

Legal Notice Published in Arco Advertiser on March 14, 2024
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Location: Custer County, Idaho

Notice Text Final Public Notice

Custer County has applied for Pre-Disaster Mitigation grant funding from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to fund the Mackay Idaho Reservoir, Dam Restoration Project – North of the City of Mackay, Custer County - Idaho; with matching funds provided by Idaho Department of water Recourses Grant. Pursuant to 44 CFR Part 9.12 - FEMA gives notice under Executive Order (EO) 11988 - Floodplain Management or EO 11990 - Wetland Protection; since this action is located in or affects the floodplain or may affect wetlands. Initial public involvement for this project was completed on: May 12 - 2021 Custer County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan for the Mackay Reservoir Dam Project. The project site is located in or affects the floodplain of The Lost River Valley. The purpose of the project is to alleviate flood damage risks of the Mackay Reservoir Dam.

The proposed action includes: Construction will unfold in three phases. The first will be the improvements made to the mountain above the primary spillway channel and the tower to remove and/or arrest and stabilize potential rocks from falling on construction crews. Once this phase is complete, reconstruction/rehabilitation of the primary spillway channel and the tower can safely occur.

The next construction phase will be for the rehabilitation/reconstruction of the primary spillway channel. To avoid working in the cold temperatures, this construction phase should begin in mid to late July after the threat of spring runoff and utilization of the primary spillway channel for the season is passed. The construction period would thus be August – November.

A bridge spanning the primary spillway channel is needed to access the tower for construction and to maintain the rock stabilization system employed to arrest falling rock from the mountain above. This bridge is expected to be a prefabricated steel girder bridge with a composite concrete deck and simple steel parapets on each side. The abutments are expected to be outside the spillway channel walls. The steel used on the bridge will be the self-weathering type to arrest degradation over time and to eliminate maintenance. This bridge will be built as part of the tower rehabilitation/reconstruction or the primary spillway channel rehabilitation/reconstruction design/bid package, whichever comes first.

The final phase of the project will be the rehabilitation/reconstruction of the tower and its gates. The timing of this construction will have to begin when the irrigation season has ended and there is a low threat to high streamflow, which begins in the late fall. Construction will have to occur into the winter to complete the improvements prior to the start of spring runoff and storage for summer irrigation. To complete this phase, the entire reservoir will have to be drained and temporary bypass pumping works installed that will pump water over the crest of the primary spillway weir and into the spillway channel. This will be needed to install new footings for the tower, new exterior wall on the tower and resetting the gate guides and stems in the new tower wall. This means that the spillway channel improvements must be completed in advance of this tower improvement phase or be delayed until the following summer after tower improvements are completed.

The proposed action must be located in a floodplain and or effect a wetland because: protection of infrastructure and private property at this location where The Big Lost River flows south through the City of Mackay, Idaho. Factors considered in making this determination include: protection of infrastructure

and private property from flood damage and the cost effective of the proposed solution to the problem. The proposed project action conforms to all applicable State/Local floodplain management standards and ordinances.

The project will affect the floodplain and or wetland by: repairing already damages infrastructure therefore reducing the damage to environmental and biological impacts down-stream of the Mackay Reservoir Dam. Project impacts have been minimized by: ensuring compliance with existing floodplain development regulations. After evaluating alternatives - including impacts and mitigation measures - it has been determined that there are no practicable alternatives to the proposed action. Without good cause shown the action will proceed once funding becomes available. The below responsible official will be monitoring project implementation. Additional information - including a project area map - can be obtained from the applicant contact below from Custer County during normal business hours. This information can also be found on the Custer County Idaho web page at, <https://custercountyidaho.org/>

Custer County Clerk Lura Baker, 801 East Main Ave. Challis, Idaho 83226 – 208-879-3305

Custer County Planning and Zoning Jessica Clemenhagen, 208-879-6894

Custer County Office of Emergency Management Levi Maydole, 208-833-6168

