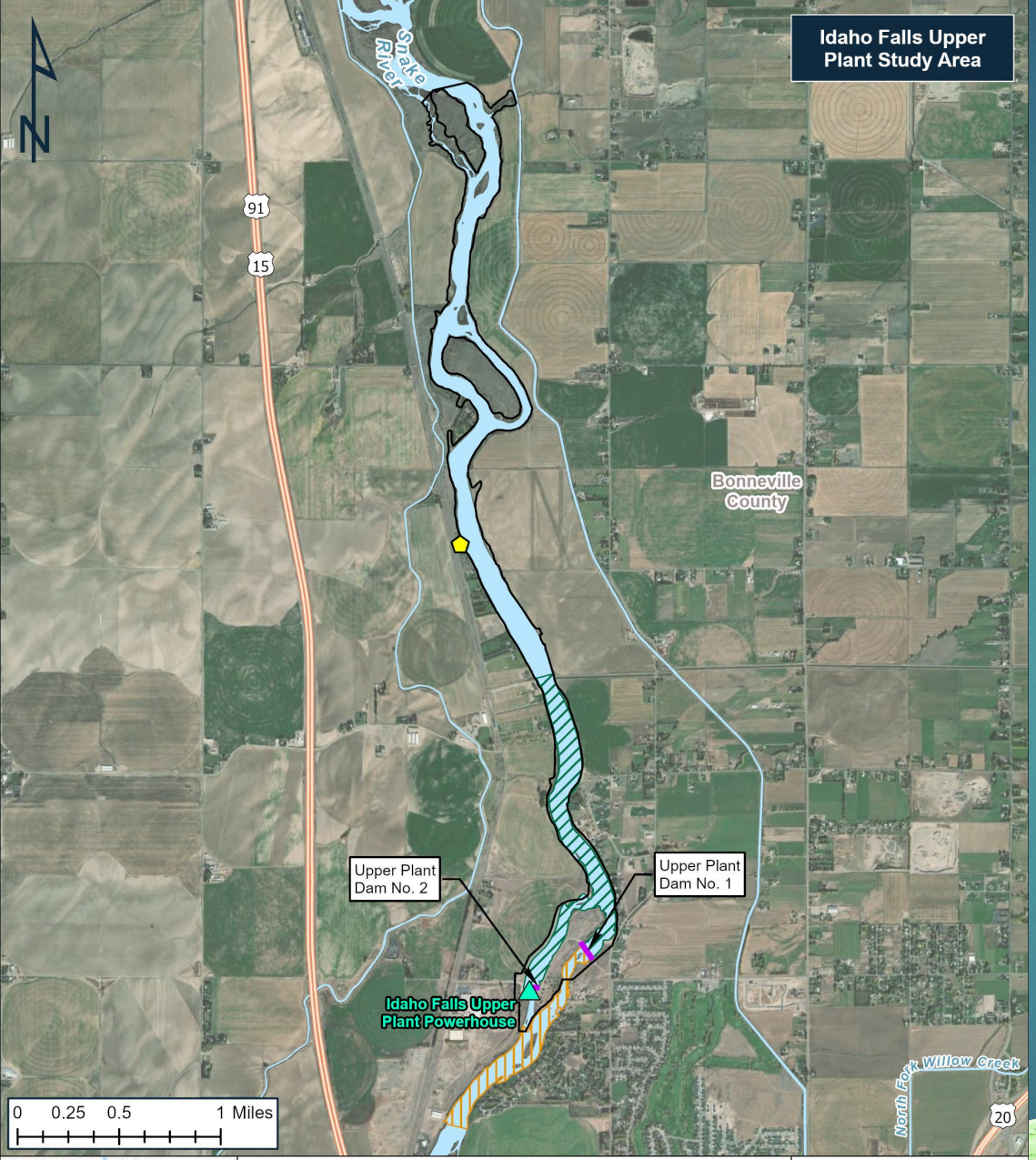
**Goal:**

Assess fish assemblage within Project-affected reaches.

**Objectives:**

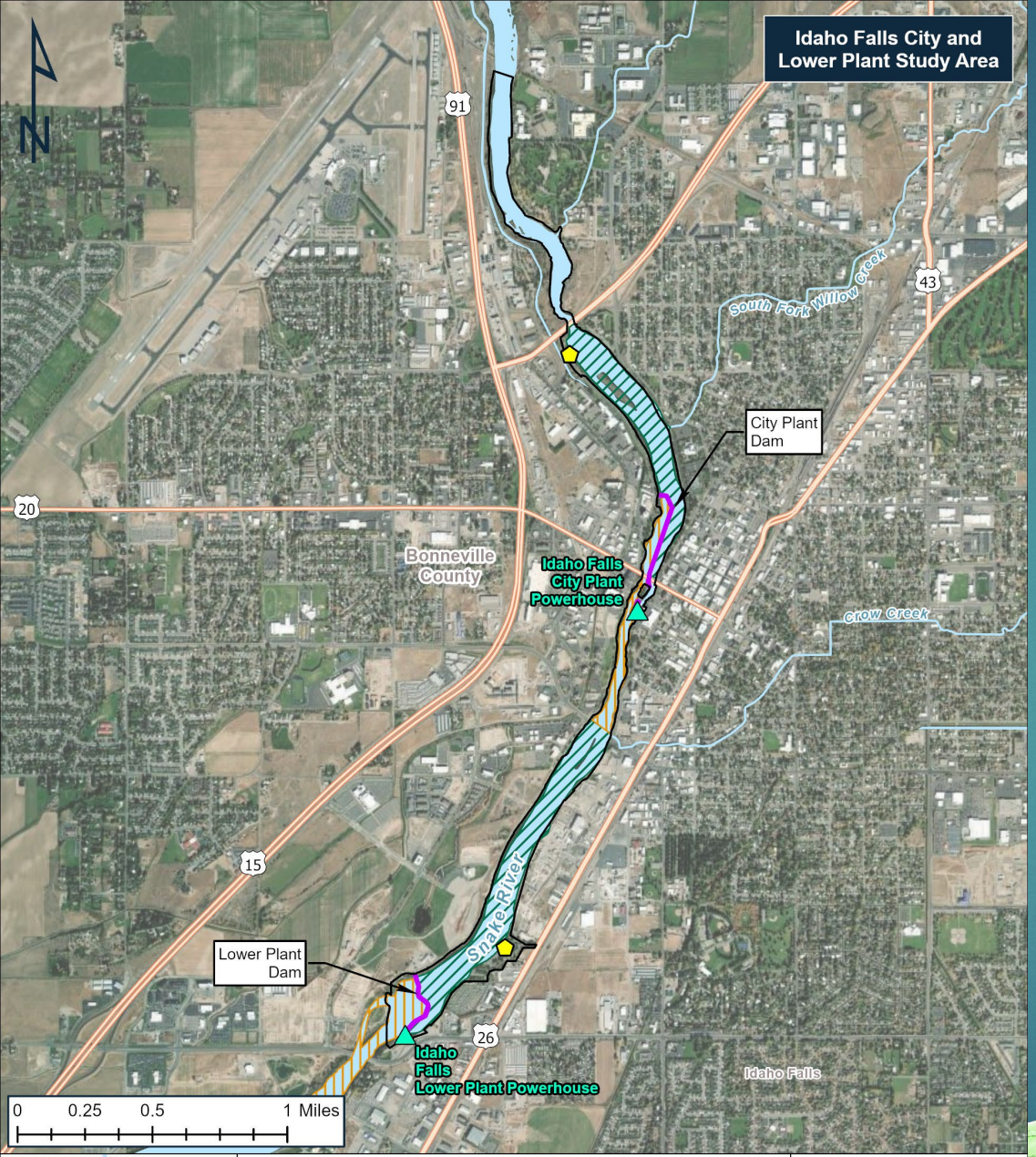
- Determine seasonal changes in the distribution and abundance within reservoirs and tailrace reaches.
- Characterize habitat use of target fish species.
- Collect fish tissue samples for target species.






# Fish Assemblage (AQ-1)

## Upper Plant Study Area

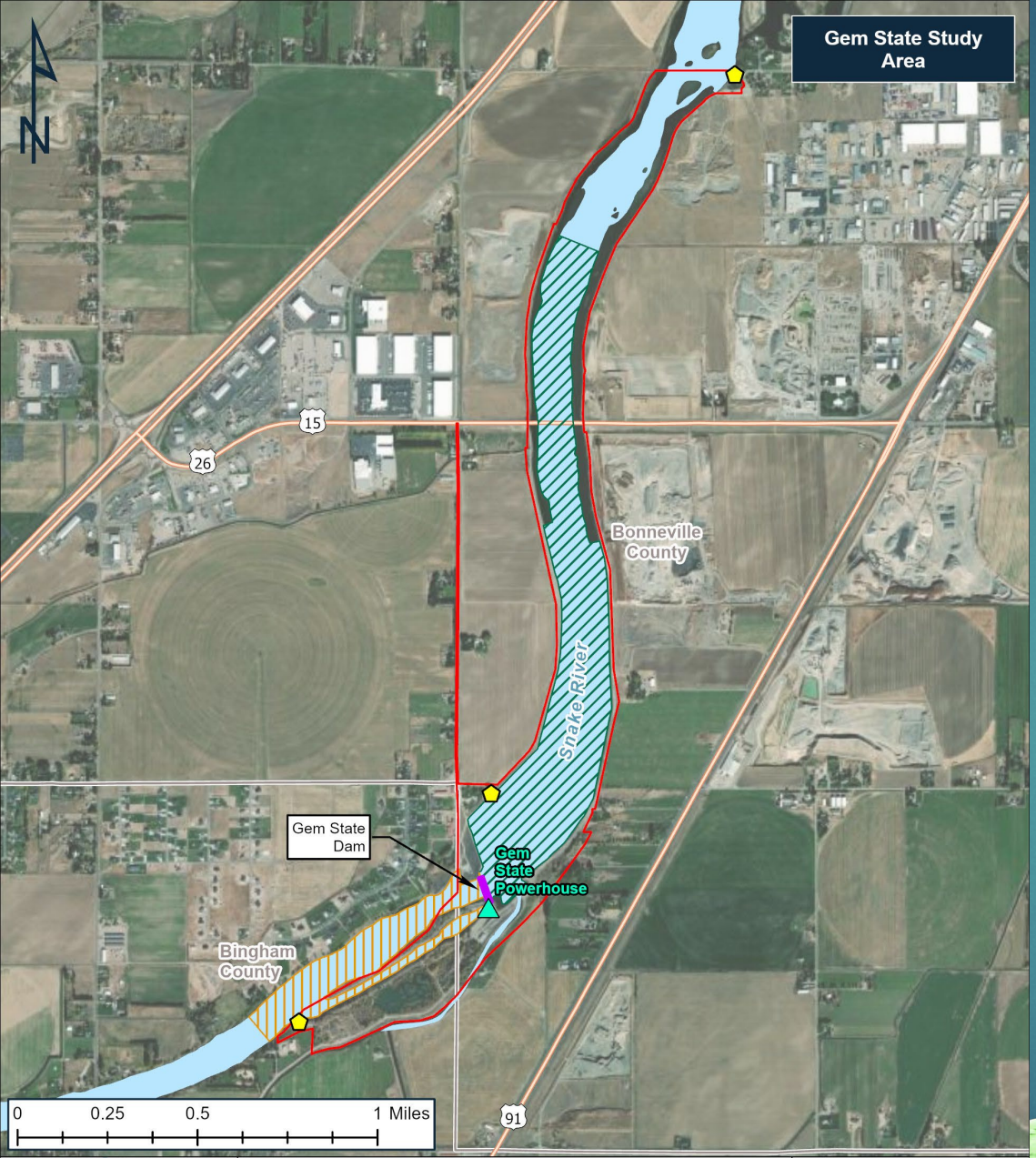


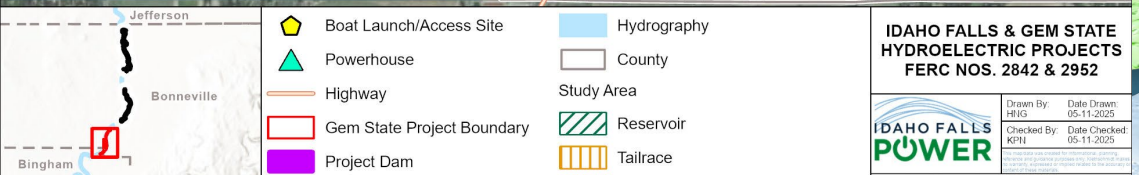

# Fish Assemblage (AQ-1)

## City & Lower Plant Study Area

# Fish Assemblage (AQ-1)

## Gem State Study Area



# Fish Assemblage Study (AQ-1)

**Native and Introduced Fish Species:**

- Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout (N)
- Mountain Whitefish (N)
- White Sturgeon (I)
- Rainbow Trout (I)
- Brown Trout (I)
- Bluegill (I)
- Sucker (N)
- Bass (I)
- Chub (N)











# Fish Assemblage Study (AQ-1)

**Methods:**

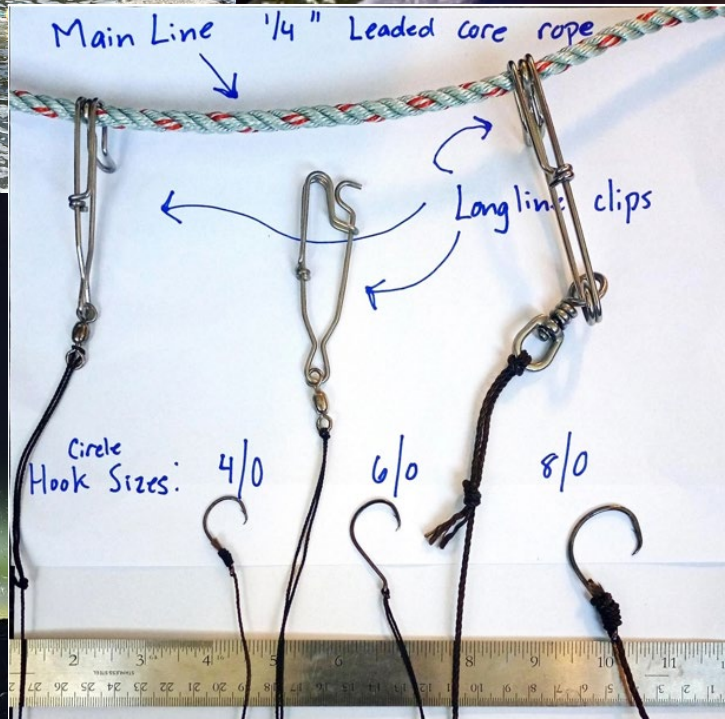
- Reservoirs
  - Electrofishing (Day and Night)
  - Gill Net Sampling
  - Setlines
- Tailrace
  - Electrofishing
  - Fyke Net Sampling
  - Setlines









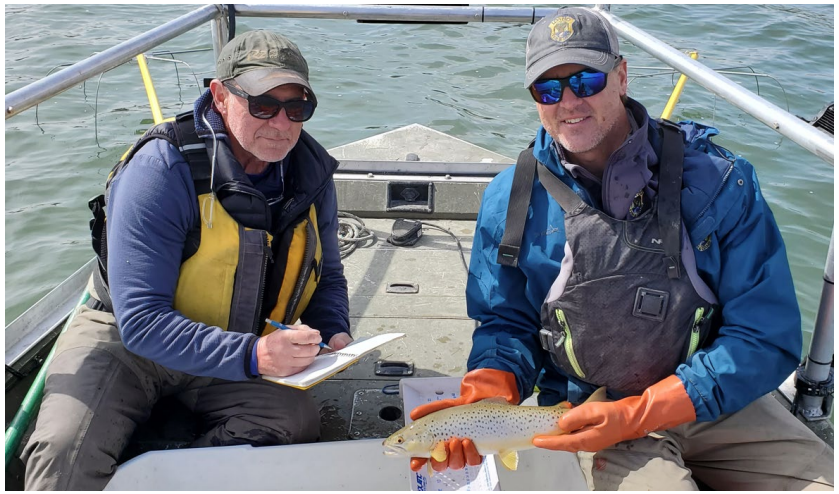


# Fish Assemblage Study (AQ-1)

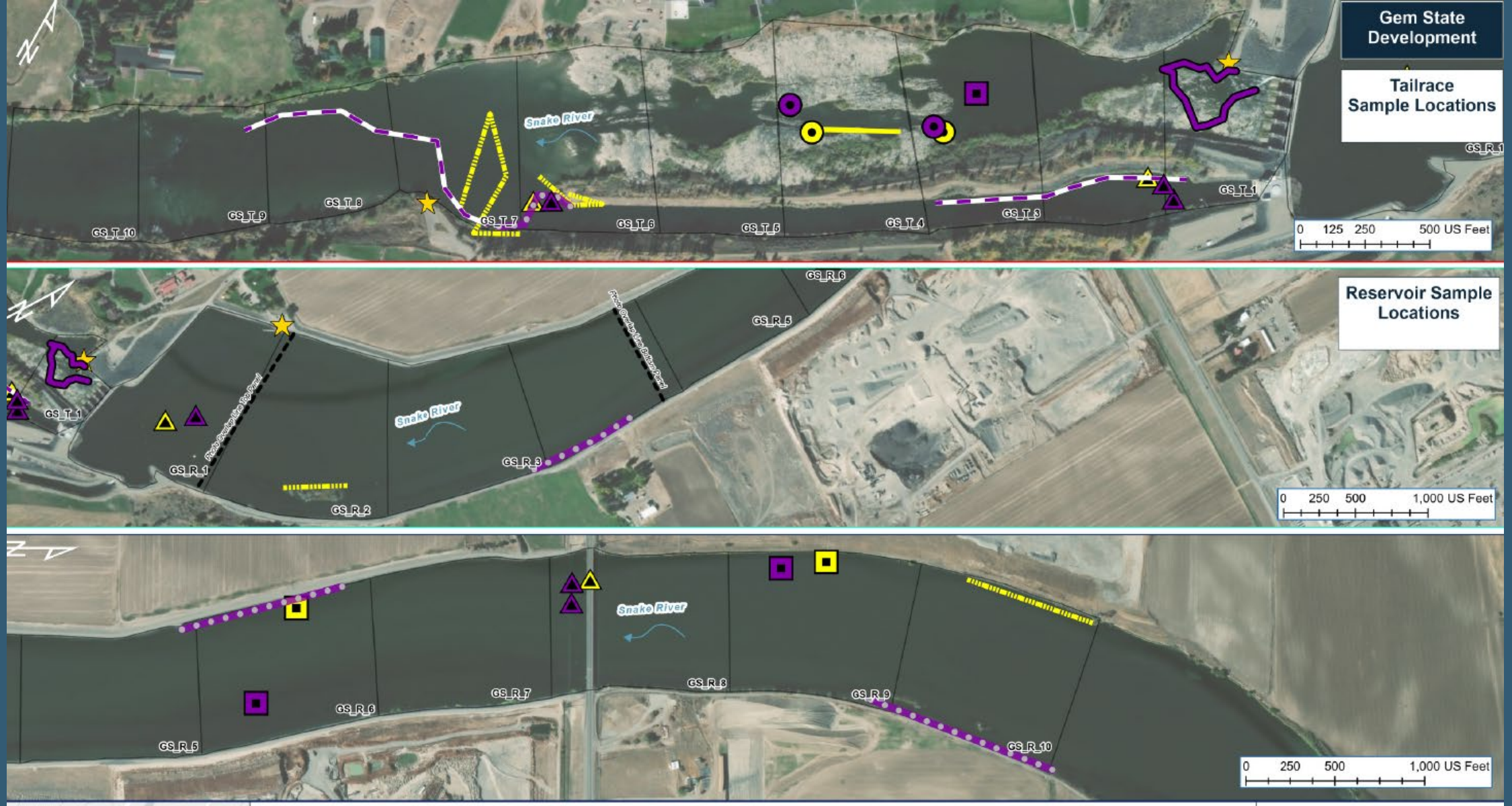
- Completed to Date:
  - Fall 2024 – Pilot/Reconnaissance Survey
    - Gem State Plant
  - Spring 2025
    - Formal and informal agency consultation (IDFG)
    - Sampled all Projects/plants
    - Added nighttime reservoir electrofishing
      - Gem State and Upper Plant
    - Collected fish tissue samples d/s of Gem State Plant
  - Summary results presented in ISR










Boat Ramp
Photo Overlap Line
Sampling Section

***Sample Season/Year***
Fall 2024
Spring 2025

***Sampling Method***
Fyke Net
Gill Net
Setline
Boat-mount Electrofishing (Day)
Boat-mount Electrofishing (Night)
Backpack Electrofishing

**IDAHO FALLS & GEM STATE HYDROELECTRIC PROJECTS FERC NOS. 2842 & 2952**

| Drawn By: | Date Drawn: |
|---|---|
| ENM | 04-29-2025 |
| Checked By: | Date Checked: |
| HNG | 4-29-2025 |






- Boat Ramp
- Photo Overlap Line
- Sampling Section

***Sample Season/Year***

- Spring 2025

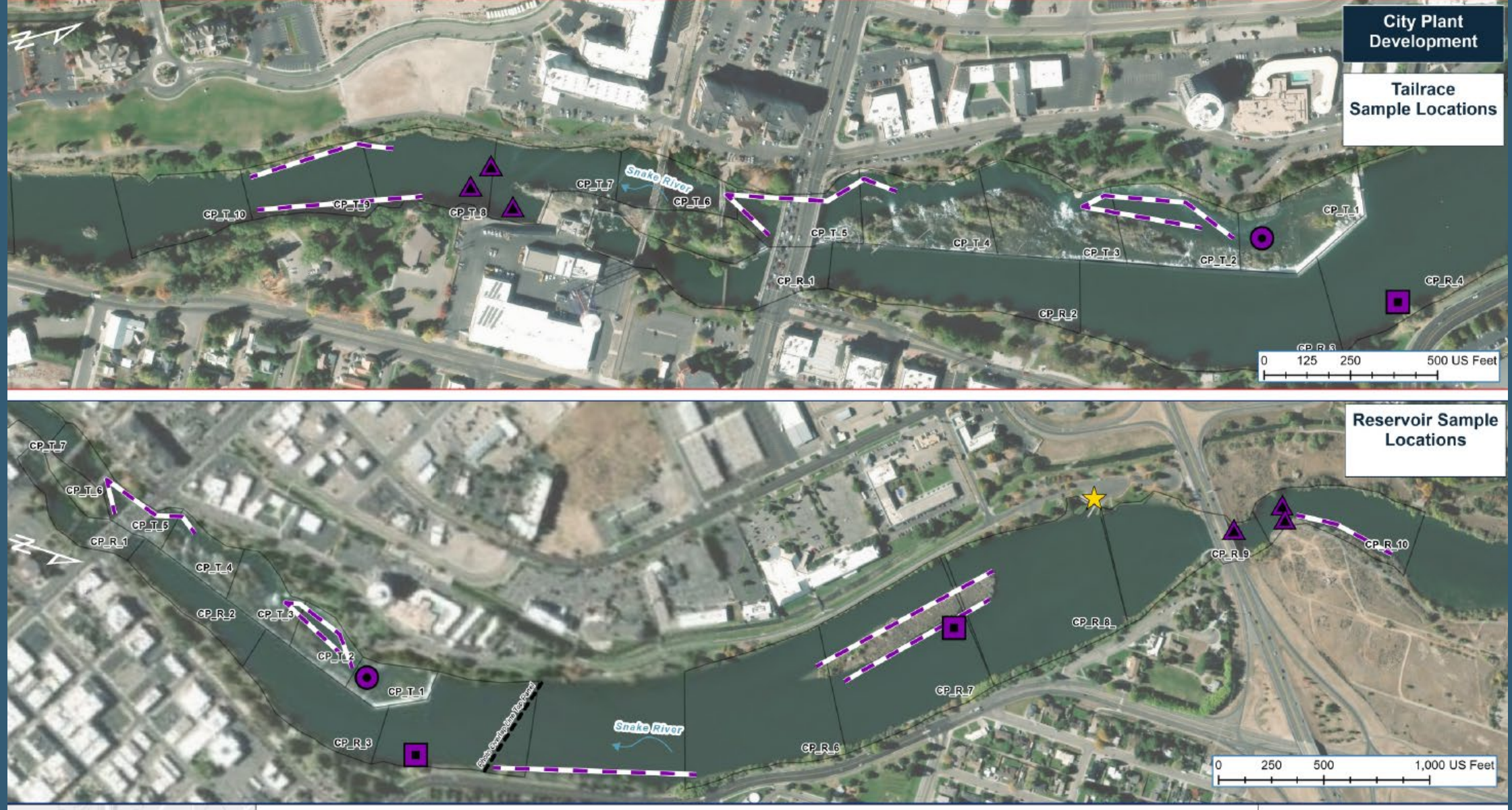
***Sampling Method***

- Fyke Net
- Gill Net
- Setline
- Boat-mount Electrofishing (Day)
- Boat-mount Electrofishing (Night)
- Backpack Electrofishing

**IDAHO FALLS & GEM STATE HYDROELECTRIC PROJECTS FERC NOS. 2842 & 2952**

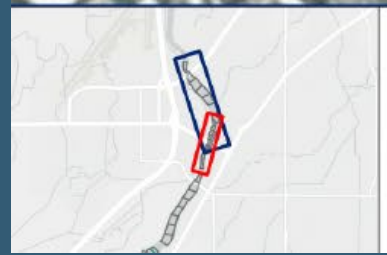
IDAHO FALLS POWER

| Drawn By: | Date Drawn: |
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| ENM | 04-29-2025 |
| Checked By: | Date Checked: |
| HNG | 4-29-2025 |









Boat Ramp
Photo Overlap Line
Sampling Section

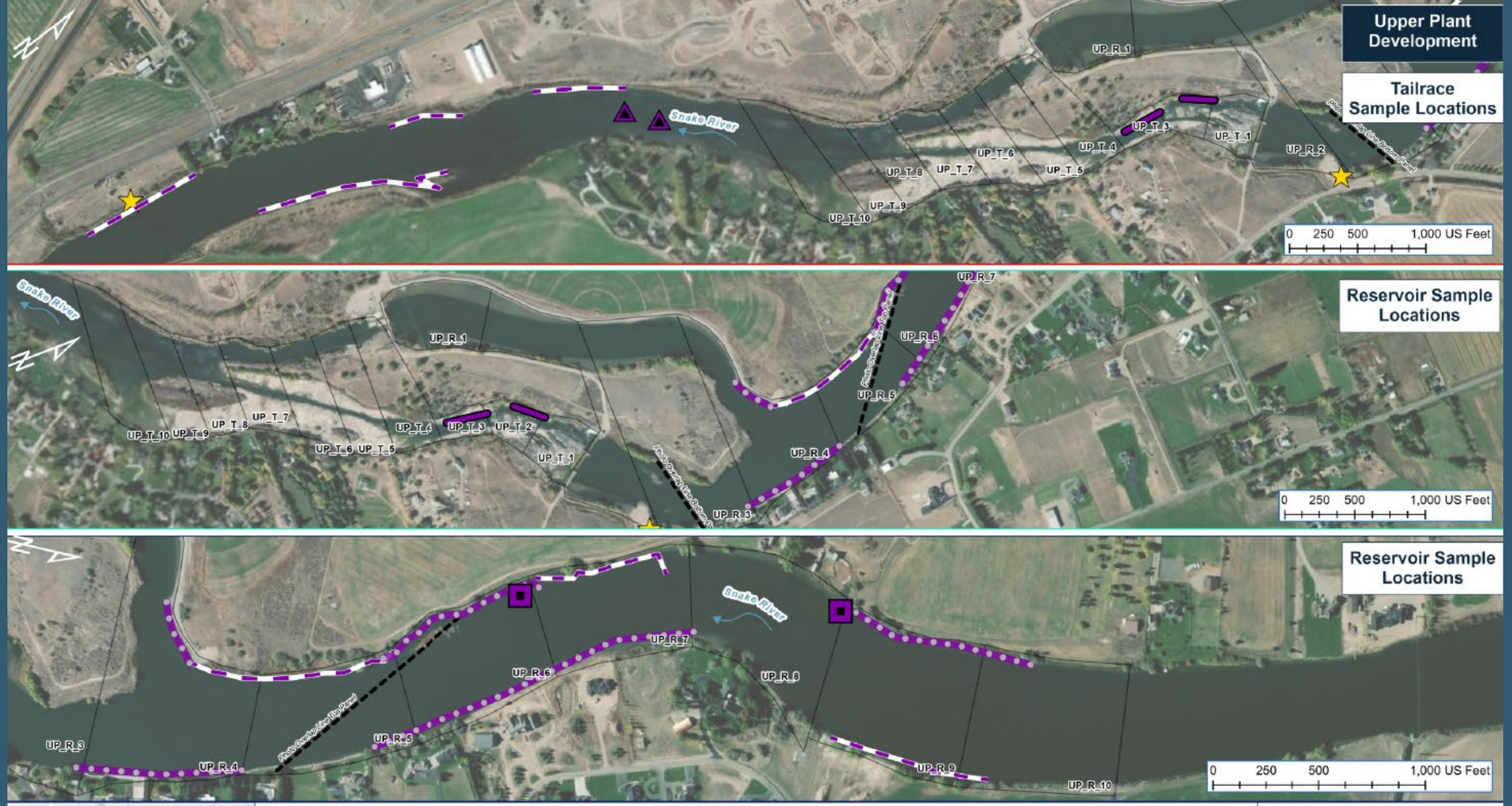
***Sample Season/Year***
Spring 2025

***Sampling Method***
Fyke Net
Gill Net
Setline
Boat-mount Electrofishing (Day)
Boat-mount Electrofishing (Night)
Backpack Electrofishing

**IDAHO FALLS & GEM STATE HYDROELECTRIC PROJECTS FERC NOS. 2842 & 2952**

IDAHO FALLS POWER

| Drawn By: | Date Drawn: |
|---|---|
| ENM | 04-29-2025 |
| Checked By: | Date Checked: |
| HNG | 4-29-2025 |




Boat Ramp
Photo Overlap Line
Sampling Section

***Sample Season/Year***
Spring 2025

***Sampling Method***
Fyke Net
Gill Net
Setline
Boat-mount Electrofishing (Day)
Boat-mount Electrofishing (Night)
Backpack Electrofishing

**IDAHO FALLS & GEM STATE HYDROELECTRIC PROJECTS FERC NOS. 2842 & 2952**

IDAHO FALLS POWER

| Drawn By: | Date Drawn: |
|---|---|
| ENM | 04-29-2025 |
| Checked By: | Date Checked: |
| HNG | 4-29-2025 |

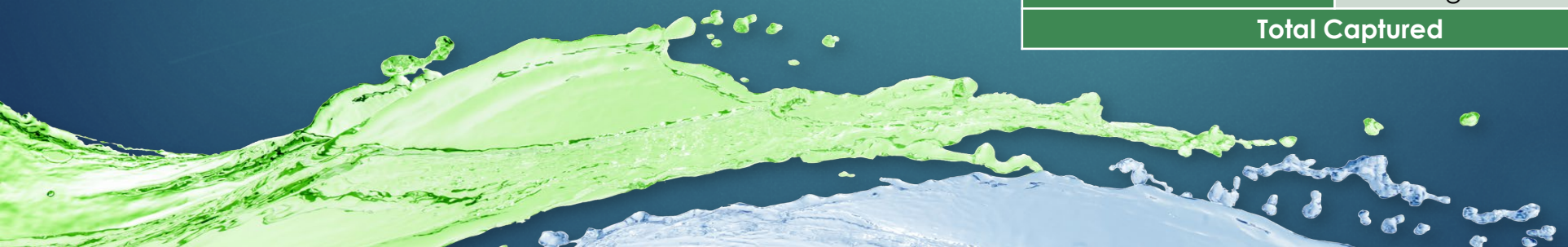
# Fish Assemblage Study (AQ-1)
## Data Summary – Level of Effort

| Project/ Development | Year | Season | Sampling Method | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | Boat Mount Electrofishing (minutes) | | Backpack Electro-fishing (minutes) | Gillnet (hours) | Fyke Net (hours) | Setline (hours) |
| | | | Day | Night | | | | |
| Gem State | 2024 | Fall | | | | | | |
| Tailrace | | | 17.8 | N/A | 13.4 | N/A | 36.5 | 36.0 |
| Reservoir | | | 24.9 | N/A | N/A | 34.9 | N/A | 33.8 |
| Gem State | 2025 | Spring | | | | | | |
| Tailrace | | | 54.2 | N/A | 12.4 | 5.5 | 42.8 | 56.6 |
| Reservoir | | | N/A | 35.3 | N/A | 2.5 | N/A | 55.3 |
| Lower Plant | 2025 | Spring | | | | | | |
| Tailrace | | | 45.1 | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | 53.4 |
| Reservoir | | | 43.6 | N/A | N/A | 9.4 | N/A | 50.3 |
| City Plant | 2025 | Spring | | | | | | |
| Tailrace | | | 36.8 | N/A | N/A | N/A | 22.3 | 55.3 |
| Reservoir | | | 51.3 | N/A | N/A | 2.9 | N/A | 52.2 |
| Upper Plant | 2025 | Spring | | | | | | |
| Tailrace | | | 57.2 | N/A | 24.0 | N/A | N/A | 39.5 |
| Reservoir | | | 26.0 | 51.0 | N/A | 4.3 | N/A | N/A |

# Fish Assemblage Study (AQ-1)
## Data Summary – Gem State Project

| Fall 2024 Gem State | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Common Name** | Scientific Name | Number Captured | |
| | | Tailrace | Reservoir |
| **Brown Trout** | *Salmo trutta* | 4 | 2 |
| **Rainbow Trout** | *Oncorhynchus mykiss* | 0 | 1 |
| **Common Carp** | *Cyprinus carpio* | 3 | 20 |
| **Largemouth Bass** | *Micropterus nigricans* | 29 | 0 |
| **Smallmouth Bass** | *Micropterus dolomieu* | 62 | 52 |
| **Sculpin** | *Cottus spp.* | 5 | 56 |
| **Mountain Whitefish** | *Prosopium williamsoni* | 2 | 0 |
| **Redside Shiner** | *Richardsonius balteatus* | 54 | 84 |
| **Speckled Dace** | *Rhinichthys osculus* | 5 | 0 |
| **Utah Sucker** | *Catostomus ardens* | 14 | 167 |
| **Utah Chub** | *Gila atraria* | 4 | 0 |
| **Total Captured** | | 182 | 382 |

| Spring 2025 Gem State | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Common Name** | Scientific Name | Number Captured | |
| | | Tailrace | Reservoir[1] |
| **Brown Trout** | *Salmo trutta* | 3 | 2 |
| **Green Sunfish** | *Lepomis cyanellus* | 0 | 1 |
| **Longnose Dace** | *Rhinichthys cataractae* | 1 | 0 |
| **Mountain Sucker** | *C. platyrhynchus* | 2 | 6 |
| **Rainbow Trout** | *Oncorhynchus mykiss* | 13 | 6 |
| **Redside Shiner** | *Richardsonius balteatus* | 332 | 15 |
| **Sculpin[2]** | *Cottus spp.* | 1 | 101 |
| **Smallmouth Bass** | *Micropterus dolomieu* | 1 | 8 |
| **Speckled Dace** | *Rhinichthys osculus* | 0 | 1 |
| **Utah Chub** | *Gila atraria* | 1 | 0 |
| **Utah Sucker** | *Catostomus ardens* | 17 | 85 |
| **White Sturgeon** | *A. transmontanus* | 4 | 0 |
| **Yellowstone Cutthroat** | *O. virginalis bouvieri* | 1 | 0 |
| **Total Captured** | | 376 | 225 |



# Fish Assemblage Study
## Data Summary – Idaho Falls Project

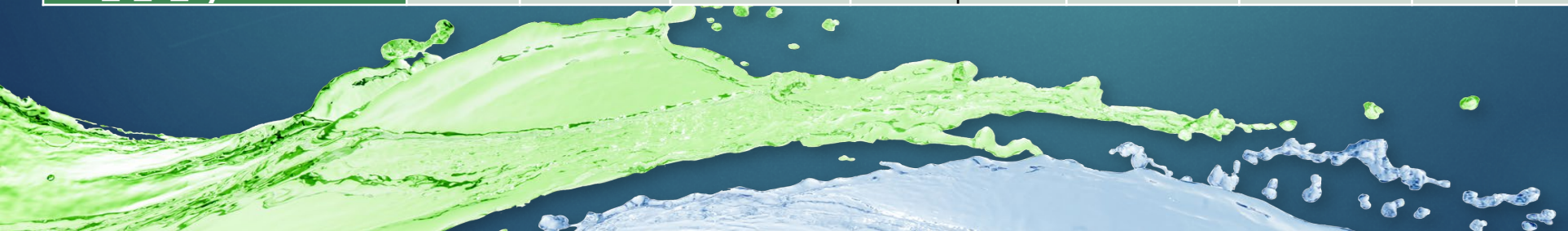
| Spring 2025 – Lower Plant | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Common Name** | Scientific Name | Number Captured | |
| | | Tailrace | Reservoir |
| **Brown Trout** | *Salmo trutta* | 4 | 2 |
| **Longnose Dace** | *Rhinichthys cataractae* | 2 | 1 |
| **Sculpin** | *Cottus sp.* | 15 | 1 |
| **Rainbow Trout** | *Oncorhynchus mykiss* | 8 | 1 |
| **Redside Shiner** | *Richardsonius balteatus* | 1 | 0 |
| **Speckled Dace** | *Rhinichthys osculus* | 4 | 4 |
| **Utah Sucker** | *Catostomus ardens* | 11 | 40 |
| **White Sturgeon** | *Acipenser transmontanus* | 0 | 2 |
| **Yellowstone Cutthroat** | *O. virginalis bouvieri* | 1 | 0 |
| **Total Captured** | | 45 | 51 |

| Spring 2025 – City Plant | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Common Name** | Scientific Name | Number Captured | |
| | | Tailrace | Reservoir |
| **Brown Trout** | *Salmo trutta* | 6 | 1 |
| **Longnose Dace** | *Rhinichthys cataractae* | 1 | 8 |
| **Sculpin** | *Cottus sp.* | 1 | 6 |
| **Mountain Whitefish** | *Prosopium williamsoni* | 5 | 0 |
| **Rainbow Trout** | *Oncorhynchus mykiss* | 3 | 1 |
| **Redside Shiner** | *Richardsonius balteatus* | 3 | 30 |
| **Utah Sucker** | *Catostomus ardens* | 28 | 11 |
| **Yellowstone Cutthroat** | *O. virginalis bouvieri* | 1 | 0 |
| **White Sturgeon** | *Acipenser transmontanus* | 0 | 3 |
| **Total Captured** | | 48 | 60 |

| Spring 2025 – Upper Plant | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Common Name** | Scientific Name | Number Captured | |
| | | Tailrace | Reservoir[1] |
| **Brown Trout** | *Salmo trutta* | 8 | 20 |
| **Longnose Dace** | *Rhinichthys cataractae* | 8 | 6 |
| **Sculpin** | *Cottus sp.* | 12 | 1 |
| **Mountain Whitefish** | *Prosopium williamsoni* | 5 | 19 |
| **Rainbow Trout** | *Oncorhynchus mykiss* | 5 | 3 |
| **Redside Shiner** | *Richardsonius balteatus* | 442 | 123 |
| **Speckled Dace** | *Rhinichthys osculus* | 18 | 2 |
| **Utah Chub** | *Gila atraria* | 2 | 0 |
| **Utah Sucker** | *Catostomus ardens* | 34 | 69 |
| **Yellowstone Cutthroat** | *O. virginalis bouvieri* | 1 | 3 |
| **White Sturgeon** | *Acipenser transmontanus* | 7 | 0 |
| **Total Captured** | | 542 | 246 |

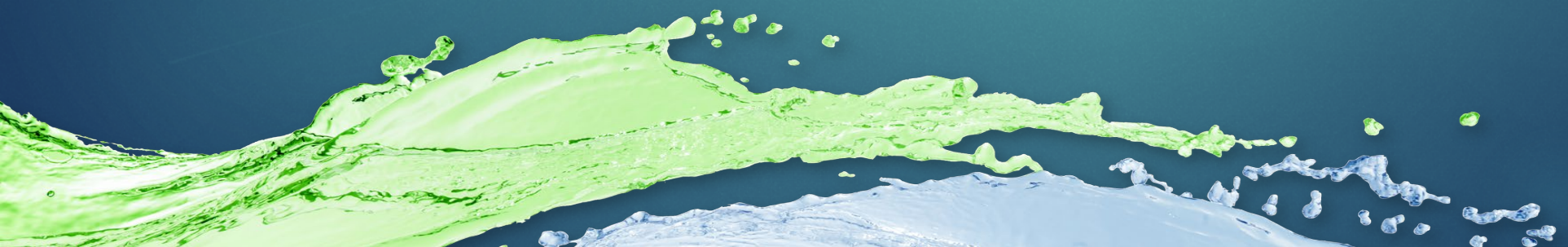
# Fish Assemblage Study (AQ-1)
## Data Summary – Idaho Falls Project (Fall 2024)

| Sample Location and Method | Effort (min) | Habitat Type | Substrate | Cover | Average Depth (ft) | Average Velocity (ft/sec) | pH | Cond. (mS/cm) | DO (mg/L) | Water Temp. ($^0$C) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| GS_T_2_Setline | 1080 | Run | Cobble | Boulders | 17.0 | 0.0 | 8.5 | 362.3 | 8.6 | 16.0 |
| GS_T_6_Setline | 1080 | Run | Fines | Boulders | 17.0 | 1.2 | 8.6 | 359.8 | 9.0 | 16.6 |
| GS_T_4_Backpack Electrofishing | 13.4 | Run | Cobble | Vegetation | 1.5 | 1.5 | 8.7 | 353.5 | 9.9 | 16.2 |
| GS_T_7_Boat-mount Electrofishing | 12.8 | Run | Cobble | Boulders | 4.0 | 0.5 | 8.5 | 362.0 | 8.8 | 15.5 |
| GS_T_6_Boat-mount Electrofishing | 5.0 | Run | Fines | Boulders | 4.0 | 0.3 | 8.6 | 357.9 | 9.6 | 16.6 |
| GS_T_3_Fyke net | 1155 | Run | Boulders | Boulders | 1.5 | 0.2 | 8.6 | 345.5 | 9.3 | 15.6 |
| GS_T_4_Fyke net | 1035 | Pool | Cobble | Depth | 3.5 | 0.4 | 8.6 | 345.5 | 9.7 | 15.8 |



# Fish Assemblage Study (AQ-1)
## Variances and Modifications

| Status | Variances | Modifications |
|---|---|---|
| Spring 2025 | Survey area altered in response to low water levels, impeded boat access downstream of Upper Plant, electrofishing/setlines downstream of delineated tailrace. | |
| Summer – Fall 2025 | | To reduce fish injury/mortality, gillnet deployment shifted to daytime sampling (rather than nighttime) with soak times reduced to <8 hrs per set. |



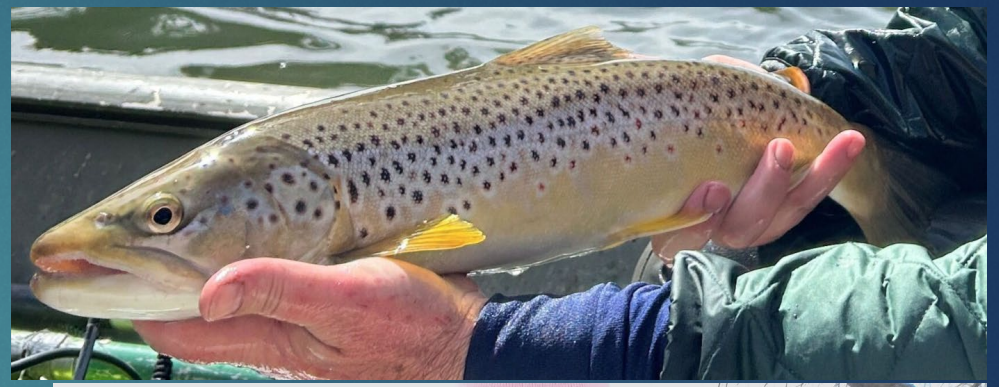
# Fish Assemblage Study (AQ-1)
## Study Variance



# Fish Assemblage Study (AQ-1)
## General Observations

- Fall 2024 vs. Spring 2025
  - Shift from warm/cool to cold-water species
  - Water temp decrease from 15-16°C to 6-8°C
  - No White Sturgeon in fall to 16 in spring
  - Added nighttime electrofishing
  - Increased number of setlines
  - Reduced soak time for gillnets

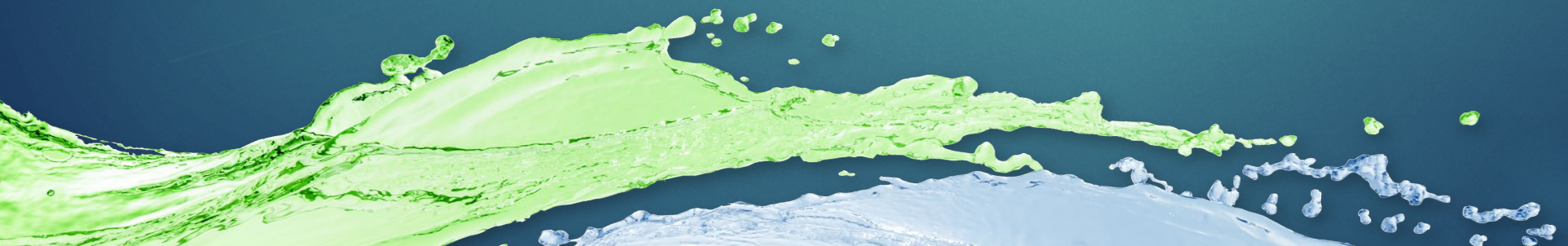
- Spring 2025
  - Capture totals dominated by Cyprinids and Catostomids
  - Game fish species captured in all Projects
    - Juvenile Brown and Rainbow T., but no Cutthroat
  - Large number and size range of sturgeon (70-155 cm)
  - Night electrofishing appears to increase catch of predatory species



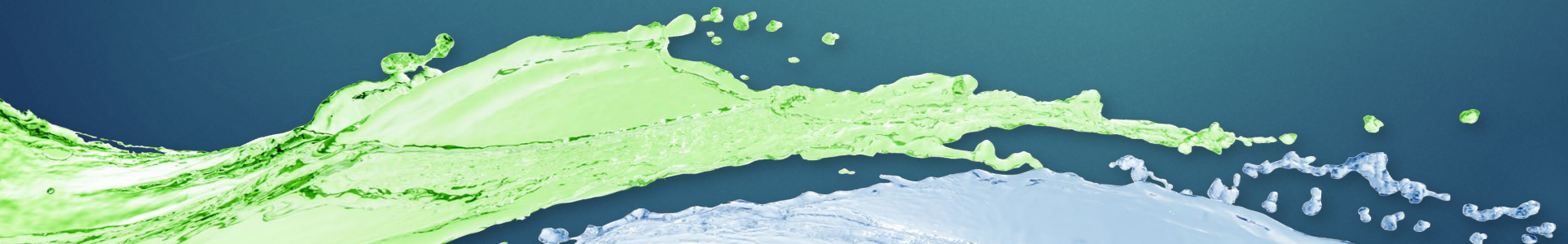


# Fish Assemblage Study (AQ-1)
## Proposed Schedule

| Date | Activity |
|---|---|
| **Summer/Fall 2025** | Compile study data and conduct analyses |
| **June 2025** | Distribute ISR technical memo and meeting with stakeholders |
| **July 2025** | Summer field surveys and data collection |
| **September 2025** | Fall field surveys and data collection |
| **Fall/Winter 2025** | Resolve comments and prepare Draft Study Report |
| **June 2026** | File Updated Study Report (USR) and meeting with stakeholders |
| **September 2026** | Distribute Final Study Report in Draft License Application (DLA) |
| **January 2027** | File Final License Application (FLA) |



# Questions?

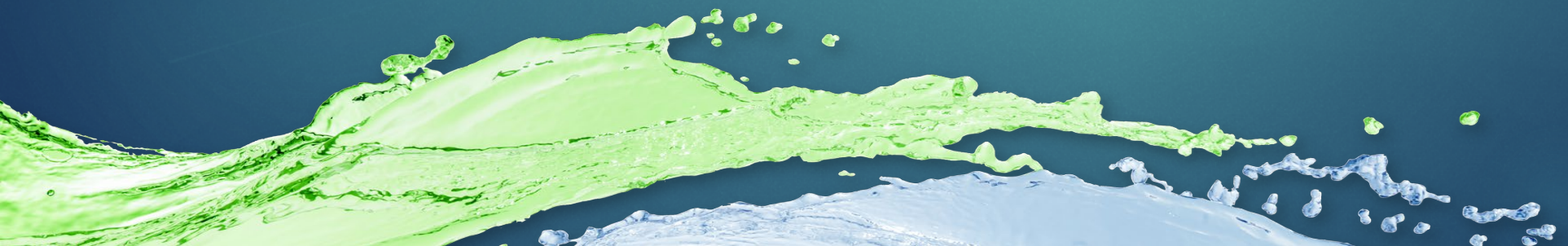




# Desktop Fish Entrainment (AQ-2)

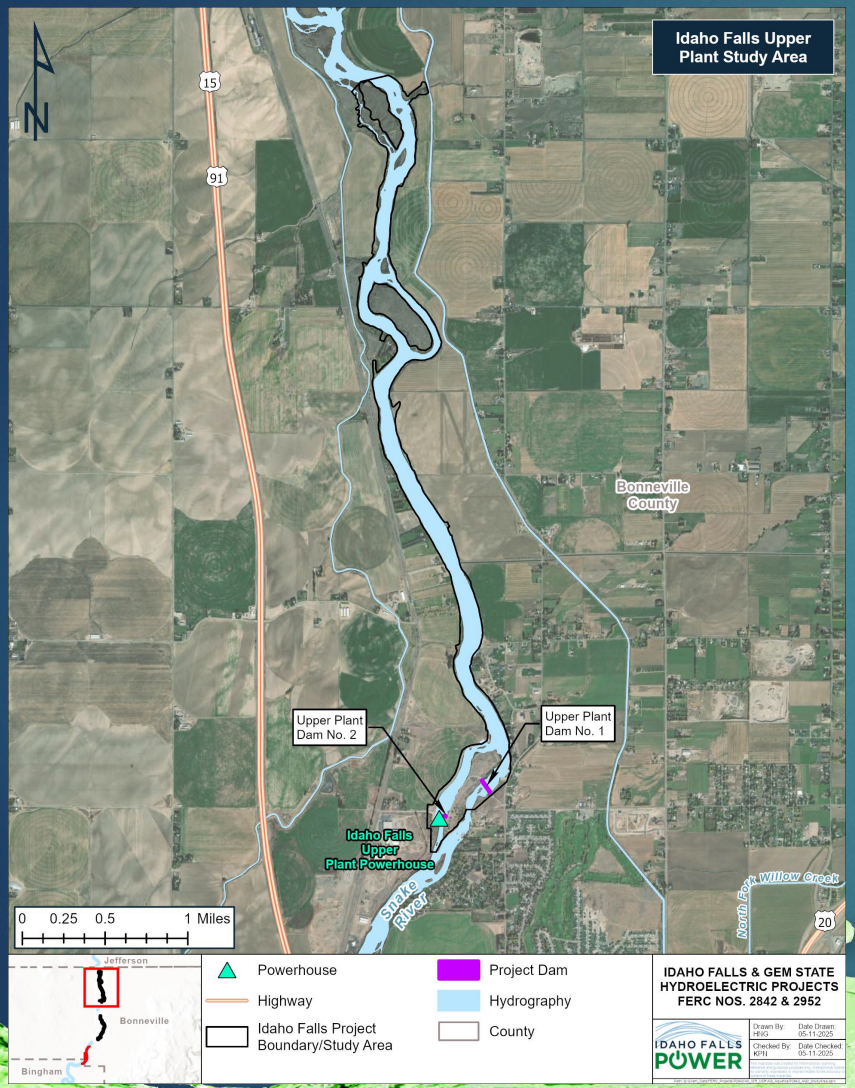
# Desktop Fish Entrainment Study (AQ-2)

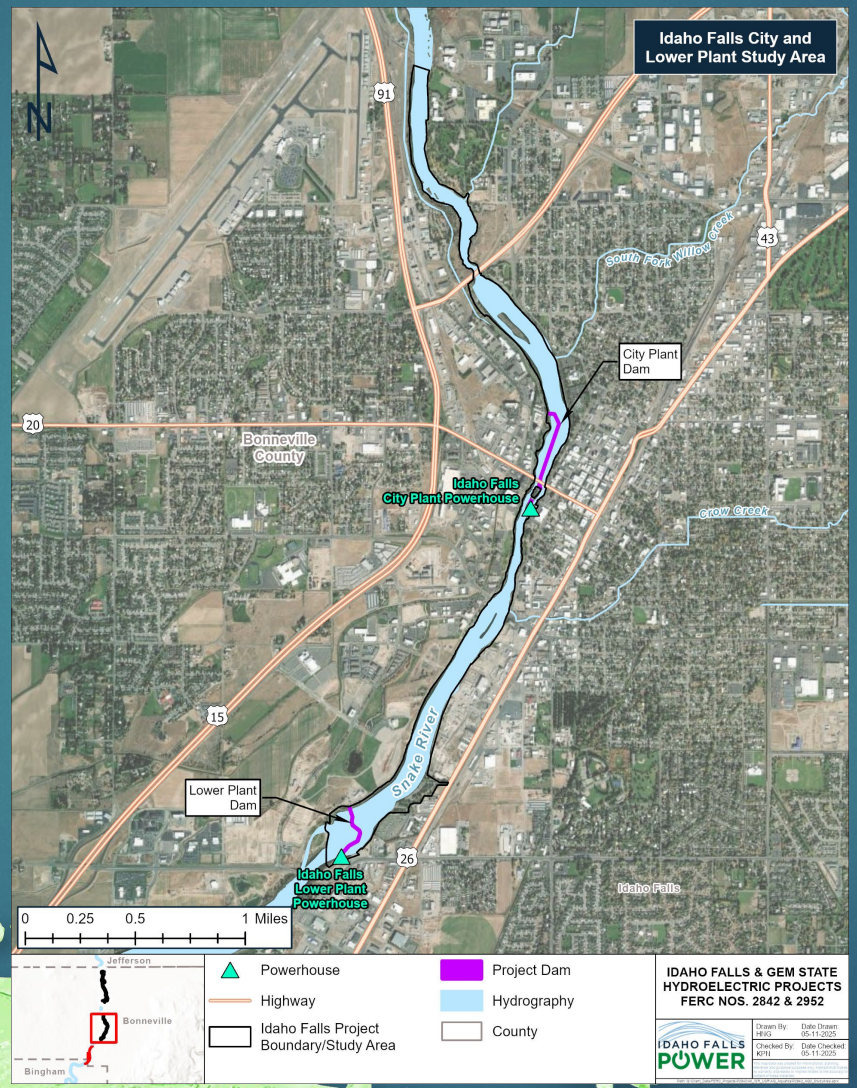
- **Goal:**
  - Assess how the operation of the Projects may affect the ability to achieve management objectives of resource agencies, with regard to fish species actively managed in Project reservoirs (i.e., stocked salmonids and stocked adult White Sturgeon).
- **Objectives:**
  - Identify and describe the features and characteristics of each turbine at each of the Idaho Falls and Gem State developments that may influence entrainment and turbine passage survival of stocked adult White Sturgeon and stocked salmonids.
  - Review and describe aquatic habitat near intake areas at the Projects.
  - Review and describe the biological and behavioral characteristics of stocked salmonids and adult White Sturgeon.
  - Characterize the potential risk of entrainment for stocked species and calculate turbine passage survival for at-risk species.

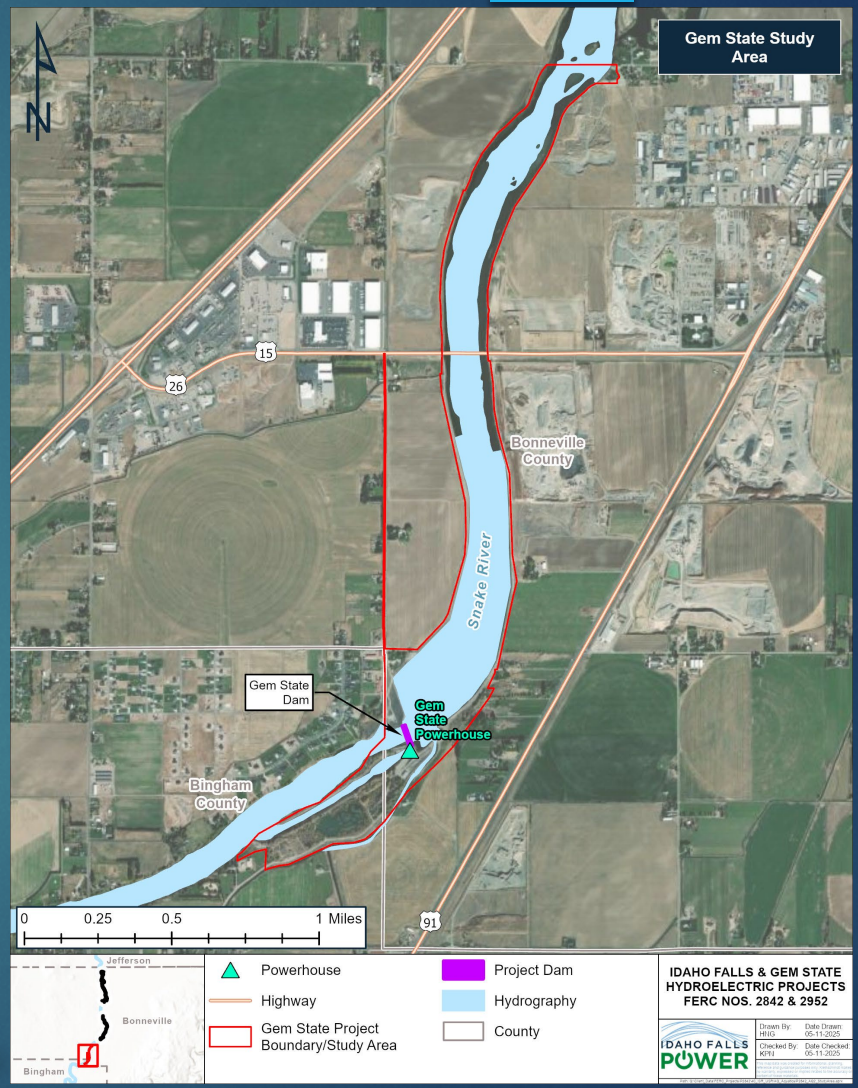


# Desktop Fish Entrainment Study (AQ-2)

## Study Area



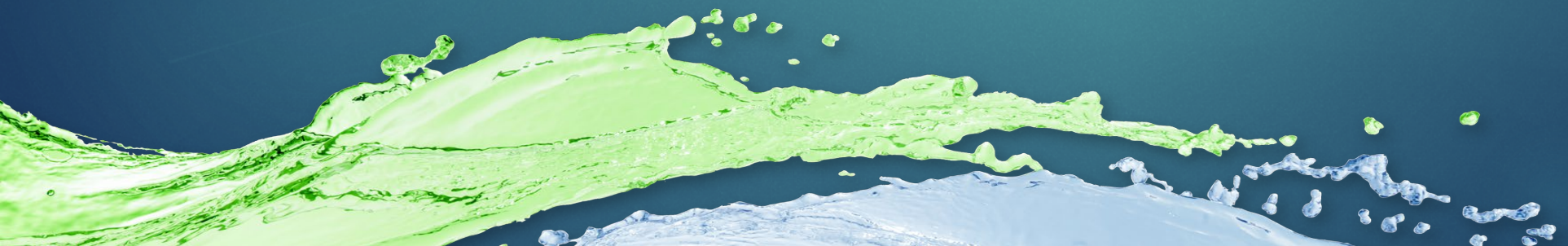



# Desktop Entrainment Study (AQ-2)
## Preliminary Data Summary

| Project | Turbine Type | Number of Turbines | Unit Effic. (%) | Bar Spacing (Trash Rack) | Rated Capacity (MW) | Rated Head (ft) | Rated Runner Speed (rpm) | Max. Net Head (ft) | Min. Net Head (ft) | Runner Diameter (ft) | Max Intake Flow (cfs) * Calculated value |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **IFP- Upper Plant** | Axial-flow, horizontal bulb, Kaplan runner and adjustable wicket gates | 1 | 93 | 6 in | 8.3 | 18 | 94.7 | 20.1 | 13.3 | 15.91 | 6,000 |
| **IFP- City Plant** | Axial-flow, horizontal bulb, Kaplan runner and adjustable wicket gates | 1 | 93 | 6 in | 8.3 | 18 | 94.7 | 20.1 | 13.3 | 15.91 | 6,000 |
| **IFP - Lower** | Axial-flow, horizontal bulb, Kaplan runner and adjustable wicket gates | 1 | 93 | 6 in | 8.3 | 18 | 94.7 | 20.1 | 13.3 | 15.91 | 6,000 |
| **IFP - Lower Historic** | Standby Morgan Smith turbines with axial-flow | 2 | 93 | 6 in | 1.5 | 18 | 138.5 | 20.1 | 13.3 | 10 | 1,200* |
| **Gem State** | Single Kaplan Vertical with adjustable-blade runner with wicket gates. | 1 | 95 | 6 in | 22.3 | 42 | 100 | 46.9 | 32.5 | 18.37 | 7,000 |

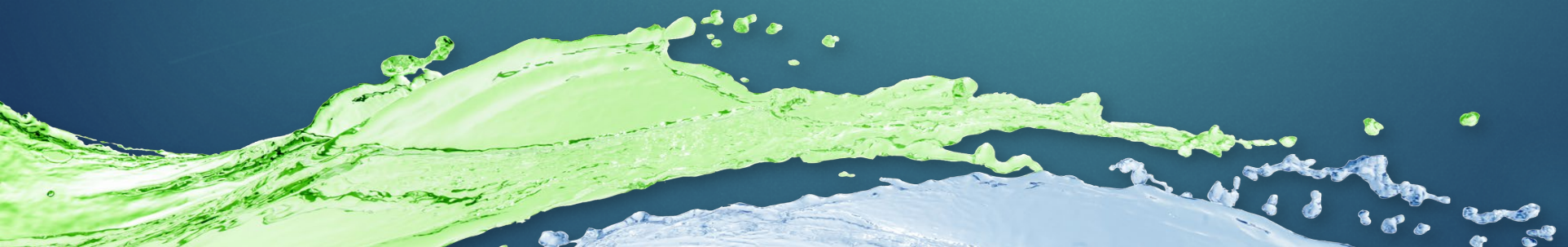
# Desktop Fish Entrainment Study (AQ-2)
## Status

| Status | Variances | Modifications |
|---|---|---|
| Spring 2025 – data collected, analysis to be conducted and summarized in Spring 2026 Draft Study Report<br><br>AQ-1 and AQ-3 data to inform report | - | If quantitative data are insufficient to execute Stryke program, qualitative information will be used to assess risk.<br><br>Brown Trout, Mountain Whitefish, and Smallmouth Bass were added to the species list. |

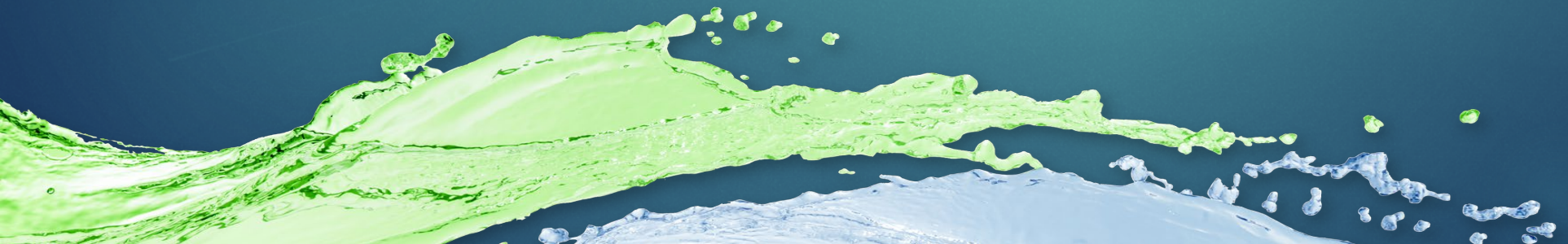


# Desktop Fish Entrainment Study (AQ-2)
## Schedule

| Date | Activity |
|---|---|
| **Fall 2025** | Data collection |
| **November 2025** | Data from AQ-1 and AQ-2 studies available |
| **February 2026** | Analysis of data, results summarized in Draft Study Report |
| **June 2026** | File Updated Study Report (USR) and meeting with stakeholders |
| **September 2026** | Distribute Final Study Report in Draft License Application (DLA) |
| **January 2027** | File Final License Application (FLA) |



# Questions?



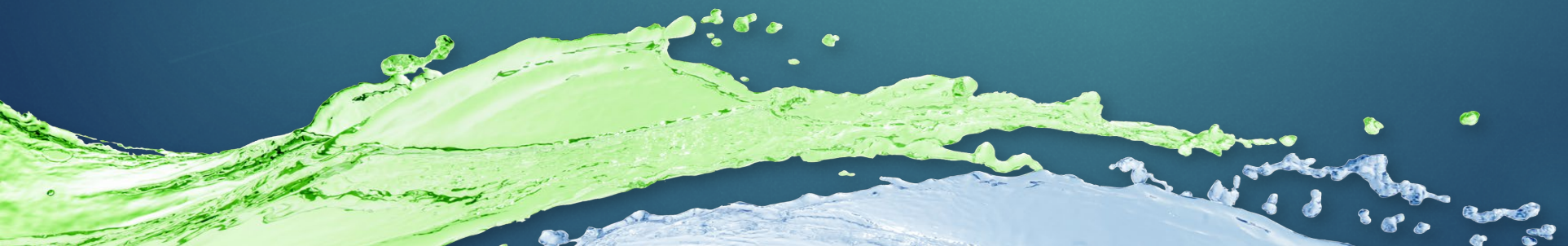


# Aquatic Habitat & Sediment Characterization (AQ-3)

# Aquatic Habitat & Sediment Characterization Study (AQ-3)

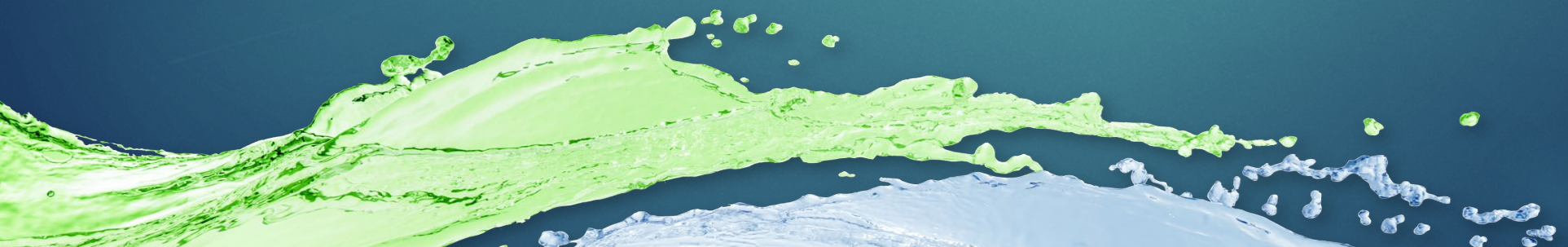
## Goals and Objectives

- **Goal:**
  - Inventory free-flowing aquatic habitats within the Project areas and determine how operations at each Project interact with existing aquatic habitats.
- **Objectives:**
  - Characterize and map aquatic habitat within the free-flowing sections of the Snake River located in the Project areas.
  - Identify potential spawning habitat for salmonids, characterize substrates, and definitive features (e.g., water velocity, substrates) within those areas.

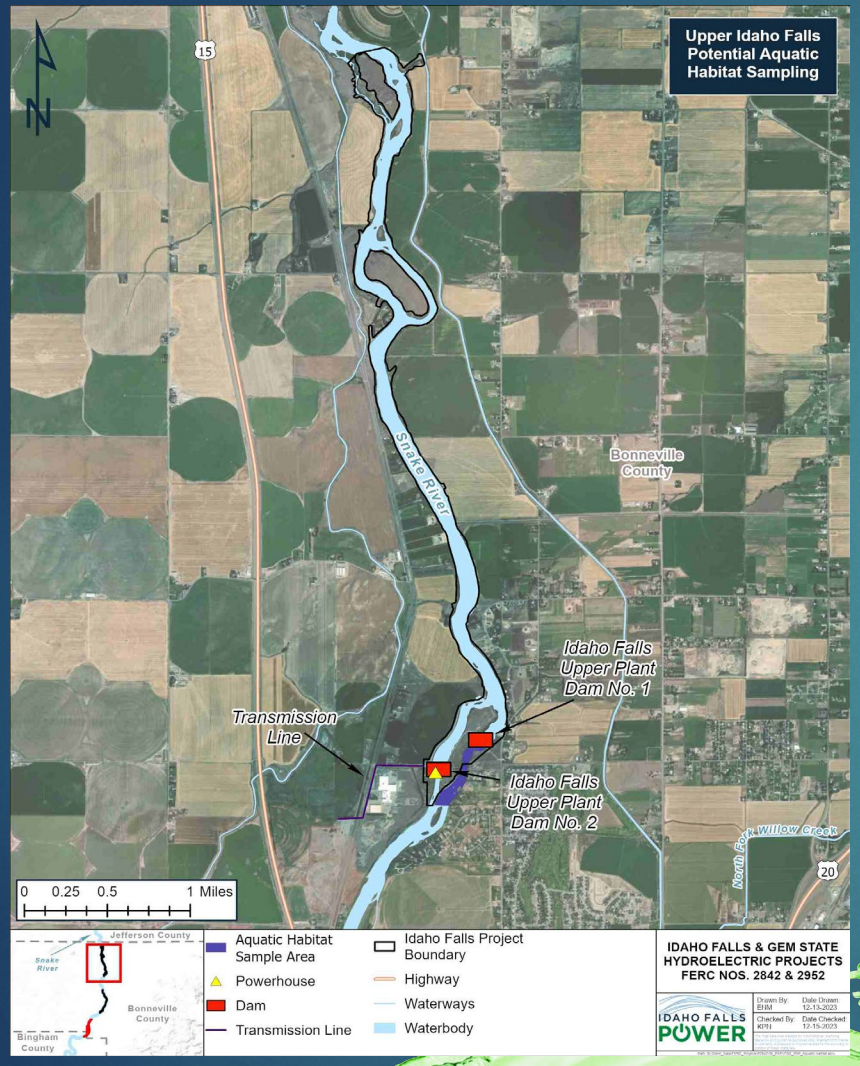


# Aquatic Habitat & Sediment Characterization Study (AQ-3)

- **Methods:**
  - Classify mesohabitat (e.g., riffles, runs, pools)
  - Identify potential salmonid spawning areas
  - Identify dominant substrate types (Wentworth Scale)
  - Water depth and velocity measurements
  - Assess instream cover (e.g., undercut banks, depth, woody debris, boulders)
  - Primarily wading (unless boating is necessary for access)

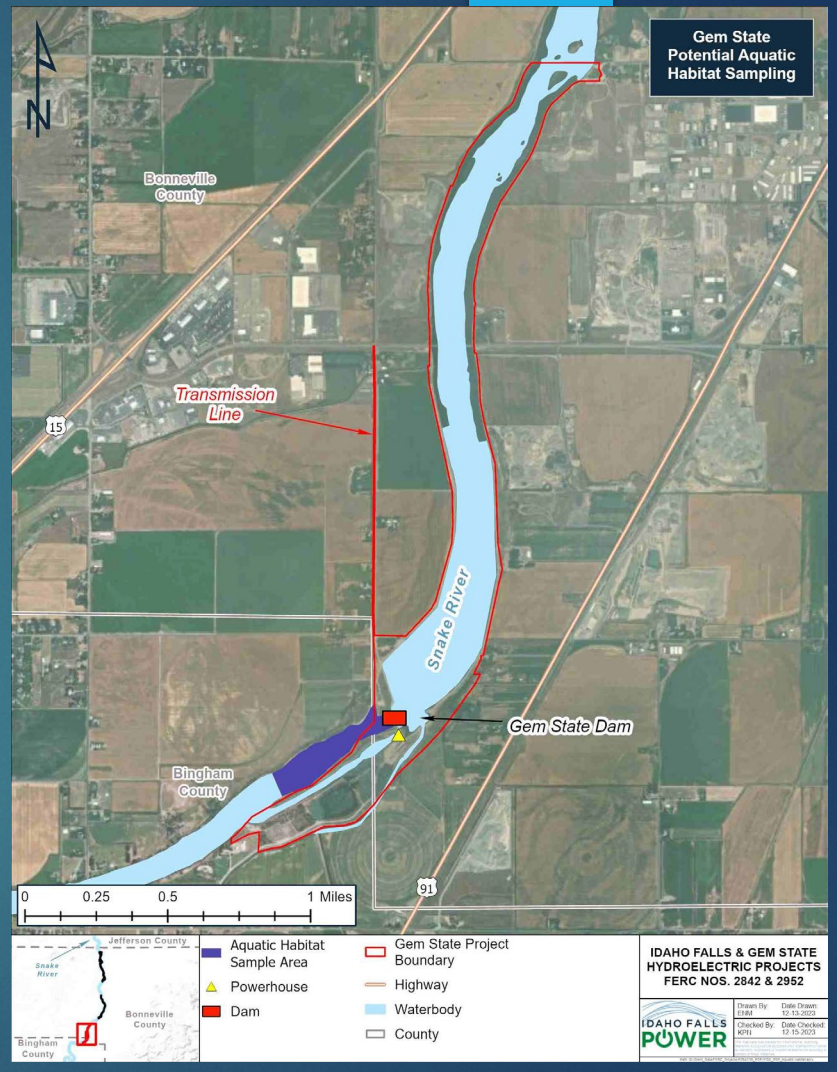


# Aquatic Habitat & Sediment Characterization Study (AQ-3)



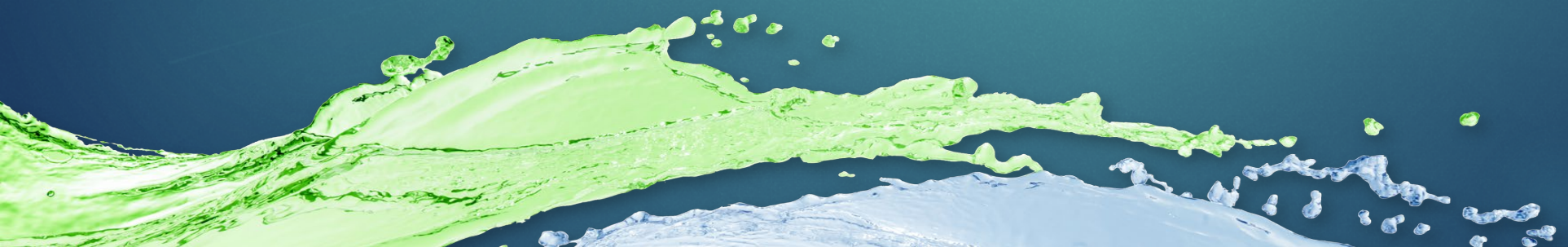






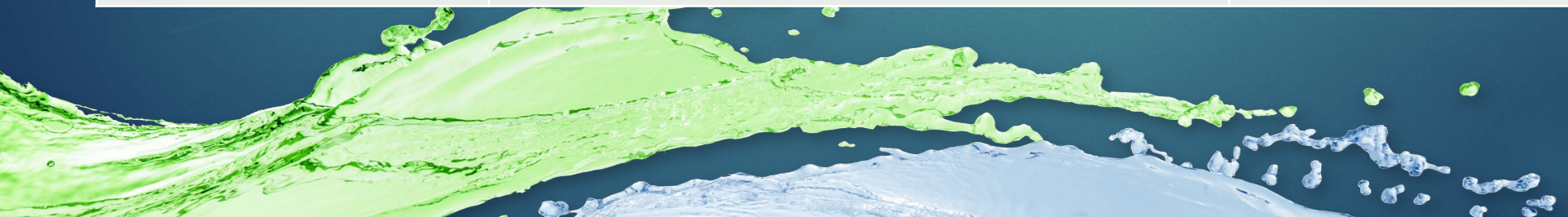
# Site Selection

- On **Wednesday July 23, 2025, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.** Idaho Falls Power is inviting any interested relicensing participants to join a site selection visit
- Purpose of site visit:
  - Identify suitable sampling locations
  - Review site accessibility (shoreline, boat launches, wading access, etc.) and safety issues
  - Note channel structure, instream habitat, and riparian conditions
  - Photograph and map suggested sampling sites
  - Assess any special concerns (e.g., landowner access, steep banks, debris)
- Please let us know if you are interested in participating; agenda to follow for those interested in participating



# Aquatic Habitat & Sediment Characterization Study (AQ-3)
## Status

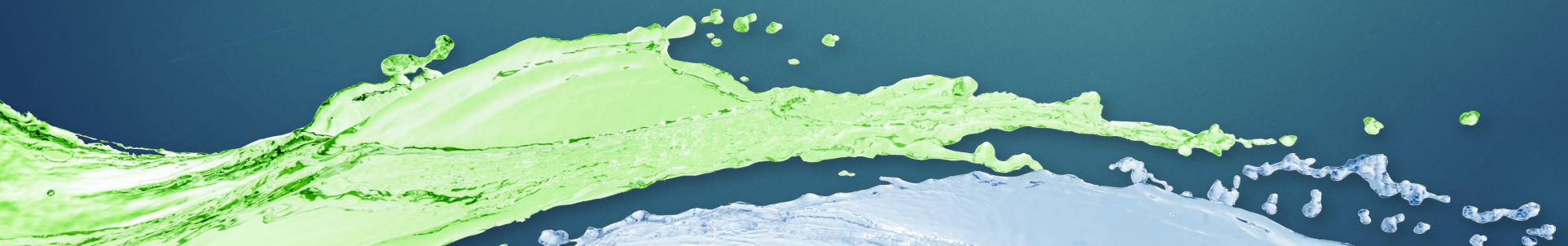
| Status | Variances | Modifications |
|---|---|---|
| Summer 2025 | Summer 2025 sampling shifted to fall 2025 to occur alongside AQ-1, with July site selection trip. | |
| Fall 2025 | | Sampling locations potentially shifted following July site selection trip.<br><br>Water velocity and depth measurements will be taken opportunistically with emphasis on suitable spawning habitats.<br><br>Water temperature and dissolved oxygen measurements will not be taken because these data are being collected in AQ-1 and WQ-1. |



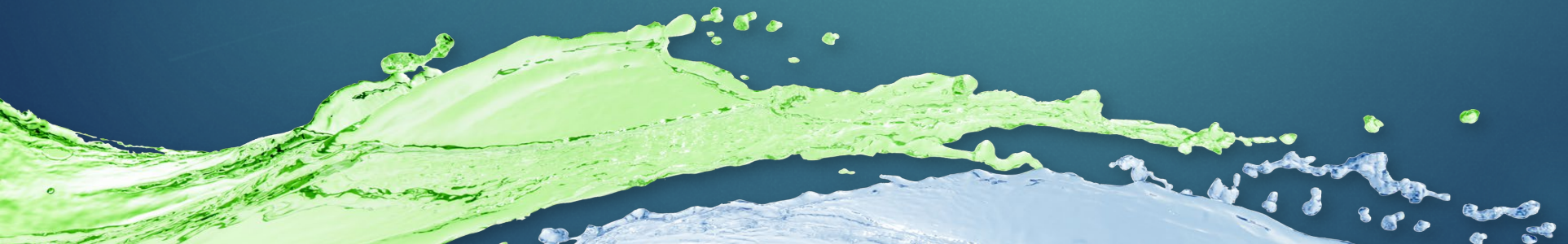
# Aquatic Habitat & Sediment Characterization Study (AQ-3)

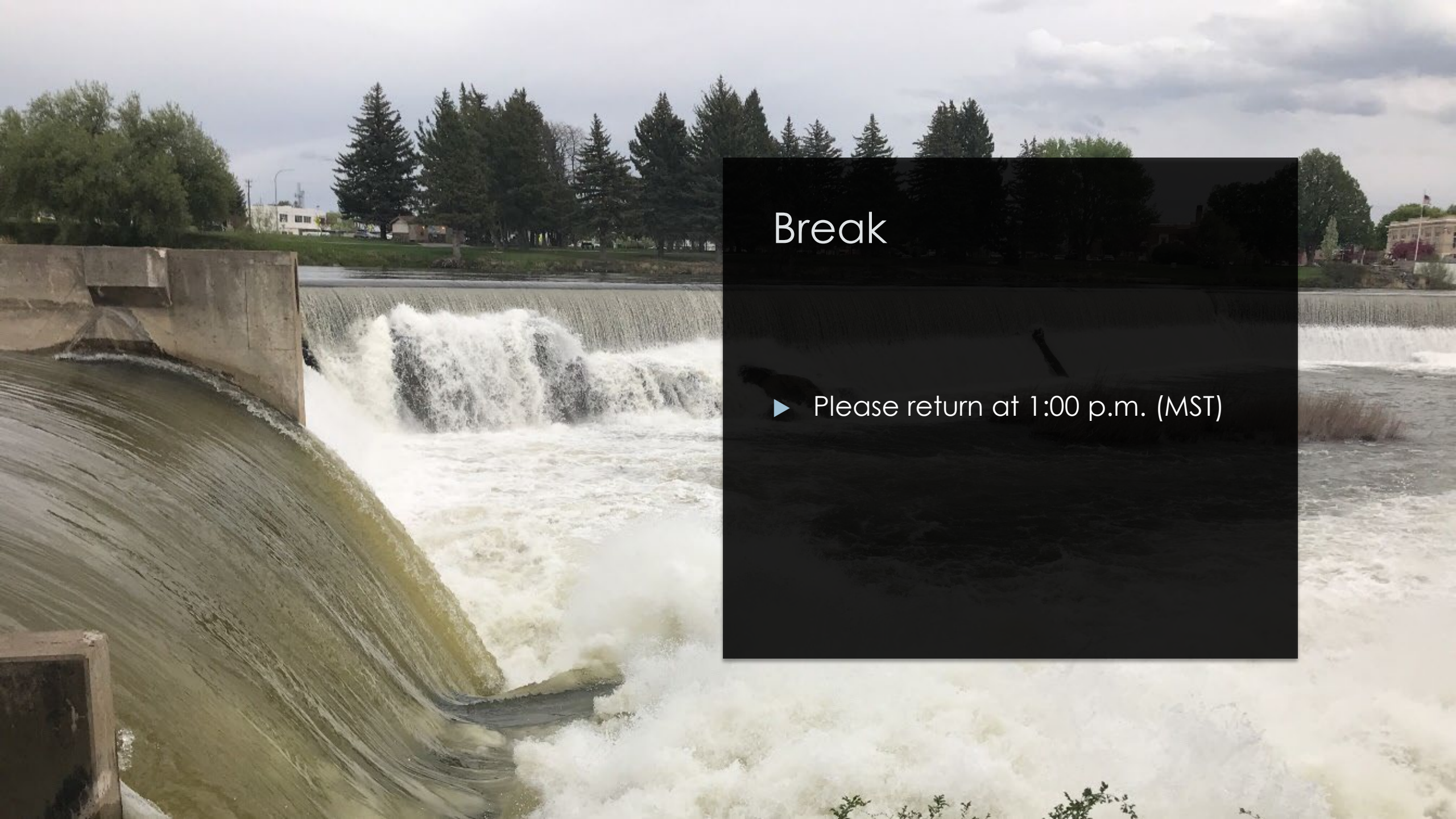
## Schedule

| Date | Activity |
|---|---|
| **Spring 2025** | Literature review – species spawning habitat requirements |
| **Summer 2025** | Reconnaissance/site selection meeting – July 23, 2025 |
| **Fall 2025** | Field work completion to align with AQ-1 Fish Assemblage fieldwork |
| **June 2026** | File Draft Study Report with Updated Study Report (USR) and meeting with stakeholders |
| **September 2026** | Distribute Final Study Report in Draft License Application (DLA) |
| **January 2027** | File Final License Application (FLA) |



# Questions?





# Break

- Please return at 1:00 p.m. (MST)

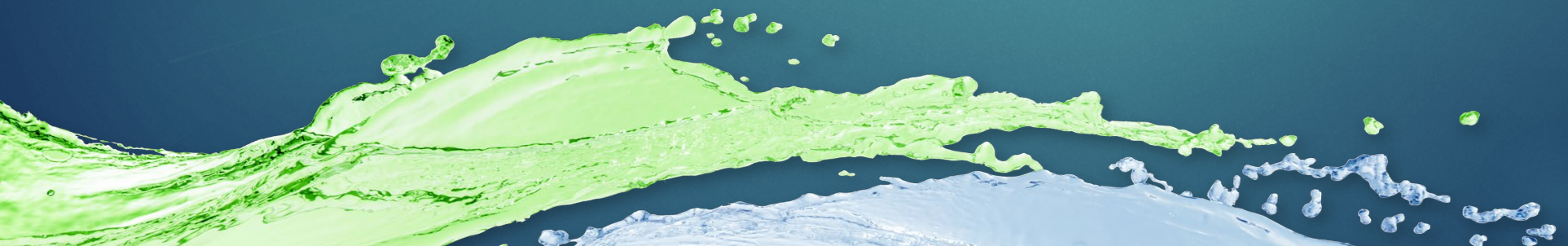


# Wildlife and Rare, Threatened, and Endangered (RTE) Species (TERR-2)

# Wildlife & Rare, Threatened, & Endangered (RTE) Species (TERR-2)
## Goal, Objectives, & Methods

- **Goal:**
  - Document existing wildlife and RTE species and identify the potential effects of the Project on these resources.
- **Objectives:**
  - Assess the abundance and general distribution of wildlife species in the study area.
  - Determine the potential presence of special-status wildlife during the breeding season, including yellow-billed cuckoo.
  - For those special-status species with high presence potential or those that have been determined to be present, assess the potential impact of the Projects.
  - Identify the potential effects of Projects' continued operations on habitats and associated wildlife within the study area.
  - Evaluate bird mortality from Project-specific power line strikes in the study area, with emphasis on the trumpeter swan.

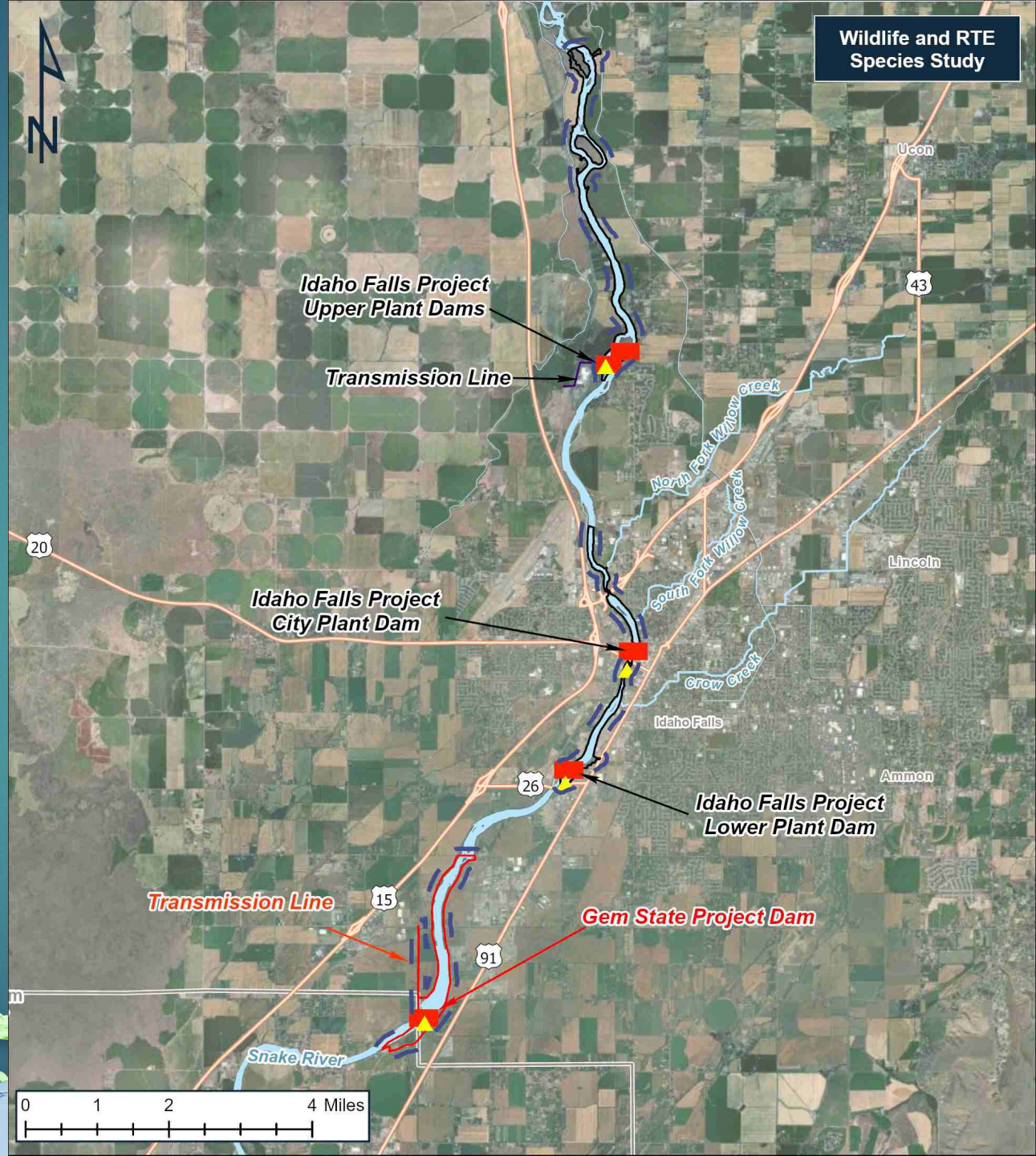
- **Methods**:
  - Literature Review
  - Field Surveys
  - General Wildlife
  - RTE Species
  - Avian Carcasses



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# Wildlife and Rare, Threatened, and Endangered (RTE) Species (TERR-2)

## Study Area



# Wildlife & Rare, Threatened, & Endangered (RTE) Species (TERR-2) Preliminary Data

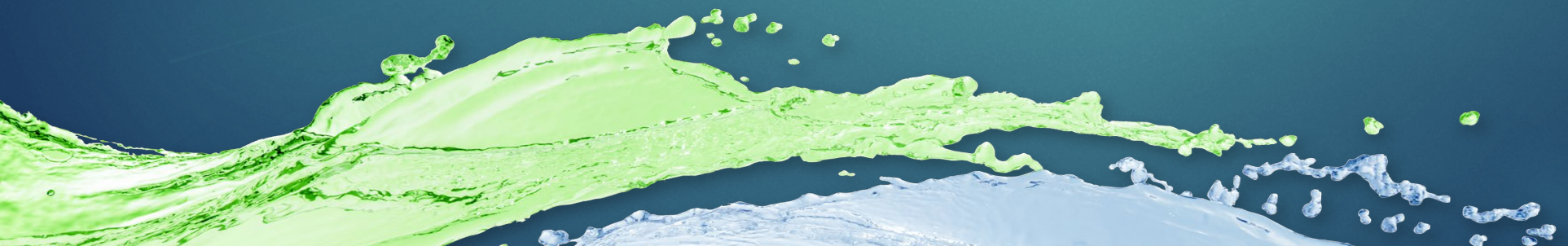
- Based on the desktop assessment of potential yellow-billed cuckoo (YBCU) (*Coccyzus americanus*) suitable habitat within the Project Boundaries and prior field surveys (TERR-1 Year 1), no suitable habitat for YBCU is expected. SWCA consulted with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) regarding this assessment and, on April 16, 2025, USFWS concurred. Thus, although suitable habitat is unlikely to be found within the Project Boundaries, TERR-2 field surveys will field-verify this assumption.

- Desktop analysis identified the following species with potential to occur in the study area:
  - 1 federally listed endangered species – Snake River physa (*Physella natricina*)
  - 1 proposed threatened species – monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*)
  - 1 proposed endangered species – Suckley's cuckoo bumble bee (*Bombus suckleyi*)

- Additionally, the desktop analysis identified 4 species under review, including little brown bat (*Myotis lucifugus*), pinyon jay (*Gymnorhinus cyanocephalus*), western bumble bee (*Bombus occidentalis*), and western ridged mussel (*Gonidea angulata*)

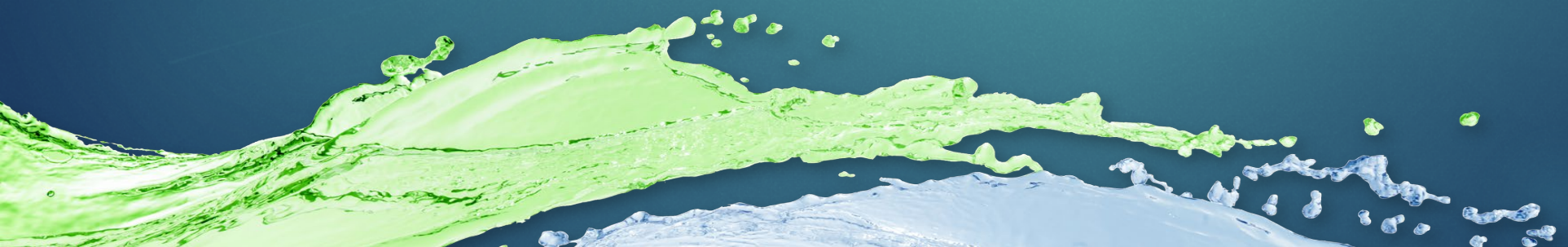
- The Suckley's cuckoo bumble bee, Snake River physa, and all four species under review are new RTE species not previously noted in the TERR-2 study plan

  - Tables of RTE species with potential to occur in the study area (and ESA status information) and state-listed species and species with other conservation status that may occur in the study area are included in the Wildlife & RTE Species (TERR-2) technical memo



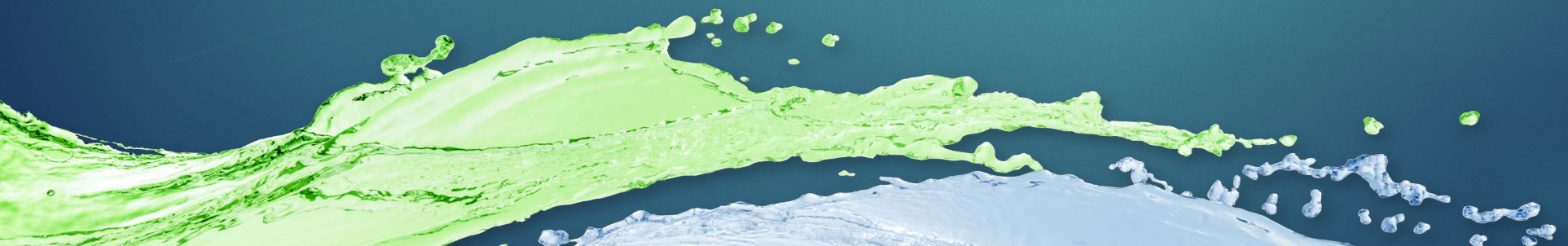
# Wildlife & Rare, Threatened, & Endangered (RTE) Species (TERR-2) Status

| Status | Variances | Modifications |
|---|---|---|
| Fall 2024 | Avian carcass surveys delayed from fall 2024 to fall 2025 following refinement of transmission lines and easement coordination. | - |



# Wildlife & Rare, Threatened, & Endangered (RTE) Species (TERR-2) Schedule

| Date | Study Plan Development Milestones |
|---|---|
| April 2025 | Literature Review |
| June 2025 | File ISR and general wildlife and RTE species field surveys |
| Fall 2025 – Spring 2026 | Avian Carcass Surveys |
| June 2026 | File Updated Study Report (USR) and meeting |
| September 2026 | Distribute Final Study Report in Draft License Application (DLA) |
| January 2027 | File Final License Application (FLA) |







Trumpeter swan and Western yellow-billed cuckoo, USFWS

# Questions?



# Botanical Resources (TERR-1)



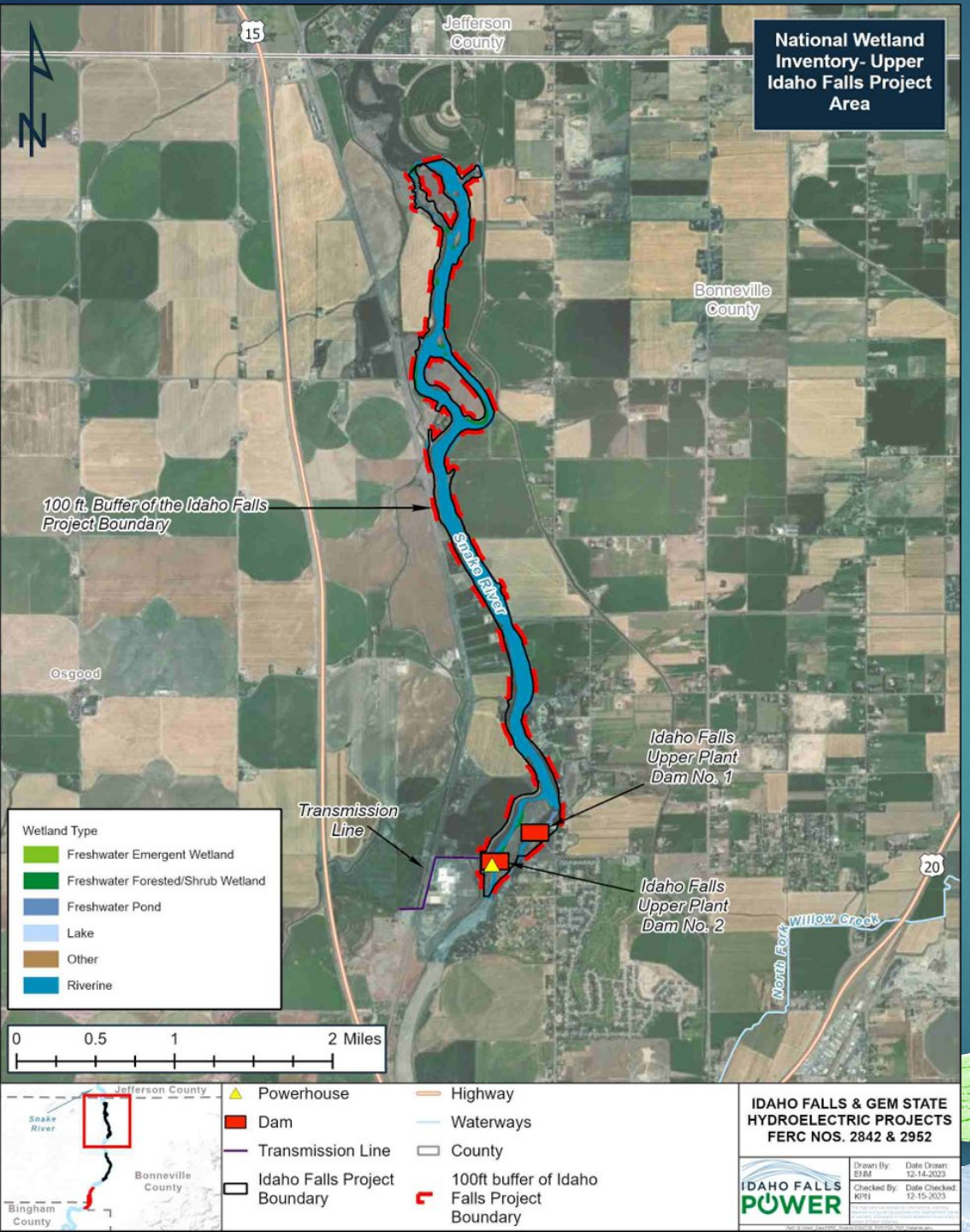
Ute Lady's Tresses (*Spiranthes diluvialis*).
Photo Charmaine Delmatier.

# Botanical Resources (TERR-1)

## Goals, Objective, & Methods

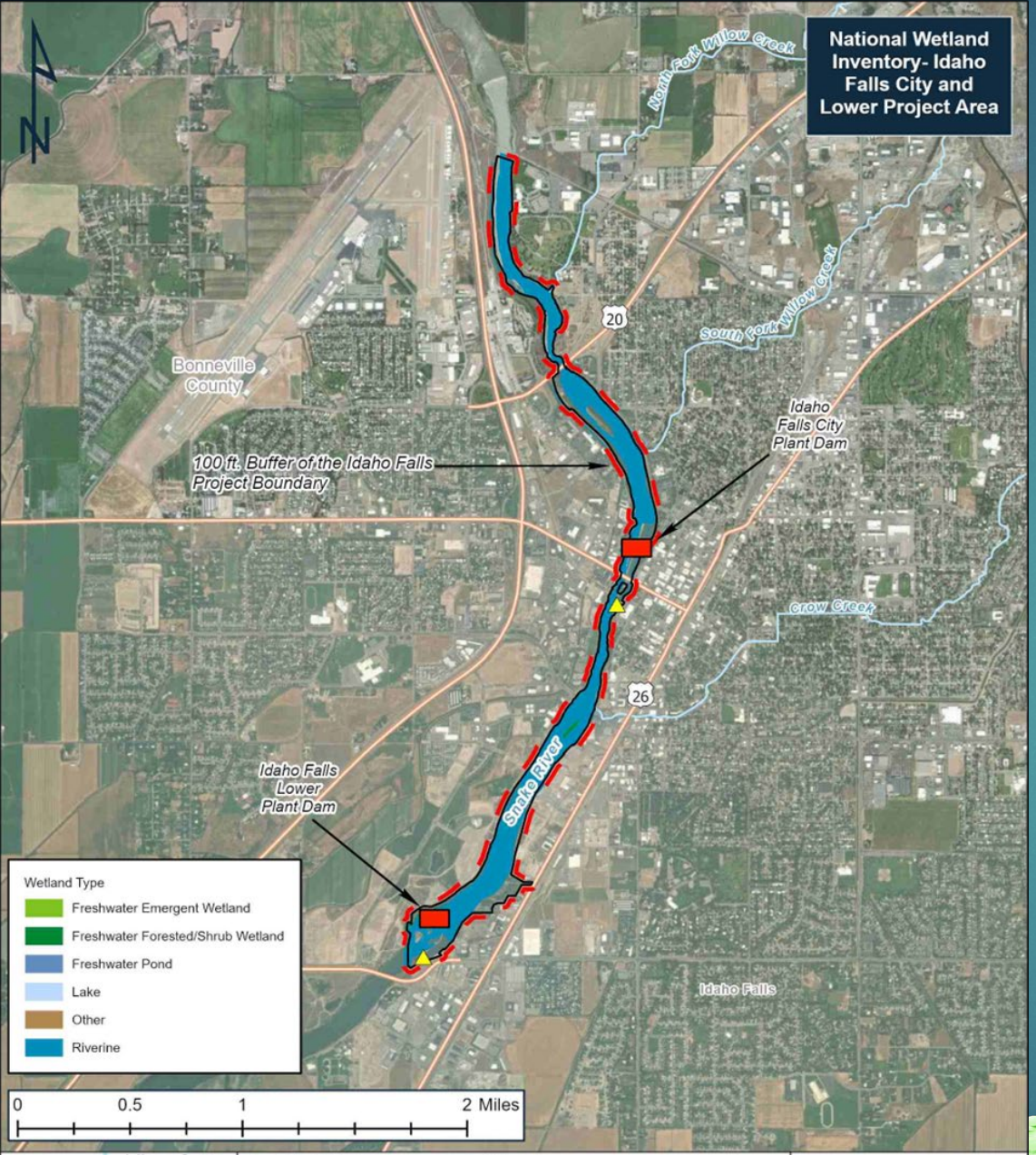
- **Goals:**
  - Identify if there is suitable habitat for special status, ESA-listed, and invasive plant species in the Idaho Falls Project and Gem State Project Boundaries (if suitable habitat is present, evaluate extent of species distribution and associated habitat).
  - Assess and evaluate the extent of cottonwood and willow wetland habitat within the Project Boundaries.
- **Objective:**
  - Gather sufficient data necessary to fill gaps in existing information.

- **Methods:**
  - Desktop Analysis
  - Habitat Assessment
  - Field Surveys
  - Agency Coordination



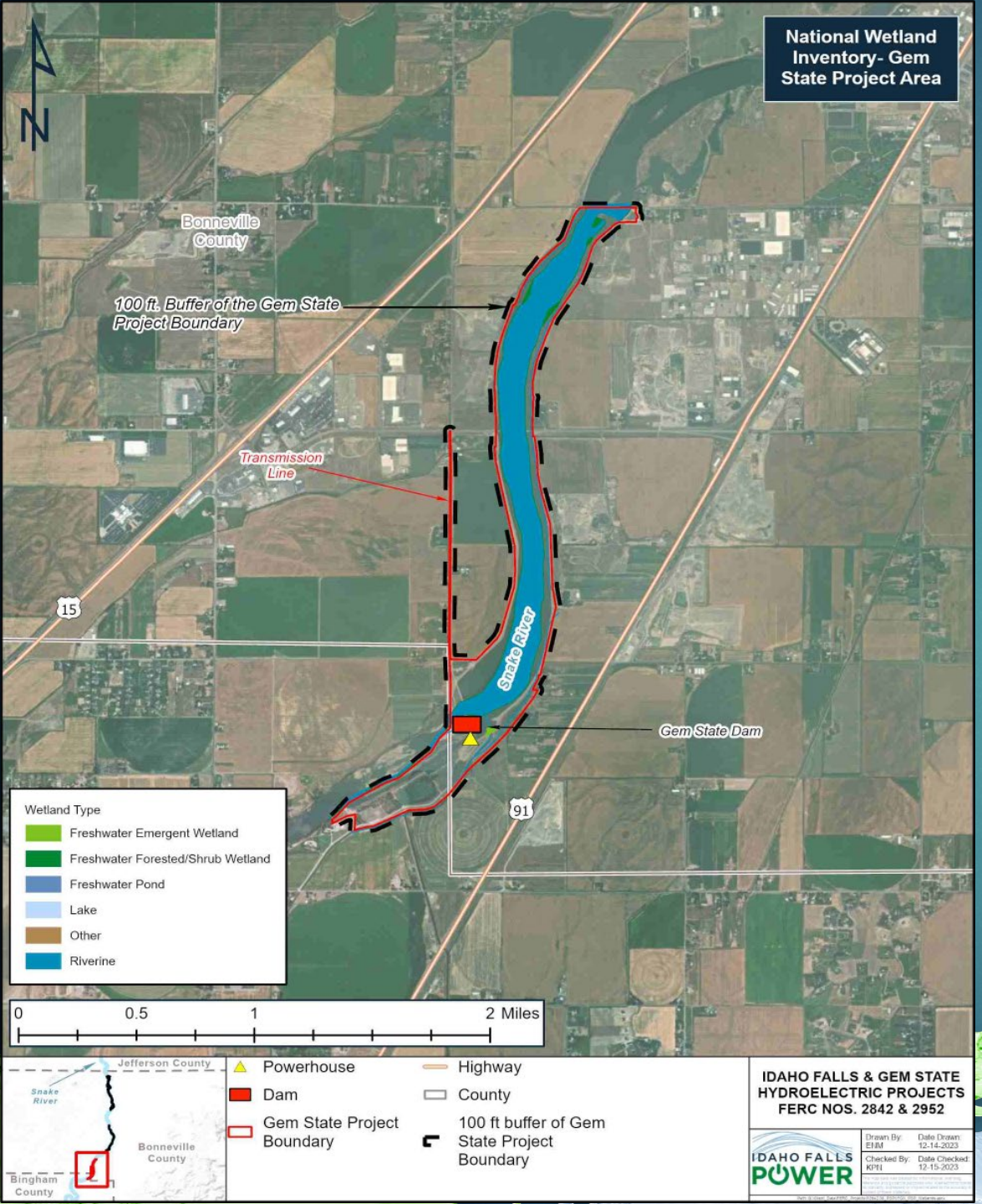

# Botanical Resources (TERR-1)

## Study Area (1)




# Botanical Resources (TERR-1)

## Study Area (2)




# Botanical Resources (TERR-1)

## Study Area (3)

# Botanical Resources (TERR-1)
## Preliminary Data Summary

- 378 acres of high potential suitable habitat.
- Although no occurrences of Ute ladies'-tresses (ULT) were found within the study area, approximately 0.76 acres of suitable habitat was mapped during the initial habitat assessment in 2024.
- ~34.35 acres of cottonwood and willow habitat and 57.97 acres of flowering or budding noxious or invasive plant species were mapped.

**Special status plant species identified in the study area**

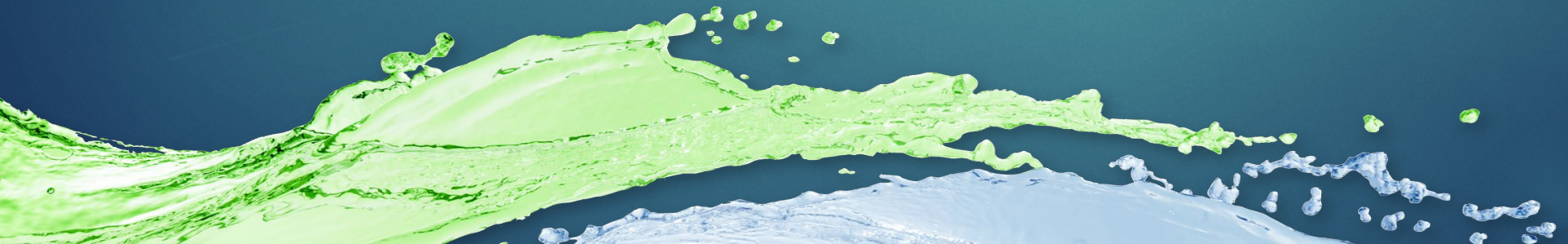
| U.S. Department of Agriculture Plant Code | Scientific Name | Common Name | Status |
|---|---|---|---|
| ACNE2 | *Acer negundo* | boxelder | SNR, G5 |
| ACSA2 | *Acer saccharinum* | silver maple | G5 |
| AGCR | *Agropyron cristatum* | crested wheatgrass | SNA, G5 |
| ASSP | *Asclepias speciosa* | showy milkweed | SNR, G5 |
| BRIN2 | *Bromus inermis* | smooth brome or awnless brome | SNR, G5 |
| BRTE | *Bromus tectorum* | cheatgrass | SNA, GNR |
| CAREX | *Carex sp.* | sedge | -- |
| ELAN | *Elaeagnus angustifolia* | Russian olive | SNA, GNR |
| EPCA3 | *Epilobium canum* | hummingbird trumpet | SNR, G5 |
| EQHY | *Equisetum hyemale* | scouringrush horsetail or rough horsetail | SNR, G5 |
| FRVE2 | *Fraxinus velutina* | velvet ash | -- |
| MEOF | *Melilotus officinalis* | sweetclover | SNA, GNR |
| MESA | *Medicago sativa* | alfalfa | SNA, GNR |
| POAN3 | *Populus angustifolia* | narrowleaf cottonwood | SNR, G5 |
| SAEX | *Salix exigua* | narrowleaf willow | SNR, G5 |
| SCAC | *Schoenoplectus acutus* | hardstem bulrush | SNR, G5 |
| TAVU | *Tanacetum vulgare* | common tansy | SNA, GNR |
| TYLA | *Typha latifolia* | broadleaf cattail | SNR, G5 |
| ULMUS | *Ulmus sp.* | elm | -- |

**Noxious weeds identified in the study area**

| U.S. Department of Agriculture Plant Code | Scientific Name | Common Name | Status |
|---|---|---|---|
| ACRE3 | *Acroptilon repens* | Russian knapweed or hardheads | SNA, GNR, Statewide Control List[1] |
| CANU4 | *Carduus nutans* | nodding plumeless thistle or musk thistle | SNA, GNR, Statewide Control List[1] |
| CEST8 | *Centaurea stoebe* | spotted knapweed | GNR, Statewide Containment List[2] |
| COAR4 | *Convolvulus arvensis* | field bindweed | SNA, GNR, Statewide Containment List[2] |

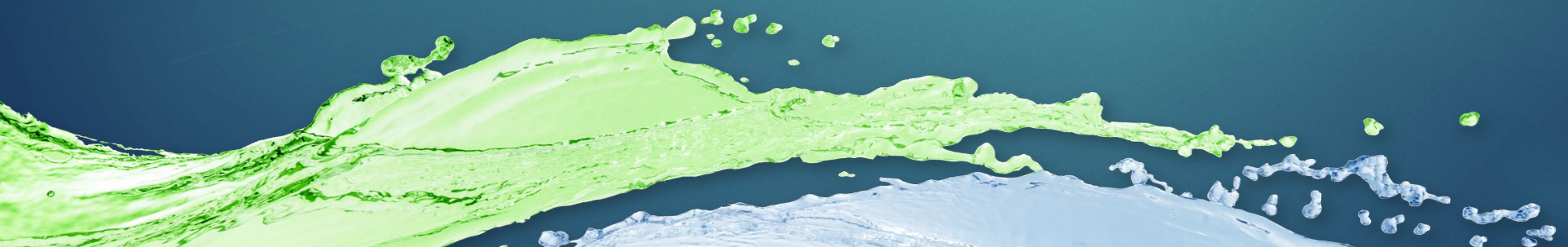
# Botanical Resources (TERR-1)
## Preliminary Data Summary
## Idaho Falls Project

- 12 discrete locations determined to comprise suitable habitat for ULT
  - Upper Plant – 0.57 acres
  - City Plant – 0.15 acres
  - Lower Plant – 0.03 acres
  - Total = 0.76 acres
- **No ULT occurrences found**
- ~13.66 acres of cottonwood and willow habitat mapped
- ~1.12 acres of flowering or budding noxious or invasive plant species mapped (including spotted knapweed and musk thistle)
- No incidental observations of saltcedar



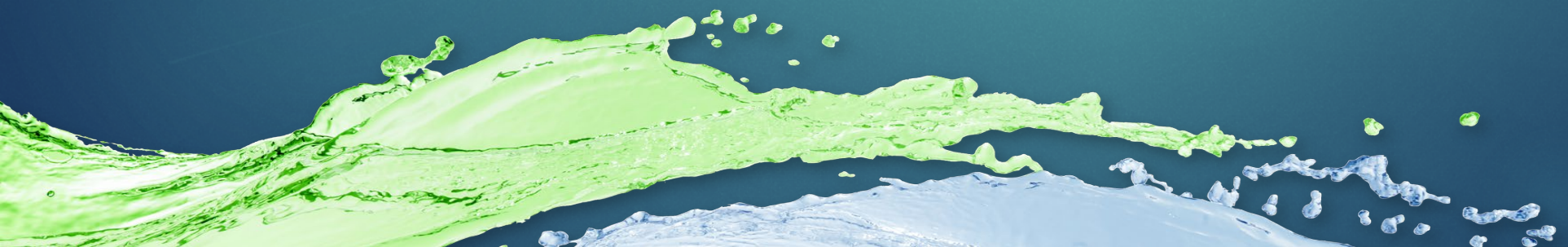
# Botanical Resources (TERR-1)
## Preliminary Data Summary
## Gem State Project

- ~20.69 acres of cottonwood and willow habitat were mapped
- No suitable habitat for ULT found and no ULT occurrences
- ~56.86 acres of flowering or budding noxious or invasive plant species mapped (including spotted knapweed, musk thistle, and field bindweed)
- No incidental observations of saltcedar

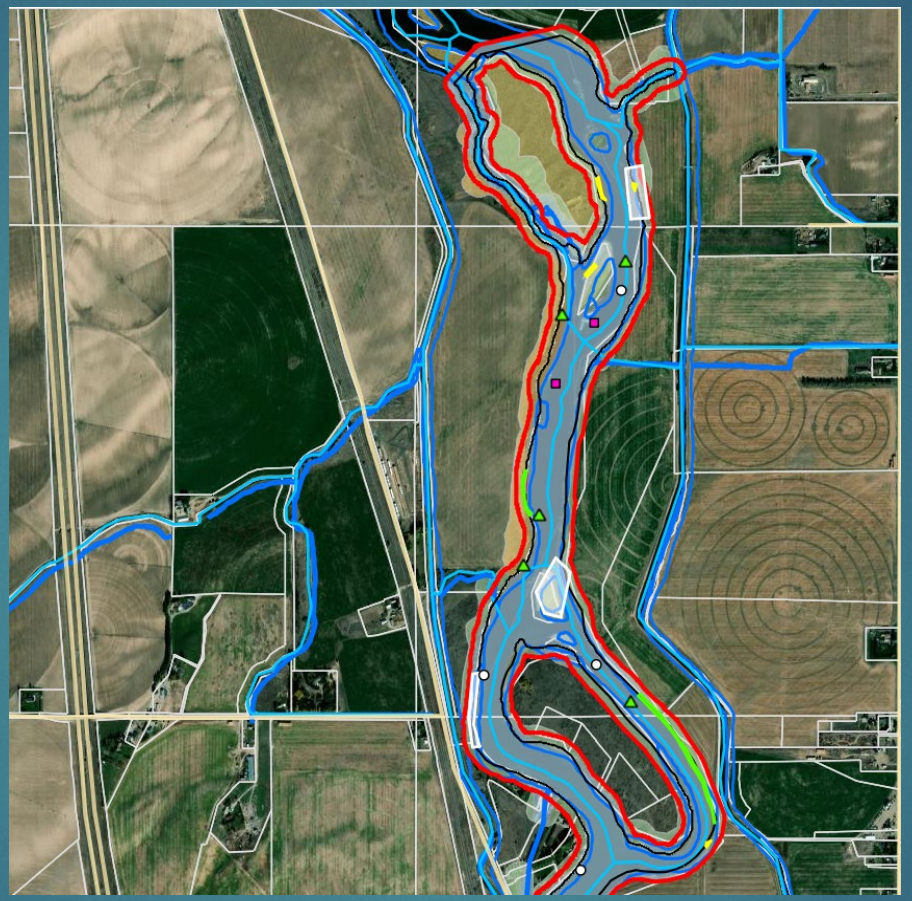


# Botanical Resources (TERR-1)
## Status

| Status | Variances | Modifications |
|---|---|---|
| Summer 2024 | Survey area extent changed in response to field conditions. Private parcels (within buffer) surrounding the northernmost portion of Upper Plant prohibited access by foot, requiring the team to access the reach by boat. Upon boating up the reach, various islands within that segment were determined to be inaccessible due to dense vegetation and low water levels, which prohibited the team from safely disembarking from the boat.<br><br>The field crew will attempt to access this area in summer 2025. | - |

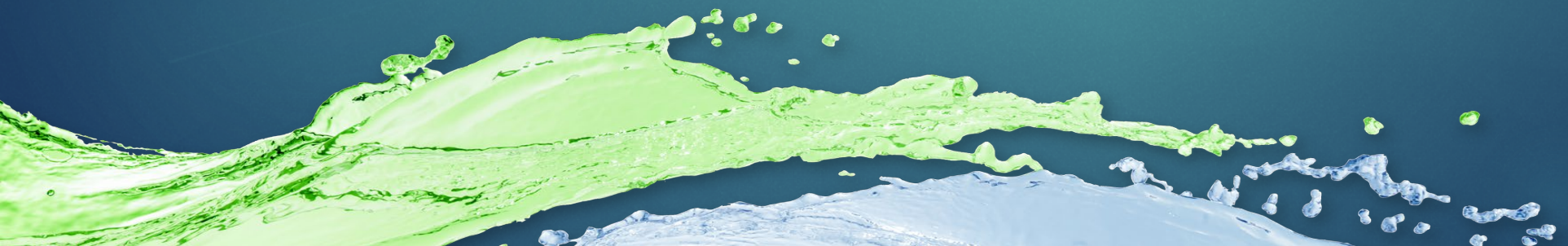


# Botanical Resources (TERR-1)
## Status

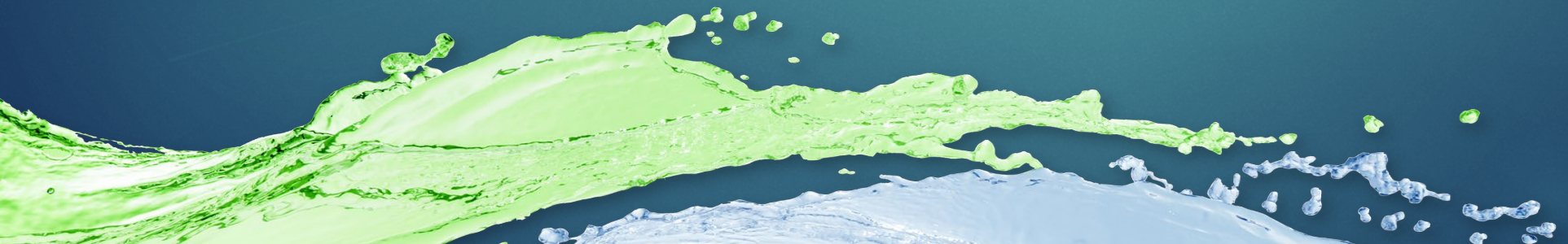


# Botanical Resources (TERR-1)
## Schedule

| Date | Activity |
|---|---|
| **June 2025** | Distribute ISR technical memo and meeting with stakeholders |
| **Summer 2025** | Conduct followup field surveys (i.e., Year 2 of ULT presence/absence surveys) |
| **Fall/Winter 2025** | Resolve comments received on the ISR technical memo and prepare Final Study Report |
| **June 2026** | File Updated Study Report (USR) and meeting with stakeholders |
| **September 2026** | Distribute Final Study Report in Draft License Application (DLA) |
| **January 2027** | File Final License Application (FLA) |



# Questions?





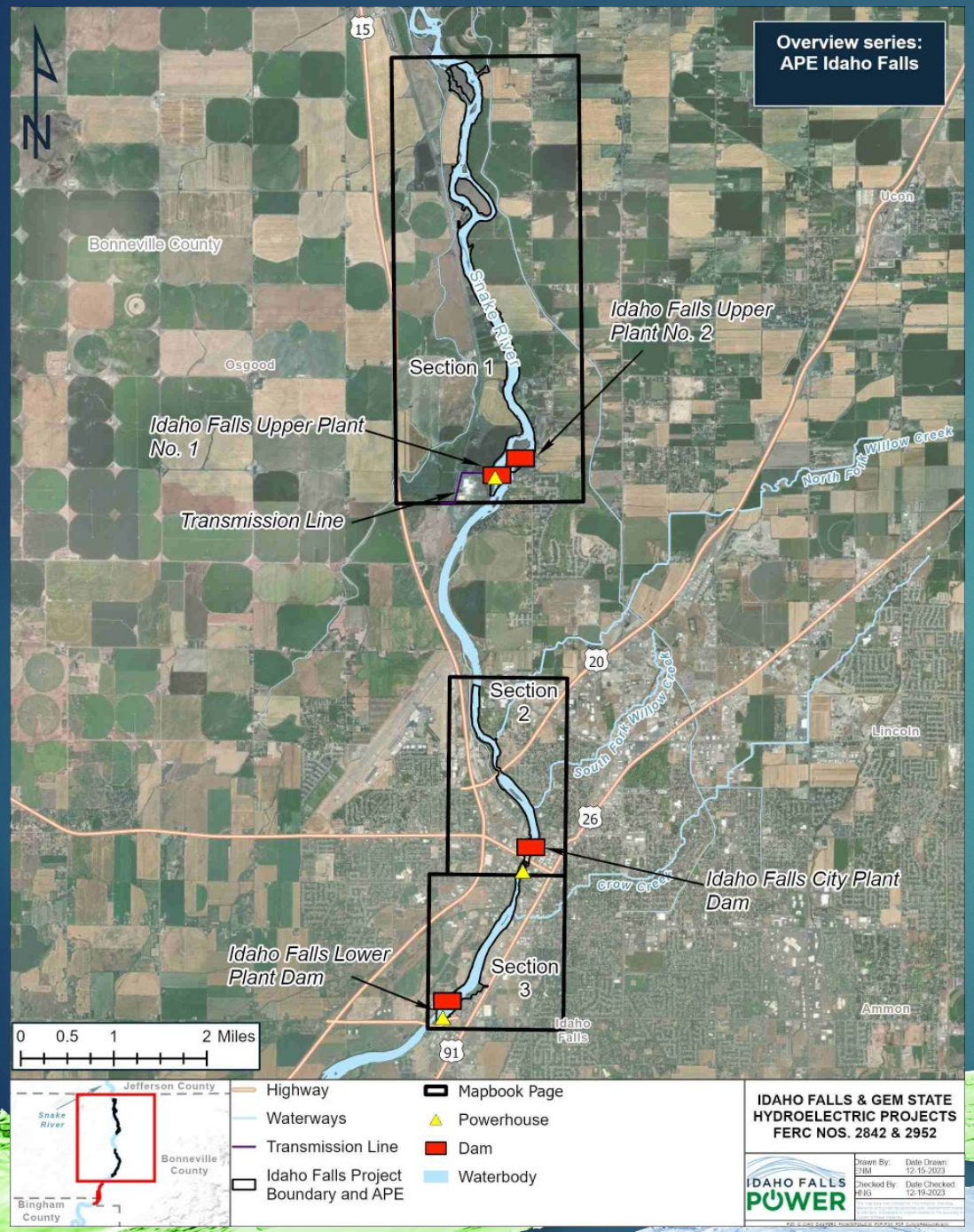
# Cultural Resources (CR-1)

# Cultural Resources (CR-1)
## Goals & Objectives

- **Goals:**
  - Assess potential impacts to historic properties associated with O&M activities at both Projects.
  - Ensure future Project facilities and operations are consistent with the cultural resources management goals of land-holding agencies, interested historic parties, and Tribal cultural entities.

- **Objectives:**
  - Identify and document archaeological and historic-era properties within the Area of Potential Effects (APE).
  - Evaluate National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) eligibility for properties identified within the Project APE.
  - Determine potential Project effects on NRHP-eligible or listed archaeological and historic-era properties within the APE.



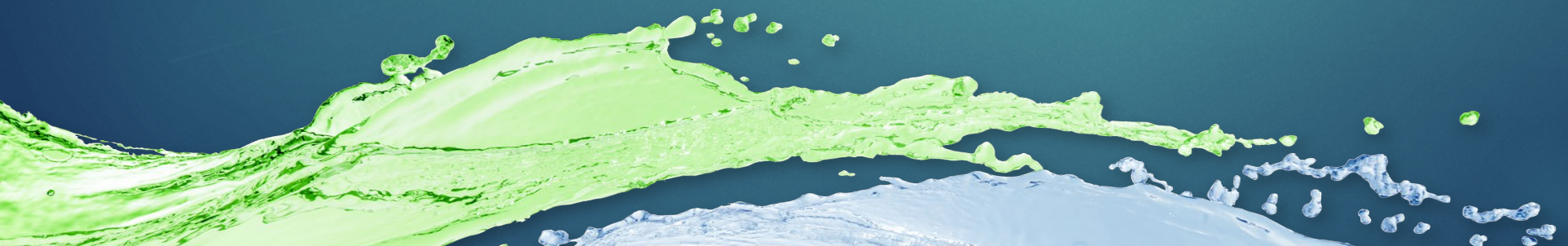



# Cultural Resources (CR-1)

## Study Area

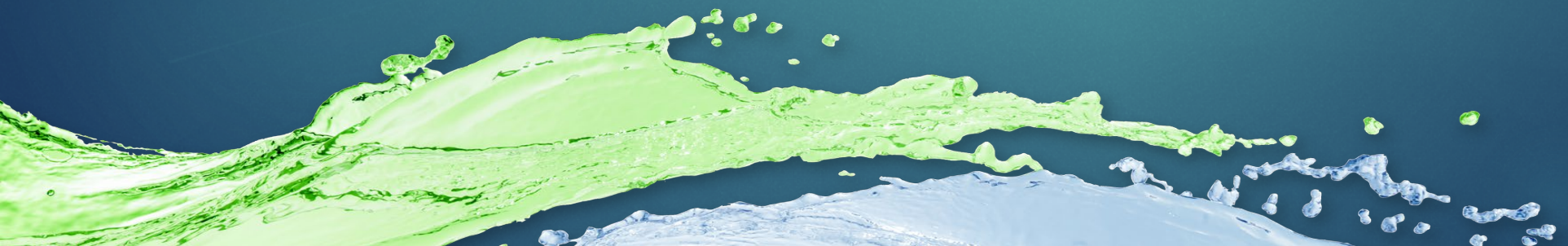
# Cultural Resources (CR-1)
## Preliminary Data

- Field surveys for archeology and historic architecture were completed in June 2025.
- Architectural surveys documented 43 locations including the Upper Plant, City Plant, Lower Plant, and Gem State Dam.
- Archaeological surveys documented five locations.
- A large, precontact archaeological site plotted within the cultural resources study area that was originally recorded in 1977 and then subject to archaeological excavation was not relocated and no cultural materials were observed at its plotted location.
- The Eagle Rock Ferry site was nominated for the National Register of Historic Places in 1972 and is plotted within the cultural resources study area. No physical evidence for the site was observed during archaeological field surveys.



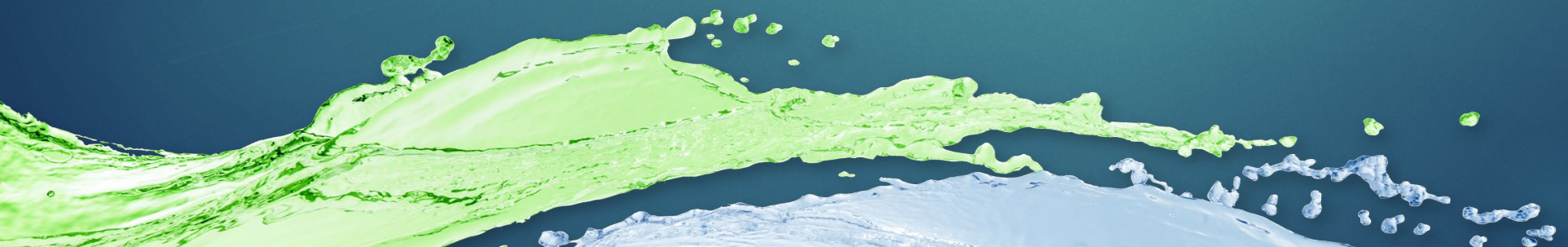
# Cultural Resources (CR-1)
## Status

| Status | Variances | Modifications |
|---|---|---|
| Fall 2024 | Field crews were unable to access portions of the survey area due to dense vegetation and were not subject to archaeological investigation. Water levels prohibited safe access by boat to small island at north end of Gem State; revisited and observed erosion precluding presence of archaeological resources. | |

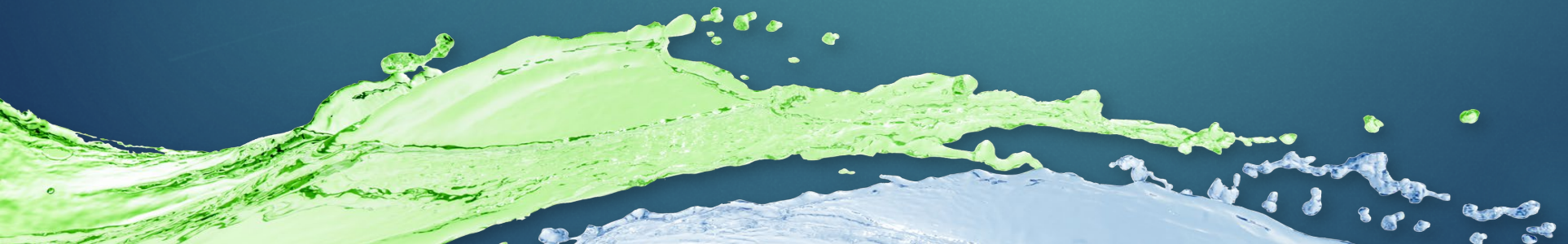


# Cultural Resources (CR-1)
## Schedule

| Date | Activity |
|---|---|
| **Summer 2025** | Conduct additional archaeological and architecture surveys |
| | File Archaeological and Architectural Technical Reports with Idaho SHPO |
| **June 2026** | File Updated Study Report (USR) and meeting with stakeholders |
| **September 2026** | Distribute Final Study Report (confidential) in Draft License Application (DLA) |
| **January 2027** | File Final License Application (FLA) |



# Questions?





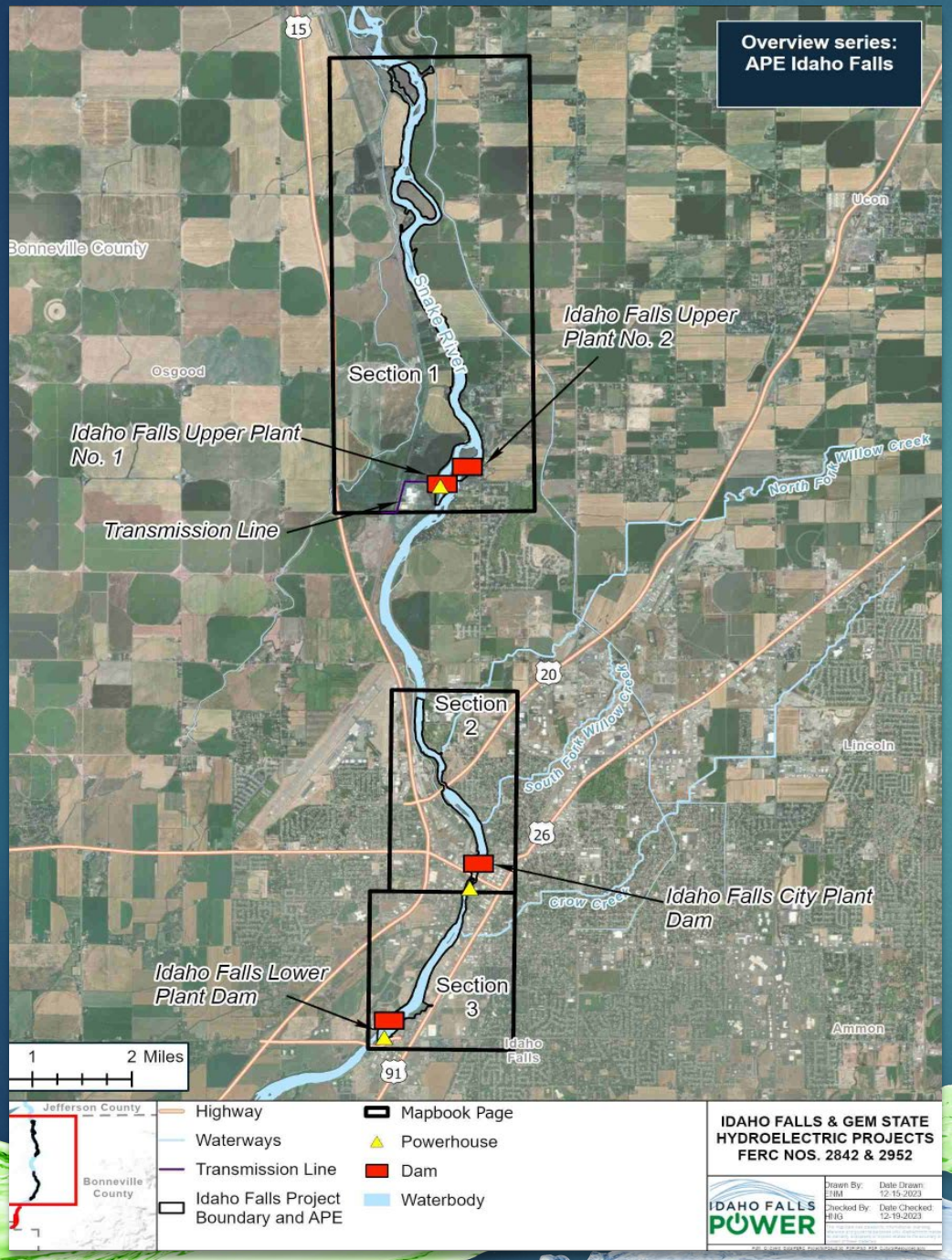
# Tribal Resources (TR-1)



# Tribal Resources (TR-1) Goals & Objectives

- **Goals:**
  - Identify Tribal resources that may be affected by the undertaking through archival research, oral interviews, field inspections, and targeted site visits to ensure that O&M of the Projects does not impact such places.

- **Objectives:**
  - Research, identify, and document known Indian Trust Assets, Traditional Cultural Properties, Tribal economic ventures, relevant Tribal agreements, and other resources of traditional, cultural, or religious importance to the Native American community that may potentially be affected by the Projects within or immediately adjacent to the proposed Area of Potential Effects (APE).
  - Conduct outreach and interviews with Tribal governments and their representatives.
  - Evaluate each identified Tribal resource for eligibility and inclusion in the NRHP.
  - Identify and describe potential impacts to Tribal resources from existing and proposed future O&M of the Projects .

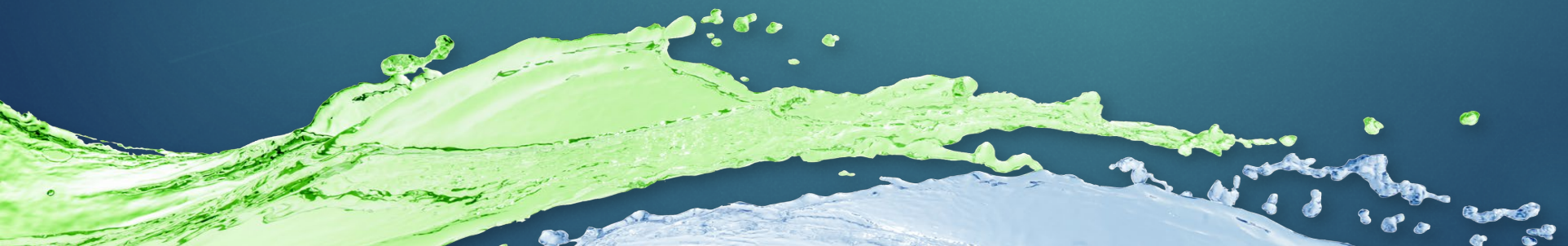



# Tribal Resources (TR-1)

## Study Area

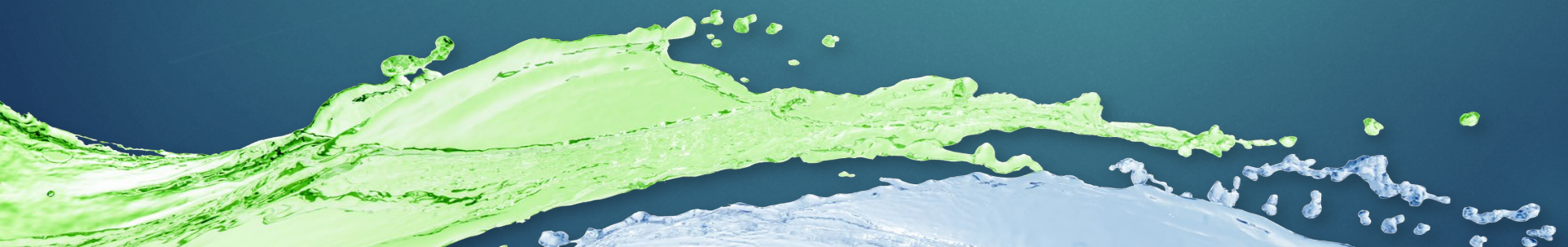
# Tribal Resources (TR-1)
## Preliminary Data

- October 2024 – Archival research began and is ongoing
- Archaeologists revisited mapped locations of three previously recorded sites; no cultural materials visible at any locations
- November 2024 – Following survey, oral interviews and site visit offered with interested Tribal representatives. The Tribal Resources (TRI-1) technical memo to be filed as confidential on the FERC docket
- May 2025 – The Shoshoni-Paiute Tribes of the Duck Valley Indian Reservation expressed their interest in participating with oral interviews. Coordination with the Tribe to conduct those interviews is ongoing



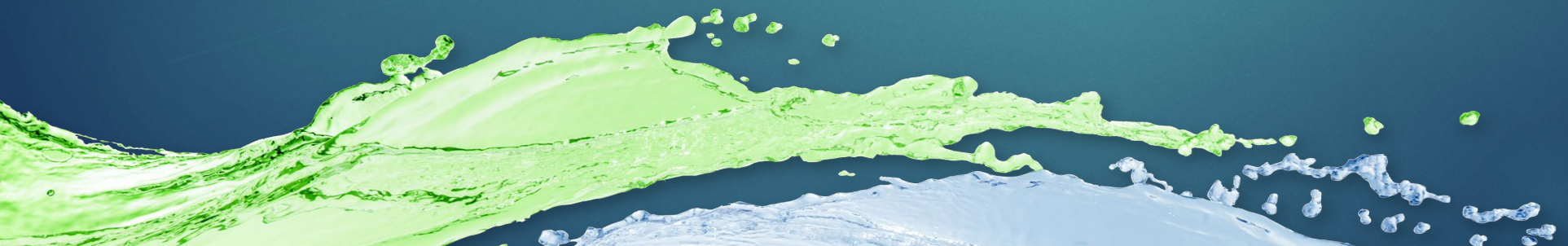
# Tribal Resources (TR-1)
## Status

| Status | Variances | Modifications |
|---|---|---|
| TR-1 delayed due to CR-1 delays | Due to CR-1 fieldwork delay (administrative/boat access), TR-1 research, oral interviews, and site visit did not begin until May/June 2025 after the Class III survey was completed. If any Tribal resources are identified, IFP will conduct an NRHP evaluation and include it in an interim report for SHPO review. | |

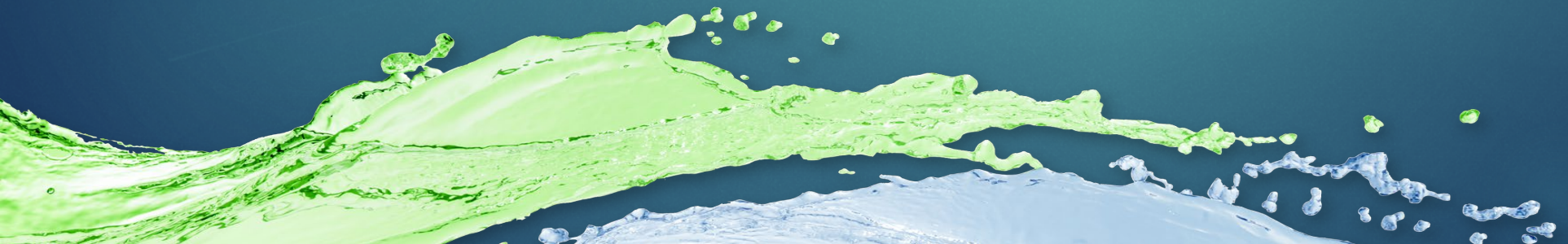


# Tribal Resources (TR-1)
## Schedule

| Date | Activity |
|---|---|
| **Winter 2024** | Compile study data and conduct analyses (if applicable to study) |
| **May/June 2025** | Conduct oral interviews |
| **August/September 2025** | Host site visit, if requested by Tribal participants |
| **October 2025** | Conduct NRHP evaluation (if required) |
| **November 2025** | Finalize interim report for SHPO review |
| **March 2026** | Develop Historic Properties Management Plan (HPMP) if necessary |
| **June 2026** | File Updated Study Report (USR) (confidential) and meeting with stakeholders |
| **September 2026** | Distribute Final Study Report in Draft License Application (DLA) |
| **January 2027** | File Final License Application (FLA) |

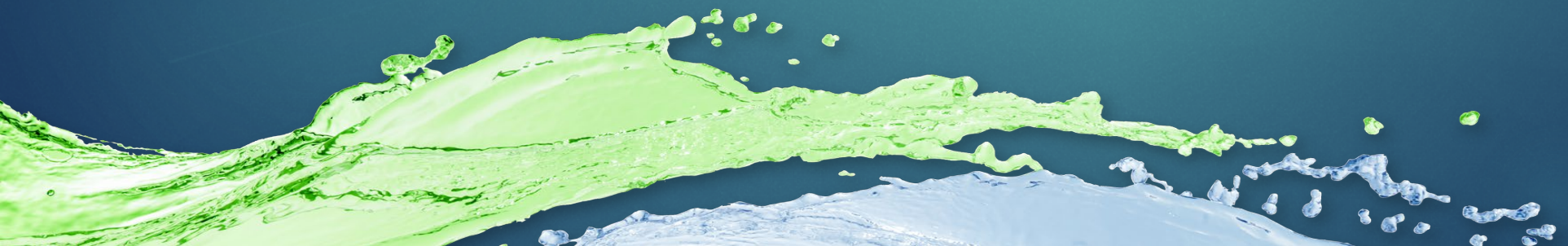


# Questions?



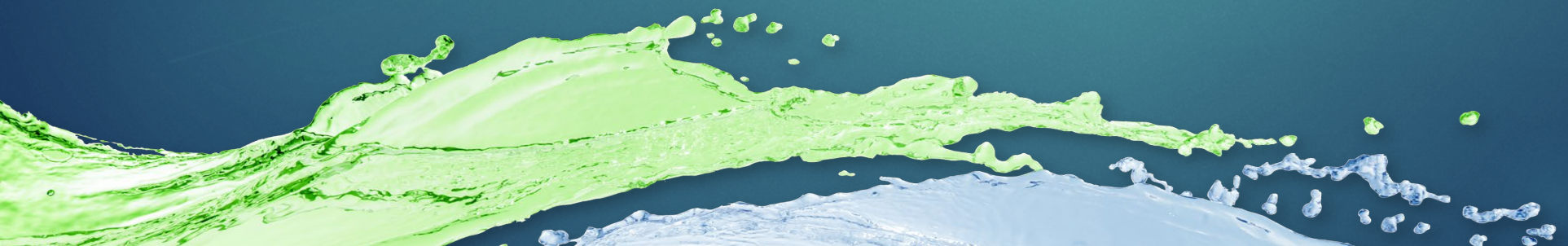
# Next Steps

- IFP to post meeting presentation on website and distribute meeting summary within by July 12, 2025
- Relicensing participants file Disagreements/Requests to amend Study Plan due to FERC by August 11, 2025
- Response to Disagreements/Amendment Requests by September 10, 2025
- FERC issue's Director's/Determination on Disagreements/Amendments by October 10, 2025
- IFP files Draft Study Reports with the USR in June 2026



# Stay Involved

- Check the Project website for updates/news at: https://www.ifpower.org/about-us/relicensing
- Sign up for FERC's e-subscription (docket numbers "P-2842" and "P-2952") at www.ferc.gov
- Email Olivia Smith with questions: olivia.smith@kleinschmidtgroup.com






# Thank you!

IDAHO FALLS POWER