

Appendix A

Comments, Responses, and Consultation

USACE Consultation
USFWS Consultation
SHPO Consultation
Tribal Consultation
BOR Consultation
SITLA Consultation
FEMA Consultation
Utah Dam Safety Consultation
UDWR Consultation

USACE CONSULTATION



September 9, 2020

Mr. Hollis Jencks
Project Manager
Bountiful Regulatory Office
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
533 West 3600 South, Suite 150
Bountiful, UT 84010-7744

Reference: A Cultural Resource Assessment for the Warner Draw Plan-EA, Washington County, Utah (UDSH Report No. U18HY0726)

Dear Mr. Jencks:

Enclosed is a copy of a cultural resources report titled *A Cultural Resource Assessment for the Warner Draw Plan-EA, Washington County, Utah*. The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), is providing technical and financial assistance to the Washington County Commission (the County) for several proposed watershed protection and restoration projects in and around St. George, Hurricane, and Washington, Utah. The project locations have been prioritized by the County and NRCS based on the need for flood and erosion control, water conservation, and habitat restoration. The projects could entail such actions as improving efficiency of existing ditches and drains, constructing new stormwater detention basins, constructing additional stormwater pipeline segments, stabilizing and armoring banks of existing waterways, removing invasive vegetation, etc. Collectively, these projects are being evaluated under the Warner Draw Watershed Plan-EA. The NRCS is the lead federal agency for the undertaking, but the portions of the project cross lands managed by the Utah School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration (SITLA), the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and work in wetlands and along waterways may necessitate one or more permits from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). For the purposes of Section 106 consultation, the NRCS will function as the lead Federal agency, which will also cover SITLA's responsibilities under Utah Code Annotated Section 9-8-404.

An intensive pedestrian cultural resources inventory of the undertaking was completed on October 25–29, 2018 and May 7-11, 2019 by Certus Environmental Solutions under the authority of UDSH Project No. U18HY0726. A total of nine cultural resource sites and historical structures and two isolated occurrences were identified as result of the inventory. Certus was unable to relocate one of the previously documented sites reported in the Utah Division of State History records as located in the current survey area. Site 42WS2498 (lithic scatter) has been destroyed by modern development. Table 1 summarizes the sites identified, type, and National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) eligibility determination.

Table 1. Summary of Cultural Resources Sites and NRHP Determinations.

Site #	Description	NRHP Eligibility	Land Ownership
42WS4336	St. George & Washington Canal	Eligible	Private
42WS4931	Hurricane Canal & lateral ditches	LISTED	Private & SILTA
42WS5112	South Station Ditch	Not Eligible	Private
42WS5173	Harder Ditch & lateral ditches	Not Eligible	Private
42WS6059	Historical spring & water storage complex	Eligible	SITLA
42WS6346	Historical dugout	Not Eligible	Private
42WS6347	Historical artifact and lumber scatter	Not Eligible	Private

n/a	Historical C & C Cattle Farms silo	Eligible	Private
n/a	Historical Hall barn	Not Eligible	Private

One site, the St. George and Washington Canal (42WS4336), located on Private land, will have a 1425-foot segment converted to pipe as part of the proposed undertaking. The canal system, which is privately owned, dates to the early 1890s and was among the first successful large-scale diversions of irrigation water from the Virgin River to the St. George settlement. The system was expanded over the decades after its completion to include an extensive lateral distribution network of smaller ditches. The canal system was previously determined eligible for the NRHP under Criteria A and C. The segment of the canal that is proposed to be piped is determined to be non-contributing to the overall eligibility of the system as a whole; due to its modern alterations, including existing piped sections. As such, the NRCS has determined that there will be no adverse effect to site 42WS4336 by piping the segment.

An additional site on Private and lands administered by SITLA, the Hurricane Canal and lateral ditches (42WS4931), will have a 680-foot long segment of concrete-lined ditch converted to pipe as part of the proposed undertaking. The canal was listed on the National Register in 1977 under Criteria A and C. The segment of the main canal in the current survey area includes remnants of the lined historical canal channel, stone retaining walls, a siphon, and a tunnel through the Hurricane Cliffs. The main canal is a 7.5-mile long irrigation ditch started in 1891 and completed in 1904. The segment of the canal that is proposed to be piped is determined to be non-contributing to the overall eligibility of the system as a whole due to its modern alterations, including existing piped sections. As such, the NRCS has determined that there will be no adverse effect to site 42WS4931 by piping the segment. Determinations of effect for all sites are summarized in Table 2.

Table 2. Summary of anticipated effects

Site #	Nature of Impact	Finding of Effect
42WS4336	Piping of approximately 1425 feet of open ditch east of River Road.	No Adverse Effect
42WS4931	Piping of 680 feet of open, concrete-lined ditch along west side of 400 West. All other documented segments of lateral system are avoided.	No Adverse Effect
42WS5112	Avoided	No Historic Properties Affected
42WS5173	Approximately 1130 feet of open channel would be filled to surrounding grade to bury a new subsurface pipeline east of Sandia Road. Trash rack and two flow control boxes installed on channel east of Virgin River.	No Historic Properties Affected
42WS6059	Avoided	No Historic Properties Affected
42WS6346	Avoided	No Historic Properties Affected
42WS6347	East half of site would be excavated for construction of drainage basin.	No Historic Properties Affected
C & C Silo	Avoided	No Historic Properties Affected
Hall Barn	Avoided	No Historic Properties Affected

The NRCS recommends that implementation proceed as planned with a determination of ***no adverse effect to historic properties***. The NRCS requests your concurrence for the determination of project effects and site eligibility. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please contact Tara S. Hoffmann, State Cultural Resources Specialist at 385-258-1266 or tara.hoffmann@usda.gov at your convenience.

Sincerely,



EMILY FIFE
State Conservationist

Enclosure

cc: (w/o encl)

Norm Evenstad, ASTC-Partnerships (Water Resources), NRCS, Salt Lake City, Utah

Derek Hamilton, Water Resources Coordinator, NRCS, Salt Lake City, Utah

Bobbi Preite, Senior Natural Resources Consultant, McMillen Jacobs Associates, Boise, Idaho

Tara S. Hoffmann, State Cultural Resources Specialist, NRCS, Salt Lake City, Utah



United States Department of Agriculture

Natural Resources
Conservation Service

Date: February 12, 2018

Utah State Office

125 South State Street
Room 4010
Salt Lake City, UT 84138

Mr. Jason Gipson
Chief - Nevada-Utah Regulatory Branch
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
533 West 2600 South, Suite 150
Bountiful, Utah 84010

Ph: 801-524-4550
Fax: 844-715-4928
www.ut.nrcs.usda.gov

RE: Formal request to be a Cooperating Agency in the development of several watershed Environmental Assessments (EA) in Utah.

Dear Mr. Gipson:

In accordance with the Council on Environmental Quality regulations implementing the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) at 40 CFR Part 1501.6, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is formally requesting that U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) become a cooperating agency in the planning and development of several Watershed EA efforts in Utah. The names and locations of these proposed projects are listed in Attachment-1.

This request is made since your agency is identified as having special expertise or jurisdiction by law related to this project. The EAs are being prepared to fulfill the NRCS NEPA compliance responsibilities pertaining to our Federal financial assistance through the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Program (Public Law 83-566) for these projects. As your agency may also have NEPA compliance responsibilities concerning these projects, preparation of the EAs should also assist in fulfilling environmental review requirements for your agency or other federal agencies and meet NEPA's intent of reducing duplication and delay between agencies.

Upon acceptance of this invitation, roles can be defined in an informal agreement or a formal MOU can be established. If your agency is unable to participate as a cooperating agency please return a written explanation why your agency cannot participate. The NRCS shall accept designation as the lead Federal agency to act on behalf of the ACOE for purposes of compliance with the Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

Please send a letter confirming your decision by March 15, 2018 to: Timothy Wilson, State Conservationist, USDA-NRCS, Wallace F Bennett Federal Building, 125 South State Street, Room 4010, Salt Lake City, Utah 84138-1100.

Thank you for your timely response and cooperation with these efforts. If you have any questions or comments, please contact Bronson Smart, State Conservation Engineer, at bronson.smatl@ut.usda.gov or (801) 524-4559; or Norm Evenstad, Water Resources Coordinator, at norm.evenstad@ut.usda.gov or (801) 524-4569.

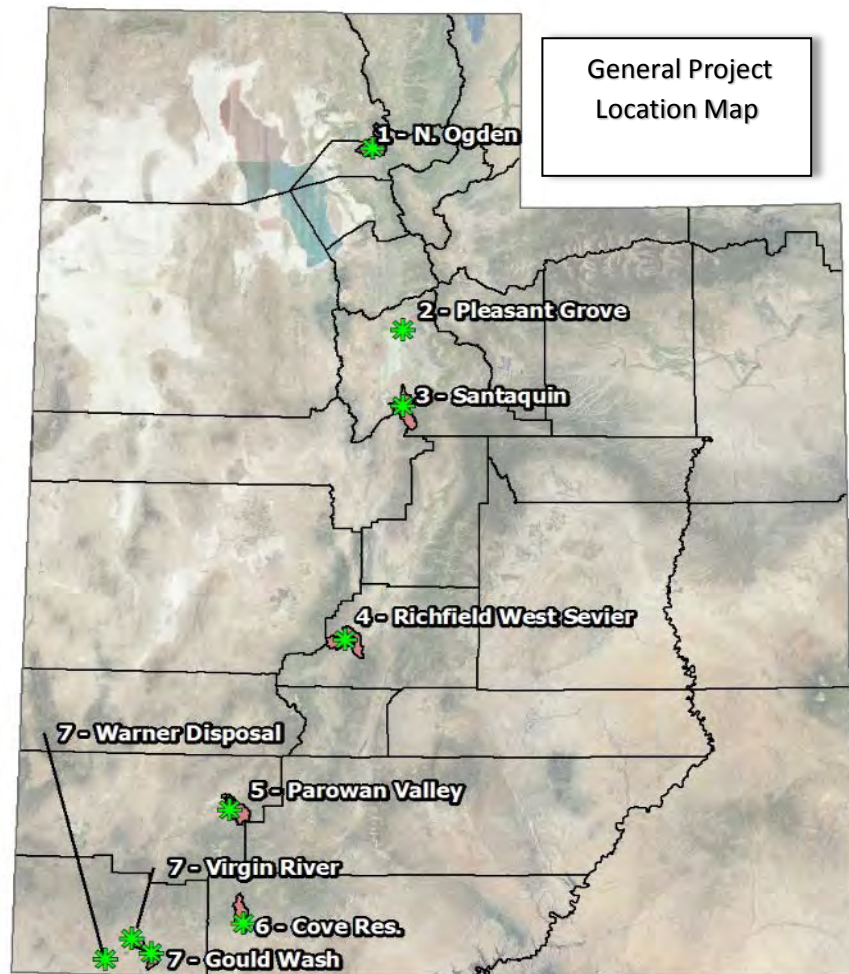
Sincerely,

TIMOTHY WILSON
State Conservationist

cc:

Mike Larsen, Acting Assistant State Conservationist-Field Operations (South), NRCS, Richfield, UT
Don Ashby, Assistance State Conservationist-Field Operations (North), NRCS, Ogden, UT
Bronson Smart, State Conservation Engineer-Rehab Program Manager, NRCS, Salt Lake City, UT
Norm Evenstad, Water Resources Coordinator, NRCS, Salt Lake City, UT

UTAH-NRCS - PL566 WATERSHED PLAN-ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT WORK



PL566 Project Name	Location/Various	Summary description of proposed work
1-North Ogden Weber-Box Elder Conservation District	41.301537° -111.975893°	Relocate & expand 2550 North Detention Basin, use basin for water storage, flood control, recreation. Water provided from North Ogden canal at about 2 cfs.
2-Pleasant Grove Pleasant Grove City	40.363114° -111.774560°	Pipe 3,100 feet of the open, unlined Mill Ditch located in Pleasant Grove City with 30-inch diameter HDPE pipe.
3-Santaquin Santaquin City	39.969369° -111.770505°	Evaluate the proposed installation of approximately 5 flood control structures along the East bench of Santaquin to protect homes, infrastructure and possibly provide aquifer recharge capability.
4-Richfield W. Sevier Sevier County	38.871435° -112.004222°	New Watershed Plan- Evaluate additional flood control measures needed throughout the Richfield-West Sevier County area (Flat Canyon). Recreation, trails, canal piping, habitat development.
5-Parowan Valley Iron County	37.868987° -112.783872°	New Watershed Plan - Evaluate additional flood control measures, debris basin/s, recreation opportunities, irrigation water management, and habitat restoration/enhancement.
6-Cove Reservoir Kane County	37.280257° -112.690638°	Construction of approximately 6,000 acre-foot capacity dam/reservoir for irrigation and recreation in Cove Canyon outside of Orderville, Utah.
7-Warner Draw Group Washington County Gould Wash DB Virgin River Habitat Warner Disposal Pipe	<u>Gould</u> - 37.116769° -113.230050° <u>Virgin</u> - 37.190211° -113.348204° <u>Warner</u> - 37.070515° -113.498451°	Construction of a debris basin in Gould Wash above Hurricane, Utah - located on BLM land. Piping of Hurricane canal for more efficient off/on farm irrigation water management and analysis of water savings to enhance Virgin River habitat. Evaluate enhancement of Virgin River endangered fish species and SW willow flycatcher habitat. Partner incl. The Nature Conservancy.

USFWS CONSULTATION



June 9, 2020

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Utah Field Office
Ms. Laura Romin, Acting Field Supervisor
2369 West Orton Circle, Suite 50
West Valley City, Utah 84119

Reference: Warner Draw Watershed Plan--Supplement 9, Washington County, Utah

Dear Ms. Romin:

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), in coordination with local sponsors, proposes to implement watershed improvement measures associated with Supplement 9 of the Warner Draw Watershed Plan at five sites in Washington County, Utah. Specifically, these measures would 1) provide flood protection; 2) improve water quality; 3) increase water quantity; 4) create and enhance wildlife habitat; and 5) expand recreation opportunities. It was determined that the proposed project may affect federally-listed species and designated critical habitat; therefore, the enclosed Biological Assessment (BA) was prepared in accordance with the Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973 (7 U.S.C. 136, 16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.), as amended.

The enclosed BA provides a thorough analysis of the project's potential effects on federally-listed species and critical habitat. It also identifies the conservation measures and mitigation commitments that will be implemented to minimize adverse impacts. Based on information presented in the BA, it has been determined that Supplement 9 of the Warner Draw Watershed Plan is **likely to adversely affect** the southwestern willow flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii eximius*), and is **likely to adversely affect** critical habitat for the southwestern willow flycatcher, western yellow-billed cuckoo [proposed] (*Coccyzus americanus occidentalis*), Virgin River chub (*Gila seminuda*), and woundfin (*Plagopterus argentissimus*). Furthermore, it has been determined that the proposed project is **not likely to adversely affect** the western yellow-billed cuckoo, Virgin River chub, woundfin, or desert tortoise (*Gopherus agassizii*), and would have **no effect** on the remaining federally-listed species (including critical habitat) known to occur in Washington County.

This letter serves as a request by the NRCS to initiate formal consultation for Supplement 9 of the Warner Draw Watershed Plan in compliance with Section 7 of the ESA.

Thank you for assistance in this matter. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Derek Hamilton, Water Resources Coordinator, at 801-524-4560 or derek.hamilton@usda.gov.

Reference: Warner Draw Watershed Plan--Supplement 9, Washington County, Utah

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Emily Fife".

EMILY FIFE
State Conservationist

Enclosure

cc:

Alan Atkins, Area Conservationist, NRCS, Richfield, UT

Lynn Kitchen, District Conservationist, NRCS, Beaver, UT

Derek Hamilton, Water Resources Coordinator, NRCS, Salt Lake City, UT



United States Department of Agriculture

Natural Resources
Conservation Service

Date: February 12, 2018

Utah State Office

125 South State Street
Room 4010
Salt Lake City, UT 84138

Ph: 801-524-4550
Fax: 844-715-4928
www.ut.nrcs.usda.gov

Mr. Larry Crist
Utah Field Office-Supervisor
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
2369 West Orton Circle, Suite 50
West Valley City, Utah 84119

RE: Formal Request to be a Cooperating Agency in the development of several Environmental Assessments (EA) in Utah.

Dear Mr. Crist:

In accordance with the Council on Environmental Quality regulations implementing the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) at 40 CFR Part 1501.6, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is formally requesting that U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) become a cooperating agency in the planning and development of several EA efforts in Utah. The names and locations of these proposed project areas are shown and summarized in Attachment 1.

This request is made since your agency is identified as having special expertise or jurisdiction by law related to these projects. The EAs are being prepared to fulfill the NRCS NEPA compliance responsibilities pertaining to our Federal financial assistance through the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Program as authorized through Public Law 83-566. As your agency may also have NEPA compliance responsibilities concerning these projects, preparation of the EAs should also assist in fulfilling environmental review requirements for your agency or other federal agencies and meet NEPA's intent of reducing duplication and delay between agencies.

Upon acceptance of this invitation, roles can be defined in an informal agreement or a formal MOU can be established. If your agency is unable to participate as a cooperating agency please return a written explanation why your agency cannot participate. The NRCS shall accept designation as the lead Federal agency to act on behalf of the USFWS for purposes of compliance with the Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

Please send a letter confirming your decision by March 15, 2018 to: Timothy Wilson, State Conservationist, USDA-NRCS, Wallace F Bennett Federal Building, 125 South State Street, Room 4010, Salt Lake City, Utah 84138-1100.

Thank you for your timely response and cooperation with these efforts. If you have any questions or comments, please contact Bronson Smart, State Conservation Engineer, at bronson.smart@ut.usda.gov or (801) 524-4559; or Norm Evenstad, Water Resources Coordinator, at norm.evenstad@ut.usda.gov or (801) 524-4569.

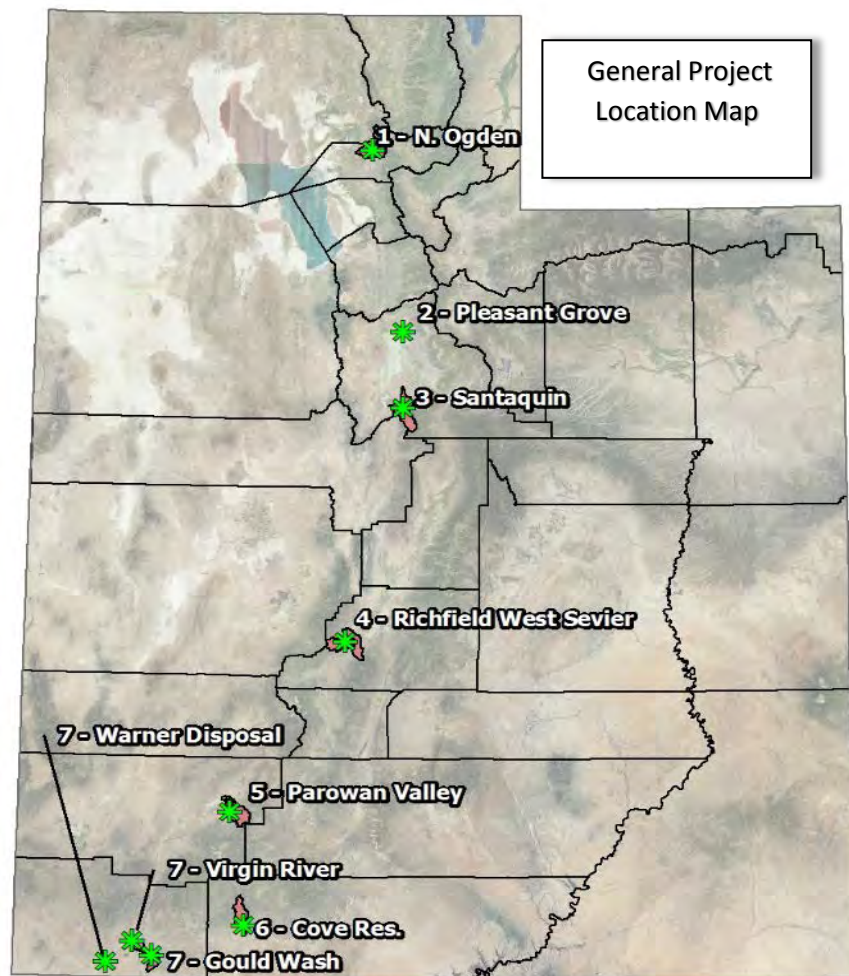
Sincerely,

TIMOTHY WILSON
State Conservationist

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June 9, 2020

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Utah Field Office
Ms. Laura Romin, Acting Field Supervisor
2369 West Orton Circle, Suite 50
West Valley City, Utah 84119

Reference: Warner Draw Watershed Plan--Supplement 9, Washington County, Utah

Dear Ms. Romin:

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), in coordination with local sponsors, proposes to implement watershed improvement measures associated with Supplement 9 of the Warner Draw Watershed Plan at five sites in Washington County, Utah. Specifically, these measures would 1) provide flood protection; 2) improve water quality; 3) increase water quantity; 4) create and enhance wildlife habitat; and 5) expand recreation opportunities. It was determined that the proposed project may affect federally-listed species and designated critical habitat; therefore, the enclosed Biological Assessment (BA) was prepared in accordance with the Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973 (7 U.S.C. 136, 16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.), as amended.

The enclosed BA provides a thorough analysis of the project's potential effects on federally-listed species and critical habitat. It also identifies the conservation measures and mitigation commitments that will be implemented to minimize adverse impacts. Based on information presented in the BA, it has been determined that Supplement 9 of the Warner Draw Watershed Plan is **likely to adversely affect** the southwestern willow flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii eximius*), and is **likely to adversely affect** critical habitat for the southwestern willow flycatcher, western yellow-billed cuckoo [proposed] (*Coccyzus americanus occidentalis*), Virgin River chub (*Gila seminuda*), and woundfin (*Plagopterus argentissimus*). Furthermore, it has been determined that the proposed project is **not likely to adversely affect** the western yellow-billed cuckoo, Virgin River chub, woundfin, or desert tortoise (*Gopherus agassizii*), and would have **no effect** on the remaining federally-listed species (including critical habitat) known to occur in Washington County.

This letter serves as a request by the NRCS to initiate formal consultation for Supplement 9 of the Warner Draw Watershed Plan in compliance with Section 7 of the ESA.

Thank you for assistance in this matter. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Derek Hamilton, Water Resources Coordinator, at 801-524-4560 or derek.hamilton@usda.gov.

Reference: Warner Draw Watershed Plan--Supplement 9, Washington County, Utah

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Emily Fife".

EMILY FIFE
State Conservationist

Enclosure

cc:

Alan Atkins, Area Conservationist, NRCS, Richfield, UT

Lynn Kitchen, District Conservationist, NRCS, Beaver, UT

Derek Hamilton, Water Resources Coordinator, NRCS, Salt Lake City, UT



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
2369 W Orton Circle, #50
West Valley City, Utah 84119



In Reply Refer to:
FWS/IR05/IR07-06E23000-2020-F-0670

Emily Fife, State Conservationist
Natural Resources Conservation Service
125 South State Street
Room 4010
Salt Lake City, UT 84138

Subject: Biological Opinion for Warner Draw Watershed Plan

Dear Ms. Fife:

In accordance with section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.), and the Interagency Cooperation Regulations (50 CFR 402), this transmits our biological opinion (BO) for consultation on the proposed Warner Draw Watershed Plan in Washington County (Project). This BO evaluates Project effects to the endangered southwestern willow flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*). The BO also evaluates Project effects to designated critical habitat of Virgin River chub (*Gila seminuda*) and woundfin (*Plagopterus argentissimus*) (collectively referred to as Virgin River fishes), and designated critical habitat of southwestern willow flycatcher. At the time that the Project Biological Assessment (BA) was written (June 2020), proposed critical habitat Unit 68 Virgin River 2 (UT-8) of the western yellow-billed cuckoo (*Coccyzus americanus*) was located within the boundaries of the project area (79 FR 48548-48652). However, we eliminated this proposed critical habitat unit in the February 2020 Revised Designation of Critical Habitat for the Western Distinct Population Segment of the Yellow-Billed Cuckoo proposed rule (85 FR 11458-11594). Therefore, for the remainder of this BO, we do not discuss effects to proposed critical habitat to the western yellow-billed cuckoo. Our BO is based on information in your June 9, 2020 letter, the BA, and your March 25, 2021 technical memo.

You determined the Project may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect (NLAA) the western yellow-billed cuckoo, Virgin River chub, woundfin, and desert tortoise (*Gopherus agassizii*). We concur with your determination for western yellow-billed cuckoo, because Project activities will occur outside the species' nesting season. In addition, we concur with your determination for the Virgin River fishes because Project activities will occur outside of the spawning period (April 1 - July 31) and no construction activities will take place within the wetted channel of the Virgin River.

INTERIOR REGION 5 MISSOURI BASIN

KANSAS, MONTANA*, NEBRASKA, NORTH DAKOTA,
SOUTH DAKOTA

*PARTIAL

INTERIOR REGION 7 UPPER COLORADO RIVER BASIN

COLORADO, NEW MEXICO, UTAH, WYOMING

We concur with your NLAA determination for desert tortoise for the following reasons:

- Construction employees will be informed on tortoise biology and habitat.
- Presence surveys will be conducted, and construction and maintenance will occur outside the active tortoise season in suitable habitat areas. If any tortoise are encountered prior to or during construction, further consultation with our office will be initiated, and tortoises will be relocated in cooperation with the Washington County Habitat Conservation Plan and the Red Cliffs Reserve.
- Construction will occur outside the active desert tortoise season in suitable habitat areas (March-June and September-October).
- Suitable desert tortoise habitat in the project areas will be surveyed by a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) approved desert tortoise survey biologist for the presence of individuals during the active season, and no more than 30 days prior to construction. If desert tortoise or their signs are discovered during presence surveys, our office will be contacted and formal Section 7 consultation will be initiated. If desert tortoises are encountered during construction, the project will be halted and our office will be contacted and formal Section 7 consultation will be initiated.
- Construction employees will be required to read a tortoise educational brochure that describes tortoise biology, habitat characteristics, and the appropriate measures to take upon discovery of a tortoise.
- Trenches, pits, and other excavation sites will be checked for desert tortoises prior to backfilling, and trash and debris will be contained to reduce the potential for attracting desert tortoise predators.
- Construction equipment will not exceed 10 miles-per-hour to minimize risk of collision with desert tortoises and to reduce dust.

CONSULTATION HISTORY

This section summarizes significant steps in the consultation process:

- April 23, 2018 to February 11, 2019: Natural Resources Conservation Service held several meetings with us to discuss the proposed project and agree on effect determinations for affected species.
- June 16, 2020: We received your BA and letter with request for consultation.
- March 25, 2021: We received a technical memo from the project consultant regarding the intended water rights, supply, and management for the project.

See the Project BA for additional details on coordination between our office and the project proponent.

BIOLOGICAL OPINION

1.0 PROPOSED ACTION

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and Washington County (County) propose five watershed protection and restoration projects throughout Washington County, Utah to protect existing infrastructure from floods and erosion, improve water conservation, and restore or improve habitat. The projects include the following: 1) the Washington City Main Street Debris Basin Project, which proposes to construct new stormwater debris basins and associated facilities; 2) the Seegmiller Marsh Habitat Improvements Project, which proposes to acquire property, manage Virgin River sediment, remove invasive vegetation species, construct trails, manage stormwater drainage, install fencing, and construct erosion protection features on the west side of Virgin River; 3) the Y-Drain Project, which proposes to install new storm drain pipeline, enclose an open segment of Y-Drain, and construct a new trail; 4) the Warner Valley Disposal System Project, which proposes to construct new detention basins and associated facilities, conduct stormwater pipeline maintenance, and install a new equestrian trail; and 5) the Hurricane Water Efficiency Project, which proposes to combine and improve efficiency of the current Hurricane City and Hurricane Canal Company irrigation systems and add approximately 18.4 acre-feet of water storage and associated pumping facilities.

Each project differs and additional details about the actions at each site are included in the Project BA. In general, the projects include the construction of debris and detention basins, capacity pump stations, settling ponds, spillway structures, catch basins and laterals, storm drain pipes, flow diversion pipelines, asphalt pedestrian trails, and drain manholes. Riprap will be installed, sediment excavated, and improvements will be made to irrigation systems and storm drain systems. Disturbed areas will be restored and reseeded. Project activities will result in changes in water management, distribution methods, and efficiency, but no additional water will be depleted from the Virgin River.

ACTION AREA

The Project action area is based on the anticipated construction, operation, and maintenance effects of the Project in relation to the range of the ESA-listed species that may be affected by the Project. Our regulations define the action area as “all areas to be affected directly or indirectly by the Federal action and not merely the immediate area involved in the action” (50 CFR section 402.02). The Project action areas include the five project areas described above and in the Project BA. The action area for each location includes an additional half mile buffer surrounding each project area. We included the buffer areas to evaluate the effects of Project actions from construction disturbance, including noise, light, and short-term sedimentation and turbidity occurring downstream during construction activities.

APPLICANT-COMMITTED CONSERVATION MEASURES

The applicant has committed to the following conservation measures to reduce effects to listed species:

- All construction activities for the Project will adhere to the Virgin River Program Floodplain Protection Construction Conditions, which include provisions for working near the Virgin River and guidance regarding construction timing, stream disturbances, and other construction best management practices.
- Project activities will occur outside of the southwestern willow flycatcher nesting season (May 1 to September 1), and outside the spawning season for Virgin River fishes (April 1 to August 31). If construction is subsequently planned to occur outside the timeframe of September 1 to March 31, the NRCS will reinstate consultation with our office.
- Surveys and monitoring of southwestern willow flycatchers will initiate five days prior to construction, continue through the duration of construction, and will continue seasonally for the next five years with USFWS and UDWR coordination (communication with Derek Hamilton December 11, 2020) to determine any long-term effects which may lead to potential adjustments to Project plans.
- If any trees are to be removed from February to September, pre-construction surveys for southwestern willow flycatchers will take place no more than five days prior to construction. If active nests are found, construction activities will be postponed until after the nesting season, until nestlings have fledged, the nest fails, or breeding behaviors are no longer observed, as determined by a USFWS-approved southwestern willow flycatcher survey biologist.
- The project area and surrounding habitats within one mile will be surveyed by a qualified biologist for active raptor nests no more than five days prior to the commencement of work. If active nests are found during surveys, spatial buffers will be established around each nest site in coordination with USFWS and NRCS. Construction activities within the buffer areas will be prohibited until a qualified biologist confirms that all nests are no longer active.
- Temporarily disturbed areas will be revegetated using a USFWS-approved seed-mix.
- Excavated soils will be sorted into mineral soils and top soils. When backfilling a disturbed site, top soils will be placed on top to provide a seed bed for native plants.
- Contractors will not dump excavated material or construction debris in any stream channel or place materials in flowing waters or adjacent wetlands. This includes material such as grease, oil, joint coating, or any other possible pollutants.
- All construction waste materials will be removed from the active channel and the 100-year floodplain at the end of the project.

Additional information on the proposed action, applicant-committed conservation measures, and status of the species are described in the Project BA.

2.0 STATUS OF THE SPECIES

Southwestern Willow Flycatcher

Southwestern willow flycatchers were listed as endangered in 1993. There are currently 288 known southwestern willow flycatcher breeding sites in CA, NV, AZ, UT, NM, and CO (all sites from 1993 to 2007 where territorial southwestern willow flycatchers were detected) holding an estimated 1,299 territories (Durst et al. 2008).

It is difficult to arrive at a grand total of southwestern willow flycatcher territories since not all sites are surveyed annually. Numbers have increased since the bird was listed and some habitat remains unsurveyed; however, after nearly a decade of intense surveys, the existing numbers are just past the upper end of estimates of 20 years ago (500-1000 pairs; Unitt 1987). About 50 percent of the 1,299 estimated territories throughout the subspecies range are located at four general locations (Cliff/Gila Valley, NM, Roosevelt Lake, AZ, San Pedro River/Gila River confluence, AZ, and Middle Rio Grande, NM).

We designated critical habitat for the species in 2005 and revised critical habitat designation in 2013. Critical habitat across the species' range is composed of 1,227 miles of stream segments and riparian areas, primarily in Colorado River Basin watersheds that occur within 100-year floodplains or flood-prone areas encompassing 208,973 acres (USFWS 2013). Critical habitat includes areas that provide sufficient riparian habitat for breeding, non-breeding, territorial, dispersing, and migrating southwestern willow flycatchers in order to reach geographic distribution, abundance, and habitat-related recovery goals.

The physical or biological features of critical habitat include riparian habitat in a dynamic successional riverine environment that provides opportunities for nesting, foraging, migration, dispersal, and shelter and a variety of insect prey populations within or adjacent to riparian floodplains or moist environments. Habitat patch size can be as small as 0.25 acre or as large as 175 acres. The primary factors adversely affecting southwestern willow flycatcher designated critical habitat include habitat loss, modification, and fragmentation.

Virgin River Fishes

The woundfin is critically imperiled in the Virgin River. Causes for declines in woundfin numbers can be attributed to the following suite of environmental conditions: summer water temperatures exceeding behavioral thermal maximum and critical thermal maximum; low flows resulting from drought and water development, runoff from burned portions of the drainage; predation and competition by nonnative fishes, in particular red shiner; and episodic low dissolved oxygen conditions (USFWS 2008). Many of these same threats affect Virgin River chub, however, long-term monitoring in the upper Virgin River, indicate that the longer-lived Virgin River chub appear to reproduce successfully in most years (USFWS 2008). This is likely due to the absence of red shiner in these stream reaches (USFWS 2008).

When the woundfin was listed in 1970, it occupied only 87.5 mile of habitat in the Virgin River, which accounted for 12.5 percent of its historical range (USFWS 1995).

Thirty years later, we designated that portion of historical range (87.5 miles of the Virgin River) as critical habitat (65 FR 4140 4156). In the past 20 years, woundfin were eliminated from at least 35 miles of critical habitat in the lower Virgin River in Arizona and Nevada and abundance declined to precariously low levels in the Utah portion of the species range (Bennion 2013).

The historical range of Virgin River chub included the Virgin River and Muddy River systems in Utah, Arizona, and Nevada. The spatial distribution of the Virgin River chub in the Virgin River has changed little since it was listed in 1990 with populations persisting in two core areas (above Washington Fields Diversion in Utah and near the confluence with Beaver Dam Wash in Arizona). However, more transient populations below the Mesquite Diversion and downstream from the Johnson Diversion to the Arizona border were lost or reduced. Areas in the Muddy River where Virgin River chub are considered common have shrunk since the 1970s and now include only 8.7 miles of the upper river (Holden et al. 2005).

We designated the mainstem Virgin River and its 100-year floodplain, extending from the confluence of La Verkin Creek, Utah, to Halfway Wash, Nevada as critical habitat for the Virgin River chub and the woundfin. This designation includes 37.3 miles of the mainstem Virgin River in Utah, 31.6 miles in Arizona, and 18.6 miles in Nevada, for a total of 87.5 miles (USFWS 2000).

The physical and biological features of critical habitat necessary for the survival and recovery of the Virgin River fishes are water, physical habitat, and biological environment. As stated above, the 100-year floodplain of the Virgin River is included in the designation of critical habitat for both species, but we designated only those portions of the 100-year floodplain that contain at least one of the primary constituent elements for critical habitat (USFWS 2000). The water constituent element includes a sufficient quantity and quality of water that is delivered to a specific location in accordance with a hydrologic regime that is identified for the particular life stage for each species (i.e., temperature, dissolved oxygen, contaminants, nutrients, turbidity, etc.). This includes the following:

1. Water quality characterized by natural seasonally variable temperature, turbidity, and conductivity;
2. Hydrologic regime characterized by the duration, magnitude, and frequency of flow events capable of forming and maintaining channel and instream habitat necessary for particular life stages at certain times of the year; and
3. Flood events inundating the floodplain necessary to provide the organic matter that provide or support the nutrient and food sources for the listed fishes (USFWS 2000).

Factors affecting designated critical habitat for Virgin River fishes in the action area include nonnative fish, low flows resulting from drought and water development, floodplain development, and high water temperatures (USFWS 2008). Red shiner became established in this reach of the Virgin River in the 1980s (Fridell and Morvilius 2005). The UDWR, operating through the Virgin River Program, has periodically treated portions of the Virgin River drainage with a fish toxicant (rotenone) to remove nonnative species thereby improving habitat for native species.

Fall woundfin abundance is significantly lower in drought years than in non-drought years (Holden *et al.* 2001). The same relationship applies to other Virgin River native fishes (Golden and Holden 2002). Additionally, fall woundfin abundance was significantly lower in years where summer 50 percent exceedance flows were below 75 cubic feet per second (cfs) (Holden *et al.* 2001). Fall woundfin abundance declines even further at summer 50 percent exceedance flows below 50 cfs (Holden *et al.* 2001). In addition, river discharge directly affects water temperature, predation, and other threats to Virgin River fishes.

Extensive water development, high water temperatures, and persistent negative interaction with non-native species, particularly red shiner, are the greatest threats to the native fish populations in the Virgin River.

3.0 ENVIRONMENTAL BASELINE

Regulations implementing the ESA (50 CFR section 402.02) define the environmental baseline as the condition of the listed species or its designated critical habitat in the action area, without the consequences to the listed species or designated critical habitat caused by the proposed action. The environmental baseline includes the past and present effects of all Federal, State, or private actions and other human activities in the action area, the anticipated effects of all proposed Federal projects in the action area that have already undergone formal or early section 7 consultation, and the effects of State or private actions which are contemporaneous with the consultation in process. The consequences to listed species or designated critical habitat from ongoing agency activities or existing agency facilities that are not within the agency's discretion to modify are part of the environmental baseline.

SPECIES STATUS IN THE ACTION AREA

Southwestern Willow Flycatcher

Range-wide southwestern willow flycatcher critical habitat is subdivided into 24 management units. The Project is located within the Virgin Management Unit, which includes a 94.4-mile contiguous segment of the Virgin River in Utah, Arizona, and Nevada. Southwestern willow flycatcher nesting occurs at approximately eight locations within the Utah portion of the Virgin River floodplain, and UDWR surveys have documented about 10 to 20 active nests annually (Edwards, pers. comm. 2019).

A 1.7-acre area of suitable southwestern willow flycatcher habitat was identified adjacent to the Washington City Main Street Debris Basin Project area that includes a small spring with a network of trees and shrubs including cottonwoods, seep willows, tamarisk, and mesquite. This habitat is isolated by 1-2 miles from any other potential flycatcher habitat and there is no known occurrence for southwestern willow flycatchers within two miles of project area. No southwestern willow flycatchers were observed during the site surveys.

Southwestern willow flycatchers regularly occur in the Seegmiller Marsh Habitat Improvements Project area and are known to nest in two areas near the north and south ends of the project area. In addition, the Y-Drain project area is 0.5 miles upstream from Seegmiller Marsh.

However, southwestern willow flycatcher nesting areas at Seegmiller Marsh will be avoided during Project activities.

Loss and modification of critical habitat have reduced populations of the southwestern willow flycatcher along the Virgin River (USFWS 2013). Loss and modification of habitat is attributed to anthropogenic and natural causes. Large amounts of development have occurred along the Virgin River, and particularly within the Virgin River floodplain. These developments include buildings, dams, roads, agricultural fields, orchards, bridges, and other facilities for the public. The habitat loss and modification from these developments have significant effects to critical habitat for the southwestern willow flycatcher.

Severe flood events in 2005 and 2010 also resulted in lost habitat along the Virgin River (USGS 2006, Ralph and Dettinger 2012). Conversely, several habitat restoration projects led by the Virgin River Program have taken place within the Virgin River floodplain focusing on replacing non-native vegetation with native willow and cottonwood adjacent to the action area (Virgin River Program 2018).

Virgin River Fishes

Woundfin and Virgin River chub occur together in the Virgin River in Utah. The historical range of these fish species included rivers in Arizona, Nevada, and Utah, extending from near the junction of the Salt and Verde Rivers at Tempe, Arizona, to the mouth of the Gila River at Yuma, Arizona, and the Colorado River from Yuma, Arizona upstream to the Virgin River in Nevada, Arizona, and Utah, and into La Verkin Creek in Utah (USFWS 2008). The fish were extirpated from much of their former range, and are now confined to the mainstem Virgin River from La Verkin Hot Springs and the lower portion of Ash and La Verkin Creeks downstream to near Lake Mead (USFWS 2008). The portion of occupied habitat within the action area includes the 100-year floodplain that includes the section of the Virgin River from the Johnson Diversion to the Webb Hill Barrier.

Historically, the section of the Virgin River within the action area was occupied by woundfin, Virgin River chub, and other native fish species (USFWS 2008). The UDWR samples the Virgin River in spring and fall on an annual basis. From 2003 through 2016, woundfin and Virgin River chub were collected on an annual basis in their critical habitat; however, numbers were low because populations of both species are significantly affected by poor water quality and lack of water quantity. Catch per-unit-effort rates in the Johnson Diversion to Webb Hill Barrier reach in 2016 were 0.271 Virgin River chub, and 0.01 woundfin per 538 feet² (UDWR 2016). Although these catch rates are low compared to historic catch rates of woundfin and Virgin River chub, recent sampling results show that reproduction is occurring and that some fish are recruiting to the adult population.

Factors affecting designated critical habitat for Virgin River fishes in the action area include non-native fish, low flows resulting from drought and water development, floodplain development, and high water temperatures (USFWS 2008). Red shiner became established in this reach of the river in the 1980s (Fridell and Morvilius 2005).

The Utah Division of Wildlife Resources (UDWR), operating through the Virgin River Program, has periodically treated portions of the Virgin River drainage with a fish toxicant (rotenone) to remove non-native species thereby improving habitat for native species. These chemical treatments have typically occurred downstream of the Washington Fields or Johnson Diversions (Bennion and Fridell 2012).

The reach of the Virgin river in critical habitat downstream from Washington Fields Diversion was treated with rotenone (a fish toxicant) approximately 15 times since 1988 to eliminate undesirable species. Fisheries sampling has shown that rotenone treatments completed in fall 2011 was effective in removing red shiner from the upper Virgin River (Bennion and Fridell 2012). Since then, fish barriers downstream have been effective in keeping red shiner from reinvading the upper Virgin River.

In the upper Virgin River, the Hurricane and La Verkin Ditch Diversions constructed in the late 1890s and early 1900s diverted Virgin River flows approximately three miles upstream of La Verkin Hot Springs (Huizinga and Fridell 2012). These diversions routinely dewatered the river downstream to La Verkin Hot Springs under low flow conditions. Those structures remained in service until replaced in 1985 by the Quail Creek Diversion which now delivers the water rights that were formerly diverted into the Hurricane and La Verkin diversions. The Quail Creek pipeline capacity is approximately 125 cfs. Current diversion operations maintain a minimum flow of 3 cfs. Accordingly, diversion of this water has not changed since the original diversions were constructed (Huizinga and Fridell 2012).

A portion of the flow diverted at the Quail Creek Diversion is returned to the river at various locations downstream (Huizinga and Fridell 2012). The first release occurs just downstream from La Verkin Hot Springs, 1.6 miles upstream from the upstream terminus of critical habitat at the confluence with La Verkin Creek. The Washington Fields water right requires a minimum flow of 86 cfs (or the natural flow of the river) to the Washington Fields Diversion (USFWS 2008). The entire flow of the river has been diverted near the present site of the Washington Fields Diversion regularly and for long periods since the late 1890s through authorized water rights. Currently a target discharge of 5 cfs passes the Washington Fields Diversion. Irrigation returns contribute flow downstream of the diversion structure.

Within the action area, several development projects have altered the 100-year floodplain and reduced its ability to contribute as physical or biological features of critical habitat. Habitat in the action area has generally been affected by human development activities; however, the flowing channel and 100-year floodplain in this area still have some natural fluvial geomorphic function and the area is still inhabited by listed and sensitive fish species. Instream flows in this section have generally increased since the early 1900s when more than 15 diversions existed within the basin. However, water development-caused decreases in stream flow, and resultant increases in water temperatures still affect both species in the action area (USFWS 2008).

In summary, all factors identified above have contributed to the decline of the Virgin River fishes in portions of the action area and within critical habitat (Huizinga and Fridell 2012).

Extensive water development, high water temperatures, and persistent negative interaction with non-native species, particularly red shiner, are the greatest threats to the native fish populations in the Virgin River.

4.0 EFFECTS OF THE ACTION

The Project includes temporary floodplain vegetation and soil disturbances within critical habitat for southwestern willow flycatcher and Virgin River fishes such as marsh contouring, pipeline installation, erosion protection installation, and equipment access and movement during construction, debris removal, and vegetation changes. Permanent loss of critical habitat includes the exposed riprap and associated access road, portions of a new segment of the paved Virgin River South Trail, a gravel loop trail, bird viewing stations, access bridges, and flow control devices. As part of the Project, the applicant intends to mitigate for Project effects by restoring floodplain habitat for southwestern willow flycatcher and Virgin River fishes. Floodplain habitat at Seegmiller Marsh that will be restored by the proposed project includes 4.30 acres of open water and 14.23 acres of marsh, therefore the ratio of restored habitat to lost habitat is over 5:1 for Virgin River fish and southwestern willow flycatcher. When construction is complete, revegetation in the form of seeding and pole planting of riparian vegetation will be coordinated with USFWS and the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources (UDWR). Temporarily disturbed areas will be revegetated using a USFWS-approved seed-mix.

Southwestern Willow Flycatcher

Potential harm to southwestern willow flycatchers is not expected as part of the proposed actions, since construction, operation, and maintenance activities will take place outside of the breeding season (April 15 – August 31). In addition, the existing occupied southwestern willow flycatcher habitat at Seegmiller Marsh is excluded from the Project area and will be avoided both spatially and seasonally. However, there is potential for harassment post-construction from increased public access. As part of the Seegmiller Marsh project area, the loop gravel trail with birding stations will be closed during the breeding season to limit public access. However, the south extension of the Virgin River bike/pedestrian trail on the outskirts of the action area will be open year-round. Increased noise and presence of people have the potential to startle or alarm the birds, causing potential behavioral responses such as avoidance, nest abandonment, or displacement.

Southwestern Willow Flycatcher Critical Habitat

Seegmiller Marsh Habitat Improvements project area is the only location with expected critical habitat effects. The installation of riprap and associated access road, the paved Virgin River South Trail, the new gravel trail loop trail, the bird viewing stations, access bridges, and flow control devices in the Virgin River's 100-year floodplain will permanently remove 1.68 acres of designated critical habitat for the southwestern willow flycatcher. Development will occur in areas of the 100-year floodplain that typically support riparian habitat suitable for breeding, nesting, and foraging. Furthermore, the Project will temporarily disturb approximately 27.43 acres of critical habitat in the 100-year floodplain. Below we assess each physical and biological feature for potential effects to southwestern willow flycatcher critical habitat.

Physical and Biological Features:

1. Riparian habitat in a dynamic successional riverine environment that provides opportunities for nesting, foraging, migration, dispersal, and shelter.
 - a. The Project will permanently remove 1.68 acres of riparian habitat in the 100-year floodplain. Installation activities in the affected areas will prevent rooting and permanently remove the potential for establishment of riparian habitat in affected areas in the future.
 - b. The Project will temporarily affect 27.43 acres of stopover or foraging habitat.

The applicant has committed to creating new habitat at Seegmiller Marsh in the form of 4.30 acres of open water and 14.23 acres of marsh to offset permanent loss and temporary effects from Project actions. The Project includes revegetation of these acres and thus should continue to support willow flycatcher habitat over the long-term.

2. A variety of insect prey populations within or adjacent to riparian floodplains or moist environments.

Because the Project will occur largely outside the growing season and the applicant has committed to revegetation of affected areas, we do not expect the Project will meaningfully affect insect prey populations in the action area for the long-term.

Virgin River Fishes Critical Habitat

The Project is expected to affect critical habitat at Seegmiller Marsh. Since the project effects occur within the 100-year floodplain and Virgin River fishes designated critical habitat, we assessed each physical and biological feature for potential effects from the Project.

Physical and Biological Features:

1. Water

The Project will not affect the quantity or quality of water or change the duration, magnitude, and frequency of flow events.

2. Physical Habitat

The installation of the riprap erosion protection wall, paved Virgin River South Trail, the gravel loop trail, and several bird viewing stations, all within the Virgin River's 100-year floodplain, will result in the permanent loss of 3.53 acres of designated critical habitat for Virgin River fishes.

3. Biological Environment

- a. The Project will permanently remove 3.53 acres of the Virgin River 100-year floodplain that will permanently prevent these areas from contributing to the biological environment of the river during flood events. Therefore, we expect the Project will permanently reduce available food resources for Virgin River fishes in those areas permanently removed from the biological environment.
- b. The Project will temporarily affect 34.49 acres of critical habitat that currently contributes to the biological productivity of the Virgin River.

The applicant has committed to creating new habitat at Seegmiller Marsh in the form of 4.30 acres of open water and 14.23 acres of marsh to offset permanent loss and temporary effects from Project actions. These actions will offset any losses of physical habitat and the biological environment within designated habitat from Project actions. Therefore, we expect the Project will maintain the biological environment by maintaining existing habitat in the floodplain in the long-term.

5.0 CUMULATIVE EFFECTS

We consider cumulative effects to include the effects of future state, tribal, local, and private actions that are reasonably certain to occur in the action area covered in this biological opinion. We do not consider future federal actions that are unrelated to the proposed action in this section because they require separate consultation pursuant to section 7 of the ESA.

Declines in the abundance or range of ESA-listed fish species and their critical habitats are attributed to various human activities on federal, state, and private lands, such as the following:

- human population expansion and associated infrastructure development;
- water retention, diversion, or dewatering of springs, wetlands, or streams;
- recreation, including off-road vehicle activity; and
- introductions of non-native plants, wildlife, or fish or other aquatic species, which can alter native habitats, out-compete, or prey upon native species.

We expect many of these activities will continue on state and private lands and could contribute to cumulative effects to the species within the Project action area.

Reasonably foreseeable future activities that may affect river-related resources in the area include land development, fire management, irrigation, and recreational activities. Implementation of these projects will likely affect the environment through several mechanisms including water quality, water rights, habitat alteration and loss, socioeconomics, and wildlife resources.

Cumulative effects to critical habitat of Virgin River fishes and southwestern willow flycatcher include the following types of effects:

- changes in land use patterns that further fragment, modify, or destroy potential spawning sites, breeding sites, occupied habitat and designated critical habitat;
- shoreline recreational activities and encroachment of human development that remove upland, riparian, or wetland vegetation and potentially degrade water quality;
- competition with, and predation by, exotic fish species introduced by anglers or other sources; and
- additional water depletions reducing habitat quality and quantity.

6.0 CONCLUSION

After reviewing the information provided in the BA, the effects of the action, and cumulative effects, it is our biological opinion that the Project is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of the southwestern willow flycatcher. In addition, it is our biological opinion that the Project does not result in destruction or adverse modification of designated critical habitat for Virgin River fishes or southwestern willow flycatcher. We reached these conclusions based on the following reasons:

- The applicant has committed to incorporate the conservation measures outlined the biological assessment and the Applicant-Committed Conservation Measures section of this BO;
- Construction will be scheduled between September 1 and March 31 to avoid spawning and breeding season for fish and birds. If the project is not complete during this time, construction will be halted until after the breeding and spawning season is over, unless approved by USFWS.
- The Project will permanently remove 3.53 acres and temporarily remove 34.49 acres of southwestern willow flycatcher and Virgin River fishes designated critical habitats in the action area. This removal of critical habitat represents a permanent loss of three percent and temporarily removes twenty six percent of critical habitat in the Project action area, and;
- The applicant will restore floodplain habitat at Seegmiller Marsh in the form of 4.30 acres of open water and 14.23 acres of marsh to offset permanent loss and temporary effects to southwestern willow flycatcher and Virgin River fishes designated critical habitat in the action area.

7.0 INCIDENTAL TAKE STATEMENT

Section 9 of the ESA and federal regulations pursuant to section 4(d) of the ESA prohibit the take of endangered and threatened species, respectively, without special exemption. Take is defined as to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture or collect, or to attempt to engage in any such conduct. The regulations define harm as “an act which actually kills or injures wildlife. Such act may include significant habitat modification or degradation where it actually kills or injures wildlife by significantly impairing essential behavioral patterns, including breeding, feeding, or sheltering” (50 CFR 17.3).

Harass is defined by regulation as “an intentional or negligent act or omission which creates the likelihood of injury to wildlife by annoying it to such an extent as to significantly disrupt normal behavioral patterns which include, but are not limited to, breeding, feeding or sheltering” (50 CFR 17.3). Incidental take is defined as “...takings that result from, but are not the purpose of, carrying out an otherwise lawful activity conducted by the Federal agency or applicant” (50 CFR 402.02).

Under the terms of section 7(b)(4) and section 7(o)(2), taking that is incidental to and not intended as part of the agency action is not considered to be prohibited taking under the ESA provided that such taking is in compliance with the terms and conditions of this Incidental Take Statement.

The measures described below are non-discretionary, and must be undertaken by NRCS so that they become binding conditions of any grant or permit issued to the Project proponent, as appropriate, for the exemption in section 7(o)(2) to apply. If NRCS fails to assume and implement the terms and conditions, or fails to require the applicant adhere to the terms and conditions of the Incidental Take Statement through enforceable terms that are added to any grant or permit document, the protective coverage of section 7(o)(2) may lapse. In order to monitor the effect of incidental take, NRCS or the applicant must report the progress of the action and its effect on the species to us as specified in the Incidental Take Statement [50 CFR §402.14(i)(3)].

AMOUNT OR EXTENT OF TAKE ANTICIPATED

All Project work will occur outside of the southwestern willow flycatcher breeding and nesting season when flycatchers are not present along the Virgin River. Therefore, we do not expect any take of southwestern willow flycatcher.

The Project will permanently remove 3.53 acres and will temporarily modify 34.49 acres of designated critical habitat for Virgin River fishes and southwestern willow flycatcher. However, new habitat created at Seegmiller Marsh includes 4.30 acres of open water and 14.23 acres of marsh, therefore the ratio of new habitat to lost habitat is over 5:1. It is expected that the new habitat will provide important physical and biological features (PBFs) of critical habitat for both southwestern willow flycatcher and Virgin River fishes. These PBFs include riparian habitat for breeding, nesting, and foraging habitat for southwestern willow flycatcher, additional and cleaner water for Virgin River fish, and greater native plant composition. As revegetation growth becomes more established over time, these areas will again provide additional viable habitat for affected species.

EFFECT OF THE TAKE

As described in the Conclusion section above, we determined the Project is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of southwestern willow flycatcher, or result in destruction or adverse modification of designated critical habitat for Virgin River fishes or southwestern willow flycatcher. This is because the Project affects less than one percent of all Virgin River fishes and southwestern willow flycatcher critical habitat in Utah.

The Project permanently removes three percent and temporarily removes twenty six percent of all critical habitat in the Project action area.

In addition, the applicant has committed to working with the Virgin River Program to implement conservation measures, including the revegetation of riparian habitats to benefit Virgin River fishes, southwestern willow flycatcher, and their designated critical habitats.

REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

1. If any southwestern willow flycatchers are injured or killed during construction activities, the applicant must immediately notify our Utah Ecological Services Field Office at (801) 975-3330. Pertinent information including the date, time, and location shall be recorded and provided to us.
2. Three years after completion of revegetation efforts with the Virgin River Program, we request that the applicant works with the Virgin River Program to provide a report on the success of plantings to our office.

8.0 RE-INITIATION NOTICE – CLOSING STATEMENT

This concludes formal consultation on the proposed Warner Draw Watershed Plan Project. As provided in 50 CFR sec. 402.16, reinitiation of formal consultation "...is required and shall be requested by the Federal agency or the Service, where discretionary Federal involvement or control over the action has been retained or is authorized by law" and:

1. If new information reveals effects of the action that may affect listed species or critical habitat in a manner or to an extent not previously considered;
2. If the identified action is subsequently modified in a manner that causes an effect to listed species or critical habitat that was not considered in the biological opinion.
3. If a new species is listed or critical habitat designated that may be affected by the identified action.
4. If a new species is listed or critical habitat designated that may be affected by the identified action.

To reinitiate section 7 consultation, NRCS should immediately notify our office by phone or email if any of the three reinitiation clauses are triggered.

Thank you for your coordination in preparing the biological assessment and your interest in conserving threatened and endangered species. If we can be of further assistance, please contact Paul Abate at paul_abate@fws.gov.

Sincerely,

Yvette Converse
Utah Field Supervisor

cc: Derek Hamilton, derek.hamilton@usda.gov, NRCS

9.0 REFERENCES

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SHPO CONSULTATION



September 9, 2020

Dr. Christopher Merritt, PhD
State Historic Preservation Officer
Utah Division of State History
300 Rio Grande Avenue
Salt Lake City, Utah 84101-1182

Reference: A Cultural Resource Assessment for the Warner Draw Plan-EA, Washington County, Utah (UDSH Report No. U18HY0726)

Dear Dr. Merritt:

Enclosed are a copy of a cultural resources report titled *A Cultural Resource Assessment for the Warner Draw Plan-EA, Washington County, Utah* and associated data. The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), is providing technical and financial assistance to the Washington County Commission (the County) for several proposed watershed protection and restoration projects in and around St. George, Hurricane, and Washington, Utah. The project locations have been prioritized by the County and NRCS based on the need for flood and erosion control, water conservation, and habitat restoration. The projects could entail such actions as improving efficiency of existing ditches and drains, constructing new stormwater detention basins, constructing additional stormwater pipeline segments, stabilizing and armoring banks of existing waterways, removing invasive vegetation, etc. Collectively, these projects are being evaluated under the Warner Draw Watershed Plan-EA. The NRCS is the lead federal agency for the undertaking, but the portions of the project cross lands managed by the Utah School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration (SITLA), the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and work in wetlands and along waterways may necessitate one or more permits from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). For the purposes of Section 106 consultation, the NRCS will function as the lead Federal agency, which will also cover SITLA's responsibilities under Utah Code Annotated Section 9-8-404.

An intensive pedestrian cultural resources inventory of the undertaking was completed on October 25–29, 2018 and May 7-11, 2019 by Certus Environmental Solutions under the authority of UDSH Project No. U18HY0726. A total of nine cultural resource sites and historical structures and two isolated occurrences were identified as result of the inventory. Certus was unable to relocate one of the previously documented sites reported in the Utah Division of State History records as located in the current survey area. Site 42WS2498 (lithic scatter) has been destroyed by modern development. Table 1 summarizes the sites identified, type, and National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) eligibility determination.

Table 1. Summary of Cultural Resources Sites and NRHP Determinations.

Site #	Description	NRHP Eligibility	Land Ownership
42WS4336	St. George & Washington Canal	Eligible	Private
42WS4931	Hurricane Canal & lateral ditches	LISTED	Private & SITLA
42WS5112	South Station Ditch	Not Eligible	Private
42WS5173	Harder Ditch & lateral ditches	Not Eligible	Private
42WS6059	Historical spring & water storage complex	Eligible	SITLA
42WS6346	Historical dugout	Not Eligible	Private
42WS6347	Historical artifact and lumber scatter	Not Eligible	Private
n/a	Historical C & C Cattle Farms silo	Eligible	Private
n/a	Historical Hall barn	Not Eligible	Private

One site, the St. George and Washington Canal (42WS4336), located on Private land, will have a 1425-foot segment converted to pipe as part of the proposed undertaking. The canal system, which is privately owned, dates to the early 1890s and was among the first successful large-scale diversions of irrigation water from the Virgin River to the St. George settlement. The system was expanded over the decades after its completion to include an extensive lateral distribution network of smaller ditches. The canal system was previously determined eligible for the NRHP under Criteria A and C. The segment of the canal that is proposed to be piped is determined to be non-contributing to the overall eligibility of the system as a whole; due to its modern alterations, including existing piped sections. As such, the NRCS has determined that there will be no adverse effect to site 42WS4336 by piping the segment.

An additional site on Private and lands administered by SITLA, the Hurricane Canal and lateral ditches (42WS4931), will have a 680-foot long segment of concrete-lined ditch converted to pipe as part of the proposed undertaking. The canal was listed on the National Register in 1977 under Criteria A and C. The segment of the main canal in the current survey area includes remnants of the lined historical canal channel, stone retaining walls, a siphon, and a tunnel through the Hurricane Cliffs. The main canal is a 7.5-mile long irrigation ditch started in 1891 and completed in 1904. The segment of the canal that is proposed to be piped is determined to be non-contributing to the overall eligibility of the system as a whole due to its modern alterations, including existing piped sections. As such, the NRCS has determined that there will be no adverse effect to site 42WS4931 by piping the segment. Determinations of effect for all sites are summarized in Table 2.

Table 2. Summary of anticipated effects.

Site #	Nature of Impact	Finding of Effect
42WS4336	Piping of approximately 1425 feet of open ditch east of River Road.	No Adverse Effect
42WS4931	Piping of 680 feet of open, concrete-lined ditch along west side of 400 West. All other documented segments of lateral system are avoided.	No Adverse Effect
42WS5112	Avoided	No Historic Properties Affected
42WS5173	Approximately 1130 feet of open channel would be filled to surrounding grade to bury a new subsurface pipeline east of Sandia Road. Trash rack and two flow control boxes installed on channel east of Virgin River.	No Historic Properties Affected
42WS6059	Avoided	No Historic Properties Affected
42WS6346	Avoided	No Historic Properties Affected
42WS6347	East half of site would be excavated for construction of drainage basin.	No Historic Properties Affected
C & C Silo	Avoided	No Historic Properties Affected
Hall Barn	Avoided	No Historic Properties Affected

The NRCS recommends that implementation proceed as planned with a determination of ***no adverse effect to historic properties***. The NRCS requests your concurrence for the determination of project effects and

Dr. Christopher Merritt
September 9, 2020
Page 3

site eligibility. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please contact Tara S. Hoffmann, State Cultural Resources Specialist at 385-258-1266 or tara.hoffmann@usda.gov at your convenience.

Sincerely,



EMILY FIFE
State Conservationist

Enclosure

cc: (w/ encl)

Norm Evenstad, ASTC-Partnerships (Water Resources), NRCS, Salt Lake City, Utah

Derek Hamilton, Water Resources Coordinator, NRCS, Salt Lake City, Utah

Bobbi Preite, Senior Natural Resources Consultant, McMillen Jacobs Associates, Boise, Idaho

Tara S. Hoffmann, State Cultural Resources Specialist, NRCS, Salt Lake City, Utah



Spencer J. Cox
Governor

Deidre M. Henderson
Lieutenant Governor

Jill Remington Love
Executive Director
Department of
Heritage & Arts



Christopher Merritt
State Historic Preservation Officer

Kevin Fayles
Interim Director

March 3, 2021

Emily Fife
State Conservationist
Natural Resources Conservation Service – USDA
125 South State Street, Room 4010
Salt Lake City, Utah 84138-1100

RE: A Cultural Resource Assessment for the Warner Draw Plan-EA, Washington County, Utah
(U18HY0726)

For future correspondence, please reference Case No. 20-3187

Dear Ms. Fife,

The Utah State Historic Preservation Office received your submission and request for our comment on the above-referenced undertaking on March 01, 2021.

We concur with your determinations of eligibility and “No Adverse Effect” for this undertaking.

This letter serves as our comment on the determinations you have made within the consultation process specified in §36CFR800.4. If you have questions, please contact me at 801-245-7246 or by email at sagardy@utah.gov.

Sincerely,

Savanna Agardy
Compliance Archaeologist

TRIBAL CONSULTATION

September 17, 2020

Emily Fife/State Conservationist
Natural Resources Conservation Service
Utah State Office
125 South State Street, Room 4010
Salt Lake City, Utah 84138

Dear Ms. Fife

Subject: Warner Draw Plan-EA, Washington County, Utah (UDSH Report No. U18HY0726)

The Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah is in receipt of your letter dated September 9, 2020 and has reviewed the material and do not have any objections. The Paiute Tribe concurs with your determination of eligibility and effort for this undertaking, this letter serves as our comment on the determinations you have made.

As you are aware the tribes support the identification and avoidance of prehistoric archaeological sites and traditional cultural properties.

The Paiute Tribe sincerely appreciates your accomplishments and consideration you and your staff have made to consult with the Tribes.

Sincerely,

Dorena Martineau/Cultural Resource
Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah
440 North Paiute Drive
Cedar City, Utah 84721
435-586-1112 ext. 107

From: [Timothy Begay](#)
To: [Hoffmann, Tara - NRCS, Salt Lake City, UT](#)
Subject: WATERSHED PROTECTION AND RESTORATION PROJECTS
Date: Monday, September 21, 2020 1:13:57 PM

Dear Ms. Hoffmann:

The Navajo Nation Heritage and Historic Preservation Department's (NNHPD) Traditional Culture Program is (TCP) in receipt of your letter regarding the USDA proposed Watershed protection and restoration project in and around St. George, Hurricane and Washington, Utah.

After reviewing your letter and cross referencing our Traditional Cultural Properties (TCP's) database, NNHPD-TCP has determined that there are No Navajo TCP's within the project area, and you may proceed without any further consultation.

If you have any additional questions, concerns or would like to discuss these issues further, please don't hesitate to contact our office at (928) 871-7198 or (928) 871-7152. Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.

Sincerely,

Timothy C. Begay, Navajo Cultural Specialist
Navajo Nation Heritage and Historic Preservation Department
P.O. Box 4950
Window Rock, AZ 86515
tbegay@navajo-nsn.gov



September 9, 2020

Mr. Greg Anderson
Chairman
Moapa Band of Paiute Indians of the Moapa River Indian
Reservation, Nevada
P.O. Box 340
Moapa, Nevada 89025-0340

Reference: A Cultural Resource Assessment for the Warner Draw Plan-EA, Washington County, Utah
(UDSH Report No. U18HY0726)

Dear Mr. Anderson:

Enclosed is a copy of a cultural resources report titled *A Cultural Resource Assessment for the Warner Draw Plan-EA, Washington County, Utah*. The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), is providing technical and financial assistance to the Washington County Commission (the County) for several proposed watershed protection and restoration projects in and around St. George, Hurricane, and Washington, Utah. The project locations have been prioritized by the County and NRCS based on the need for flood and erosion control, water conservation, and habitat restoration. The projects could entail such actions as improving efficiency of existing ditches and drains, constructing new stormwater detention basins, constructing additional stormwater pipeline segments, stabilizing and armoring banks of existing waterways, removing invasive vegetation, etc. Collectively, these projects are being evaluated under the Warner Draw Watershed Plan-EA. The NRCS is the lead federal agency for the undertaking, but the portions of the project cross lands managed by the Utah School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration (SITLA), the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and work in wetlands and along waterways may necessitate one or more permits from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). For the purposes of Section 106 consultation, the NRCS will function as the lead Federal agency, which will also cover SITLA's responsibilities under Utah Code Annotated Section 9-8-404.

An intensive pedestrian cultural resources inventory of the undertaking was completed on October 25–29, 2018 and May 7-11, 2019 by Certus Environmental Solutions under the authority of UDSH Project No. U18HY0726. A total of nine cultural resource sites and historical structures and two isolated occurrences were identified as result of the inventory. Certus was unable to relocate one of the previously documented sites reported in the Utah Division of State History records as located in the current survey area. Site 42WS2498 (lithic scatter) has been destroyed by modern development. Table 1 summarizes the sites identified, type, and National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) eligibility determination.

Table 1. Summary of Cultural Resources Sites and NRHP Determinations.

Site #	Description	NRHP Eligibility	Land Ownership
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42WS5112	South Station Ditch	Not Eligible	Private
42WS5173	Harder Ditch & lateral ditches	Not Eligible	Private
42WS6059	Historical spring & water storage complex	Eligible	SITLA
42WS6346	Historical dugout	Not Eligible	Private
42WS6347	Historical artifact and lumber scatter	Not Eligible	Private

n/a	Historical C & C Cattle Farms silo	Eligible	Private
n/a	Historical Hall barn	Not Eligible	Private

One site, the St. George and Washington Canal (42WS4336), located on Private land, will have a 1425-foot segment converted to pipe as part of the proposed undertaking. The canal system, which is privately owned, dates to the early 1890s and was among the first successful large-scale diversions of irrigation water from the Virgin River to the St. George settlement. The system was expanded over the decades after its completion to include an extensive lateral distribution network of smaller ditches. The canal system was previously determined eligible for the NRHP under Criteria A and C. The segment of the canal that is proposed to be piped is determined to be non-contributing to the overall eligibility of the system as a whole; due to its modern alterations, including existing piped sections. As such, the NRCS has determined that there will be no adverse effect to site 42WS4336 by piping the segment.

An additional site on Private and lands administered by SITLA, the Hurricane Canal and lateral ditches (42WS4931), will have a 680-foot long segment of concrete-lined ditch converted to pipe as part of the proposed undertaking. The canal was listed on the National Register in 1977 under Criteria A and C. The segment of the main canal in the current survey area includes remnants of the lined historical canal channel, stone retaining walls, a siphon, and a tunnel through the Hurricane Cliffs. The main canal is a 7.5-mile long irrigation ditch started in 1891 and completed in 1904. The segment of the canal that is proposed to be piped is determined to be non-contributing to the overall eligibility of the system as a whole; due to its modern alterations, including existing piped sections. As such, the NRCS has determined that there will be no adverse effect to site 42WS4931 by piping the segment. Determinations of effect for all sites are summarized in Table 2.

Table 2. Summary of anticipated effects

Site #	Nature of Impact	Finding of Effect
42WS4336	Piping of approximately 1425 feet of open ditch east of River Road.	No Adverse Effect
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Hall Barn	Avoided	No Historic Properties Affected

Mr. Greg Anderson
September 9, 2020
Page 3

The NRCS recommends that implementation proceed as planned with a determination of *no adverse effect to historic properties*. The NRCS requests your concurrence for the determination of project effects and site eligibility. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please contact Tara S. Hoffmann, State Cultural Resources Specialist at 385-258-1266 or tara.hoffmann@usda.gov at your convenience.

Sincerely,



EMILY FIFE
State Conservationist

Enclosure

cc: (w/ encl)

Mr. Darren Deboda, Moapa Band of Paiute Indians of the Moapa River Indian
Reservation, Nevada, P.O. Box 340, Moapa, Nevada 89025-0340

cc: (w/o encl)

Norm Evenstad, ASTC-Partnerships (Water Resources), NRCS, Salt Lake City, Utah
Derek Hamilton, Water Resources Coordinator, NRCS, Salt Lake City, Utah
Bobbi Preite, Senior Natural Resources Consultant, McMillen Jacobs Associates, Boise, Idaho
Tara S. Hoffmann, State Cultural Resources Specialist, NRCS, Salt Lake City, Utah



September 9, 2020

Mr. Russell Begaye
President
Navajo Nation Office of the President
100 Parkway
P.O. Box 7440
Window Rock, Arizona 86515

Reference: A Cultural Resource Assessment for the Warner Draw Plan-EA, Washington County, Utah
(UDSH Report No. U18HY0726)

Dear Mr. Begaye:

Enclosed is a copy of a cultural resources report titled *A Cultural Resource Assessment for the Warner Draw Plan-EA, Washington County, Utah*. The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), is providing technical and financial assistance to the Washington County Commission (the County) for several proposed watershed protection and restoration projects in and around St. George, Hurricane, and Washington, Utah. The project locations have been prioritized by the County and NRCS based on the need for flood and erosion control, water conservation, and habitat restoration. The projects could entail such actions as improving efficiency of existing ditches and drains, constructing new stormwater detention basins, constructing additional stormwater pipeline segments, stabilizing and armoring banks of existing waterways, removing invasive vegetation, etc. Collectively, these projects are being evaluated under the Warner Draw Watershed Plan-EA. The NRCS is the lead federal agency for the undertaking, but the portions of the project cross lands managed by the Utah School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration (SITLA), the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and work in wetlands and along waterways may necessitate one or more permits from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). For the purposes of Section 106 consultation, the NRCS will function as the lead Federal agency, which will also cover SITLA's responsibilities under Utah Code Annotated Section 9-8-404.

An intensive pedestrian cultural resources inventory of the undertaking was completed on October 25–29, 2018 and May 7-11, 2019 by Certus Environmental Solutions under the authority of UDSH Project No. U18HY0726. A total of nine cultural resource sites and historical structures and two isolated occurrences were identified as result of the inventory. Certus was unable to relocate one of the previously documented sites reported in the Utah Division of State History records as located in the current survey area. Site 42WS2498 (lithic scatter) has been destroyed by modern development. Table 1 summarizes the sites identified, type, and National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) eligibility determination.

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42WS6347	Historical artifact and lumber scatter	Not Eligible	Private

n/a	Historical C & C Cattle Farms silo	Eligible	Private
n/a	Historical Hall barn	Not Eligible	Private

One site, the St. George and Washington Canal (42WS4336), located on Private land, will have a 1425-foot segment converted to pipe as part of the proposed undertaking. The canal system, which is privately owned, dates to the early 1890s and was among the first successful large-scale diversions of irrigation water from the Virgin River to the St. George settlement. The system was expanded over the decades after its completion to include an extensive lateral distribution network of smaller ditches. The canal system was previously determined eligible for the NRHP under Criteria A and C. The segment of the canal that is proposed to be piped is determined to be non-contributing to the overall eligibility of the system as a whole; due to its modern alterations, including existing piped sections. As such, the NRCS has determined that there will be no adverse effect to site 42WS4336 by piping the segment.

An additional site on Private and lands administered by SITLA, the Hurricane Canal and lateral ditches (42WS4931), will have a 680-foot long segment of concrete-lined ditch converted to pipe as part of the proposed undertaking. The canal was listed on the National Register in 1977 under Criteria A and C. The segment of the main canal in the current survey area includes remnants of the lined historical canal channel, stone retaining walls, a siphon, and a tunnel through the Hurricane Cliffs. The main canal is a 7.5-mile long irrigation ditch started in 1891 and completed in 1904. The segment of the canal that is proposed to be piped is determined to be non-contributing to the overall eligibility of the system as a whole; due to its modern alterations, including existing piped sections. As such, the NRCS has determined that there will be no adverse effect to site 42WS4931 by piping the segment. Determinations of effect for all sites are summarized in Table 2.

Table 2. Summary of anticipated effects

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Mr. Russell Begaye
September 9, 2020
Page 3

The NRCS recommends that implementation proceed as planned with a determination of *no adverse effect to historic properties*. The NRCS requests your concurrence for the determination of project effects and site eligibility. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please contact Tara S. Hoffmann, State Cultural Resources Specialist at 385-258-1266 or tara.hoffmann@usda.gov at your convenience.

Sincerely,



EMILY FIFE
State Conservationist

Enclosure

cc: (w/ encl)

Mr. Richard M. Begaye, THPO and Department Manager, Navajo Nation Historic Preservation
Department, P.O. Box 4950, Window Rock, Arizona 86515

cc: (w/o encl)

Norm Evenstad, ASTC-Partnerships (Water Resources), NRCS, Salt Lake City, Utah
Derek Hamilton, Water Resources Coordinator, NRCS, Salt Lake City, Utah
Bobbi Preite, Senior Natural Resources Consultant, McMillen Jacobs Associates, Boise, Idaho
Tara S. Hoffmann, State Cultural Resources Specialist, NRCS, Salt Lake City, Utah



September 9, 2020

Ms. Betsy Chapoose
Director
Cultural Rights Protection Department
Ute Indian Tribe of the Uintah & Ouray Reservation, Utah
P.O. Box 190
Fort Duchesne, Utah 84026

Reference: A Cultural Resource Assessment for the Warner Draw Plan-EA, Washington County, Utah
(UDSH Report No. U18HY0726)

Dear Ms. Chapoose:

Enclosed is a copy of a cultural resources report titled *A Cultural Resource Assessment for the Warner Draw Plan-EA, Washington County, Utah*. The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), is providing technical and financial assistance to the Washington County Commission (the County) for several proposed watershed protection and restoration projects in and around St. George, Hurricane, and Washington, Utah. The project locations have been prioritized by the County and NRCS based on the need for flood and erosion control, water conservation, and habitat restoration. The projects could entail such actions as improving efficiency of existing ditches and drains, constructing new stormwater detention basins, constructing additional stormwater pipeline segments, stabilizing and armoring banks of existing waterways, removing invasive vegetation, etc. Collectively, these projects are being evaluated under the Warner Draw Watershed Plan-EA. The NRCS is the lead federal agency for the undertaking, but the portions of the project cross lands managed by the Utah School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration (SITLA), the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and work in wetlands and along waterways may necessitate one or more permits from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). For the purposes of Section 106 consultation, the NRCS will function as the lead Federal agency, which will also cover SITLA's responsibilities under Utah Code Annotated Section 9-8-404.

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Ms. Betsy Chapoose
September 9, 2020
Page 3

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EMILY FIFE
State Conservationist

Enclosure

cc: (w/o encl)

Norm Evenstad, ASTC-Partnerships (Water Resources), NRCS, Salt Lake City, Utah
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Bobbi Preite, Senior Natural Resources Consultant, McMillen Jacobs Associates, Boise, Idaho
Tara S. Hoffmann, State Cultural Resources Specialist, NRCS, Salt Lake City, Utah



September 9, 2020

Ms. Dorena Martineau
Cultural Resources Director
Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah
440 North Paiute Drive
Cedar City, Utah 84721

Reference: A Cultural Resource Assessment for the Warner Draw Plan-EA, Washington County, Utah (UDSH Report No. U18HY0726)

Dear Ms. Martineau:

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An additional site on Private and lands administered by SITLA, the Hurricane Canal and lateral ditches (42WS4931), will have a 680-foot long segment of concrete-lined ditch converted to pipe as part of the proposed undertaking. The canal was listed on the National Register in 1977 under Criteria A and C. The segment of the main canal in the current survey area includes remnants of the lined historical canal channel, stone retaining walls, a siphon, and a tunnel through the Hurricane Cliffs. The main canal is a 7.5-mile long irrigation ditch started in 1891 and completed in 1904. The segment of the canal that is proposed to be piped is determined to be non-contributing to the overall eligibility of the system as a whole; due to its modern alterations, including existing piped sections. As such, the NRCS has determined that there will be no adverse effect to site 42WS4931 by piping the segment. Determinations of effect for all sites are summarized in Table 2.

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Ms. Dorena Martineau
September 9, 2020
Page 3

The NRCS recommends that implementation proceed as planned with a determination of ***no adverse effect to historic properties***. The NRCS requests your concurrence for the determination of project effects and site eligibility. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please contact Tara S. Hoffmann, State Cultural Resources Specialist at 385-258-1266 or tara.hoffmann@usda.gov at your convenience.

Sincerely,



EMILY FIFE
State Conservationist

Enclosure

cc: (w/o encl)

Norm Evenstad, ASTC-Partnerships (Water Resources), NRCS, Salt Lake City, Utah

Derek Hamilton, Water Resources Coordinator, NRCS, Salt Lake City, Utah

Bobbi Preite, Senior Natural Resources Consultant, McMillen Jacobs Associates, Boise, Idaho

Tara S. Hoffmann, State Cultural Resources Specialist, NRCS, Salt Lake City, Utah



September 9, 2020

Mr. Ganivan Timcan
Southern Paiute Consortium
Kaibab Band of Paiute Indians of the Kaibab Indian Reservation
Tribal Affairs Building
HC65, Box 2
Fredonia, Arizona 86022

Reference: A Cultural Resource Assessment for the Warner Draw Plan-EA, Washington County, Utah
(UDSH Report No. U18HY0726)

Dear Mr. Timcan:

Enclosed is a copy of a cultural resources report titled *A Cultural Resource Assessment for the Warner Draw Plan-EA, Washington County, Utah*. The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), is providing technical and financial assistance to the Washington County Commission (the County) for several proposed watershed protection and restoration projects in and around St. George, Hurricane, and Washington, Utah. The project locations have been prioritized by the County and NRCS based on the need for flood and erosion control, water conservation, and habitat restoration. The projects could entail such actions as improving efficiency of existing ditches and drains, constructing new stormwater detention basins, constructing additional stormwater pipeline segments, stabilizing and armoring banks of existing waterways, removing invasive vegetation, etc. Collectively, these projects are being evaluated under the Warner Draw Watershed Plan-EA. The NRCS is the lead federal agency for the undertaking, but the portions of the project cross lands managed by the Utah School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration (SITLA), the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and work in wetlands and along waterways may necessitate one or more permits from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). For the purposes of Section 106 consultation, the NRCS will function as the lead Federal agency, which will also cover SITLA's responsibilities under Utah Code Annotated Section 9-8-404.

An intensive pedestrian cultural resources inventory of the undertaking was completed on October 25–29, 2018 and May 7-11, 2019 by Certus Environmental Solutions under the authority of UDSH Project No. U18HY0726. A total of nine cultural resource sites and historical structures and two isolated occurrences were identified as result of the inventory. Certus was unable to relocate one of the previously documented sites reported in the Utah Division of State History records as located in the current survey area. Site 42WS2498 (lithic scatter) has been destroyed by modern development. Table 1 summarizes the sites identified, type, and National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) eligibility determination.

Table 1. Summary of Cultural Resources Sites and NRHP Determinations.

Site #	Description	NRHP Eligibility	Land Ownership
42WS4336	St. George & Washington Canal	Eligible	Private
42WS4931	Hurricane Canal & lateral ditches	LISTED	Private & SILTA
42WS5112	South Station Ditch	Not Eligible	Private
42WS5173	Harder Ditch & lateral ditches	Not Eligible	Private
42WS6059	Historical spring & water storage complex	Eligible	SITLA
42WS6346	Historical dugout	Not Eligible	Private
42WS6347	Historical artifact and lumber scatter	Not Eligible	Private

n/a	Historical C & C Cattle Farms silo	Eligible	Private
n/a	Historical Hall barn	Not Eligible	Private

One site, the St. George and Washington Canal (42WS4336), located on Private land, will have a 1425-foot segment converted to pipe as part of the proposed undertaking. The canal system, which is privately owned, dates to the early 1890s and was among the first successful large-scale diversions of irrigation water from the Virgin River to the St. George settlement. The system was expanded over the decades after its completion to include an extensive lateral distribution network of smaller ditches. The canal system was previously determined eligible for the NRHP under Criteria A and C. The segment of the canal that is proposed to be piped is determined to be non-contributing to the overall eligibility of the system as a whole; due to its modern alterations, including existing piped sections. As such, the NRCS has determined that there will be no adverse effect to site 42WS4336 by piping the segment.

An additional site on Private and lands administered by SITLA, the Hurricane Canal and lateral ditches (42WS4931), will have a 680-foot long segment of concrete-lined ditch converted to pipe as part of the proposed undertaking. The canal was listed on the National Register in 1977 under Criteria A and C. The segment of the main canal in the current survey area includes remnants of the lined historical canal channel, stone retaining walls, a siphon, and a tunnel through the Hurricane Cliffs. The main canal is a 7.5-mile long irrigation ditch started in 1891 and completed in 1904. The segment of the canal that is proposed to be piped is determined to be non-contributing to the overall eligibility of the system as a whole; due to its modern alterations, including existing piped sections. As such, the NRCS has determined that there will be no adverse effect to site 42WS4931 by piping the segment. Determinations of effect for all sites are summarized in Table 2.

Table 2. Summary of anticipated effects

Site #	Nature of Impact	Finding of Effect
42WS4336	Piping of approximately 1425 feet of open ditch east of River Road.	No Adverse Effect
42WS4931	Piping of 680 feet of open, concrete-lined ditch along west side of 400 West. All other documented segments of lateral system are avoided.	No Adverse Effect
42WS5112	Avoided	No Historic Properties Affected
42WS5173	Approximately 1130 feet of open channel would be filled to surrounding grade to bury a new subsurface pipeline east of Sandia Road. Trash rack and two flow control boxes installed on channel east of Virgin River.	No Historic Properties Affected
42WS6059	Avoided	No Historic Properties Affected
42WS6346	Avoided	No Historic Properties Affected
42WS6347	East half of site would be excavated for construction of drainage basin.	No Historic Properties Affected
C & C Silo	Avoided	No Historic Properties Affected
Hall Barn	Avoided	No Historic Properties Affected

Mr. Ganivan Timcan
September 9, 2020
Page 3

The NRCS recommends that implementation proceed as planned with a determination of *no adverse effect to historic properties*. The NRCS requests your concurrence for the determination of project effects and site eligibility. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please contact Tara S. Hoffmann, State Cultural Resources Specialist at 385-258-1266 or tara.hoffmann@usda.gov at your convenience.

Sincerely,



EMILY FIFE
State Conservationist

Enclosure

cc: (w/o encl)

Norm Evenstad, ASTC-Partnerships (Water Resources), NRCS, Salt Lake City, Utah
Derek Hamilton, Water Resources Coordinator, NRCS, Salt Lake City, Utah
Bobbi Preite, Senior Natural Resources Consultant, McMillen Jacobs Associates, Boise, Idaho
Tara S. Hoffmann, State Cultural Resources Specialist, NRCS, Salt Lake City, Utah



September 9, 2020

Mr. Terry Knight
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
Ute Mountain Ute Tribe
P.O. Box 468
Towaoc, Colorado 81334

Reference: A Cultural Resource Assessment for the Warner Draw Plan-EA, Washington County, Utah
(UDSH Report No. U18HY0726)

Dear Mr. Knight:

Enclosed is a copy of a cultural resources report titled *A Cultural Resource Assessment for the Warner Draw Plan-EA, Washington County, Utah*. The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), is providing technical and financial assistance to the Washington County Commission (the County) for several proposed watershed protection and restoration projects in and around St. George, Hurricane, and Washington, Utah. The project locations have been prioritized by the County and NRCS based on the need for flood and erosion control, water conservation, and habitat restoration. The projects could entail such actions as improving efficiency of existing ditches and drains, constructing new stormwater detention basins, constructing additional stormwater pipeline segments, stabilizing and armoring banks of existing waterways, removing invasive vegetation, etc. Collectively, these projects are being evaluated under the Warner Draw Watershed Plan-EA. The NRCS is the lead federal agency for the undertaking, but the portions of the project cross lands managed by the Utah School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration (SITLA), the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and work in wetlands and along waterways may necessitate one or more permits from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). For the purposes of Section 106 consultation, the NRCS will function as the lead Federal agency, which will also cover SITLA's responsibilities under Utah Code Annotated Section 9-8-404.

An intensive pedestrian cultural resources inventory of the undertaking was completed on October 25–29, 2018 and May 7-11, 2019 by Certus Environmental Solutions under the authority of UDSH Project No. U18HY0726. A total of nine cultural resource sites and historical structures and two isolated occurrences were identified as result of the inventory. Certus was unable to relocate one of the previously documented sites reported in the Utah Division of State History records as located in the current survey area. Site 42WS2498 (lithic scatter) has been destroyed by modern development. Table 1 summarizes the sites identified, type, and National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) eligibility determination.

Table 1. Summary of Cultural Resources Sites and NRHP Determinations.

Site #	Description	NRHP Eligibility	Land Ownership
42WS4336	St. George & Washington Canal	Eligible	Private
42WS4931	Hurricane Canal & lateral ditches	LISTED	Private & SITLA
42WS5112	South Station Ditch	Not Eligible	Private
42WS5173	Harder Ditch & lateral ditches	Not Eligible	Private
42WS6059	Historical spring & water storage complex	Eligible	SITLA
42WS6346	Historical dugout	Not Eligible	Private
42WS6347	Historical artifact and lumber scatter	Not Eligible	Private
n/a	Historical C & C Cattle Farms silo	Eligible	Private
n/a	Historical Hall barn	Not Eligible	Private

One site, the St. George and Washington Canal (42WS4336), located on Private land, will have a 1425-foot segment converted to pipe as part of the proposed undertaking. The canal system, which is privately owned, dates to the early 1890s and was among the first successful large-scale diversions of irrigation water from the Virgin River to the St. George settlement. The system was expanded over the decades after its completion to include an extensive lateral distribution network of smaller ditches. The canal system was previously determined eligible for the NRHP under Criteria A and C. The segment of the canal that is proposed to be piped is determined to be non-contributing to the overall eligibility of the system as a whole; due to its modern alterations, including existing piped sections. As such, the NRCS has determined that there will be no adverse effect to site 42WS4336 by piping the segment.

An additional site on Private and lands administered by SITLA, the Hurricane Canal and lateral ditches (42WS4931), will have a 680-foot long segment of concrete-lined ditch converted to pipe as part of the proposed undertaking. The canal was listed on the National Register in 1977 under Criteria A and C. The segment of the main canal in the current survey area includes remnants of the lined historical canal channel, stone retaining walls, a siphon, and a tunnel through the Hurricane Cliffs. The main canal is a 7.5-mile long irrigation ditch started in 1891 and completed in 1904. The segment of the canal that is proposed to be piped is determined to be non-contributing to the overall eligibility of the system as a whole; due to its modern alterations, including existing piped sections. As such, the NRCS has determined that there will be no adverse effect to site 42WS4931 by piping the segment. Determinations of effect for all sites are summarized in Table 2.

Table 2. Summary of anticipated effects

Site #	Nature of Impact	Finding of Effect
42WS4336	Piping of approximately 1425 feet of open ditch east of River Road.	No Adverse Effect
42WS4931	Piping of 680 feet of open, concrete-lined ditch along west side of 400 West. All other documented segments of lateral system are avoided.	No Adverse Effect
42WS5112	Avoided	No Historic Properties Affected
42WS5173	Approximately 1130 feet of open channel would be filled to surrounding grade to bury a new subsurface pipeline east of Sandia Road. Trash rack and two flow control boxes installed on channel east of Virgin River.	No Historic Properties Affected
42WS6059	Avoided	No Historic Properties Affected
42WS6346	Avoided	No Historic Properties Affected
42WS6347	East half of site would be excavated for construction of drainage basin.	No Historic Properties Affected
C & C Silo	Avoided	No Historic Properties Affected
Hall Barn	Avoided	No Historic Properties Affected

Mr. Terry Knight
September 9, 2020
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The NRCS recommends that implementation proceed as planned with a determination of *no adverse effect to historic properties*. The NRCS requests your concurrence for the determination of project effects and site eligibility. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please contact Tara S. Hoffmann, State Cultural Resources Specialist at 385-258-1266 or tara.hoffmann@usda.gov at your convenience.

Sincerely,



EMILY FIFE
State Conservationist

Enclosure

cc: (w/ encl)

Ms. Nichol Shurack, Tribal Archaeologist, Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, P.O. Box 468, Towaoc, CO 81334

cc: (w/o encl)

Norm Evenstad, ASTC-Partnerships (Water Resources), NRCS, Salt Lake City, Utah

Derek Hamilton, Water Resources Coordinator, NRCS, Salt Lake City, Utah

Bobbi Preite, Senior Natural Resources Consultant, McMillen Jacobs Associates, Boise, Idaho

Tara S. Hoffmann, State Cultural Resources Specialist, NRCS, Salt Lake City, Utah



September 9, 2020

Mr. Stewart B. Koyiyumptewa
THPO
Hopi Tribe of Arizona
Hopi Cultural Preservation Office
P.O Box 123
Kykotsmovi, Arizona 86039

Reference: A Cultural Resource Assessment for the Warner Draw Plan-EA, Washington County, Utah
(UDSH Report No. U18HY0726)

Dear Mr. Koyiyumptewa:

Enclosed is a copy of a cultural resources report titled *A Cultural Resource Assessment for the Warner Draw Plan-EA, Washington County, Utah*. The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), is providing technical and financial assistance to the Washington County Commission (the County) for several proposed watershed protection and restoration projects in and around St. George, Hurricane, and Washington, Utah. The project locations have been prioritized by the County and NRCS based on the need for flood and erosion control, water conservation, and habitat restoration. The projects could entail such actions as improving efficiency of existing ditches and drains, constructing new stormwater detention basins, constructing additional stormwater pipeline segments, stabilizing and armoring banks of existing waterways, removing invasive vegetation, etc. Collectively, these projects are being evaluated under the Warner Draw Watershed Plan-EA. The NRCS is the lead federal agency for the undertaking, but the portions of the project cross lands managed by the Utah School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration (SITLA), the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and work in wetlands and along waterways may necessitate one or more permits from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). For the purposes of Section 106 consultation, the NRCS will function as the lead Federal agency, which will also cover SITLA's responsibilities under Utah Code Annotated Section 9-8-404.

An intensive pedestrian cultural resources inventory of the undertaking was completed on October 25–29, 2018 and May 7-11, 2019 by Certus Environmental Solutions under the authority of UDSH Project No. U18HY0726. A total of nine cultural resource sites and historical structures and two isolated occurrences were identified as result of the inventory. Certus was unable to relocate one of the previously documented sites reported in the Utah Division of State History records as located in the current survey area. Site 42WS2498 (lithic scatter) has been destroyed by modern development. Table 1 summarizes the sites identified, type, and National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) eligibility determination.

Table 1. Summary of Cultural Resources Sites and NRHP Determinations.

Site #	Description	NRHP Eligibility	Land Ownership
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n/a	Historical C & C Cattle Farms silo	Eligible	Private
n/a	Historical Hall barn	Not Eligible	Private

One site, the St. George and Washington Canal (42WS4336), located on Private land, will have a 1425-foot segment converted to pipe as part of the proposed undertaking. The canal system, which is privately owned, dates to the early 1890s and was among the first successful large-scale diversions of irrigation water from the Virgin River to the St. George settlement. The system was expanded over the decades after its completion to include an extensive lateral distribution network of smaller ditches. The canal system was previously determined eligible for the NRHP under Criteria A and C. The segment of the canal that is proposed to be piped is determined to be non-contributing to the overall eligibility of the system as a whole; due to its modern alterations, including existing piped sections. As such, the NRCS has determined that there will be no adverse effect to site 42WS4336 by piping the segment.

An additional site on Private and lands administered by SITLA, the Hurricane Canal and lateral ditches (42WS4931), will have a 680-foot long segment of concrete-lined ditch converted to pipe as part of the proposed undertaking. The canal was listed on the National Register in 1977 under Criteria A and C. The segment of the main canal in the current survey area includes remnants of the lined historical canal channel, stone retaining walls, a siphon, and a tunnel through the Hurricane Cliffs. The main canal is a 7.5-mile long irrigation ditch started in 1891 and completed in 1904. The segment of the canal that is proposed to be piped is determined to be non-contributing to the overall eligibility of the system as a whole; due to its modern alterations, including existing piped sections. As such, the NRCS has determined that there will be no adverse effect to site 42WS4931 by piping the segment. Determinations of effect for all sites are summarized in Table 2.

Table 2. Summary of anticipated effects

Site #	Nature of Impact	Finding of Effect
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C & C Silo	Avoided	No Historic Properties Affected
Hall Barn	Avoided	No Historic Properties Affected

Mr. Stewart B. Koyiyumptewa
September 9, 2020
Page 3

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Sincerely,



EMILY FIFE
State Conservationist

Enclosure

cc: (w/o encl)

Norm Evenstad, ASTC-Partnerships (Water Resources), NRCS, Salt Lake City, Utah
Derek Hamilton, Water Resources Coordinator, NRCS, Salt Lake City, Utah
Bobbi Preite, Senior Natural Resources Consultant, McMillen Jacobs Associates, Boise, Idaho
Tara S. Hoffmann, State Cultural Resources Specialist, NRCS, Salt Lake City, Utah



September 9, 2020

Mr. Leigh Kuwanwisiwma
Hopi Culture Preservation Office
The Hopi Tribe
P.O. Box 123
Kykotsmovi, Arizona 86039

Reference: A Cultural Resource Assessment for the Warner Draw Plan-EA, Washington County, Utah
(UDSH Report No. U18HY0726)

Dear Mr. Kuwanwisiwma:

Enclosed is a copy of a cultural resources report titled *A Cultural Resource Assessment for the Warner Draw Plan-EA, Washington County, Utah*. The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), is providing technical and financial assistance to the Washington County Commission (the County) for several proposed watershed protection and restoration projects in and around St. George, Hurricane, and Washington, Utah. The project locations have been prioritized by the County and NRCS based on the need for flood and erosion control, water conservation, and habitat restoration. The projects could entail such actions as improving efficiency of existing ditches and drains, constructing new stormwater detention basins, constructing additional stormwater pipeline segments, stabilizing and armoring banks of existing waterways, removing invasive vegetation, etc. Collectively, these projects are being evaluated under the Warner Draw Watershed Plan-EA. The NRCS is the lead federal agency for the undertaking, but the portions of the project cross lands managed by the Utah School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration (SITLA), the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and work in wetlands and along waterways may necessitate one or more permits from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). For the purposes of Section 106 consultation, the NRCS will function as the lead Federal agency, which will also cover SITLA's responsibilities under Utah Code Annotated Section 9-8-404.

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42WS6346	Historical dugout	Not Eligible	Private
42WS6347	Historical artifact and lumber scatter	Not Eligible	Private
n/a	Historical C & C Cattle Farms silo	Eligible	Private
n/a	Historical Hall barn	Not Eligible	Private

One site, the St. George and Washington Canal (42WS4336), located on Private land, will have a 1425-foot segment converted to pipe as part of the proposed undertaking. The canal system, which is privately owned, dates to the early 1890s and was among the first successful large-scale diversions of irrigation water from the Virgin River to the St. George settlement. The system was expanded over the decades after its completion to include an extensive lateral distribution network of smaller ditches. The canal system was previously determined eligible for the NRHP under Criteria A and C. The segment of the canal that is proposed to be piped is determined to be non-contributing to the overall eligibility of the system as a whole; due to its modern alterations, including existing piped sections. As such, the NRCS has determined that there will be no adverse effect to site 42WS4336 by piping the segment.

An additional site on Private and lands administered by SITLA, the Hurricane Canal and lateral ditches (42WS4931), will have a 680-foot long segment of concrete-lined ditch converted to pipe as part of the proposed undertaking. The canal was listed on the National Register in 1977 under Criteria A and C. The segment of the main canal in the current survey area includes remnants of the lined historical canal channel, stone retaining walls, a siphon, and a tunnel through the Hurricane Cliffs. The main canal is a 7.5-mile long irrigation ditch started in 1891 and completed in 1904. The segment of the canal that is proposed to be piped is determined to be non-contributing to the overall eligibility of the system as a whole; due to its modern alterations, including existing piped sections. As such, the NRCS has determined that there will be no adverse effect to site 42WS4931 by piping the segment. Determinations of effect for all sites are summarized in Table 2.

Table 2. Summary of anticipated effects

Site #	Nature of Impact	Finding of Effect
42WS4336	Piping of approximately 1425 feet of open ditch east of River Road.	No Adverse Effect
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Mr. Leigh Kuwanwisiwma
September 9, 2020
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Sincerely,



EMILY FIFE
State Conservationist

Enclosure

cc: (w/o encl)

Norm Evenstad, ASTC-Partnerships (Water Resources), NRCS, Salt Lake City, Utah
Derek Hamilton, Water Resources Coordinator, NRCS, Salt Lake City, Utah
Bobbi Preite, Senior Natural Resources Consultant, McMillen Jacobs Associates, Boise, Idaho
Tara S. Hoffmann, State Cultural Resources Specialist, NRCS, Salt Lake City, Utah



September 9, 2020

Mr. Luke Duncan
Chairman
Ute Indian Tribe of the Uintah & Ouray Reservation, Utah
P.O. Box 190
Fort Duchesne, Utah 84026

Reference: A Cultural Resource Assessment for the Warner Draw Plan-EA, Washington County, Utah
(UDSH Report No. U18HY0726)

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42WS6347	Historical artifact and lumber scatter	Not Eligible	Private
n/a	Historical C & C Cattle Farms silo	Eligible	Private
n/a	Historical Hall barn	Not Eligible	Private

One site, the St. George and Washington Canal (42WS4336), located on Private land, will have a 1425-foot segment converted to pipe as part of the proposed undertaking. The canal system, which is privately owned, dates to the early 1890s and was among the first successful large-scale diversions of irrigation water from the Virgin River to the St. George settlement. The system was expanded over the decades after its completion to include an extensive lateral distribution network of smaller ditches. The canal system was previously determined eligible for the NRHP under Criteria A and C. The segment of the canal that is proposed to be piped is determined to be non-contributing to the overall eligibility of the system as a whole; due to its modern alterations, including existing piped sections. As such, the NRCS has determined that there will be no adverse effect to site 42WS4336 by piping the segment.

An additional site on Private and lands administered by SITLA, the Hurricane Canal and lateral ditches (42WS4931), will have a 680-foot long segment of concrete-lined ditch converted to pipe as part of the proposed undertaking. The canal was listed on the National Register in 1977 under Criteria A and C. The segment of the main canal in the current survey area includes remnants of the lined historical canal channel, stone retaining walls, a siphon, and a tunnel through the Hurricane Cliffs. The main canal is a 7.5-mile long irrigation ditch started in 1891 and completed in 1904. The segment of the canal that is proposed to be piped is determined to be non-contributing to the overall eligibility of the system as a whole; due to its modern alterations, including existing piped sections. As such, the NRCS has determined that there will be no adverse effect to site 42WS4931 by piping the segment. Determinations of effect for all sites are summarized in Table 2.

Table 2. Summary of anticipated effects

Site #	Nature of Impact	Finding of Effect
42WS4336	Piping of approximately 1425 feet of open ditch east of River Road.	No Adverse Effect
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42WS6059	Avoided	No Historic Properties Affected
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C & C Silo	Avoided	No Historic Properties Affected
Hall Barn	Avoided	No Historic Properties Affected

Mr. Luke Duncan
September 9, 2020
Page 3

The NRCS recommends that implementation proceed as planned with a determination of *no adverse effect to historic properties*. The NRCS requests your concurrence for the determination of project effects and site eligibility. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please contact Tara S. Hoffmann, State Cultural Resources Specialist at 385-258-1266 or tara.hoffmann@usda.gov at your convenience.

Sincerely,



EMILY FIFE
State Conservationist

Enclosure

cc: (w/o encl)

Norm Evenstad, ASTC-Partnerships (Water Resources), NRCS, Salt Lake City, Utah

Derek Hamilton, Water Resources Coordinator, NRCS, Salt Lake City, Utah

Bobbi Preite, Senior Natural Resources Consultant, McMillen Jacobs Associates, Boise, Idaho

Tara S. Hoffmann, State Cultural Resources Specialist, NRCS, Salt Lake City, Utah



September 9, 2020

Mr. Timothy L. Nuvangyaoma
Chairman
Hopi Tribe Chairman's Office
P.O. Box 123
Kykotsmovi, Arizona 86039

Reference: A Cultural Resource Assessment for the Warner Draw Plan-EA, Washington County, Utah
(UDSH Report No. U18HY0726)

Dear Mr. Nuvangyaoma:

Enclosed is a copy of a cultural resources report titled *A Cultural Resource Assessment for the Warner Draw Plan-EA, Washington County, Utah*. The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), is providing technical and financial assistance to the Washington County Commission (the County) for several proposed watershed protection and restoration projects in and around St. George, Hurricane, and Washington, Utah. The project locations have been prioritized by the County and NRCS based on the need for flood and erosion control, water conservation, and habitat restoration. The projects could entail such actions as improving efficiency of existing ditches and drains, constructing new stormwater detention basins, constructing additional stormwater pipeline segments, stabilizing and armoring banks of existing waterways, removing invasive vegetation, etc. Collectively, these projects are being evaluated under the Warner Draw Watershed Plan-EA. The NRCS is the lead federal agency for the undertaking, but the portions of the project cross lands managed by the Utah School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration (SITLA), the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and work in wetlands and along waterways may necessitate one or more permits from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). For the purposes of Section 106 consultation, the NRCS will function as the lead Federal agency, which will also cover SITLA's responsibilities under Utah Code Annotated Section 9-8-404.

An intensive pedestrian cultural resources inventory of the undertaking was completed on October 25–29, 2018 and May 7-11, 2019 by Certus Environmental Solutions under the authority of UDSH Project No. U18HY0726. A total of nine cultural resource sites and historical structures and two isolated occurrences were identified as result of the inventory. Certus was unable to relocate one of the previously documented sites reported in the Utah Division of State History records as located in the current survey area. Site 42WS2498 (lithic scatter) has been destroyed by modern development. Table 1 summarizes the sites identified, type, and National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) eligibility determination.

Table 1. Summary of Cultural Resources Sites and NRHP Determinations.

Site #	Description	NRHP Eligibility	Land Ownership
42WS4336	St. George & Washington Canal	Eligible	Private
42WS4931	Hurricane Canal & lateral ditches	LISTED	Private & SITLA
42WS5112	South Station Ditch	Not Eligible	Private
42WS5173	Harder Ditch & lateral ditches	Not Eligible	Private
42WS6059	Historical spring & water storage complex	Eligible	SITLA
42WS6346	Historical dugout	Not Eligible	Private
42WS6347	Historical artifact and lumber scatter	Not Eligible	Private
n/a	Historical C & C Cattle Farms silo	Eligible	Private
n/a	Historical Hall barn	Not Eligible	Private

One site, the St. George and Washington Canal (42WS4336), located on Private land, will have a 1425-foot segment converted to pipe as part of the proposed undertaking. The canal system, which is privately owned, dates to the early 1890s and was among the first successful large-scale diversions of irrigation water from the Virgin River to the St. George settlement. The system was expanded over the decades after its completion to include an extensive lateral distribution network of smaller ditches. The canal system was previously determined eligible for the NRHP under Criteria A and C. The segment of the canal that is proposed to be piped is determined to be non-contributing to the overall eligibility of the system as a whole; due to its modern alterations, including existing piped sections. As such, the NRCS has determined that there will be no adverse effect to site 42WS4336 by piping the segment.

An additional site on Private and lands administered by SITLA, the Hurricane Canal and lateral ditches (42WS4931), will have a 680-foot long segment of concrete-lined ditch converted to pipe as part of the proposed undertaking. The canal was listed on the National Register in 1977 under Criteria A and C. The segment of the main canal in the current survey area includes remnants of the lined historical canal channel, stone retaining walls, a siphon, and a tunnel through the Hurricane Cliffs. The main canal is a 7.5-mile long irrigation ditch started in 1891 and completed in 1904. The segment of the canal that is proposed to be piped is determined to be non-contributing to the overall eligibility of the system as a whole; due to its modern alterations, including existing piped sections. As such, the NRCS has determined that there will be no adverse effect to site 42WS4931 by piping the segment. Determinations of effect for all sites are summarized in Table 2.

Table 2. Summary of anticipated effects

Site #	Nature of Impact	Finding of Effect
42WS4336	Piping of approximately 1425 feet of open ditch east of River Road.	No Adverse Effect
42WS4931	Piping of 680 feet of open, concrete-lined ditch along west side of 400 West. All other documented segments of lateral system are avoided.	No Adverse Effect
42WS5112	Avoided	No Historic Properties Affected
42WS5173	Approximately 1130 feet of open channel would be filled to surrounding grade to bury a new subsurface pipeline east of Sandia Road. Trash rack and two flow control boxes installed on channel east of Virgin River.	No Historic Properties Affected
42WS6059	Avoided	No Historic Properties Affected
42WS6346	Avoided	No Historic Properties Affected
42WS6347	East half of site would be excavated for construction of drainage basin.	No Historic Properties Affected
C & C Silo	Avoided	No Historic Properties Affected
Hall Barn	Avoided	No Historic Properties Affected

Mr. Timothy L. Nuvangyaoma
September 9, 2020
Page 3

The NRCS recommends that implementation proceed as planned with a determination of ***no adverse effect to historic properties***. The NRCS requests your concurrence for the determination of project effects and site eligibility. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please contact Tara S. Hoffmann, State Cultural Resources Specialist at 385-258-1266 or tara.hoffmann@usda.gov at your convenience.

Sincerely,



EMILY FIFE
State Conservationist

Enclosure

cc: (w/o encl)

Norm Evenstad, ASTC-Partnerships (Water Resources), NRCS, Salt Lake City, Utah
Derek Hamilton, Water Resources Coordinator, NRCS, Salt Lake City, Utah
Bobbi Preite, Senior Natural Resources Consultant, McMillen Jacobs Associates, Boise, Idaho
Tara S. Hoffmann, State Cultural Resources Specialist, NRCS, Salt Lake City, Utah



September 9, 2020

Ms. Ona Segundo
Chairwoman
Kaibab Band of Paiute Indians of the Kaibab Indian Reservation
Tribal Affairs Building
HC65, Box 2
Fredonia, Arizona 86022

Reference: A Cultural Resource Assessment for the Warner Draw Plan-EA, Washington County, Utah
(UDSH Report No. U18HY0726)

Dear Ms. Segundo:

Enclosed is a copy of a cultural resources report titled *A Cultural Resource Assessment for the Warner Draw Plan-EA, Washington County, Utah*. The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), is providing technical and financial assistance to the Washington County Commission (the County) for several proposed watershed protection and restoration projects in and around St. George, Hurricane, and Washington, Utah. The project locations have been prioritized by the County and NRCS based on the need for flood and erosion control, water conservation, and habitat restoration. The projects could entail such actions as improving efficiency of existing ditches and drains, constructing new stormwater detention basins, constructing additional stormwater pipeline segments, stabilizing and armoring banks of existing waterways, removing invasive vegetation, etc. Collectively, these projects are being evaluated under the Warner Draw Watershed Plan-EA. The NRCS is the lead federal agency for the undertaking, but the portions of the project cross lands managed by the Utah School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration (SITLA), the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and work in wetlands and along waterways may necessitate one or more permits from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). For the purposes of Section 106 consultation, the NRCS will function as the lead Federal agency, which will also cover SITLA's responsibilities under Utah Code Annotated Section 9-8-404.

An intensive pedestrian cultural resources inventory of the undertaking was completed on October 25–29, 2018 and May 7-11, 2019 by Certus Environmental Solutions under the authority of UDSH Project No. U18HY0726. A total of nine cultural resource sites and historical structures and two isolated occurrences were identified as result of the inventory. Certus was unable to relocate one of the previously documented sites reported in the Utah Division of State History records as located in the current survey area. Site 42WS2498 (lithic scatter) has been destroyed by modern development. Table 1 summarizes the sites identified, type, and National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) eligibility determination.

Table 1. Summary of Cultural Resources Sites and NRHP Determinations.

Site #	Description	NRHP Eligibility	Land Ownership
42WS4336	St. George & Washington Canal	Eligible	Private
42WS4931	Hurricane Canal & lateral ditches	LISTED	Private & SILTA
42WS5112	South Station Ditch	Not Eligible	Private
42WS5173	Harder Ditch & lateral ditches	Not Eligible	Private
42WS6059	Historical spring & water storage complex	Eligible	SITLA
42WS6346	Historical dugout	Not Eligible	Private
42WS6347	Historical artifact and lumber scatter	Not Eligible	Private

n/a	Historical C & C Cattle Farms silo	Eligible	Private
n/a	Historical Hall barn	Not Eligible	Private

One site, the St. George and Washington Canal (42WS4336), located on Private land, will have a 1425-foot segment converted to pipe as part of the proposed undertaking. The canal system, which is privately owned, dates to the early 1890s and was among the first successful large-scale diversions of irrigation water from the Virgin River to the St. George settlement. The system was expanded over the decades after its completion to include an extensive lateral distribution network of smaller ditches. The canal system was previously determined eligible for the NRHP under Criteria A and C. The segment of the canal that is proposed to be piped is determined to be non-contributing to the overall eligibility of the system as a whole; due to its modern alterations, including existing piped sections. As such, the NRCS has determined that there will be no adverse effect to site 42WS4336 by piping the segment.

An additional site on Private and lands administered by SITLA, the Hurricane Canal and lateral ditches (42WS4931), will have a 680-foot long segment of concrete-lined ditch converted to pipe as part of the proposed undertaking. The canal was listed on the National Register in 1977 under Criteria A and C. The segment of the main canal in the current survey area includes remnants of the lined historical canal channel, stone retaining walls, a siphon, and a tunnel through the Hurricane Cliffs. The main canal is a 7.5-mile long irrigation ditch started in 1891 and completed in 1904. The segment of the canal that is proposed to be piped is determined to be non-contributing to the overall eligibility of the system as a whole; due to its modern alterations, including existing piped sections. As such, the NRCS has determined that there will be no adverse effect to site 42WS4931 by piping the segment. Determinations of effect for all sites are summarized in Table 2.

Table 2. Summary of anticipated effects

Site #	Nature of Impact	Finding of Effect
42WS4336	Piping of approximately 1425 feet of open ditch east of River Road.	No Adverse Effect
42WS4931	Piping of 680 feet of open, concrete-lined ditch along west side of 400 West. All other documented segments of lateral system are avoided.	No Adverse Effect
42WS5112	Avoided	No Historic Properties Affected
42WS5173	Approximately 1130 feet of open channel would be filled to surrounding grade to bury a new subsurface pipeline east of Sandia Road. Trash rack and two flow control boxes installed on channel east of Virgin River.	No Historic Properties Affected
42WS6059	Avoided	No Historic Properties Affected
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42WS6347	East half of site would be excavated for construction of drainage basin.	No Historic Properties Affected
C & C Silo	Avoided	No Historic Properties Affected
Hall Barn	Avoided	No Historic Properties Affected

The NRCS recommends that implementation proceed as planned with a determination of ***no adverse effect to historic properties***. The NRCS requests your concurrence for the determination of project effects and site eligibility. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please contact Tara S. Hoffmann, State Cultural Resources Specialist at 385-258-1266 or tara.hoffmann@usda.gov at your convenience.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Emily Fife". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

EMILY FIFE
State Conservationist

Enclosure

cc: (w/o encl)

Norm Evenstad, ASTC-Partnerships (Water Resources), NRCS, Salt Lake City, Utah
Derek Hamilton, Water Resources Coordinator, NRCS, Salt Lake City, Utah
Bobbi Preite, Senior Natural Resources Consultant, McMillen Jacobs Associates, Boise, Idaho
Tara S. Hoffmann, State Cultural Resources Specialist, NRCS, Salt Lake City, Utah



September 9, 2020

Ms. Ramona Salazar
Las Vegas Tribe of Paiute Indians of the Las Vegas Indian Colony
One Paiute Drive
Las Vegas, Nevada 89106

Reference: A Cultural Resource Assessment for the Warner Draw Plan-EA, Washington County, Utah
(UDSH Report No. U18HY0726)

Dear Ms. Salazar:

Enclosed is a copy of a cultural resources report titled *A Cultural Resource Assessment for the Warner Draw Plan-EA, Washington County, Utah*. The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), is providing technical and financial assistance to the Washington County Commission (the County) for several proposed watershed protection and restoration projects in and around St. George, Hurricane, and Washington, Utah. The project locations have been prioritized by the County and NRCS based on the need for flood and erosion control, water conservation, and habitat restoration. The projects could entail such actions as improving efficiency of existing ditches and drains, constructing new stormwater detention basins, constructing additional stormwater pipeline segments, stabilizing and armoring banks of existing waterways, removing invasive vegetation, etc. Collectively, these projects are being evaluated under the Warner Draw Watershed Plan-EA. The NRCS is the lead federal agency for the undertaking, but the portions of the project cross lands managed by the Utah School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration (SITLA), the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and work in wetlands and along waterways may necessitate one or more permits from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). For the purposes of Section 106 consultation, the NRCS will function as the lead Federal agency, which will also cover SITLA's responsibilities under Utah Code Annotated Section 9-8-404.

An intensive pedestrian cultural resources inventory of the undertaking was completed on October 25–29, 2018 and May 7-11, 2019 by Certus Environmental Solutions under the authority of UDSH Project No. U18HY0726. A total of nine cultural resource sites and historical structures and two isolated occurrences were identified as result of the inventory. Certus was unable to relocate one of the previously documented sites reported in the Utah Division of State History records as located in the current survey area. Site 42WS2498 (lithic scatter) has been destroyed by modern development. Table 1 summarizes the sites identified, type, and National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) eligibility determination.

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42WS6347	Historical artifact and lumber scatter	Not Eligible	Private
n/a	Historical C & C Cattle Farms silo	Eligible	Private
n/a	Historical Hall barn	Not Eligible	Private

One site, the St. George and Washington Canal (42WS4336), located on Private land, will have a 1425-foot segment converted to pipe as part of the proposed undertaking. The canal system, which is privately owned, dates to the early 1890s and was among the first successful large-scale diversions of irrigation water from the Virgin River to the St. George settlement. The system was expanded over the decades after its completion to include an extensive lateral distribution network of smaller ditches. The canal system was previously determined eligible for the NRHP under Criteria A and C. The segment of the canal that is proposed to be piped is determined to be non-contributing to the overall eligibility of the system as a whole; due to its modern alterations, including existing piped sections. As such, the NRCS has determined that there will be no adverse effect to site 42WS4336 by piping the segment.

An additional site on Private and lands administered by SITLA, the Hurricane Canal and lateral ditches (42WS4931), will have a 680-foot long segment of concrete-lined ditch converted to pipe as part of the proposed undertaking. The canal was listed on the National Register in 1977 under Criteria A and C. The segment of the main canal in the current survey area includes remnants of the lined historical canal channel, stone retaining walls, a siphon, and a tunnel through the Hurricane Cliffs. The main canal is a 7.5-mile long irrigation ditch started in 1891 and completed in 1904. The segment of the canal that is proposed to be piped is determined to be non-contributing to the overall eligibility of the system as a whole; due to its modern alterations, including existing piped sections. As such, the NRCS has determined that there will be no adverse effect to site 42WS4931 by piping the segment. Determinations of effect for all sites are summarized in Table 2.

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Ms. Ramona Salazar
September 9, 2020
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Sincerely,



EMILY FIFE
State Conservationist

Enclosure

cc: (w/o encl)

Norm Evenstad, ASTC-Partnerships (Water Resources), NRCS, Salt Lake City, Utah

Derek Hamilton, Water Resources Coordinator, NRCS, Salt Lake City, Utah

Bobbi Preite, Senior Natural Resources Consultant, McMillen Jacobs Associates, Boise, Idaho

Tara S. Hoffmann, State Cultural Resources Specialist, NRCS, Salt Lake City, Utah



September 9, 2020

Mr. Benny Tso
Chairperson
Las Vegas Tribe of Paiute Indians of the Las Vegas Indian Colony
One Paiute Drive
Las Vegas, Nevada 89106

Reference: A Cultural Resource Assessment for the Warner Draw Plan-EA, Washington County, Utah
(UDSH Report No. U18HY0726)

Dear Mr. Tso:

Enclosed is a copy of a cultural resources report titled *A Cultural Resource Assessment for the Warner Draw Plan-EA, Washington County, Utah*. The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), is providing technical and financial assistance to the Washington County Commission (the County) for several proposed watershed protection and restoration projects in and around St. George, Hurricane, and Washington, Utah. The project locations have been prioritized by the County and NRCS based on the need for flood and erosion control, water conservation, and habitat restoration. The projects could entail such actions as improving efficiency of existing ditches and drains, constructing new stormwater detention basins, constructing additional stormwater pipeline segments, stabilizing and armoring banks of existing waterways, removing invasive vegetation, etc. Collectively, these projects are being evaluated under the Warner Draw Watershed Plan-EA. The NRCS is the lead federal agency for the undertaking, but the portions of the project cross lands managed by the Utah School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration (SITLA), the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and work in wetlands and along waterways may necessitate one or more permits from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). For the purposes of Section 106 consultation, the NRCS will function as the lead Federal agency, which will also cover SITLA's responsibilities under Utah Code Annotated Section 9-8-404.

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One site, the St. George and Washington Canal (42WS4336), located on Private land, will have a 1425-foot segment converted to pipe as part of the proposed undertaking. The canal system, which is privately owned, dates to the early 1890s and was among the first successful large-scale diversions of irrigation water from the Virgin River to the St. George settlement. The system was expanded over the decades after its completion to include an extensive lateral distribution network of smaller ditches. The canal system was previously determined eligible for the NRHP under Criteria A and C. The segment of the canal that is proposed to be piped is determined to be non-contributing to the overall eligibility of the system as a whole; due to its modern alterations, including existing piped sections. As such, the NRCS has determined that there will be no adverse effect to site 42WS4336 by piping the segment.

An additional site on Private and lands administered by SITLA, the Hurricane Canal and lateral ditches (42WS4931), will have a 680-foot long segment of concrete-lined ditch converted to pipe as part of the proposed undertaking. The canal was listed on the National Register in 1977 under Criteria A and C. The segment of the main canal in the current survey area includes remnants of the lined historical canal channel, stone retaining walls, a siphon, and a tunnel through the Hurricane Cliffs. The main canal is a 7.5-mile long irrigation ditch started in 1891 and completed in 1904. The segment of the canal that is proposed to be piped is determined to be non-contributing to the overall eligibility of the system as a whole; due to its modern alterations, including existing piped sections. As such, the NRCS has determined that there will be no adverse effect to site 42WS4931 by piping the segment. Determinations of effect for all sites are summarized in Table 2.

Table 2. Summary of anticipated effects

Site #	Nature of Impact	Finding of Effect
42WS4336	Piping of approximately 1425 feet of open ditch east of River Road.	No Adverse Effect
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Mr. Benny Tso
September 9, 2020
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The NRCS recommends that implementation proceed as planned with a determination of *no adverse effect to historic properties*. The NRCS requests your concurrence for the determination of project effects and site eligibility. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please contact Tara S. Hoffmann, State Cultural Resources Specialist at 385-258-1266 or tara.hoffmann@usda.gov at your convenience.

Sincerely,



EMILY FIFE
State Conservationist

Enclosure

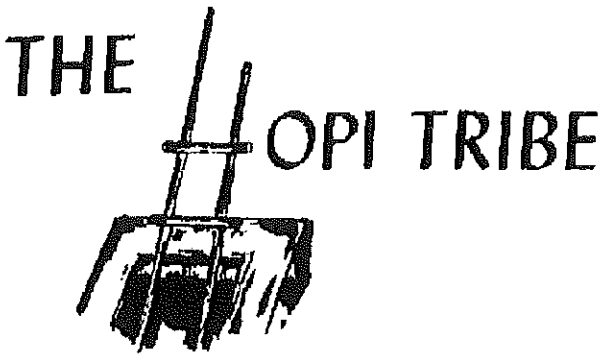
cc: (w/o encl)

Norm Evenstad, ASTC-Partnerships (Water Resources), NRCS, Salt Lake City, Utah

Derek Hamilton, Water Resources Coordinator, NRCS, Salt Lake City, Utah

Bobbi Preite, Senior Natural Resources Consultant, McMillen Jacobs Associates, Boise, Idaho

Tara S. Hoffmann, State Cultural Resources Specialist, NRCS, Salt Lake City, Utah



Timothy L. Nuvangyaoma
CHAIRMAN

Clark W. Tenakhongva
VICE-CHAIRMAN

May 21, 2018

Timothy Wilson, State Conservationist
Attention: Tara S. Hoffman, Acting State Cultural Resources Specialist
Natural Resources Conservation Service
125 South State Street, Room 4010
Salt Lake City, Utah 84138

Re: Warner Draw Watershed Flood Prevention Operations Project, Washington County

Dear Mr. Wilson,

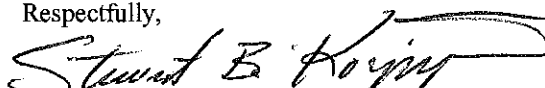
Thank you for your correspondence dated May 11, 2018, regarding the National Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and Washington County proposing the Warner Draw Watershed Flood Prevention Operations Project. The Hopi Tribe claims cultural affiliation to prehistoric cultural groups in Utah. The Hopi Cultural Preservation Office supports the identification and avoidance of prehistoric archaeological sites and we consider the prehistoric archaeological sites of our ancestors to be "footprints" and Traditional Cultural Properties. Therefore, we appreciate the NRCS's continuing solicitation of our input and your efforts to address our concerns.

The Hopi Cultural Preservation Office requests consultation on any proposal in Utah that has the potential to effect prehistoric cultural resources. We understand the project proposes improvements at seven sites to prevent flood damages, further the conservation, development utilization, and disposal of water, and further the conservation and proper utilization of land.

We also understand an environmental analysis will be prepared, and therefore we look forward to being provided with copies of the cultural resources report and draft environmental assessment for review and comment. If prehistoric cultural resources are identified that will be adversely affected by the proposed project, we will request continuing consultation including being provided with a copy of any proposed treatment plans for review and comment.

We appreciate that if any prehistoric cultural features or deposits are encountered during project activities, these activities will be discontinued in the immediate area of the remains, and the State Historic Preservation Office will be consulted to evaluate their nature and significance, and if any Native American human remains or funerary objects are discovered during project activities they will be immediately reported as required by law. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Terry Morgart at 928-734-3619 or tmorgart@hopi.nsn.us. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,


Stewart B. Koyiyumptewa, Interim Manager
Hopi Cultural Preservation Office

xc: Utah State Historic Preservation Office



United States Department of Agriculture

Natural Resources
Conservation Service

Utah State Office

125 South State Street
Room 4010
Salt Lake City, UT 84138

Ph: 801-524-4550
Fax: 844-715-4928
www.ut.nrcs.usda.gov

May 11, 2018

Mr. Darren Deboda
Moapa Band of Paiute Indians of the Moapa River Indian
Reservation, Nevada
P.O. Box 340
Moapa, Nevada 89025-0340

Reference: NRCS Warner Draw Watershed Flood Prevention Operations Project

Dear Mr. Deboda:

The United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), with Washington County as the project sponsor, is proposing to partially fund through the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act (Public Law [PL] 83-566), the Warner Draw Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations Project (Project) in Washington County, Utah. Improvements are being proposed within the Warner Draw Watershed to:

- Prevent flood damages;
- Further the conservation, development, utilization, and disposal of water; and
- Further the conservation and proper utilization of land.

In cooperation with Washington County, the NRCS is in the very early planning stages of preparing a Supplemental Watershed Plan and an Environmental Assessment (Plan-EA) under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) to consider and analyze potential impacts from the action. For the purposes of compliance with NEPA and Section 106 of the NHPA, the NRCS is the designated lead agency. Pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), Executive Order 13007, the American Indian Religious Freedom Act, we write to you at this time regarding the project and we welcome any information you would like to share with us regarding historic properties or places of traditional religious and cultural importance near the proposed project area that we should consider as part of our analysis. We would also appreciate your assistance in identifying any other Tribes with whom we should consult on this Project.

Improvements for the project are proposed at the seven sites in Washington County, Utah, listed below. A Project Area Overview map depicting each site is included in Figure 1 and additional project information is available on the project website:

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/ut/programs/planning/wpfp/>

Site 1: Black Knolls Reservoir
Site 2: Main Street Debris Basins
Site 3: Washington Dam Vegetation Measures
Site 4: Y-Drain
Site 5: Hurricane Canal Water Efficiency
Site 6: Goulds Wash
Site 7: Warner Valley Disposal System

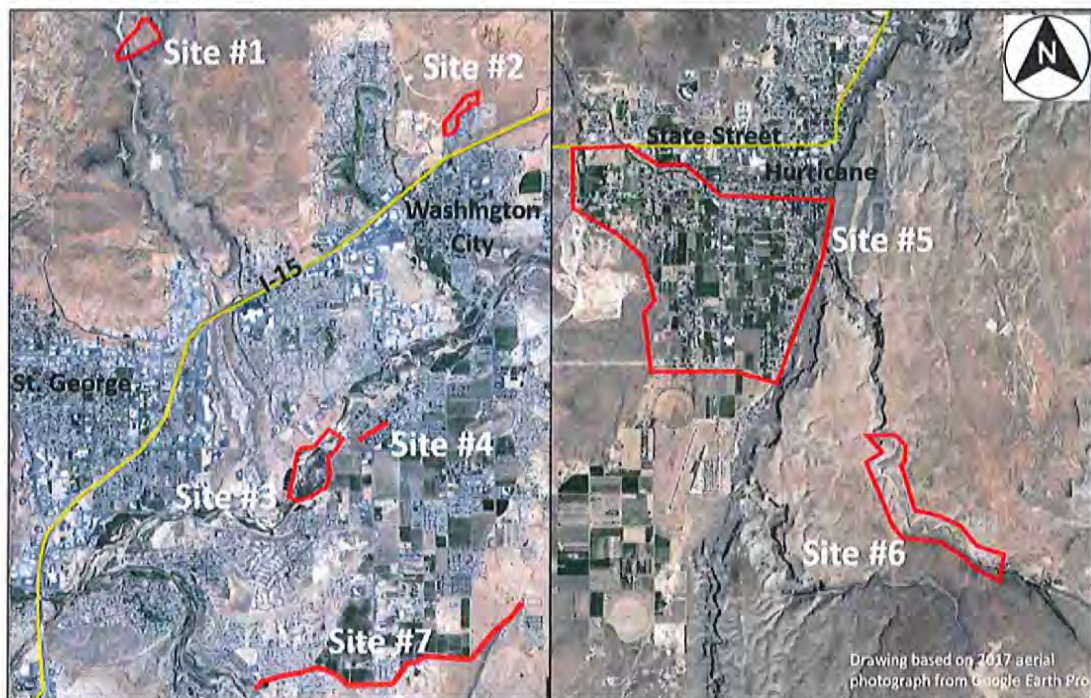


Figure 1. Project Area Overview Map

You are invited to attend a public scoping meeting where the Project and associated resource concerns will be discussed. We are inviting agency, organization, Tribal and public input on the Project during the scoping phase. Two scoping meetings will be held to provide information about the proposed Project and to collect comments. Comments can be received anytime during the open comment period from **May 15, 2018, to June 14, 2018.**

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Public Scoping Meeting

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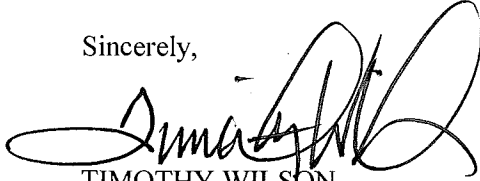
Mr. Darren Deboda

May 11, 2018

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Sincerely,

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TIMOTHY WILSON
State Conservationist

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May 11, 2018

Mr. Benny Tso
Chairman
Las Vegas Tribe of Paiute Indians of the Las Vegas Indian Colony
One Paiute Drive
Las Vegas, Nevada 89106

Reference: NRCS Warner Draw Watershed Flood Prevention Operations Project

Dear Mr. Tso:

The United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), with Washington County as the project sponsor, is proposing to partially fund through the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act (Public Law [PL] 83-566), the Warner Draw Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations Project (Project) in Washington County, Utah. Improvements are being proposed within the Warner Draw Watershed to:

- Prevent flood damages;
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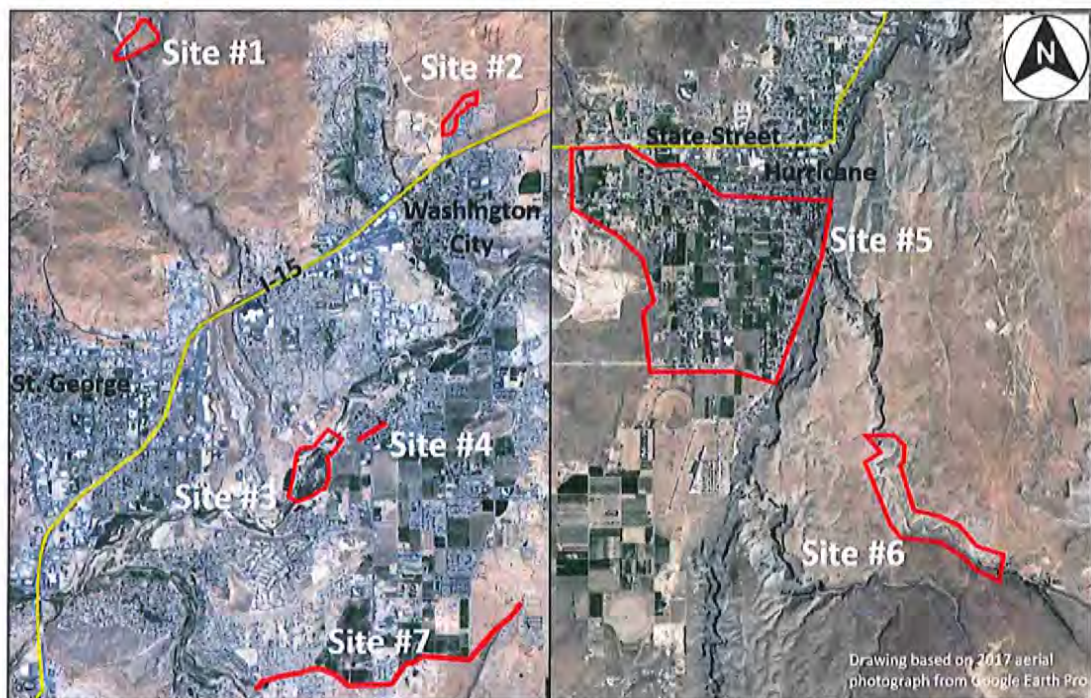


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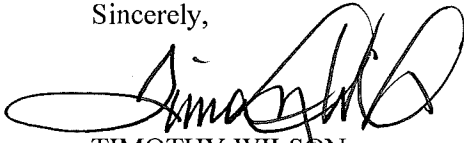
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Mr. Benny Tso
May 11, 2018
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United States Department of Agriculture

May 11, 2018

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Ms. Dorena Martineau
Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah
440 North Paiute Drive
Cedar City, Utah 84721

Reference: NRCS Warner Draw Watershed Flood Prevention Operations Project

Dear Ms. Martineau:

The United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), with Washington County as the project sponsor, is proposing to partially fund through the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act (Public Law [PL] 83-566), the Warner Draw Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations Project (Project) in Washington County, Utah. Improvements are being proposed within the Warner Draw Watershed to:

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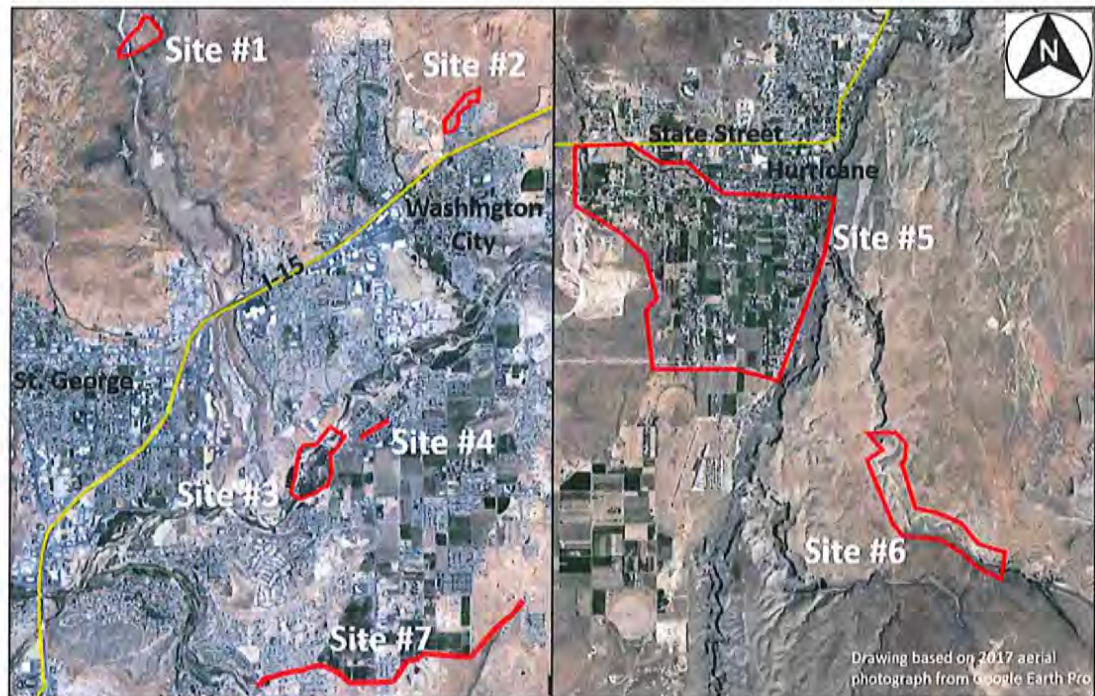


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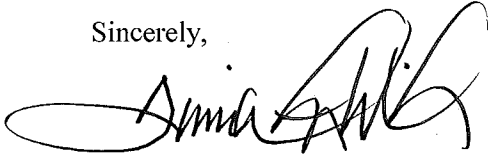
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Ms. Dorena Martineau
May 11, 2018
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May 11, 2018

Mr. Leigh Kuwanwisiwma
Director
Hopi Culture Preservation Office
The Hopi Tribe
P.O. Box 123
Kykotsmovi, Arizona 86039

Reference: NRCS Warner Draw Watershed Flood Prevention Operations Project

Dear Mr. Kuwanwisiwma:

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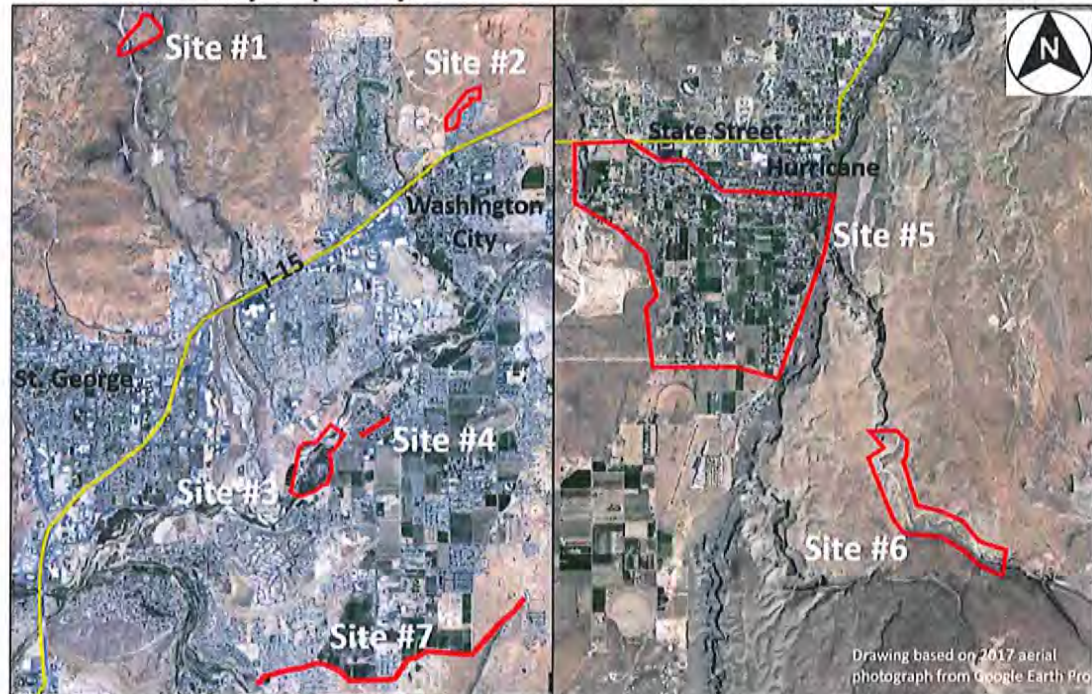


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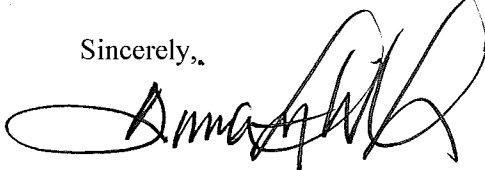
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Mr. Leigh Kuwanwisiwma
May 11, 2018
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United States Department of Agriculture

May 11, 2018

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Mr. Timothy L. Nuvangyaoma
Chairman
Hopi Tribe Chairman's Office
P.O. Box 123
Kykotsmovi, Arizona 86039

Reference: NRCS Warner Draw Watershed Flood Prevention Operations Project

Dear Mr. Nuvangyaoma:

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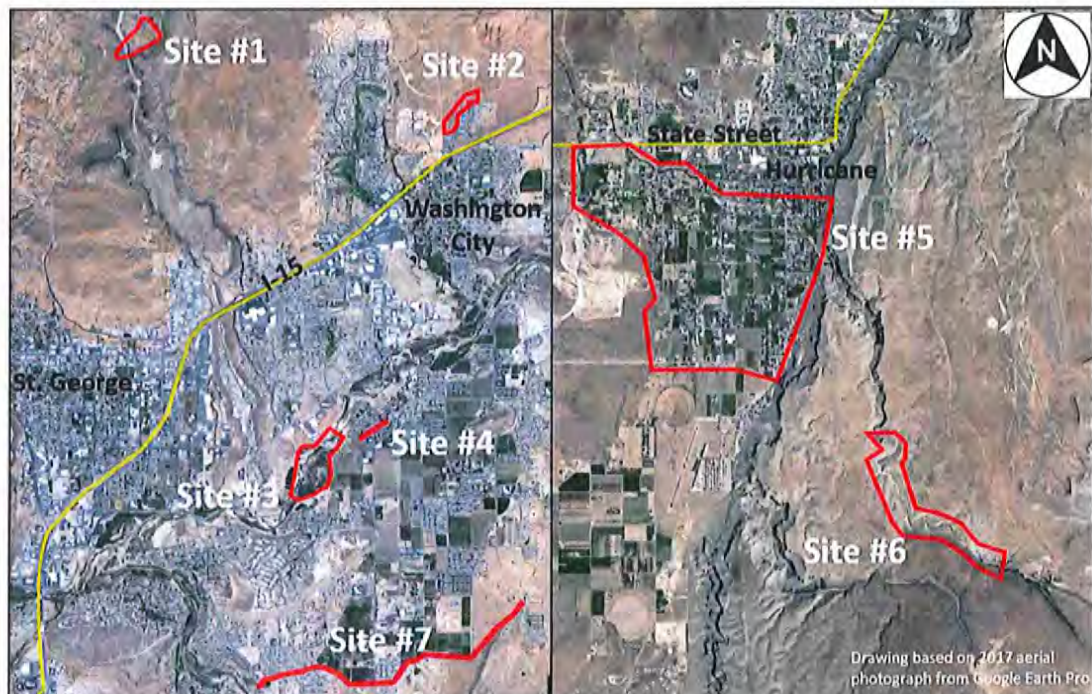


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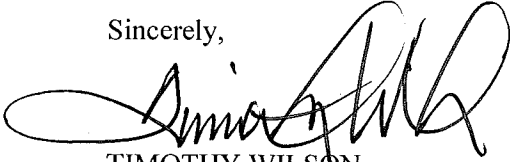
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May 11, 2018

Mr. Greg Anderson
Chairman
Moapa Band of Paiute Indians of the Moapa River Indian
Reservation, Nevada
P.O. Box 340
Moapa, Nevada 89025-0340

Reference: NRCS Warner Draw Watershed Flood Prevention Operations Project

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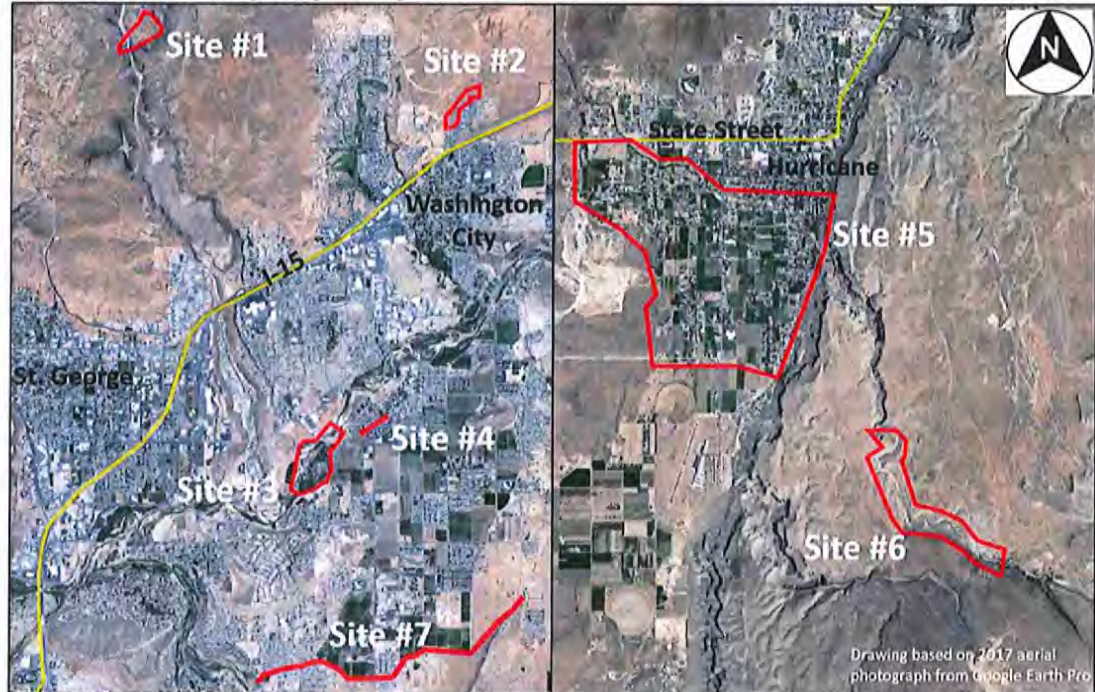


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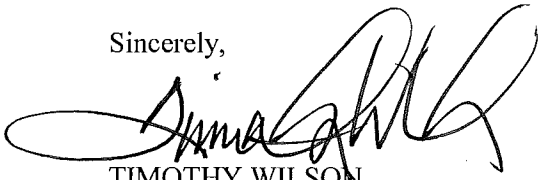
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May 11, 2018

Ms. Tamra Borchardt-Slayton
Chairperson
Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah
440 North Paiute Drive
Cedar City, Utah 84720-2613

Reference: NRCS Warner Draw Watershed Flood Prevention Operations Project

Dear Ms. Borchardt-Slayton:

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Site 6: Goulds Wash
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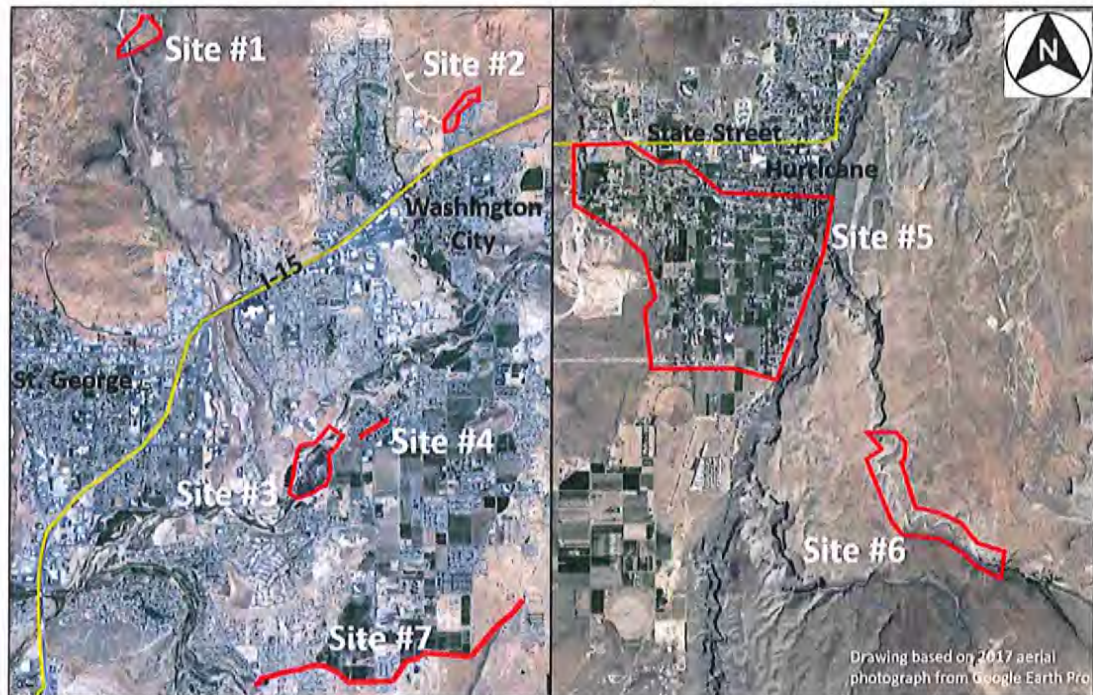


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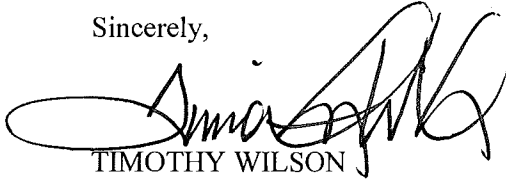
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Ms. Tamra Borchardt-Slayton
May 11, 2018
Page 3

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Sincerely,

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TIMOTHY WILSON
State Conservationist

cc:

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Norm Evenstad, NRCS, Water Resources Coordinator, Salt Lake City, UT
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United States Department of Agriculture

Natural Resources
Conservation Service

Utah State Office

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Fax: 844-715-4928
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May 11, 2018

Mr. Charley Bullets
Southern Paiute Consortium
Kaibab Band of Paiute Indians of the Kaibab Indian Reservation
Cultural Preservation Office
HC65, Box 2
Fredonia, Arizona 86022

Reference: NRCS Warner Draw Watershed Flood Prevention Operations Project

Dear Mr. Bullets:

The United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), with Washington County as the project sponsor, is proposing to partially fund through the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act (Public Law [PL] 83-566), the Warner Draw Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations Project (Project) in Washington County, Utah. Improvements are being proposed within the Warner Draw Watershed to:

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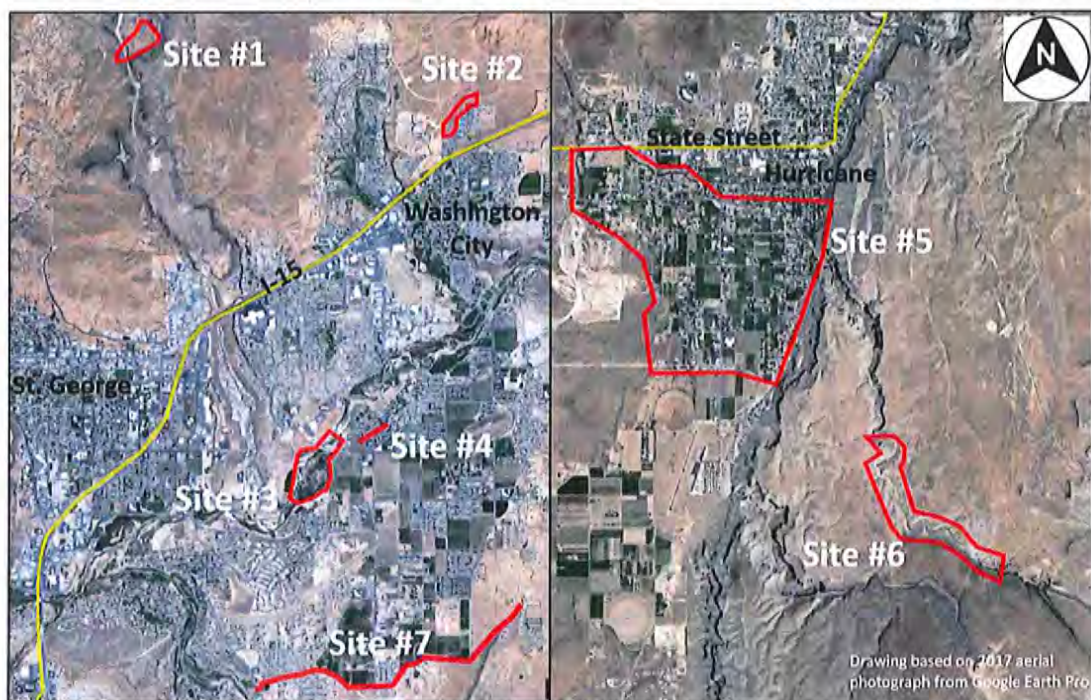


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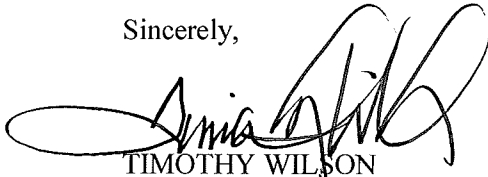
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Mr. Charley Bullets
May 11, 2018
Page 3

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Sincerely,



TIMOTHY WILSON
State Conservationist

cc:

Tara S. Hoffmann, Acting State Cultural Resources Specialist, Salt Lake City, UT
Shelley A. Szeghi, NRCS, Area Cultural Resources Specialist, Ogden, UT
Norm Evenstad, NRCS, Water Resources Coordinator, Salt Lake City, UT
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United States Department of Agriculture

Natural Resources
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Utah State Office

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Salt Lake City, UT 84138

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May 11, 2018

Ms. Betsy Chapoose
Director
Cultural Rights Protection Department
Ute Indian Tribe of the Uintah & Ouray Reservation, Utah
P.O. Box 190
Fort Duchesne, Utah 84026

Reference: NRCS Warner Draw Watershed Flood Prevention Operations Project

Dear Ms. Chappoose:

The United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), with Washington County as the project sponsor, is proposing to partially fund through the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act (Public Law [PL] 83-566), the Warner Draw Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations Project (Project) in Washington County, Utah. Improvements are being proposed within the Warner Draw Watershed to:

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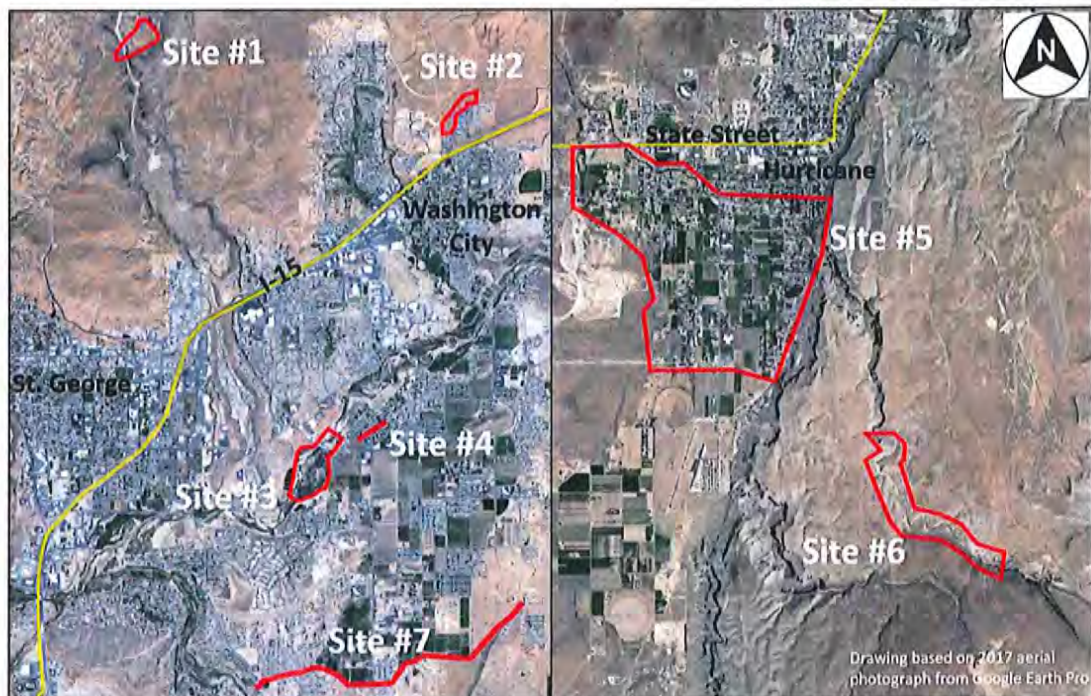


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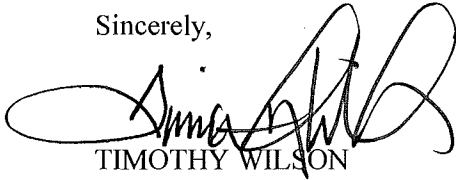
Ms. Betsy Chapoose

May 11, 2018

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TIMOTHY WILSON

State Conservationist

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Norm Evenstad, NRCS, Water Resources Coordinator, Salt Lake City, UT

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May 11, 2018

Mr. Luke Duncan
Chairman
Ute Indian Tribe of the Uintah & Ouray Reservation, Utah
P.O. Box 190
Fort Duchesne, Utah 84026

Reference: NRCS Warner Draw Watershed Flood Prevention Operations Project

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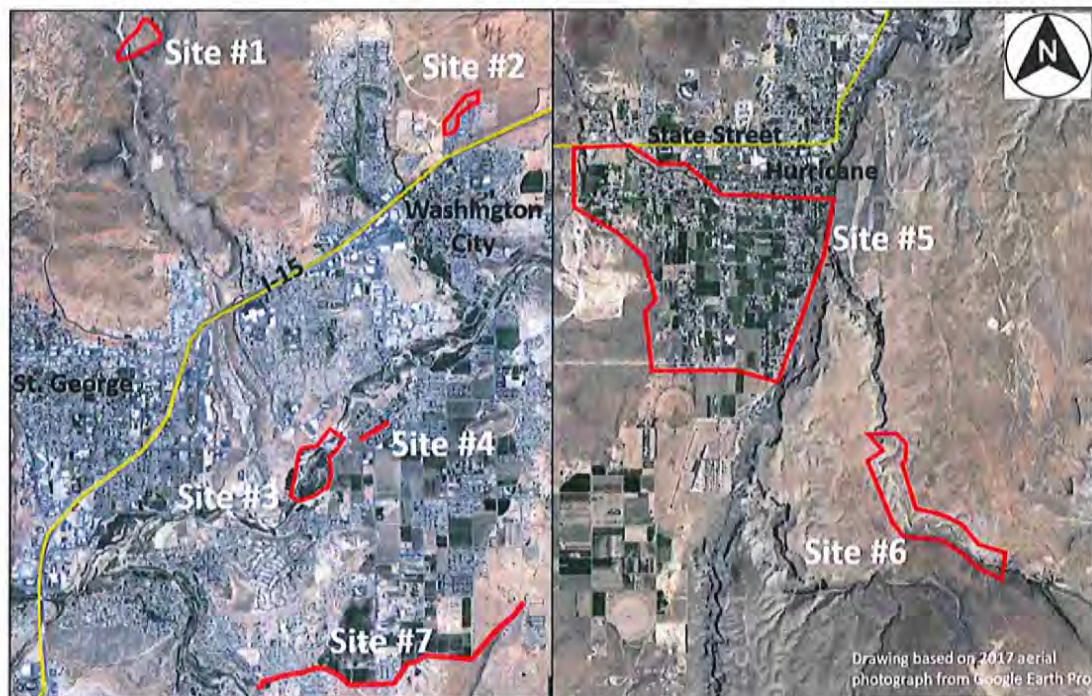


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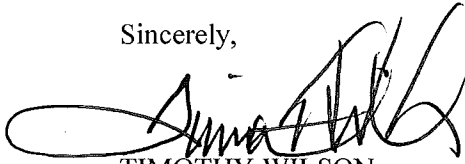
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Mr. Luke Duncan
May 11, 2018
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State Conservationist

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May 11, 2018

Ms. Ona Segundo
Chairwoman
Kaibab Band of Paiute Indians of the Kaibab Indian Reservation
Tribal Affairs Building
HC65, Box 2
Fredonia, Arizona 86022

Reference: NRCS Warner Draw Watershed Flood Prevention Operations Project

Dear Ms. Segundo:

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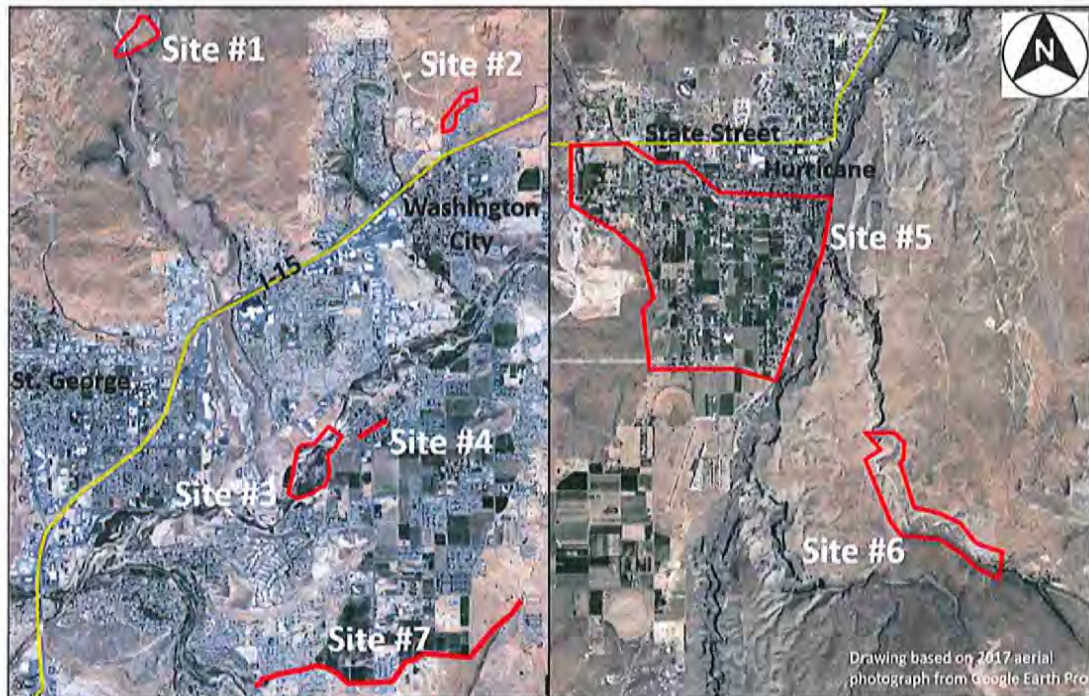


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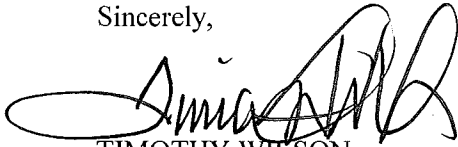
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May 11, 2018

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Norm Evenstad, NRCS, Water Resources Coordinator, Salt Lake City, UT

Bobbi Preite, McMillen Jacobs Associates, Senior Natural Resources Consultant, Boise, ID

BOR CONSULTATION



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
Lower Colorado Regional Office
P.O. Box 61470
Boulder City, NV 89006-1470

REC'D SEP 19 2019

IN REPLY REFER TO:

LC-2620

2.1.4.17

SEP 17 2019

Ms. Becky Ross
State Conservationist
USDA-NRCS
Wallace F. Bennett Federal Building
125 South State Street, Room 4010
Salt Lake City, UT 84138-1100

Subject: Formal Request to be a Cooperating Agency in the Development of the Warner Draw Watershed Plan-Environmental Assessment (Plan-EA), Washington County, Utah

Dear Ms. Ross:

Thank you for your August 26, 2019 letter to Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) Lower Colorado Regional Director Dr. Terry Fulp inviting Reclamation to be a cooperating agency in the preparation of the Plan-EA for the Warner Draw Watershed in Washington County, UT. There are no Reclamation lands or facilities in the project area for the Plan-EA but we would like to kept informed about the project. We decline your offer to be a cooperating agency but would like to remain on your mailing list for review of the draft Plan-EA and other project updates.

Further correspondence and notice of the draft Plan-EA may be directed to:

Bureau of Reclamation, Attn: Ms. Mary J. Reece, Chief, Resource Management Office, LC-2000, P.O. Box 61470, Boulder City, NV 89006.

Bureau of Reclamation, Attn: Mr. Kib Jacobson, Chief, Water Quality Group, Upper Colorado Regional Office, 125 South State Street, Room 8100, Salt Lake City, UT 84138

If you have questions, please contact Ms. Faye Streier at 702-293-8364 or via e-mail at fstreier@usbr.gov.

Sincerely,

Mary J. Reece, Chief
Resource Management Office

From: [Evenstad, Norm - NRCS, Salt Lake City, UT](#)
To: t.fulp@usbr.gov; lmeyers@usbr.gov
Subject: Utah: USDA-NRCS - Environmental Assessment -- Cooperating Agency Request - Warner Draw Watershed - Public Law 566 Watershed Program.
Date: Tuesday, August 27, 2019 3:21:00 PM
Attachments: [BOR WarnerDraw Coop Agency Request.pdf](#)
[BOR WarnerDraw MOU Cooperating Agency.doc](#)

RE: Utah – USDA-NRCS Environmental Assessment – Cooperating Agency Request.

-
Attached letter of request to be a Cooperating Agency in the development of a Watershed Plan-Environmental Assessment (Plan-EA) for the Warner Draw Watershed (Virgin River drainage) , located in Washington County, Utah.

An MOU is also attached for your consideration, identification of agency representatives and signature if you wish to be a Cooperating Agency.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call or email me.

Thank You.....Norm.

*Norm Evenstad, P.G.
Water Resources Coordinator*

USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service
Wallace F Bennett Federal Building, Rm 4010
125 S State Street
Salt Lake City, UT 84138-1100
Voice: 801-524-4569
Cell: 801 557-7068
Email: norm.evenstad@usda.gov



Natural Resources Conservation Service



United States Department of Agriculture

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Utah State Office

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Ph: 801-524-4550
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Date: August 26, 2019

Terry Fulp, Regional Director
[Lower Colorado Regional Office](#)
P.O. Box 61470
Boulder City, NV 89006-1470

RE: Formal request to be a Cooperating Agency in the development of the Warner Draw Watershed Plan-Environmental Assessment (Plan-EA), Washington County, Utah for proposed flood prevention measures, Virgin River habitat enhancements and Hurricane Canal upgrades.

Dear Mr. Fulp,

In accordance with the Council on Environmental Quality regulations implementing the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) at 40 CFR Part 1501.6, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is formally requesting that U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) become a cooperating agency in the planning and development of the Warner Draw Watershed EA. The location of the proposed project areas are outlined in the attached figures.

This request is made since your agency is identified as having special expertise, interest or jurisdiction related to this project. The EA is being prepared to fulfill the NRCS NEPA compliance responsibilities pertaining to our Federal financial assistance through the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Program as authorized through Public Law 83-566. Upon acceptance of this invitation, draft roles are defined in the attached MOU. If your agency is unable to participate as a cooperating agency please return a written letter (or email) indicating that your agency cannot participate.

Please send notification confirming your decision by September 30, 2019 to: Becky Ross, State Conservationist, USDA-NRCS, Wallace F Bennett Federal Building, 125 South State Street, Room 4010, Salt Lake City, Utah 84138-1100.

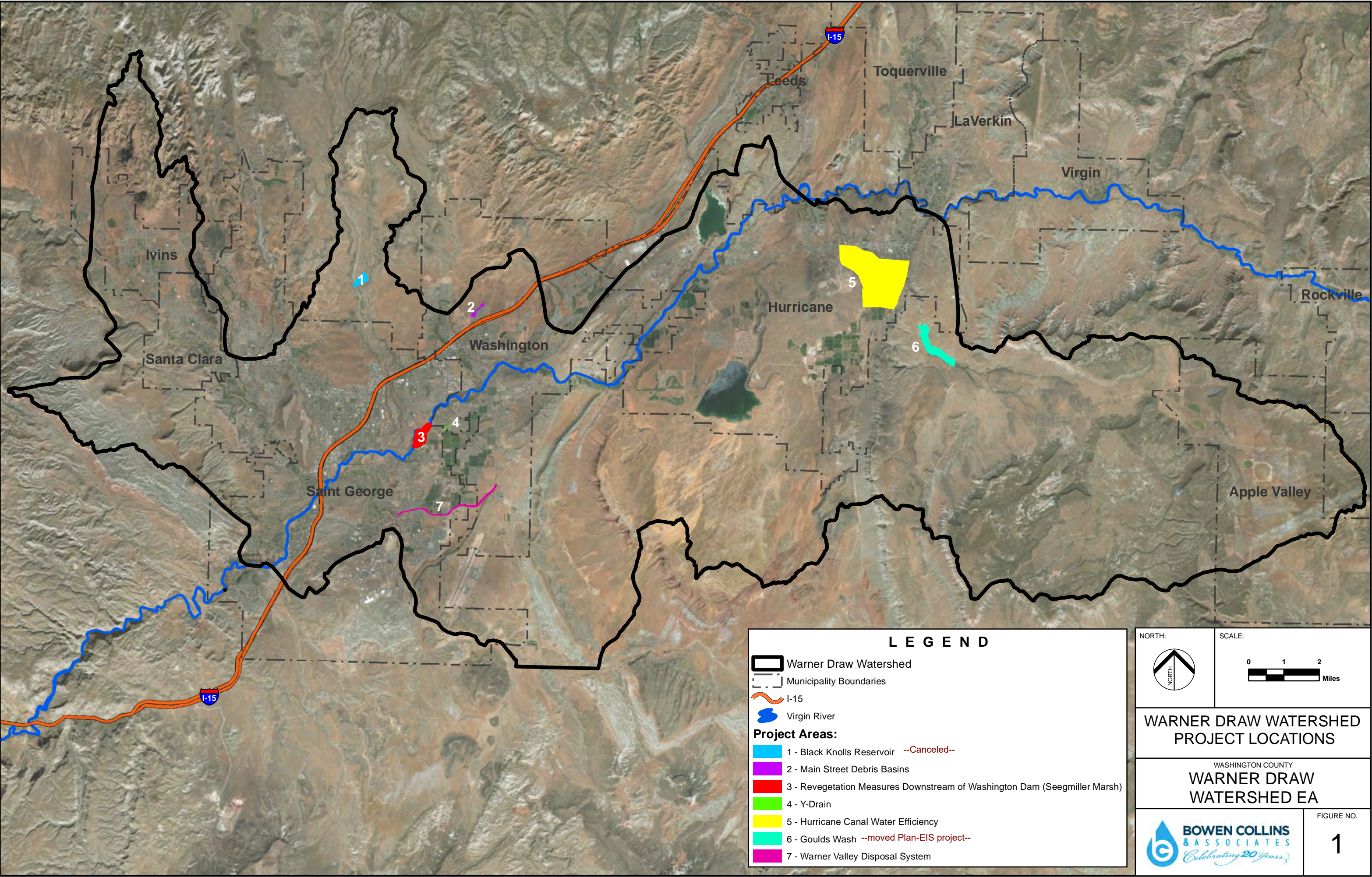
Thank you for your timely response and cooperation with these efforts. If you have any questions or comments, please contact Bronson Smart, State Conservation Engineer, at bronson.smart@usda.gov or (801) 524-4559; or Norm Evenstad, Water Resources Coordinator, at norm.evenstad@usda.gov or (801) 524-4569.

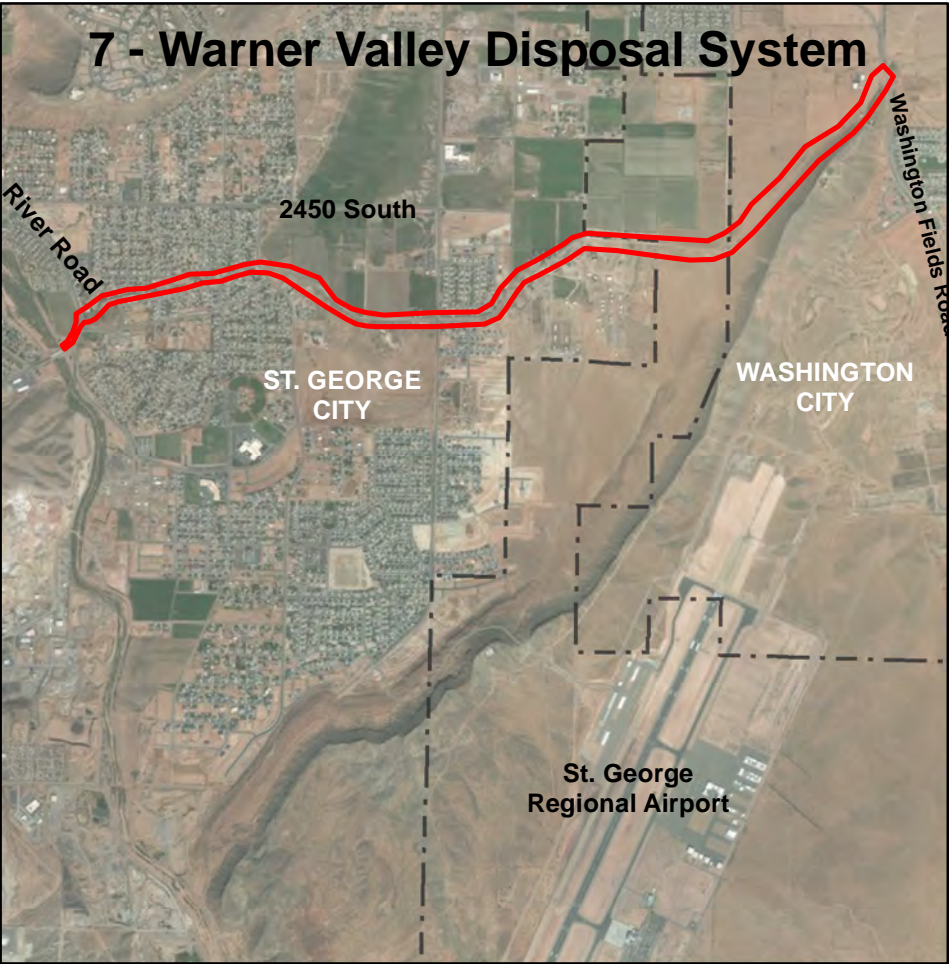
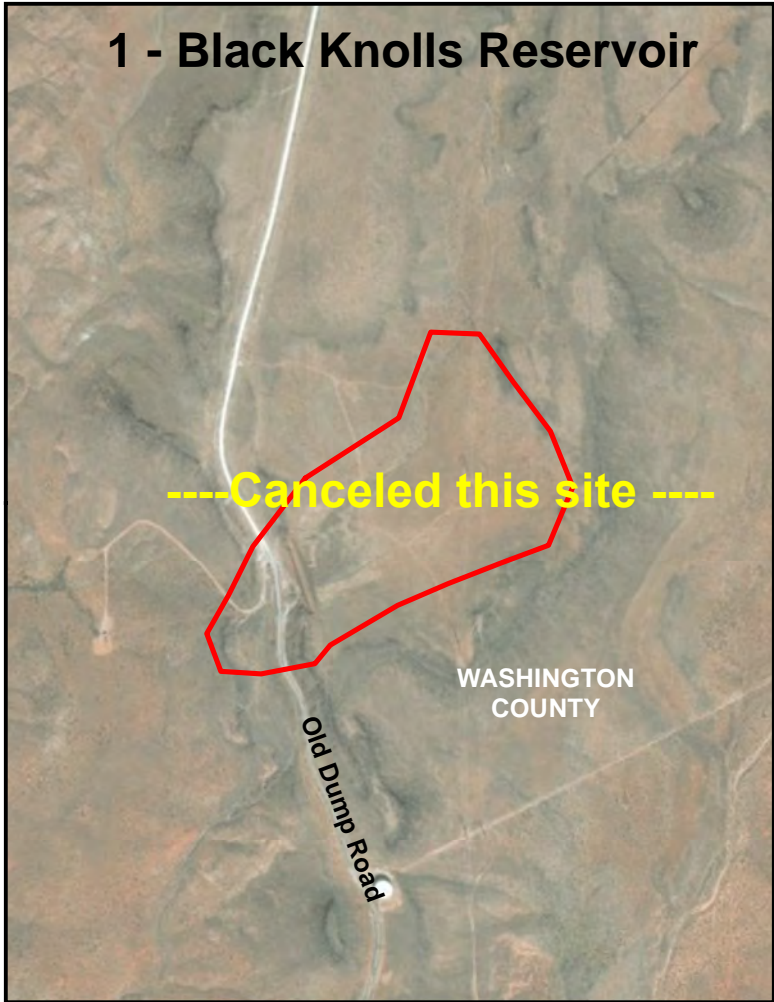
Sincerely,

BECKY ROSS
State Conservationist

cc:

Alan Atkins, Assistant State Con.-Field Operations (South), NRCS, Richfield, UT
Lynn Kitchen, District Conservationist, NRCS, Beaver, Utah
Bronson Smart, State Conservation Engineer-Rehab Program Manager, NRCS, Salt Lake City, UT
Norm Evenstad, Water Resources Coordinator, NRCS, Salt Lake City, UT





LEGEND

Approximate Project Areas

Municipality Boundaries

NORTH:

SCALE: (NOT TO SCALE)

WARNER DRAW WATERSHED ENLARGED PROJECT AREAS

WASHINGTON COUNTY
WARNER DRAW WATERSHED EA

BOWEN COLLINS & ASSOCIATES
Celebrating 20 Years

FIGURE NO. **2**

SITLA CONSULTATION



September 9, 2020

Ms. Lindsay Fenner
Archaeologist
State of Utah, School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration
675 East 500 South, Suite 500
Salt Lake City, Utah 84102

Reference: A Cultural Resource Assessment for the Warner Draw Plan-EA, Washington County, Utah (UDSH Report No. U18HY0726)

Dear Ms. Fenner:

Enclosed are a copy of a cultural resources report titled *A Cultural Resource Assessment for the Warner Draw Plan-EA, Washington County, Utah* and associated data. The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), is providing technical and financial assistance to the Washington County Commission (the County) for several proposed watershed protection and restoration projects in and around St. George, Hurricane, and Washington, Utah. The project locations have been prioritized by the County and NRCS based on the need for flood and erosion control, water conservation, and habitat restoration. The projects could entail such actions as improving efficiency of existing ditches and drains, constructing new stormwater detention basins, constructing additional stormwater pipeline segments, stabilizing and armoring banks of existing waterways, removing invasive vegetation, etc. Collectively, these projects are being evaluated under the Warner Draw Watershed Plan-EA. The NRCS is the lead federal agency for the undertaking, but the portions of the project cross lands managed by the Utah School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration (SITLA), the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and work in wetlands and along waterways may necessitate one or more permits from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). For the purposes of Section 106 consultation, the NRCS will function as the lead Federal agency, which will also cover SITLA's responsibilities under Utah Code Annotated Section 9-8-404.

An intensive pedestrian cultural resources inventory of the undertaking was completed on October 25–29, 2018 and May 7-11, 2019 by Certus Environmental Solutions under the authority of UDSH Project No. U18HY0726. A total of nine cultural resource sites and historical structures and two isolated occurrences were identified as result of the inventory. Certus was unable to relocate one of the previously documented sites reported in the Utah Division of State History records as located in the current survey area. Site 42WS2498 (lithic scatter) has been destroyed by modern development. Table 1 summarizes the sites identified, type, and National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) eligibility determination.

Table 1. Summary of Cultural Resources Sites and NRHP Determinations.

Site #	Description	NRHP Eligibility	Land Ownership
42WS4336	St. George & Washington Canal	Eligible	Private
42WS4931	Hurricane Canal & lateral ditches	LISTED	Private & SITLA
42WS5112	South Station Ditch	Not Eligible	Private
42WS5173	Harder Ditch & lateral ditches	Not Eligible	Private
42WS6059	Historical spring & water storage complex	Eligible	SITLA
42WS6346	Historical dugout	Not Eligible	Private
42WS6347	Historical artifact and lumber scatter	Not Eligible	Private
n/a	Historical C & C Cattle Farms silo	Eligible	Private
n/a	Historical Hall barn	Not Eligible	Private

One site, the St. George and Washington Canal (42WS4336), located on Private land, will have a 1425-foot segment converted to pipe as part of the proposed undertaking. The canal system, which is privately owned, dates to the early 1890s and was among the first successful large-scale diversions of irrigation water from the Virgin River to the St. George settlement. The system was expanded over the decades after its completion to include an extensive lateral distribution network of smaller ditches. The canal system was previously determined eligible for the NRHP under Criteria A and C. The segment of the canal that is proposed to be piped is determined to be non-contributing to the overall eligibility of the system as a whole due to its modern alterations, including existing piped sections. As such, the NRCS has determined that there will be no adverse effect to site 42WS4336 by piping the segment.

An additional site on Private and lands administered by SITLA, the Hurricane Canal and lateral ditches (42WS4931), will have a 680-foot long segment of concrete-lined ditch converted to pipe as part of the proposed undertaking. The canal was listed on the National Register in 1977 under Criteria A and C. The segment of the main canal in the current survey area includes remnants of the lined historical canal channel, stone retaining walls, a siphon, and a tunnel through the Hurricane Cliffs. The main canal is a 7.5-mile long irrigation ditch started in 1891 and completed in 1904. The segment of the canal that is proposed to be piped is determined to be non-contributing to the overall eligibility of the system as a whole; due to its modern alterations, including existing piped sections. As such, the NRCS has determined that there will be no adverse effect to site 42WS4931 by piping the segment. Determinations of effect for all sites are summarized in Table 2.

Table 2. Summary of anticipated effects

Site #	Nature of Impact	Finding of Effect
42WS4336	Piping of approximately 1425 feet of open ditch east of River Road.	No Adverse Effect
42WS4931	Piping of 680 feet of open, concrete-lined ditch along west side of 400 West. All other documented segments of lateral system are avoided.	No Adverse Effect
42WS5112	Avoided	No Historic Properties Affected
42WS5173	Approximately 1130 feet of open channel would be filled to surrounding grade to bury a new subsurface pipeline east of Sandia Road. Trash rack and two flow control boxes installed on channel east of Virgin River.	No Historic Properties Affected
42WS6059	Avoided	No Historic Properties Affected
42WS6346	Avoided	No Historic Properties Affected
42WS6347	East half of site would be excavated for construction of drainage basin.	No Historic Properties Affected
C & C Silo	Avoided	No Historic Properties Affected
Hall Barn	Avoided	No Historic Properties Affected

Ms. Lindsay Fenner
September 9, 2020
Page 3

The NRCS recommends that implementation proceed as planned with a determination of ***no adverse effect to historic properties***. The NRCS requests your concurrence for the determination of project effects and site eligibility. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please contact Tara S. Hoffmann, State Cultural Resources Specialist at 385-258-1266 or tara.hoffmann@usda.gov at your convenience.

Sincerely,



EMILY FIFE
State Conservationist

Enclosure

cc: (w/ encl)

Norm Evenstad, ASTC-Partnerships (Water Resources), NRCS, Salt Lake City, Utah

Derek Hamilton, Water Resources Coordinator, NRCS, Salt Lake City, Utah

Bobbi Preite, Senior Natural Resources Consultant, McMillen Jacobs Associates, Boise, Idaho

Tara S. Hoffmann, State Cultural Resources Specialist, NRCS, Salt Lake City, Utah



United States Department of Agriculture

Natural Resources
Conservation Service

Utah State Office

125 South State Street
Room 4010
Salt Lake City, UT 84138

Ph: 801-524-4550
Fax: 844-715-4928
www.ut.nrcs.usda.gov

August 25, 2020

Mr. Kyle Pasley
Asst. Director—Planning and Development
Utah School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration
675 East 500 South, Suite 500
Salt Lake City, UT 84102

RE: Formal request to be a cooperating agency in the development of the Warner Draw Watershed Plan-Environmental Assessment (Plan-EA) in Washington County, Utah.

Dear Mr. Pasley:

In accordance with the Council on Environmental Quality regulations implementing the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) at 40 CFR Part 1501.6, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is formally requesting that the Utah School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration (SITLA) become a cooperating agency in the planning and development of the Warner Draw Watershed Plan-EA for proposed flood prevention measures, Virgin River habitat enhancements, and Hurricane Canal upgrades in Washington County, Utah. The enclosed map identifies the site locations associated with the Plan-EA.

This request is being made because proposed project measures are located on SITLA-lands (Sites 1 and 5). The Plan-EA is being prepared to fulfill our NEPA compliance responsibilities pertaining to federal financial assistance through the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Program as authorized through Public Law 83-566. Upon acceptance of this invitation, roles can be defined in an informal agreement or a memorandum of understanding. If unable to participate as a cooperating agency, please return a written explanation to include in our administrative record for the Plan-EA.

Please send notification confirming your decision to: Emily Fife, State Conservationist, USDA-NRCS, Wallace F Bennett Federal Building, 125 South State Street, Room 4010, Salt Lake City, Utah 84138-1100.

Thank you for your timely response and cooperation with this request. If you have any questions or comments, please contact Derek Hamilton, Water Resources Coordinator, at 801/524-4560 or derek.hamilton@usda.gov.

Sincerely,

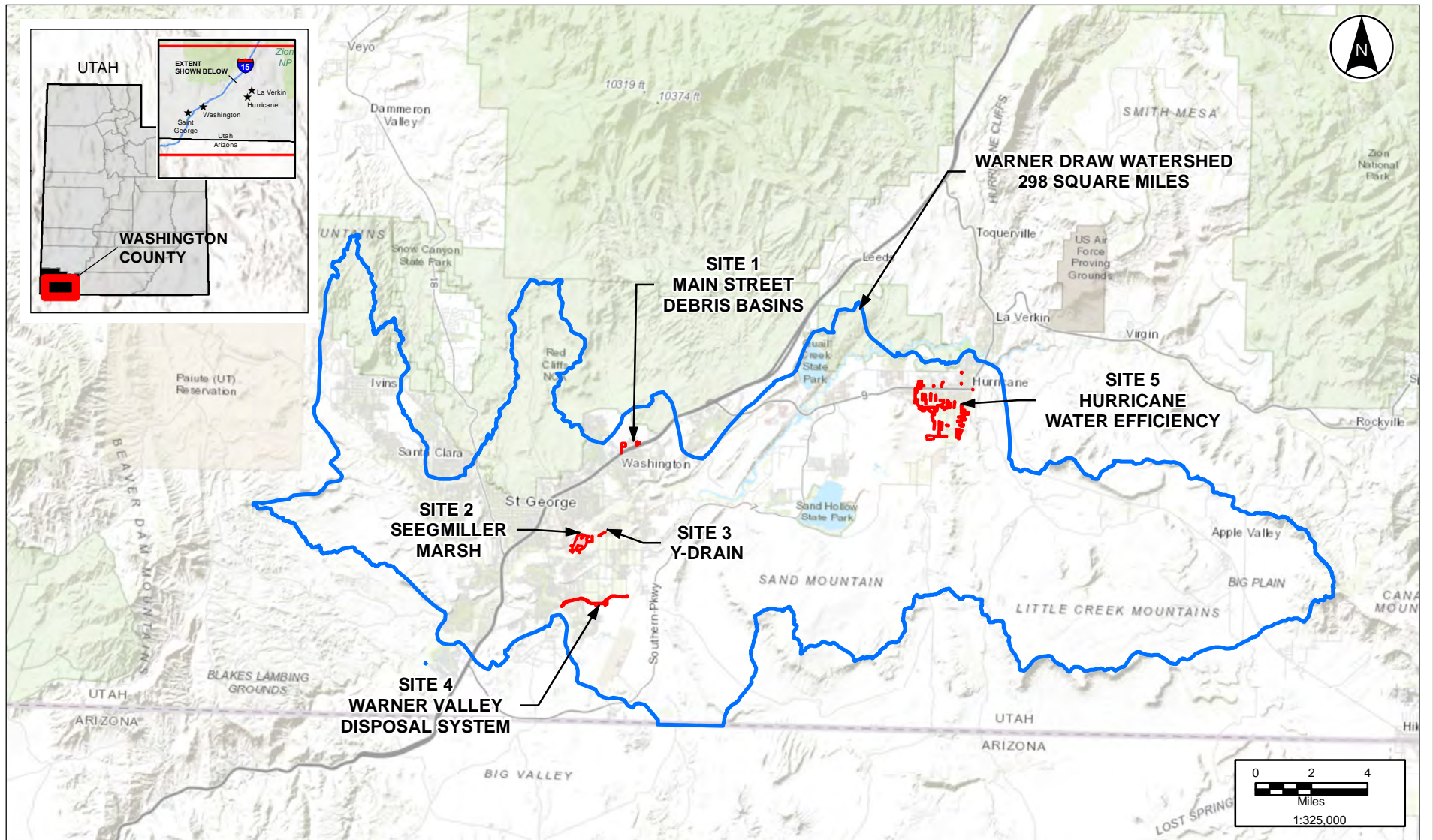
NORM EVENSTAD

Asst. State Conservationist—Partnerships and Water Resources

Enclosure

cc:

Alan Atkins, Area Conservationist, NRCS, Richfield, UT
Lynn Kitchen, District Conservationist, NRCS, Beaver, UT
Derek Hamilton, Water Resources Coordinator, NRCS, Salt Lake City, UT



NAD 1983 UTM Zone 12N

Source: Esri, USGS,
Bowen Collings 2019

Legend

- Project Area
- Warner Draw Watershed



Watershed Map

**Warner Draw Watershed & Flood
Prevention Operations Project Plan-EA**

FEMA CONSULTATION



United States Department of Agriculture

Natural Resources
Conservation Service

Utah State Office

125 South State Street
Room 4010
Salt Lake City, UT 84138

Ph: 801-524-4550
Fax: 844-715-4928
www.ut.nrcs.usda.gov

August 25, 2020

Mr. Steven E. Hardegen
Environmental Officer, Region VIII
Federal Emergency Management Agency
Denver Federal Center, Bldg. 710A
Denver, CO 80225-0267

RE: Formal request to be a cooperating agency in the development of the Warner Draw Watershed Plan-Environmental Assessment (Plan-EA) in Washington County, Utah.

Dear Mr. Hardegen:

In accordance with the Council on Environmental Quality regulations implementing the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) at 40 CFR Part 1501.6, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is formally requesting that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) become a cooperating agency in the planning and development of the Warner Draw Watershed Plan-EA for proposed flood prevention measures, Virgin River habitat enhancements, and Hurricane Canal upgrades in Washington County, Utah. The enclosed map identifies the site locations associated with the Plan-EA.

This request is made since your agency is identified as having special expertise or jurisdiction by law related to this project. The Plan-EA is being prepared to fulfill our NEPA compliance responsibilities pertaining to federal financial assistance through the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Program as authorized through Public Law 83-566. Upon acceptance of this invitation, roles can be defined in an informal agreement or a memorandum of understanding. If unable to participate as a cooperating agency, please return a written explanation to include in our administrative record for the Plan-EA.

Please send notification confirming your decision to: Emily Fife, State Conservationist, USDA-NRCS, Wallace F Bennett Federal Building, 125 South State Street, Room 4010, Salt Lake City, Utah 84138-1100.

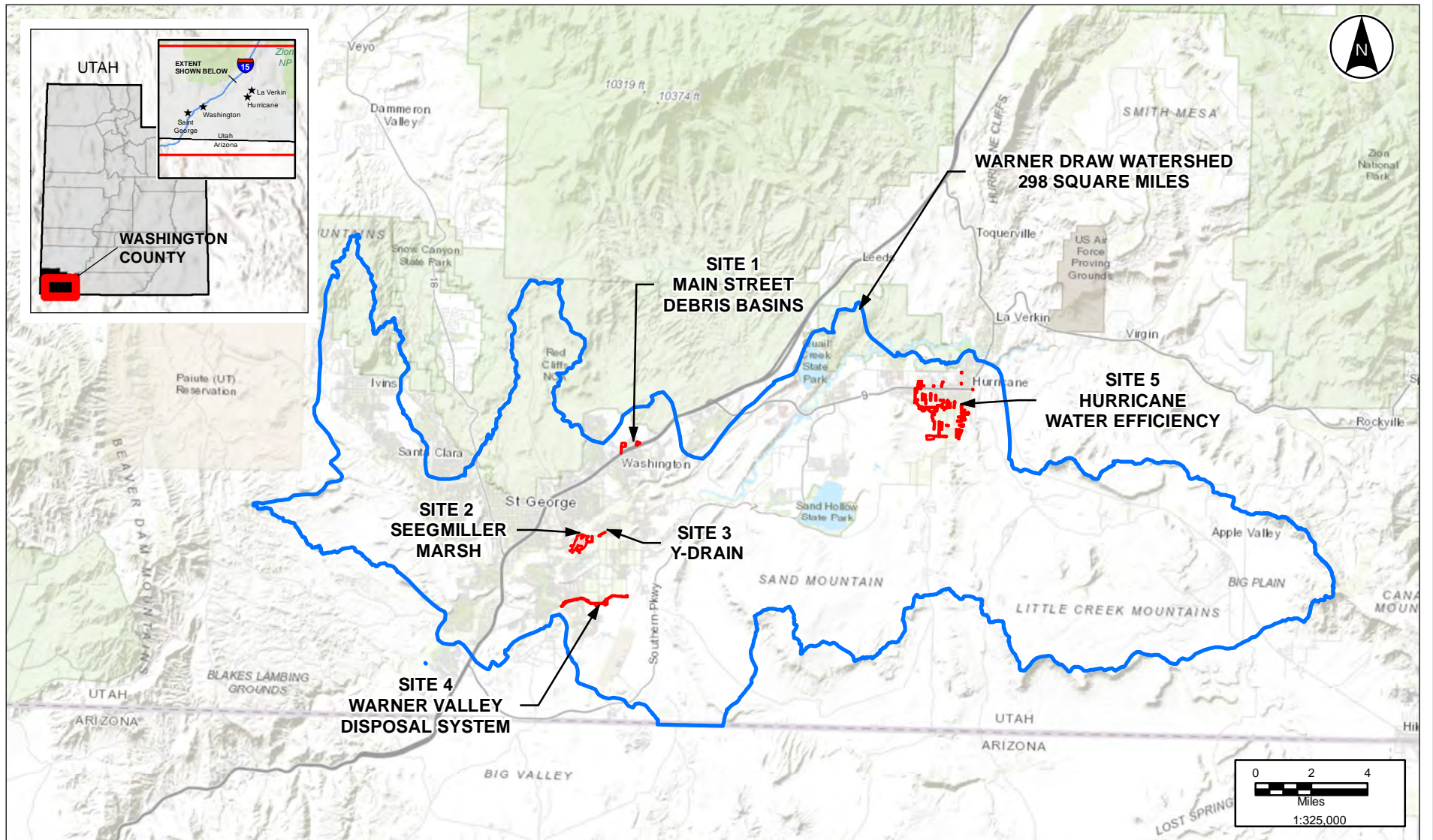
Thank you for your timely response and cooperation with this request. If you have any questions or comments, please contact Derek Hamilton, Water Resources Coordinator, at 801/524-4560 or derek.hamilton@usda.gov.

Sincerely,

NORM EVENSTAD
Asst. State Conservationist—Partnerships and Water Resources

Enclosure

cc:
Alan Atkins, Area Conservationist, NRCS, Richfield, UT
Lynn Kitchen, District Conservationist, NRCS, Beaver, UT
Derek Hamilton, Water Resources Coordinator, NRCS, Salt Lake City, UT



NAD 1983 UTM Zone 12N

Source: Esri, USGS,
Bowen Collings 2019

Legend

- Project Area
- Warner Draw Watershed



Watershed Map

**Warner Draw Watershed & Flood
Prevention Operations Project Plan-EA**

UTAH DAM SAFETY CONSULTATION

Preite, Bobbi

From: David Marble <davemarble@utah.gov>
Sent: Monday, November 9, 2020 3:48 PM
To: Preite, Bobbi
Subject: Re: NRCS Warner Draw Watershed - Main Street Debris Basins Concept Design Review

CAUTION: This email was received from an external source

Hi Bobbi,

I reviewed the conceptual design summary document that you provided.

I understand the Buena Vista Basin will be a fully excavated pond. As such, this will not be considered a dam and Utah Dam Safety does not require further involvement.

The Main Street Debris Basin will be partially excavated and partially retained with a small embankment. At this point, I do not have sufficient information to state the requirement of Utah Dam Safety. The basin will retain approximately 46 acre-feet at the auxiliary spillway elevation. If more than 20 acre-feet could be stored above the natural grade, then the basin will be considered a dam. The application to construct the structure would consist of design reports, drawings, and construction specifications. If less than 20 acre-feet could be stored above the natural grade, then construction approval is approved through an application process, provided it is not designated as a high hazard structure.

Dave

David K. Marble, P.E.
Assistant State Engineer / Dam Safety

On Mon, Oct 26, 2020 at 1:05 PM Preite, Bobbi <Preite@mcmjac.com> wrote:

Hi Dave,

NRCS is currently completing a Supplemental Watershed Plan and Environmental Assessment (Plan-EA) for work to be completed within the NRCS Warner Draw Watershed in Washington County, Utah. One of the project sites consists of construction of two debris basins upstream of Main Street in Washington City to reduce flooding to developed areas. Attached is the description, project maps, and concept design drawings for the proposed Main Street Debris Basins for your review. Please review the provided information and respond with any comments/concerns within 30 days (by 12/24/20). Any comments/concerns received will be considered in preparation of the Draft Plan-EA for the project. Utah Dam Safety will also have an opportunity to comment on the project during the Draft EA open comment period which is tentative January/February. If you have any questions or would like more information, please feel free to contact me.

Thanks,

Bobbi Preite
Senior Natural Resources Consultant

McMillen Jacobs Associates
1471 Shoreline Drive, Suite 100 | Boise, Idaho 83702

208.342.4214 p | 208.985.1542 direct | 208.514.8729 c
preite@mcmjac.com

--

David K. Marble, P.E.
Assistant Utah State Engineer / Dam Safety
801-538-7376

Emails to and from this email address may be considered public documents and subject to Utah GRAMA requirements.

UDWR CONSULTATION



United States Department of Agriculture

Natural Resources
Conservation Service

Utah State Office

125 South State Street
Room 4010
Salt Lake City, UT 84138

Ph: 801-524-4550
Fax: 844-715-4928
www.ut.nrcs.usda.gov

Date: February 12, 2018

Mr. Richard Hepworth (Aquatics Program)
Mr. Gary Bezzant (Habitat Program)

Southern Region Managers
Utah Division of Wildlife Resources
1470 North Airport Road
Cedar City, Utah 84720

RE: Formal Request to be a Cooperating Agency in the development of Environmental Assessments for the Parowan Valley Watershed, Iron County, Utah and the Richfield-West Sevier Watershed, Sevier County, Utah.

Dear Mr. Hepworth and Mr. Bezzant:

In accordance with the Council on Environmental Quality regulations implementing the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) at 40 CFR Part 1501.6, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is formally requesting that Utah Division of Wildlife Resources (UDWiR) become a cooperating agency in the planning and development of the referenced Watersheds. The location of the proposed project areas your agency may have interest are shown in Attachment-1 as areas #4 and #5 with more detail shown in Attachments 2 and 3. The proposed watershed measures may require coordination with your agency.

This request is made since your agency is identified as having special expertise or jurisdiction by law related to this project. The EAs are being prepared to fulfill the NRCS NEPA compliance responsibilities pertaining to our Federal financial assistance through the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Program as authorized through Public Law 83-566. As your agency may also have NEPA compliance responsibilities concerning these projects, preparation of the EAs should also assist in fulfilling environmental review requirements for your agency and meet NEPA's intent of reducing duplication and delay between agencies.

Upon acceptance of this invitation, roles can be defined in an informal Agreement or a formal MOU can be established. If your agency is unable to participate as a cooperating agency please return a written explanation why your agency cannot participate.

Please send a letter confirming your decision by March 15, 2018 to: Timothy Wilson, State Conservationist, USDA-NRCS, Wallace F Bennett Federal Building, 125 South State Street, Room 4010, Salt Lake City, Utah 84138-1100.

Thank you for your timely response and cooperation with these efforts. If you have any questions or comments, please contact Bronson Smart, State Conservation Engineer, at bronson.smart@ut.usda.gov or (801) 524-4559; or Norm Evenstad, Water Resources Coordinator, at norm.evenstad@ut.usda.gov or (801) 524-4569.

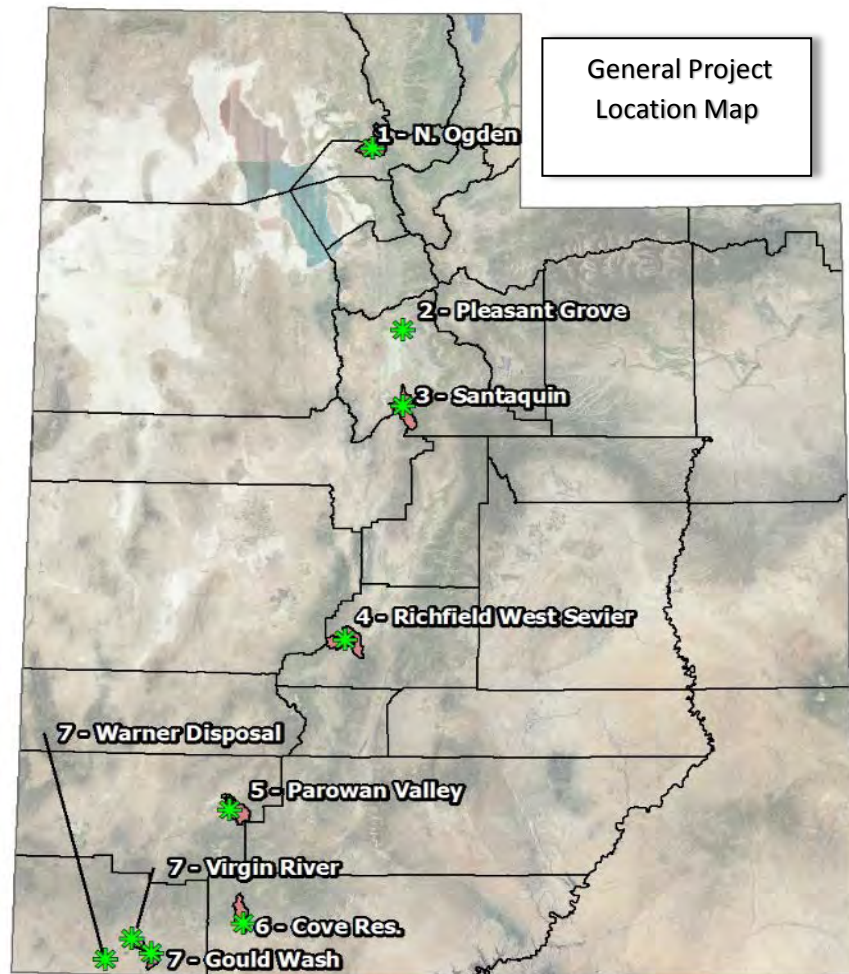
Sincerely,

TIMOTHY WILSON
State Conservationist

cc:

Mike Larsen, Acting Assistant State Conservationist-Field Operations (South), NRCS, Richfield, UT
Don Ashby, Assistance State Conservationist-Field Operations (North), NRCS, Ogden, UT
Bronson Smaii, State Conservation Engineer-Rehab Program Manager, NRCS, Salt Lake City, UT
Norm Evenstad, Water Resources Coordinator, NRCS, Salt Lake City, UT

UTAH-NRCS - PL566 WATERSHED PLAN-ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT WORK



PL566 Project Name	Location/Various	Summary description of proposed work
1-North Ogden Weber-Box Elder Conservation District	41.301537° -111.975893°	Relocate & expand 2550 North Detention Basin, use basin for water storage, flood control, recreation. Water provided from North Ogden canal at about 2 cfs.
2-Pleasant Grove Pleasant Grove City	40.363114° -111.774560°	Pipe 3,100 feet of the open, unlined Mill Ditch located in Pleasant Grove City with 30-inch diameter HDPE pipe.
3-Santaquin Santaquin City	39.969369° -111.770505°	Evaluate the proposed installation of approximately 5 flood control structures along the East bench of Santaquin to protect homes, infrastructure and possibly provide aquifer recharge capability.
4-Richfield W. Sevier Sevier County	38.871435° -112.004222°	New Watershed Plan- Evaluate additional flood control measures needed throughout the Richfield-West Sevier County area (Flat Canyon). Recreation, trails, canal piping, habitat development.
5-Parowan Valley Iron County	37.868987° -112.783872°	New Watershed Plan - Evaluate additional flood control measures, debris basin/s, recreation opportunities, irrigation water management, and habitat restoration/enhancement.
6-Cove Reservoir Kane County	37.280257° -112.690638°	Construction of approximately 6,000 acre-foot capacity dam/reservoir for irrigation and recreation in Cove Canyon outside of Orderville, Utah.
7-Warner Draw Group Washington County Gould Wash DB Virgin River Habitat Warner Disposal Pipe	<u>Gould</u> - 37.116769° -113.230050° <u>Virgin</u> - 37.190211° -113.348204° <u>Warner</u> - 37.070515° -113.498451°	Construction of a debris basin in Gould Wash above Hurricane, Utah - located on BLM land. Piping of Hurricane canal for more efficient off/on farm irrigation water management and analysis of water savings to enhance Virgin River habitat. Evaluate enhancement of Virgin River endangered fish species and SW willow flycatcher habitat. Partner incl. The Nature Conservancy.