

Idaho Falls Power Relicensing



PROPOSED STUDY PLAN MEETING

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

TUESDAY FEBRUARY 13, 2024, 9:30 A.M. – 3:00 P.M. (MST)



Kleinschmidt

Welcome and Introductions: Idaho Falls Relicensing Team

IFP Team

Richard Malloy -
Project Manager

Bear Prairie –
General Manager

Consulting Team

Finlay Anderson - Technical Advisor

Shannon Luoma - Project Manager

Olivia Smith - Assistant Project
Manager

Resource Leads

Mike Gagner - Fish Assemblage (AQ-1)

Jesse Wechsler - Desktop Fish Entrainment (AQ-2)

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

Kai Steimle & Rachel Russo - Water Quality (WQ-1)

Indya Messier - Botanical Resources (TERR-1)

Carissa Shoemaker - Wildlife & RTE (TERR-2)

Angela Whelpley - Recreation (REC-1)

Olivia Smith - Land Use (LAND-1)

Sydney Robinson - Environmental Justice (EJ-1)

Christina Olson & Kelly Beck - Cultural Resources
(CR-1)

Jules Kramer, Kelly Beck & Suzanne Griset- Tribal
Resources (TRI-1)

Study Plan Meeting Agenda

- ▶ Welcome and Introductions
- ▶ Meeting objectives
- ▶ Review Proposed Study Plans
- ▶ Schedule, next steps, action items
- ▶ Final questions

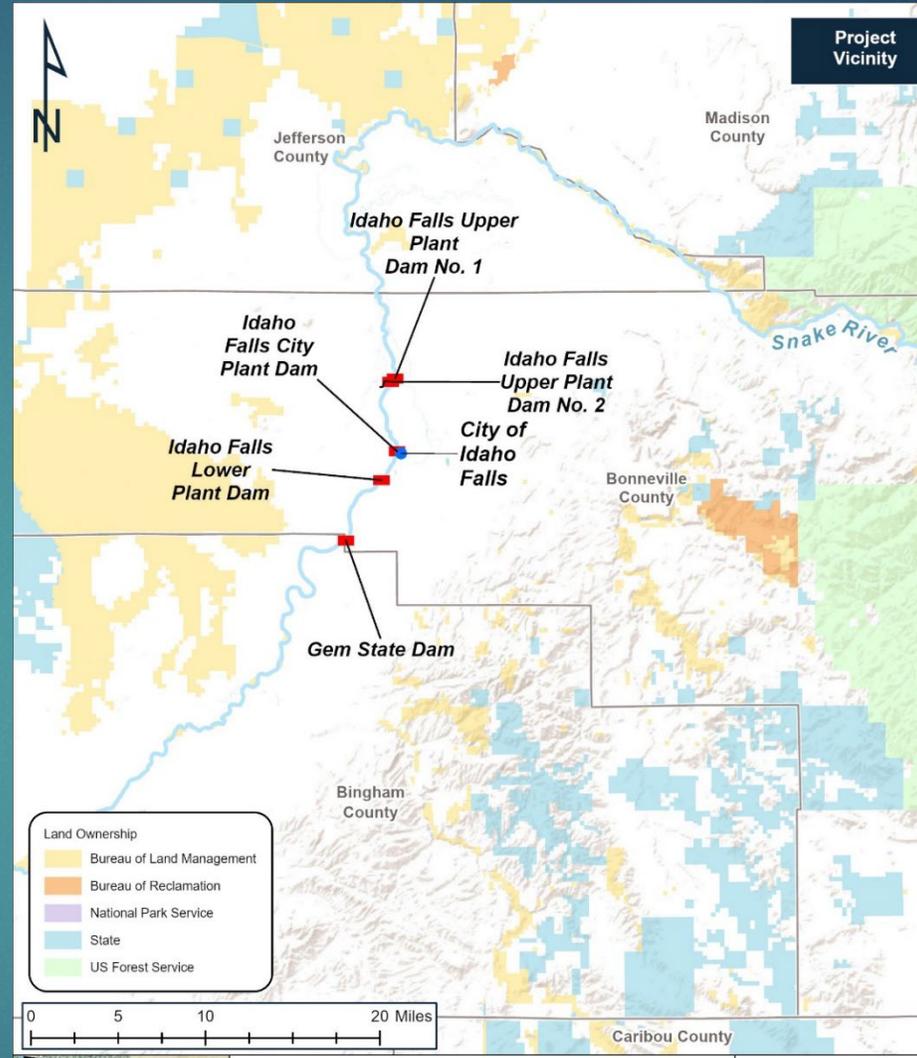




Idaho Falls Power Project Overview

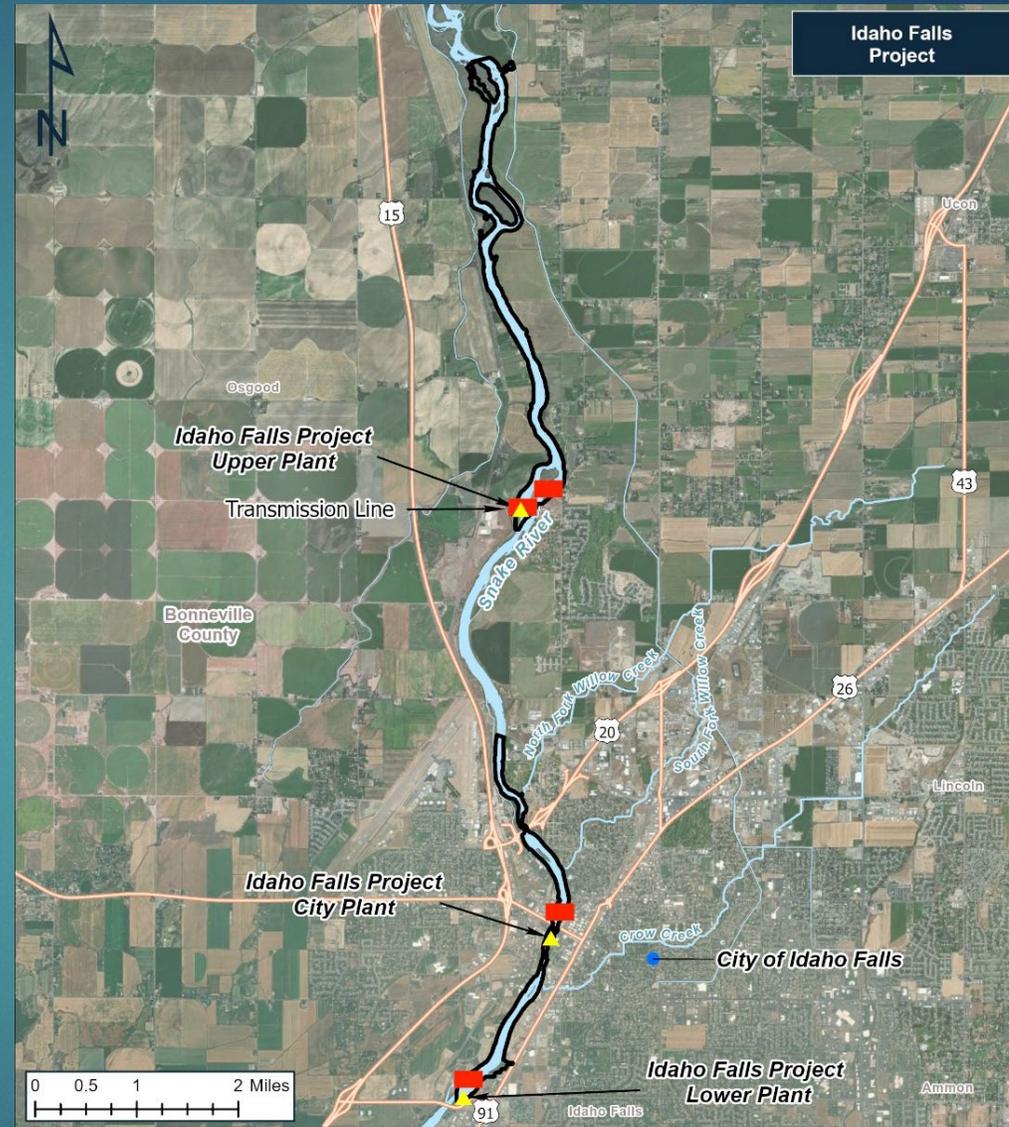
Project Location

- Snake River
- Near the City of Idaho Falls
- Bingham and Bonneville Counties
- Project is Run of River



Idaho Falls Project Facilities

- ▶ 24.6 MW
- ▶ Run of River
 - ▶ Upper Plant
 - ▶ 2 concrete dams
 - ▶ City Plant
 - ▶ 1 concrete dam
 - ▶ Lower Plant
 - ▶ 1 concrete dam
 - ▶ 2 powerhouses



Idaho Falls Project – *Upper Plant*

Facilities:

- Dam No. 1 – 23 ft high, Concrete and Earthfill
- Dam No. 2 – 33 ft high, Concrete and Earthfill
- 2 Spillways
- Powerhouse
 - Built in 1982
 - 8 MW
 - Minimum flow: 100 cfs



Idaho Falls Project – *City Plant*

Facilities:

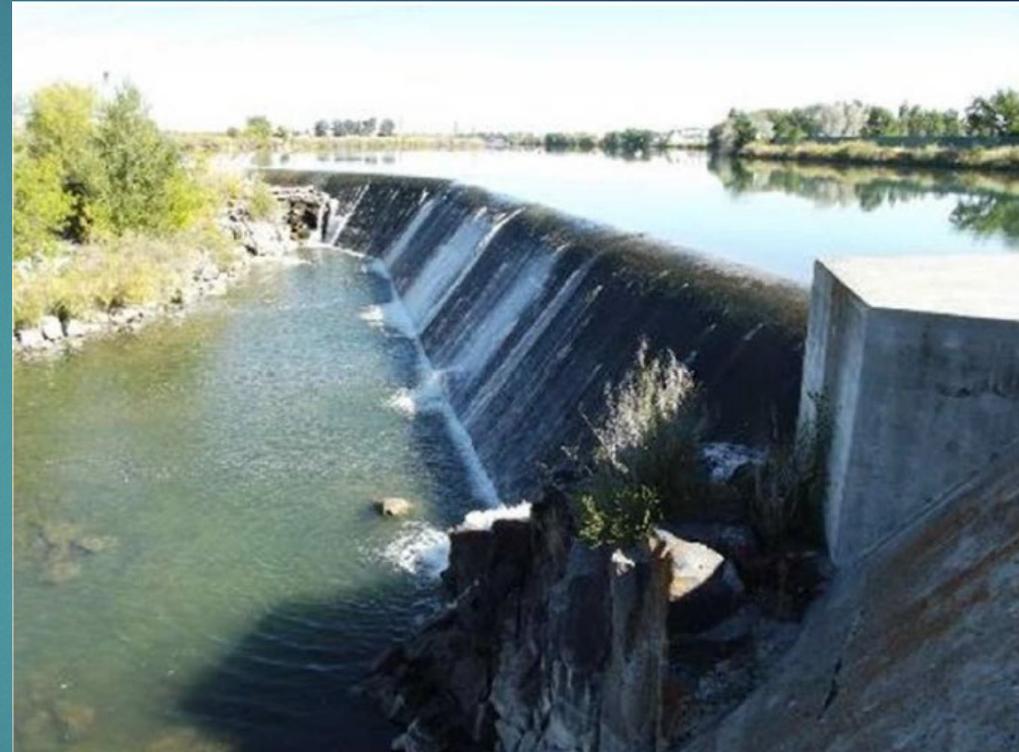
- 30 ft High Concrete Dam
- Spillway
- Trash Rack
- Bascule Gate
- Maintenance Building
- Powerhouse
 - Intake built 1980
 - Powerhouse built in 1982
 - 8 MW



Idaho Falls Project – *Lower Plant*

Facilities:

- 14 ft High Concrete Dam
- Spillway
- 8 Radial Gates
- 1 Pelican Gate
- 2 Powerhouses
 - Built in 1982
 - 8 MW
 - Two 1.8 MW generators



Gem State Project

► Facilities:

- Run of River
- 40 ft High Earth and Rock Fill Dam
- Spillway
- Power Canal
- Tailrace
- 2 Earthfill Dikes
- Irrigation Control Structures
- Transmission Line
- Powerhouse
 - 22.3 MW
 - Powerhouse built 1988
 - Minimum flow: 20cfs



Relicensing Process Overview

IFP's Relicensing Objectives

- ▶ Obtain project authorization for an additional license term of 30-50 years (18 CFR Part 5)
- ▶ Define and describe current operations, no anticipated changes in facilities or operations
- ▶ Protect generation assets while providing resource protection/enhancement
- ▶ Evaluate effects from ongoing Project operations and maintenance
- ▶ Seek collaborative solutions that achieve a sustainable balance for beneficial uses
- ▶ Provide safe, reliable, affordable, and clean energy to its customers and community



Continued Operation

Idaho Falls Power is proposing to continue project operations at both the Idaho Falls and Gem State facilities as outlined in the existing licenses.

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

General Approach for Relicensing – *A Combined Licensing Process*

Benefits:

- ▶ Saves Time & Money
- ▶ Combines Resources
- ▶ Consistent Access and Messaging for Public
- ▶ Aligns with FERC's Watershed Approach

Logistics:

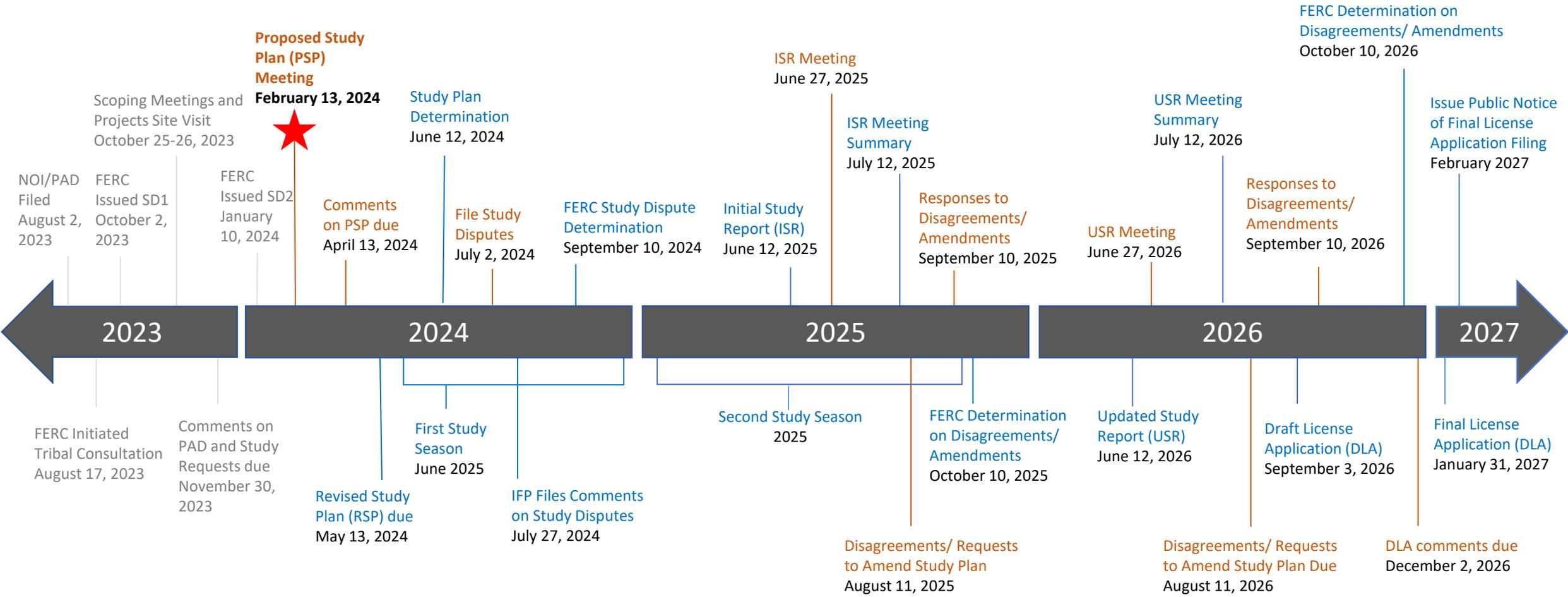
- ▶ Combining documents wherever possible but being clear in communicating license specific information
- ▶ Posting to Two Dockets P-2842 & P-2952
- ▶ Subscribing to Both Dockets

Current License Compliance: Idaho Falls and Gem State Projects

Minimum flow requirements

- ▶ Upper Plant Dam No. 1
 - ▶ 100 cfs minimum flows
- ▶ City Dam and Lower Dam
 - ▶ No minimum flow requirements
- ▶ Gem State
 - ▶ 20 cfs minimum bypass flows
- ▶ 14 Recreation facilities combined within both project boundaries

Project Licensing Timeline



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

Legend

- Past Licensing Milestones
- FERC ILP Milestones
- Stakeholder Opportunities

Near-term Milestones

- ▶ *January 12 – IFP Proposed Study Plan filed with FERC*
- ▶ **February 13 – Study Plan Meeting (virtual)**
- ▶ April 13 – Stakeholder comments on Proposed Study Plan due to FERC
- ▶ May 13 – IFP Revised Study Plan due to FERC
- ▶ May 28 – Stakeholder comments on Revised Study Plan due to FERC
- ▶ June 12 – FERC issues Study Plan Determination

Questions?



Proposed Technical Study Plans

Fish, Aquatics, and Water Quality – Study Plans

- ▶ Fish Assemblage (AQ-1)
- ▶ Desktop Fish Entrainment (AQ-2)
- ▶ Aquatic Habitat & Sediment Characterization (AQ-3)
- ▶ Water Quality (WQ-1)

Fish Assemblage Study (AQ-1)

Goal:

Assess fish assemblage within Project-affected reaches.

Objectives:

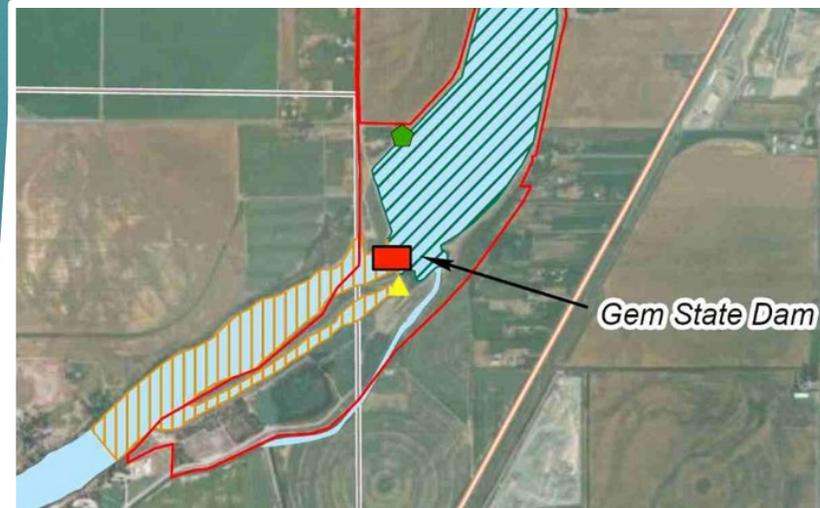
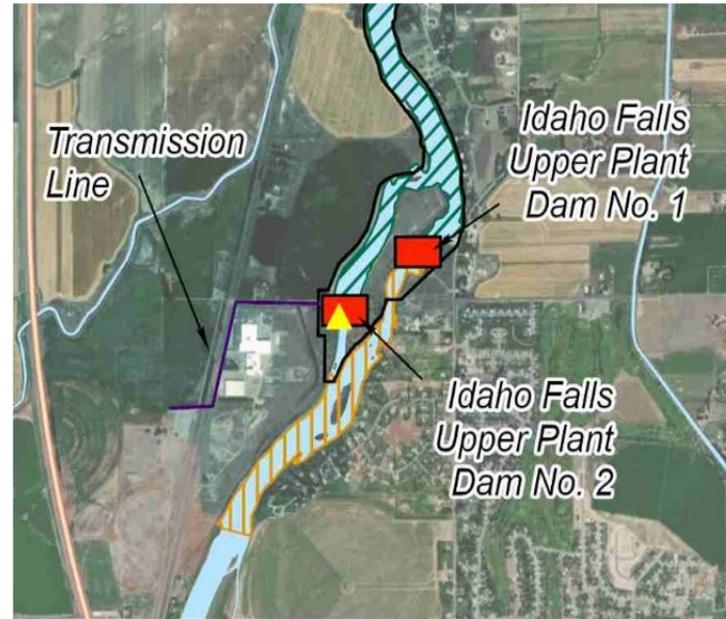
- ▶ Determine seasonal changes in the distribution and abundance of native and non-native fish species within Project reservoirs.
- ▶ Determine seasonal changes in the distribution and relative abundance within Project tailrace reaches.
- ▶ Characterize habitat use of target sport fish species.



Fish Assemblage Study (AQ-1) Study Area

Three Study Reaches:

- ▶ Upper Plant Reach
- ▶ City Plant & Lower Plant Reach
- ▶ Gem State Reach



Fish Assemblage Study (AQ-1)

Target Native and Introduced Fish Species:

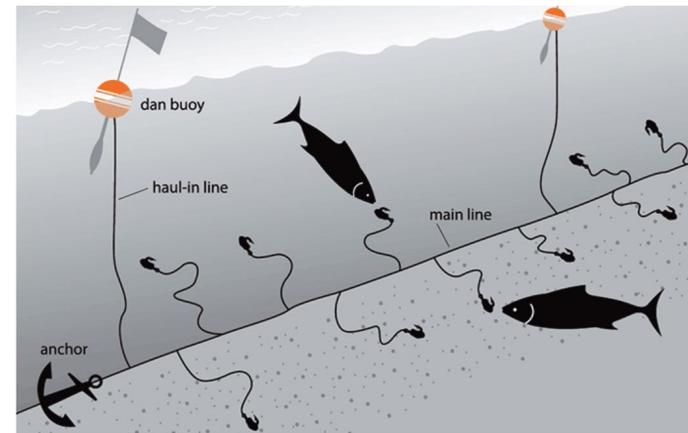
- ▶ Yellowstone cutthroat trout (N)
- ▶ Mountain whitefish (N)
- ▶ White sturgeon (I)
- ▶ Rainbow trout (I)
- ▶ Brown trout (I)
- ▶ Bluegill (I)
- ▶ Sucker (N)
- ▶ Perch (I)
- ▶ Bass (I)
- ▶ Chub (N)



Fish Assemblage Study (AQ-1)

Methods:

- ▶ Reservoirs
 - ▶ Electrofishing (4-8 sites)
 - ▶ Gill Net Sampling (2-4 sites)
 - ▶ Setlines (2-4 sites)
- ▶ Tailrace
 - ▶ Electrofishing (2-4 sites)
 - ▶ Fyke Net Sampling (2-3 sites)
 - ▶ Setlines (2-3 sites)



Fish Assemblage Study (AQ-1)

Schedule

Proposed Schedule

Activity	2024			2025				2026	
	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2
Apply for Scientific Collection Permit	X								
Recon., Site Selection, Methods Testing			?						
Initial Study Report					X				
Reservoir and Tailrace Sampling					?	?	?		
Updated Study Report									X

Stakeholder Comments / Study Requests Received/Addressed

IDEQ requests that fish assemblage studies include reporting on all species, including white sturgeon and salmonids.

This has been incorporated into the fish assemblage study

IDEQ requests that studies evaluate mercury concentration in fish tissues below the Gem State Project area.

Fish will be collected as part of this study, and analyzed for mercury as part of the Water Quality Study.

Questions?

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)

▶ Methods:

- ▶ Common and accepted method to assess the risk of entrainment and evaluate turbine passage survival for fish with potential to become entrained.
- ▶ Assess risk of entrainment based on biology of species, habitat, and site-specific turbine and project characteristics.
 - ▶ Review Physical Characteristics of the Turbines and Intake Areas (e.g., intake velocities, net head, rack spacing, RPMs).
 - ▶ Review Biological Characteristics and Aquatic Habitat (e.g., swimming ability/size).
 - ▶ Characterize Entrainment Risk and Calculate Turbine Passage Survival / Blade Strike Probability (species at risk)

Desktop Fish Entrainment Study (AQ-2)

▶ Study Area:

- ▶ All project facilities

▶ Methods:

- ▶ Target Species: rainbow trout, Yellowstone cutthroat trout, white sturgeon
- ▶ Risk Assessment
 - **High** – Approach velocity is greater than burst swim speed, body width is narrower than trash rack bar spacing, and species is migratory or likely to use habitat near the turbine intakes.
 - **Moderate** – Approach velocity is equal to or close to burst swim speed and fish may not be physically excluded by trash rack bars.
 - **Low** – Fish burst swim speed is greater than the calculated approach velocity (fish can swim away from intake area), or trash rack bar spacing prevents fish entrainment, non-migratory or limited aquatic habitat.

Desktop Fish Entrainment Study (AQ-2)

▶ Methods:

- ▶ Develop turbine passage survival estimates for species at moderate or high risk.
- ▶ Use the Electric Power Research Institute's database of field entrainment studies (surrogate/desktop).
- ▶ Use STRYKE, a turbine blade strike model based on Franke et al. (1997) and USFWS (2020).
 - ▶ Fish Size
 - ▶ Passage Route (turbines, spill)
 - ▶ Turbine Type, RPM, Head, Unit Efficiency, Runner Diameter, # of propeller blades/buckets

Questions?

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:**

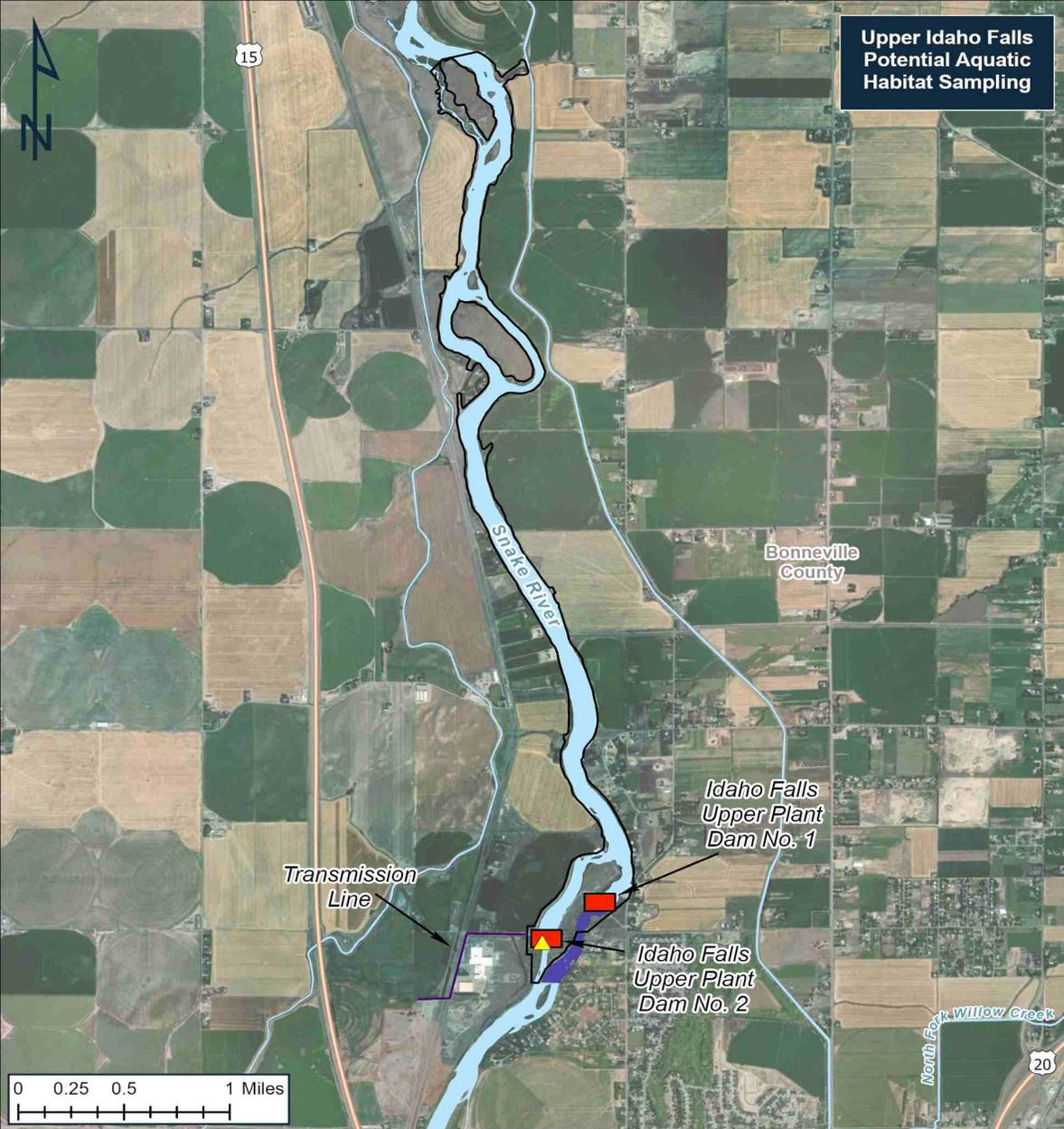
- ▶ Characterize and map aquatic habitat within the free-flowing sections of the Snake River located in the Project areas.
- ▶ Identify potential spawning habitat for salmonids, characterize substrates, and definitive features (e.g., water velocity, substrates) within those areas.

Upper Idaho Falls
Potential Aquatic
Habitat Sampling

Aquatic Habitat & Sediment Characterization Study (AQ-3)

► Methods:

- Classify mesohabitat (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)



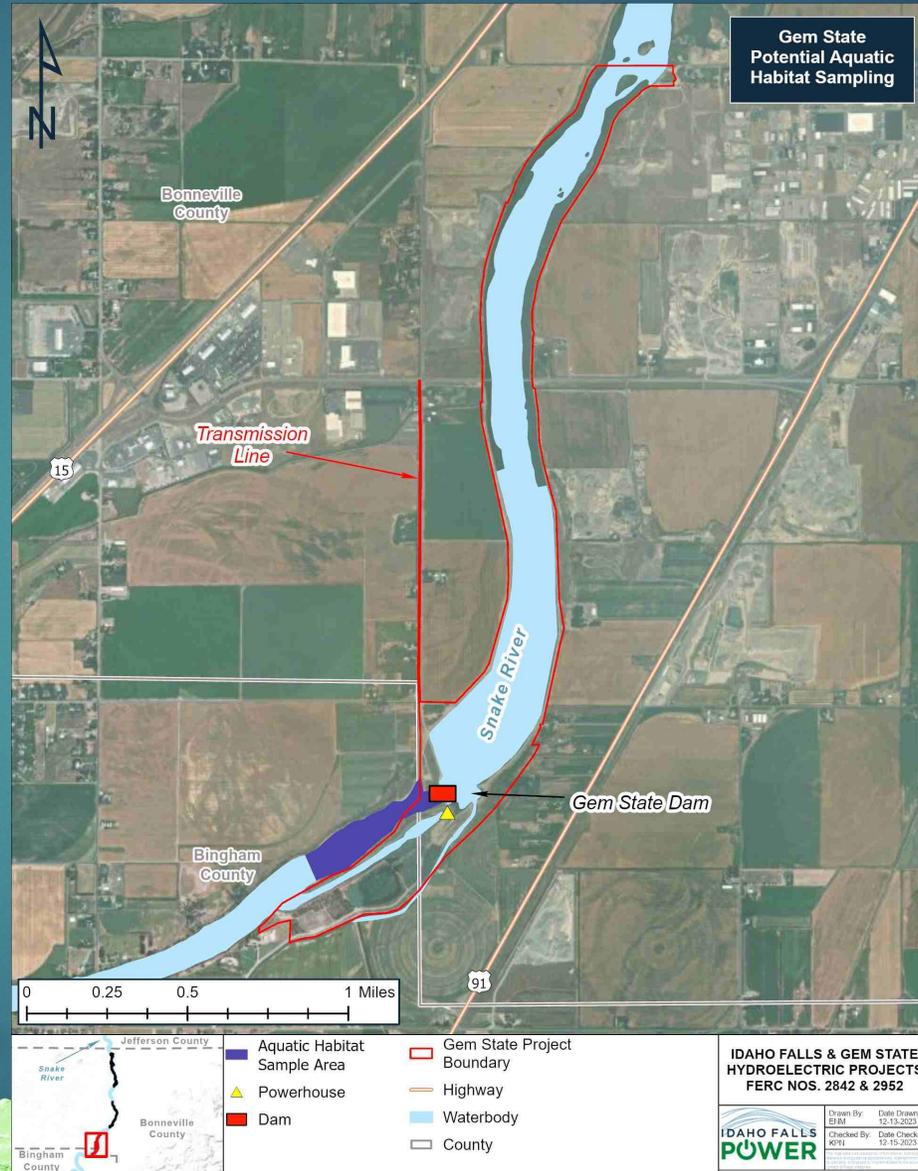
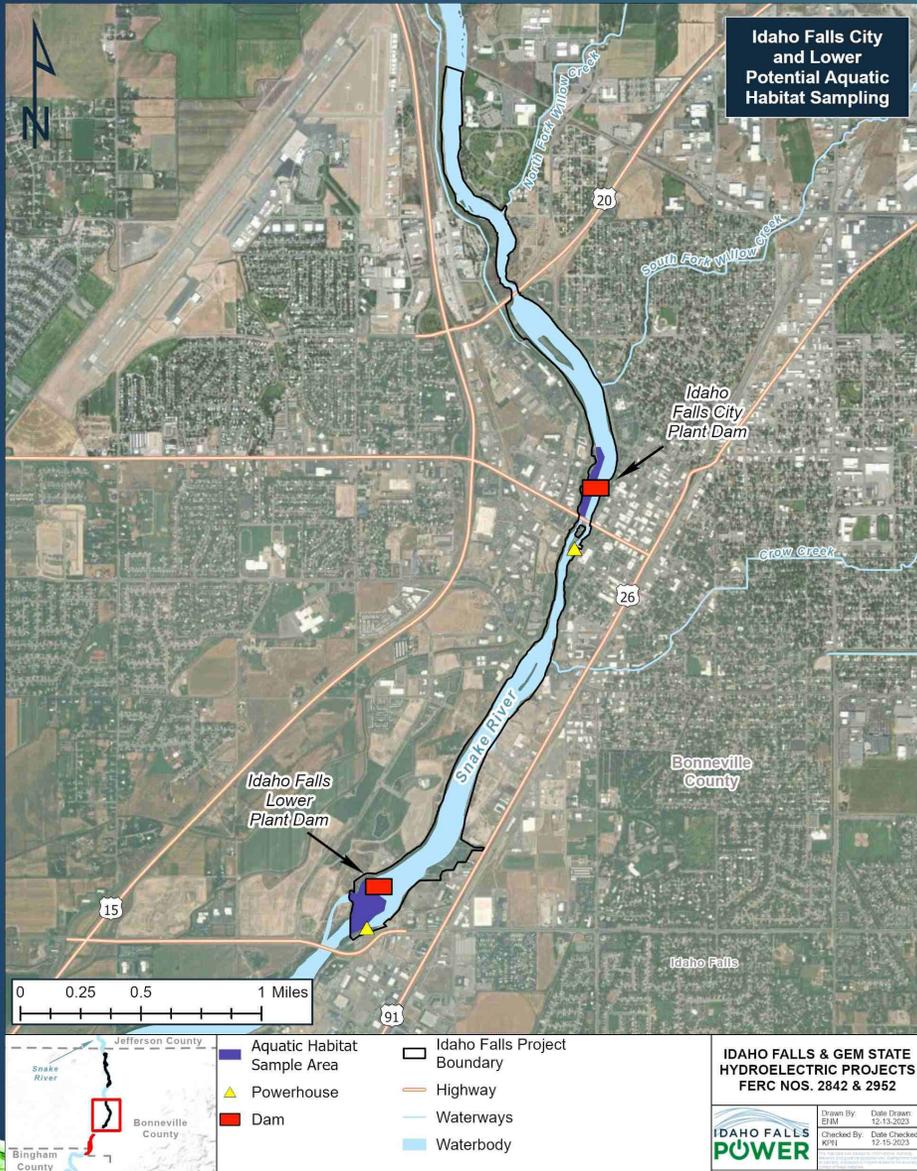
Aquatic Habitat Sample Area	Idaho Falls Project Boundary
Powerhouse	Highway
Dam	Waterways
Transmission Line	Waterbody

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

**IDAHO FALLS
POWER**

Drawn By: EJM	Date Drawn: 12-15-2023
Checked By: KPI	Date Checked: 12-15-2023

Aquatic Habitat & Sediment Characterization Study (AQ-3)



Study Area

- ▶ Assessing highest impact areas
- ▶ Focusing on bypassed reaches
- ▶ Upper Plant Dam and Gem State will expand beyond boundaries to accurately assess impact

Study Request Not Adopted

- ▶ BLM requested a study to evaluate sediment transportation, channel degradation, and substrate coarsening downstream of the Project.
- ▶ This study has not been adopted - IFP would like to hear more from BLM on how this relates to project nexus, as FERC's NEPA approach focuses on the current conditions as the baseline for evaluating project effects and alternatives. This does not include pre-project conditions that would have existed prior to project development.

Questions?

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:**

- ▶ 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;
- ▶ Collect vertical profiles of water temperature and DO in each impoundment;
- ▶ Analyze fish tissue samples from downstream of the Gem State Project for methylmercury; and
- ▶ Assess the ability of the Projects to comply with water quality standards based on continued operation.



Water Quality Study (WQ-1)

Methods & Schedule

▶ Methods:

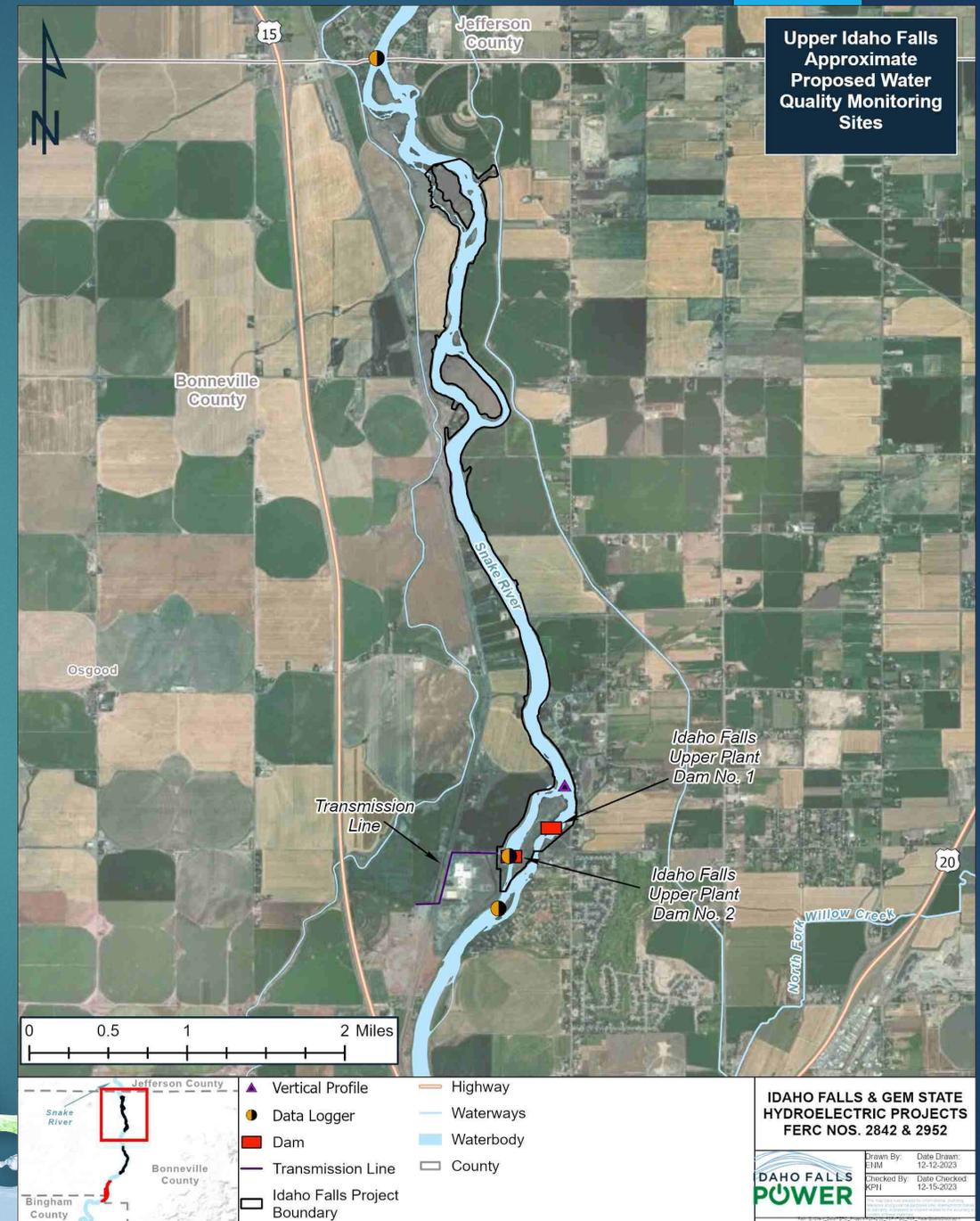
- ▶ Literature Review
- ▶ Continuous Water Temperature Monitoring
- ▶ Dissolved Oxygen Monitoring
- ▶ Impoundment Vertical Profiles
- ▶ Fish Tissue Analysis

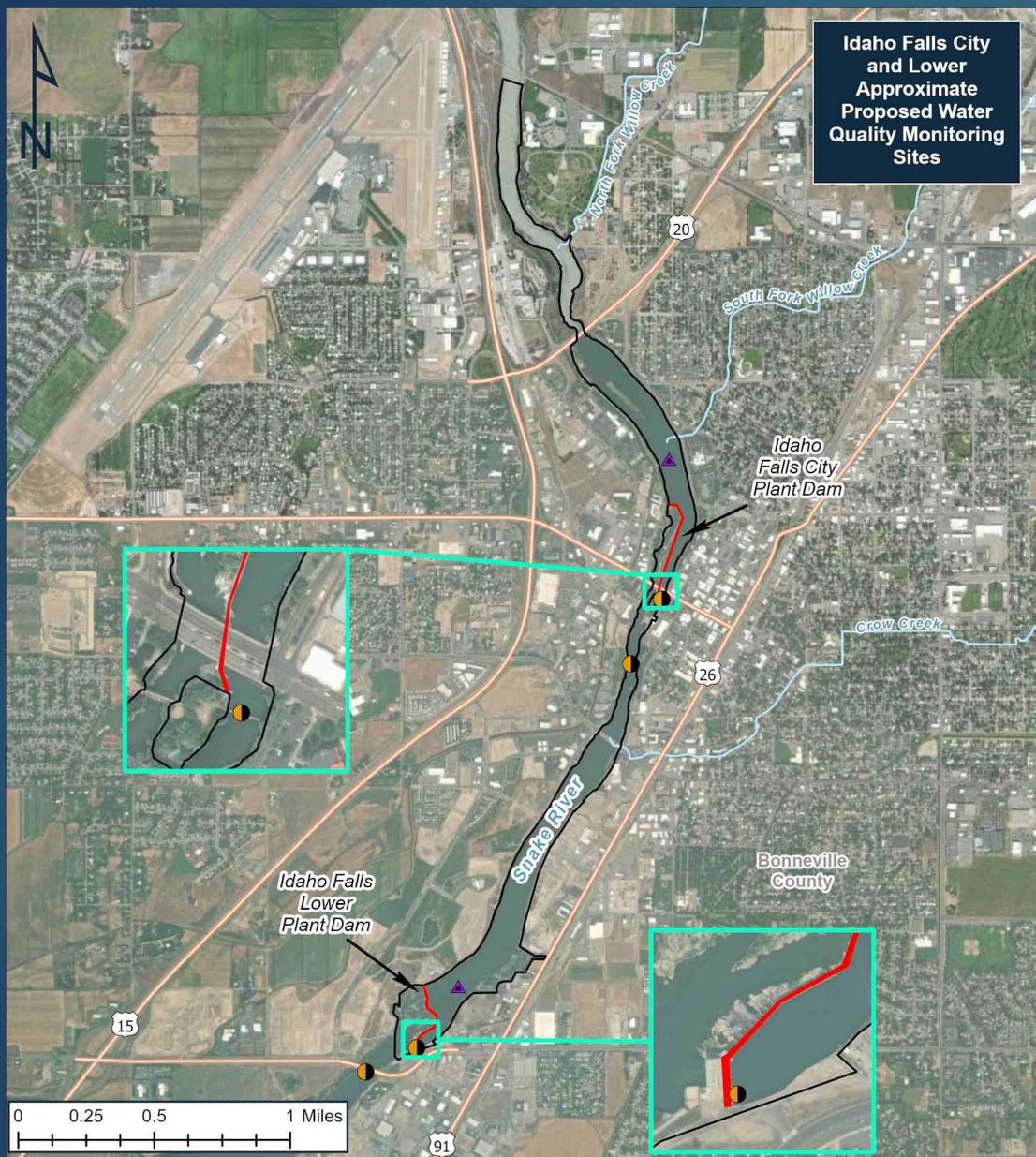
▶ Schedule:

- ▶ Limited Data Collection Summer 2024
- ▶ Progress update in ISR (June 2025)
- ▶ Monitoring Summer 2025
- ▶ Report results in USR (June 2026)

Water Quality (WQ-1) Monitoring

- ▶ Continuous Water Temperature Monitoring and Instantaneous DO Sampling
 - ▶ Hourly water temperature sampling from June to September
 - ▶ Monthly instantaneous DO measurement
 - ▶ Monitoring Sites
 - ▶ 1 site upstream of Projects
 - ▶ Forebay of each development
 - ▶ Well mixed location downstream of each dam
- ▶ Impoundment Vertical Profiles
 - ▶ August 2024
 - ▶ Deep spot in each impoundment
 - ▶ Water temperature and DO profiles in 1-meter increments





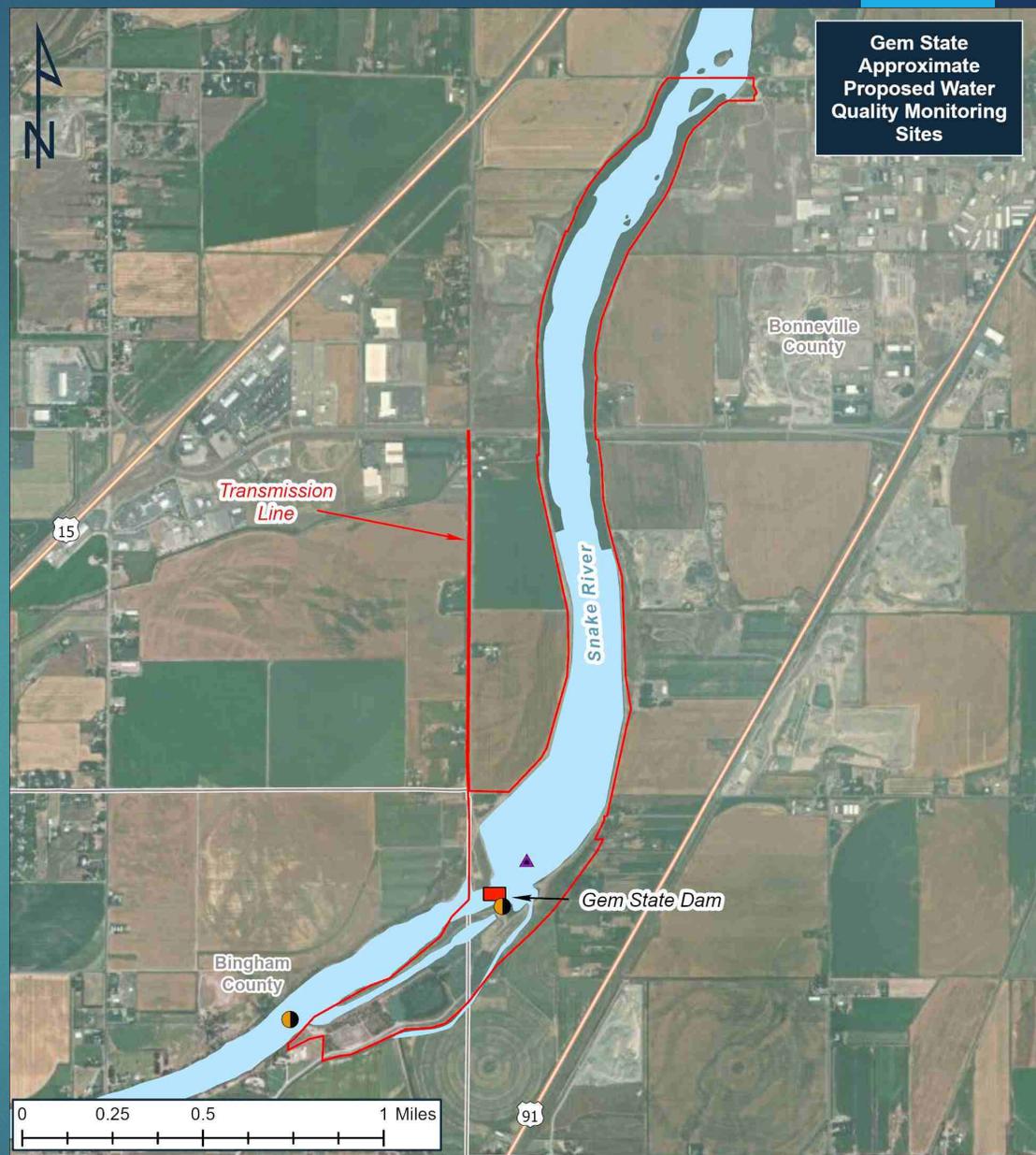
Idaho Falls City and Lower Approximate Proposed Water Quality Monitoring Sites

	Vertical Profile		Highway
	Data Logger		Waterways
	Idaho Falls Project Boundary		County
			Dam

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

DAHO FALLS POWER

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Gem State Approximate Proposed Water Quality Monitoring Sites

	Vertical Profile		Highway
	Data Logger		Waterbody
	Dam		County
	Gem State Project Boundary		

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FERC NOS. 2842 & 2952

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WQ-1 & AQ-1: Fish Tissue Analysis

- ▶ Opportunistic sampling in coordination with Fish Assemblage Study
 - ▶ Downstream of Gem State Dam
- ▶ Up to 10 fish of edible size for up to two game fish species (e.g., smallmouth bass, trout) will be collected
- ▶ Fish will be fileted, frozen, and shipped to a certified laboratory for composite analysis

Stakeholder Comments / Study Requests Received/Addressed

IDEQ requests that any water quality study analyze water temperature, dissolved oxygen (DO), nutrient, and sediment data at locations upstream and downstream of the Project.

IFP will be collecting temperature and dissolved oxygen data upstream and downstream of each dam.

IDEQ requests that studies evaluate mercury concentration in fish tissues below the Gem State Project area.

This has been incorporated.

Questions?

Break

- ▶ Please return at 1:30 p.m. (MST)



Terrestrial – Study Plans

- ▶ Botanical (TERR-1)
- ▶ Wildlife and Rare, Threatened, and Endangered (RTE) Species (TERR-2)



Botanical (TERR-1)

Goals, Objective, & Methods

▶ Goals:

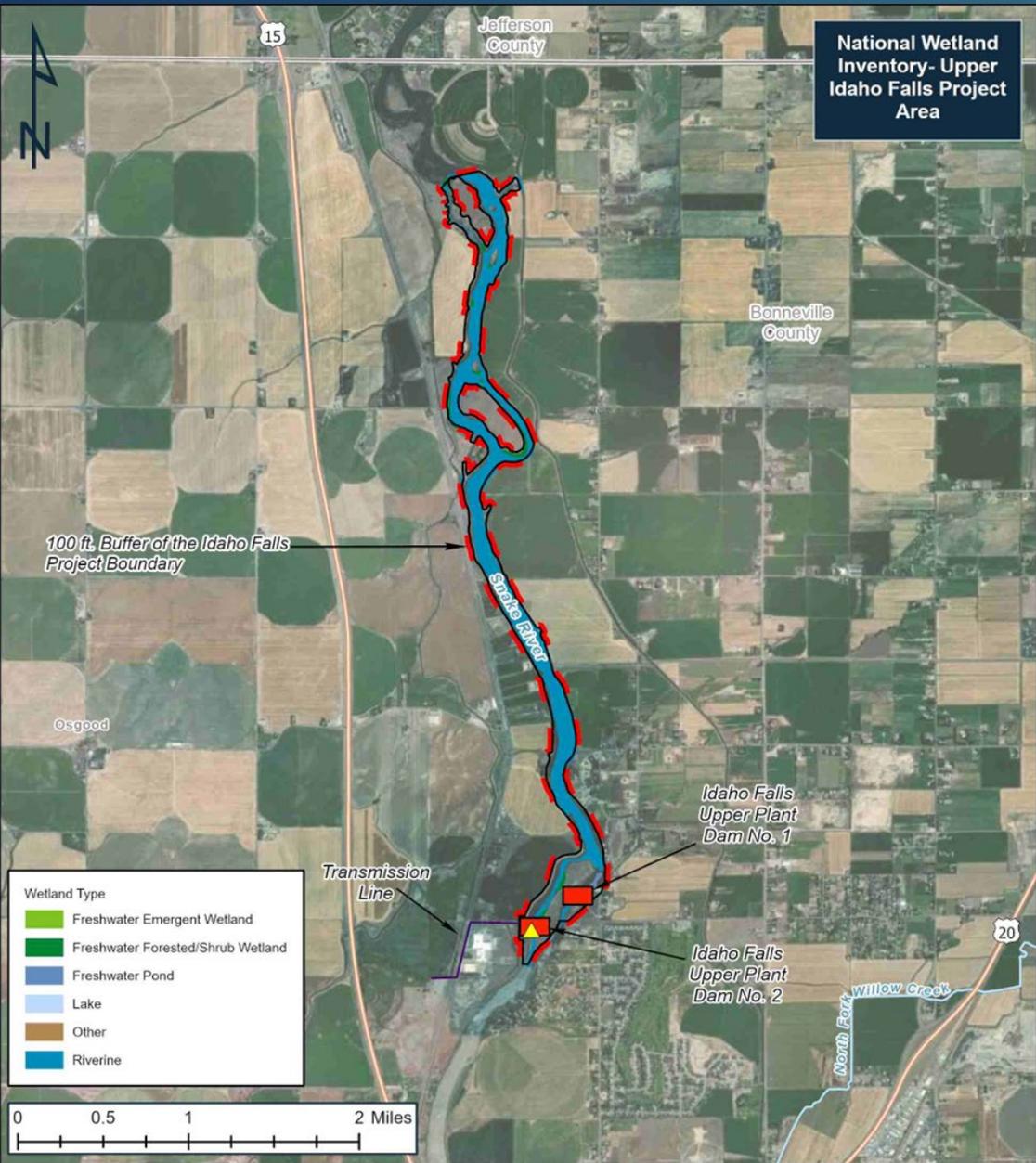
- ▶ Identify if there is suitable habitat for special status, ESA-listed, and invasive plant species in the Idaho Falls Project and Gem State Project Boundaries (if suitable habitat is present, evaluate extent of species distribution and associated habitat).
- ▶ Assess and evaluate the extent of cottonwood and willow wetland habitat within the Projects' Boundaries.

▶ Objective:

- ▶ Gather sufficient data necessary to fill gaps in existing information.

▶ Methods:

- ▶ Desktop Analysis
- ▶ Habitat Assessment
- ▶ Field Surveys
- ▶ Agency Coordination



National Wetland Inventory- Upper Idaho Falls Project Area

Botanical (TERR-1) Study Area (1)



▲ Powerhouse	— Highway
■ Dam	— Waterways
— Transmission Line	□ County
□ Idaho Falls Project Boundary	— 100ft buffer of Idaho Falls Project Boundary

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

IDAHO FALLS POWER

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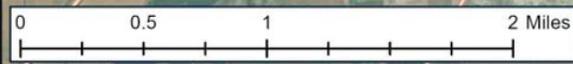


National Wetland Inventory- Idaho Falls City and Lower Project Area

Botanical(TERR-1) Study Area (2)

Wetland Type

- Freshwater Emergent Wetland
- Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland
- Freshwater Pond
- Lake
- Other
- Riverine



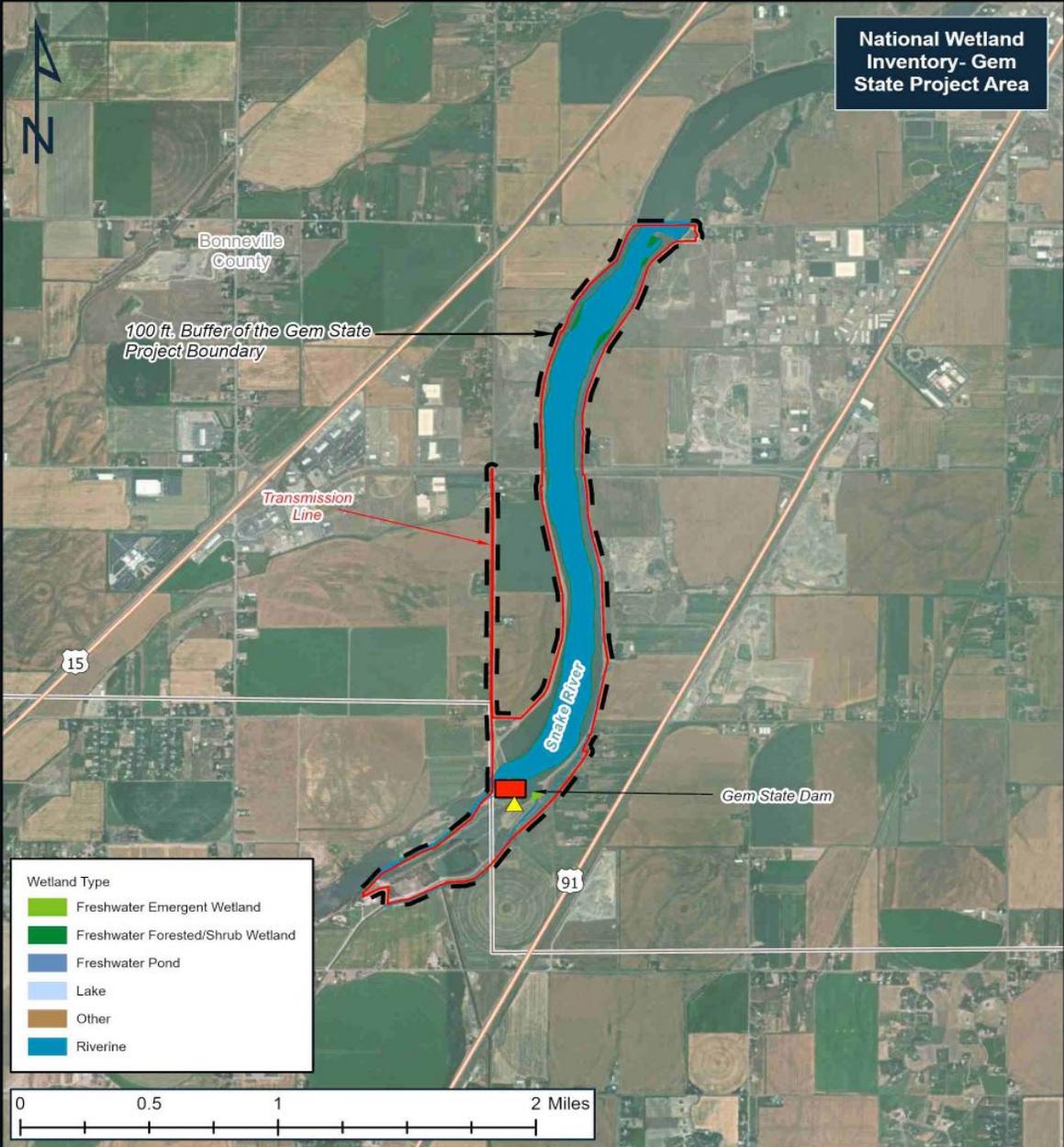
- Powerhouse
- Dam
- Idaho Falls Project Boundary
- 100ft buffer of Idaho Falls Project Boundary
- Highway
- Waterways

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

IDAHO FALLS POWER

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National Wetland Inventory- Gem State Project Area



Botanical (TERR-1) Study Area (3)



Powerhouse	Highway
Dam	County
Gem State Project Boundary	100 ft buffer of Gem State Project Boundary

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FERC NOS. 2842 & 2952

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Botanical (TERR-1)

Schedule

STUDY PLAN DEVELOPMENT MILESTONES	DATE
Desktop Analysis	Spring 2024
Year 1 Field Surveys	Summer 2024 (July-Sept)
Year 2 Field Surveys <i>(If needed)</i>	Spring/Summer 2025
Initial Study Report (ISR)	June 2025
Updated Study Report (USR)	June 2026
Draft License Application (DLA)	September 2026

Botanical Resource Comments Received

USFWS: Map all cottonwood stands and willow-dominated wetlands that are expected to be impacted by low-flow dewatering within the Project area

IFP will map all cottonwood stands and willow-dominated wetland observed during surveys.

Questions?

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

Goals, objectives, & methods

▶ Goal:

- ▶ Document existing wildlife and RTE species and identify the potential effects of the Project on these resources.

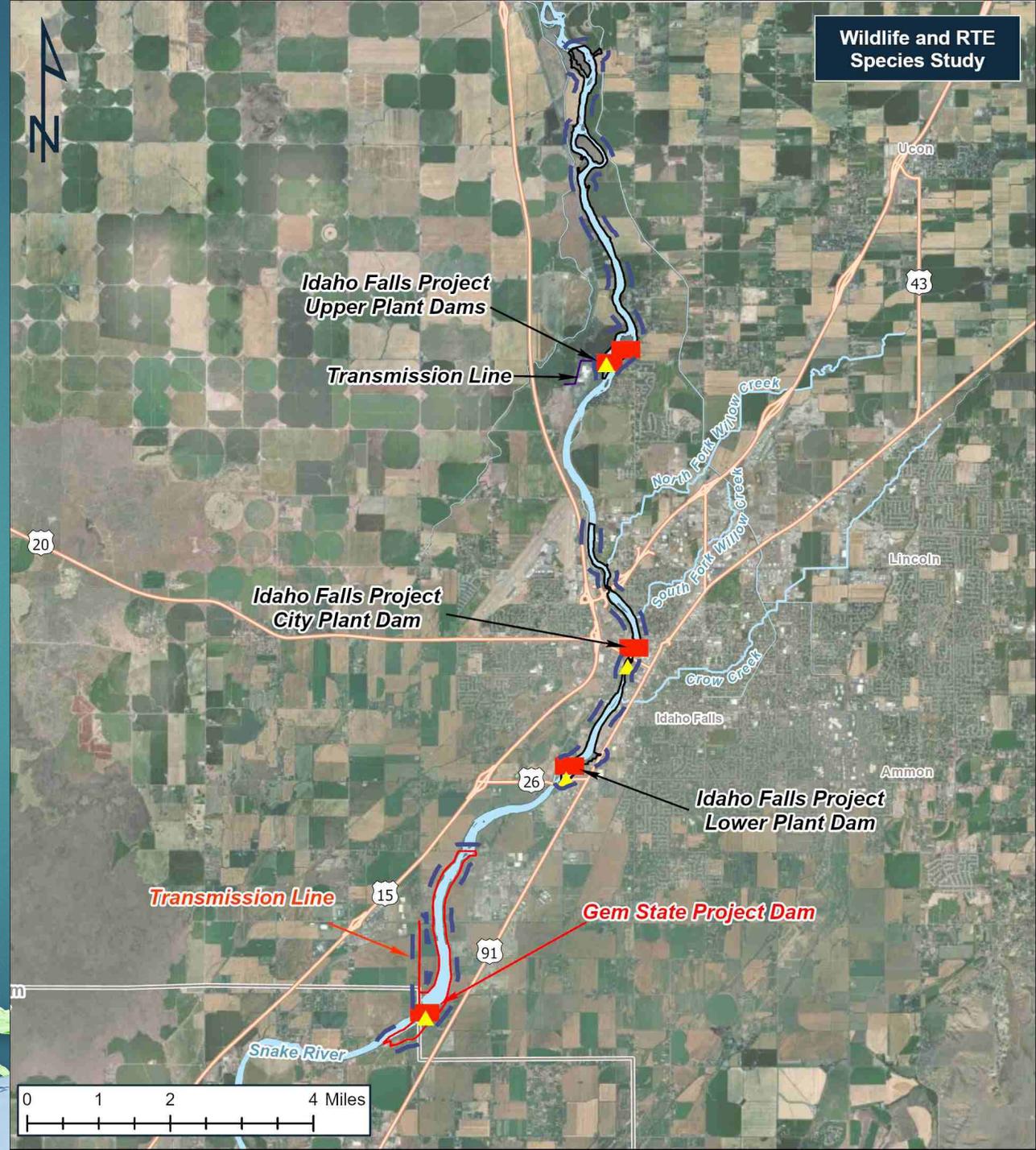
▶ Objectives:

- ▶ 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 the Yellow-billed Cuckoo.
- ▶ For those special-status species with high potential of utilization or have been determined to be present, assess the potential for impacts due to the Projects.
- ▶ Identify the potential effects of continued Project operations on the 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

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



Wildlife and RTE Species (TERR-2)

Proposed Schedule

STUDY PLAN DEVELOPMENT MILESTONES	DATE
General Wildlife and RTE Species Field Surveys	Spring/Summer 2025
Avian Carcass Surveys	Spring & Fall 2025, Winter 2025-2026
Initial Study Report (ISR)	June 2025
Updated Study Report (USR)	June 2026
Draft License Application (DLA)	September 2026

RTE Resource Comments Received

USFWS: conduct surveys in high potential habitat for Ute ladies'-tresses and yellow-billed cuckoo (YBCU), and to include detailed information on the areas of the riverbed that will be dewatered during low flows.

No portions of the Project Areas are regularly dewatered during low flows. Ute Ladies'-tresses surveys will be conducted during the first study season, and IF suitable habitat is found, a second year of surveys will be conducted.

USFWS: Map all cottonwood stands and willow-dominated wetlands that are expected to be impacted by low-flow dewatering within the Project area

IFP will map all cottonwood stands and willow-dominated wetland observed during surveys.

Terrestrial Comments Received

IDFG recommends evaluating bird mortality from power line strikes in the Project area and emphasizing potential Trumpeter Swan mortalities.

IFP will be conducting bird carcass surveys as part of this study.

IDFG recommends adding bird carcass surveys to the proposed pedestrian surveys in the PAD at appropriate times of the year to maximize observation opportunities (e.g., migration and overwintering seasons).

Bird carcass surveys have been incorporated into this study.



Trumpeter swan and
Western yellow-billed
cuckoo, USFWS



Questions

Land Use & Recreation– Study Plans

- ▶ Project Lands & Roads (LAND-1)
- ▶ Recreation (REC-1)



Source: [LE Parks & Recreation Receives Achievement Award for River Gardens at Taylor Crossing - East Idaho News](#)



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 Idaho Falls Project and Gem State 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.

LAND-1

Methods and Schedule

▶ Methods

- ▶ Compile and analyze current Project Boundary and adjacent lands within geographic information system (GIS) software and Exhibit G drawings
- ▶ Assess federal lands and parcels to determine administrative approach (e.g., withdrawal)
- ▶ Obtain most recent GIS data of city of Idaho Falls Department of Parks and Recreation roads and identify roads currently or proposed to be used for Project purposes

▶ Schedule

- ▶ Spring 2024 (Desktop Analysis)



Land Comments Received/Addressed

BLM recommends that a parcel of BLM encumbered by the Lower Plant which was never withdrawn for this project or included in the FERC license be included as a part of the relicensing effort.

During implementation of the LAND-1 study, IFP will review land ownership and discuss with stakeholders, including BLM, as appropriate.



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

▶ **Goal:**

- ▶ Gather current information on recreation facilities, recreational use, and potential Projects' 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 Idaho Falls Project and Gem State Project recreation sites
- ▶ Identify who owns, operates, and maintains each Idaho Falls Project and Gem State Project recreation sites and facilities
- ▶ Describe each Idaho Falls Project and Gem State Project recreation sites and facilities in relation to their associated Project Boundaries
- ▶ Evaluate recreation use at the FERC-approved Idaho Falls and Gem State Project recreation sites, including both an assessment of the amount of use that each site is receiving (including percent of capacity) and the recreation activities that occur at the site;
- ▶ Collect visitor feedback regarding their perception and experience at recreation facilities within the Idaho Falls and Gem State Project boundaries; and
- ▶ Determine adequacy of the FERC-approved Idaho Falls and Gem State Project recreation sites and if modifications to the sites would be needed to meet the current or future recreation needs

REC-1

Methods and Schedule

▶ Methods:

▶ Recreation Facility Inventory and Condition Assessment

- ▶ Field inventory to document the existing recreation facilities and amenities at the FERC-approved recreation sites
- ▶ Condition of each facility and amenity will be assessed during field inventory

▶ Recreation Use Assessment

- ▶ Recreation Use Surveys conducted in person
- ▶ Spot Counts
- ▶ Traffic Counters

▶ Schedule:

- ▶ Spring 2025 (Facility Inventory and Condition Assessment)
- ▶ May to September 2025 (Recreation Use Assessment)



Recreation Comments Received/Addressed

IDFG recommends removing the seasonal closure on Gem State Fishing Pond to reduce recreational confusion and enforcement conflicts, thus permitting year-round fishing.

Following implementation of the REC-1 study, IFP will work with IDFG on appropriate recreation measures.

Questions?

Environmental Justice Study Plan (EJ-1)

Goals 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 Study Plan (EJ-1)

Methods

▶ Methods:

▶ Statistics Table

▶ Identification of Environmental Justice
Communities Based on Minority Populations

▶ 50% Method

▶ Meaningfully Greater Analysis

▶ Identification of Environmental Justice
Communities Based on Low-Income Populations

▶ Low-Income Threshold

▶ Identification of Non-English-speaking Populations

▶ Outreach Efforts

▶ Local Faith Leadership

▶ Local and Statewide Advocacy Groups

▶ Mapping Efforts

▶ Data Analysis: Project Effects on Environmental Justice
Communities and Proposed Mitigation Measures

EJ Implementation

Schedule

- ▶ Identify Key EJ Groups: Following Study Plan Determination 2024
- ▶ Initial Outreach and Strategy: Summer/Fall 2024
- ▶ Public Meetings and Engagement: Ongoing through filing of the FLA

Stakeholder Comments / Study Requests Received/Addressed

- ▶ No comments on EJ-1.

Questions?

Cultural and Tribal – Study Plans

- ▶ Cultural Resources (CR-1)
- ▶ Tribal Resources (TR-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 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)

Methods & Schedule

Methods

Archival Research

Tribal Outreach

Archaeological Intensive-Level Survey

Historic Architectural Intensive-Level Survey

National Register of Historic Places Evaluation

Identify and Assess Potential Effects on NRHP-Eligible Cultural Resources

Schedule

July 2024 – Desktop Analysis

August 2024 – Field Surveys

Data collected and evaluated under this study will support the development of a Historic Properties Management Plan (HPMP).



Stakeholder Comments / Study Requests Received/Addressed

BLM requests that a Class III Cultural Resource Inventory be conducted for the Project areas of potential effect on public land.

BLM requests a built environment inventory, recording, and assessment of the Project's facilities.

Both of these requests have been incorporated into the CR-1 study.

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) Methods & Schedule

▶ Methods

- ▶ Archival Research
- ▶ Tribal Interviews and Identification of Tribal Resources
- ▶ Field Inspection and Site Visit
- ▶ National Register of Historic Places Evaluation
- ▶ Identify and Assess Potential Effects on NRHP-Eligible Tribal Resources
- ▶ Maintain confidentiality as appropriate

▶ Schedule

- ▶ July 2024 – Desktop Analysis & Begin Outreach
- ▶ August 2024 – Field Surveys



Questions?

Next Steps

- ▶ IFP distribute Meeting Materials and Summary within the next two weeks
- ▶ Stakeholder comments on the PSP due to FERC April 13, 2024
- ▶ IFP files RSP May 13, 2024

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 number "P-2842" and "P-2952") at www.ferc.gov
- Email Olivia Smith with questions: olivia.smith@kleinschmidtgroup.com



Thank you!

