

Raft River Watershed Plan

Public Scoping Meeting

Natural
Resources
Conservation
Service

nrcs.usda.gov/

WELCOME

Raft River Watershed Plan
Environmental Assessment
Public Scoping Meeting

Thursday, Sept. 17, 2020, 6 - 7 p.m. MST

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INTRODUCTIONS

Lead Agency



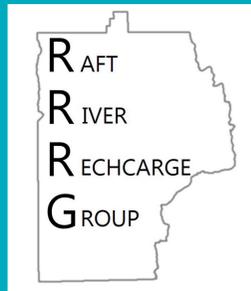
Bruce Sandoval
NRCS Watershed Program Director
USDA NRCS



Project Sponsors & Co-Sponsors



Lucas Spratling
Flood Board Chairman
RAFT RIVER FLOOD DISTRICT 15



Todd Gerratt
President
RAFT RIVER RECHARGE GROUP, LLC



Chad Black
General Manager
RAFT RIVER ELECTRIC

Raft River Watershed Plan Team



J-U-B ENGINEERS, INC.



THE LANGDON GROUP



GATEWAY MAPPING INC.

OTHER J-U-B COMPANIES



Hattie Zobott
Project Manager,
Engineering Lead
J-U-B ENGINEERS



Derek Moss
Environmental Lead,
NEPA Specialist
J-U-B ENGINEERS



Elizabeth Spaulding
Public Involvement Lead
THE LANGDON GROUP

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PURPOSE

To provide flood protection for communities and infrastructure, and to stabilize the aquifer.

NEED

- The dry, channelized Raft River and tributaries have severe flooding events that damage crops, highways, animals and housing.
- Sediment load exceeds the total maximum daily load (TMDL) limit for the Raft River during spring flooding that reaches the Snake River and deposits sediment in sensitive wetland of the Minidoka Wildlife Refuge.
- Declining groundwater levels are a risk to sustaining agriculture and the economy of the Raft River basin.

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ADDRESSING THE NEED

The **United States Department of Agriculture-Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA-NRCS)** is proposing this improvement plan through the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Program. The plan will be sponsored by the **Raft River Flood District**.

NRCS Watershed Protection & Flood Prevention Program: The NRCS Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Program helps units of federal, state, local and tribal governments protect and restore watersheds. The program provides financial and technical assistance for erosion and sediment control, watershed protection, flood prevention, water quality improvement, water management, fish and wildlife habitat enhancement, recreation and hydropower.

FUNDING

Federal funds would be used to support the completion of the project through the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act (Public Law 83-566).

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GOALS



PROPOSED ALTERNATIVES & POTENTIAL BENEFITS

1 Install pump station and pipeline.

BENEFITS:

- Deliver private water rights from the Snake River to the recharge basins.

2 Evaluate flood detention/recharge ponds.

BENEFITS:

- Recharge the aquifer to raise groundwater levels.
- Remove sediment, pollutants and reduce flood flows.

3 Improve agricultural irrigation diversion efficiency of surface water sources.

BENEFITS:

- Reduce groundwater diversions for irrigation.

4 Evaluate diversions to flood channels for the Raft River and tributaries.

BENEFITS:

- Reconnect the river with the flood plain to reduce flood flows and remove sediment.
- Provide flood protection.

5 Evaluate the impact of bank restoration protection projects on tributaries of the Raft River.

BENEFITS:

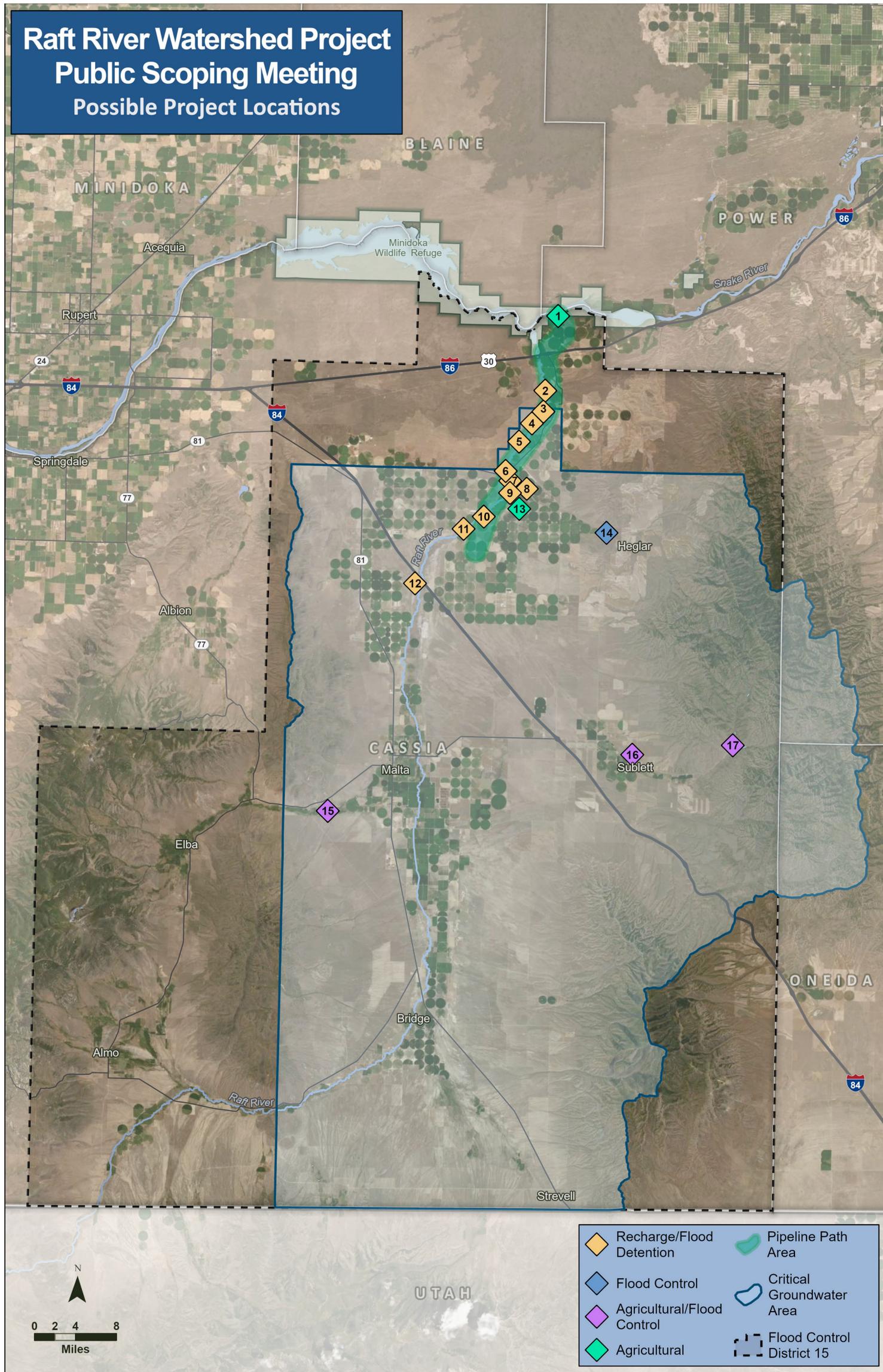
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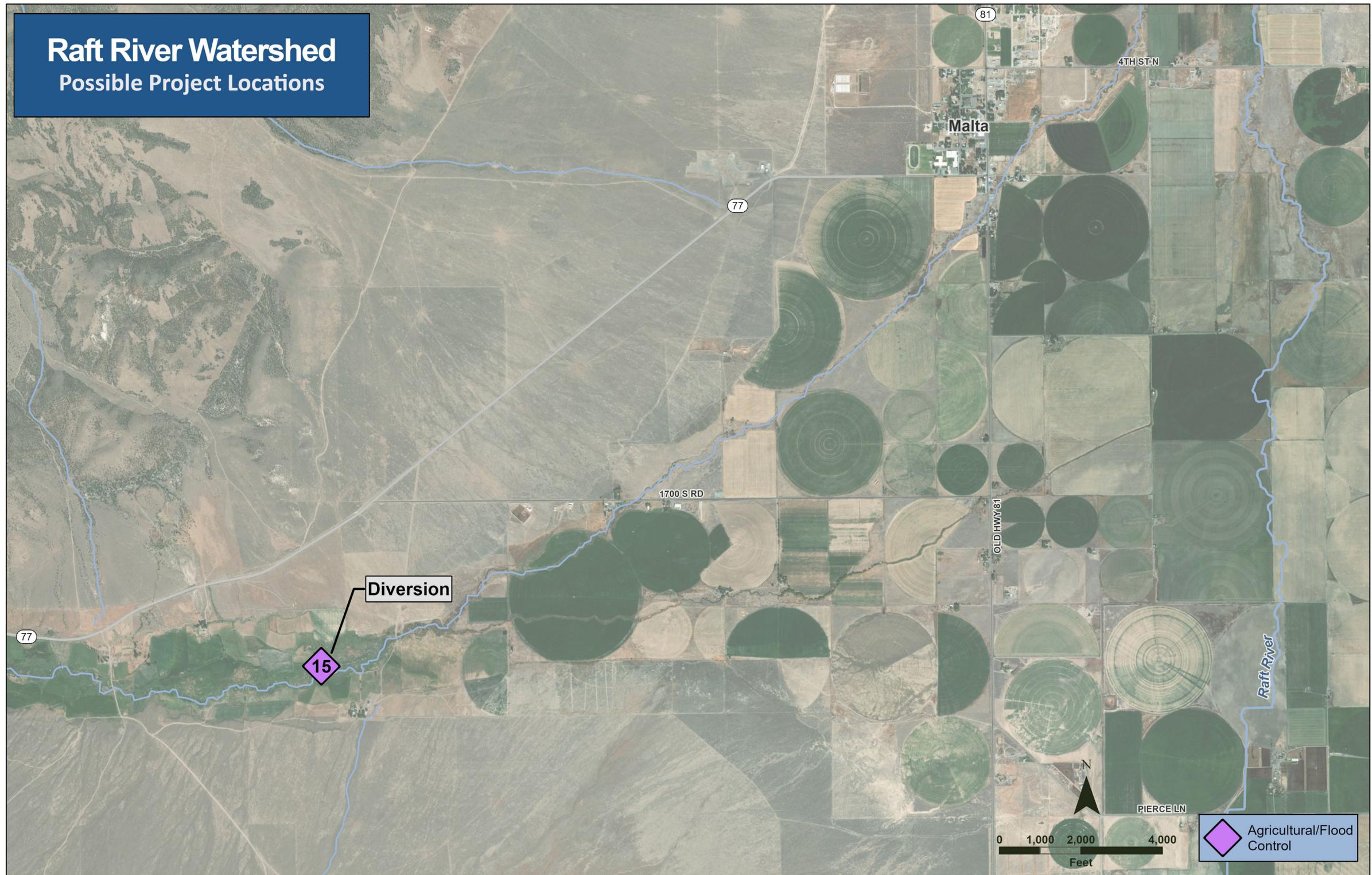


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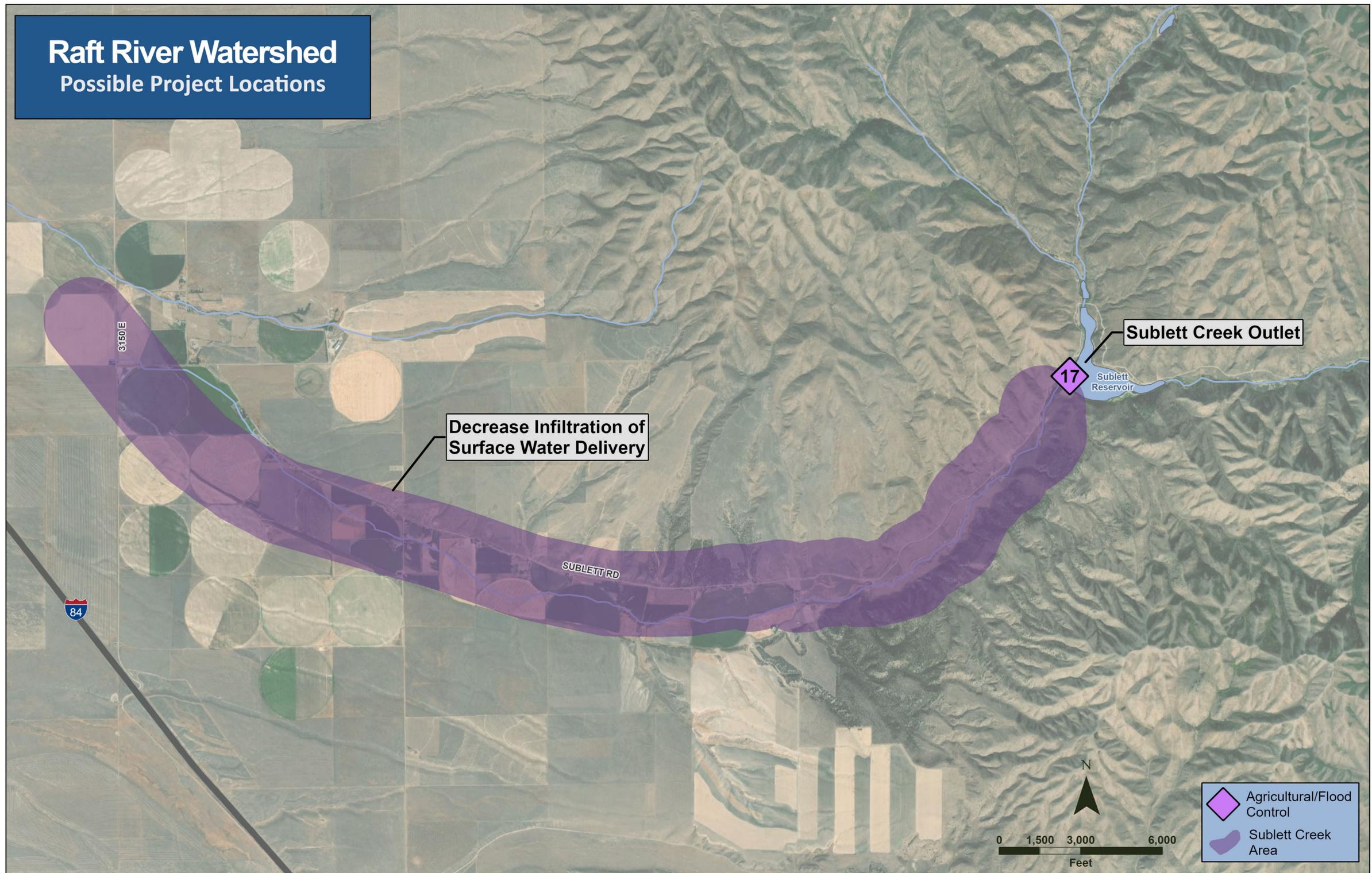


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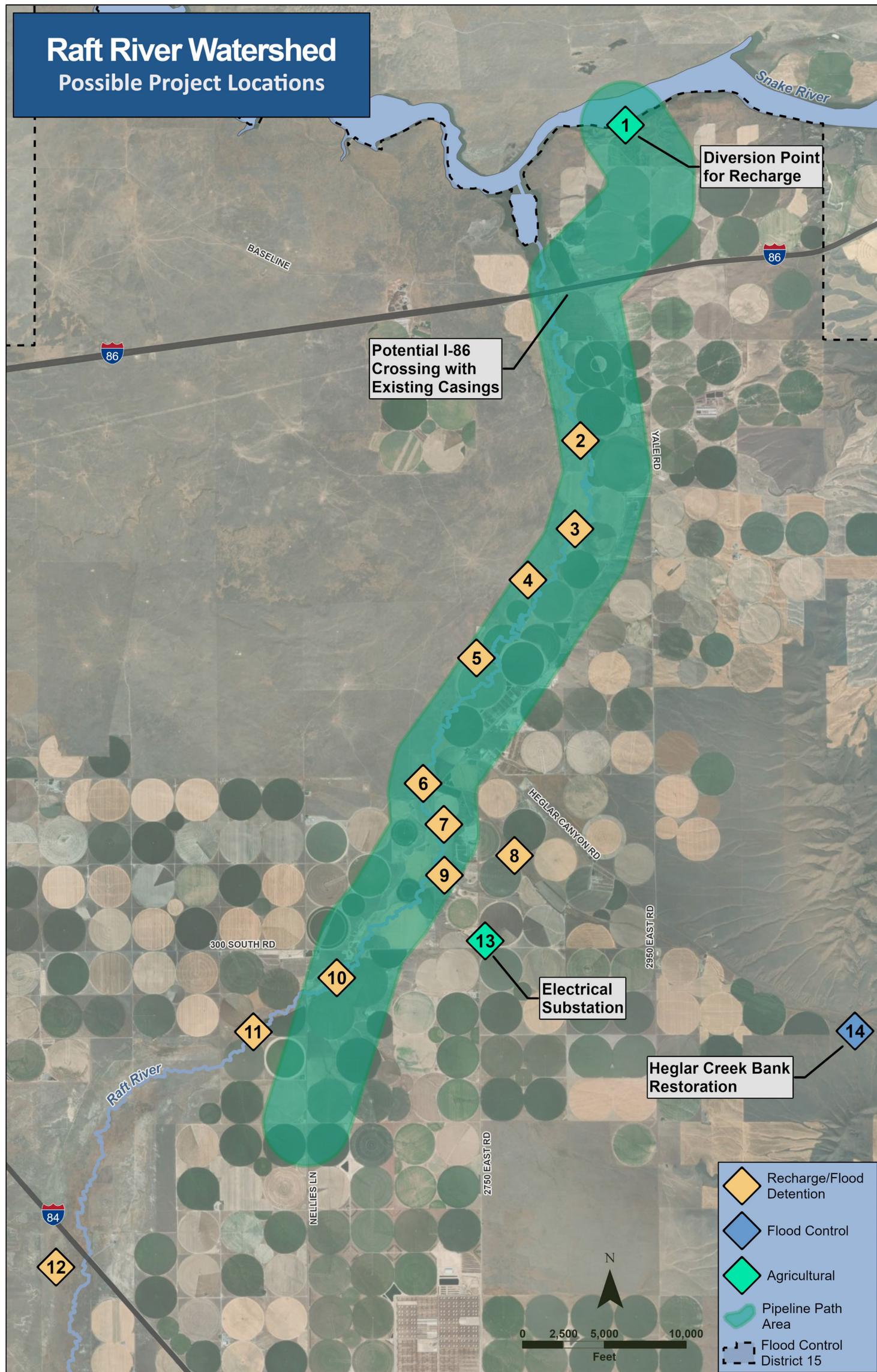


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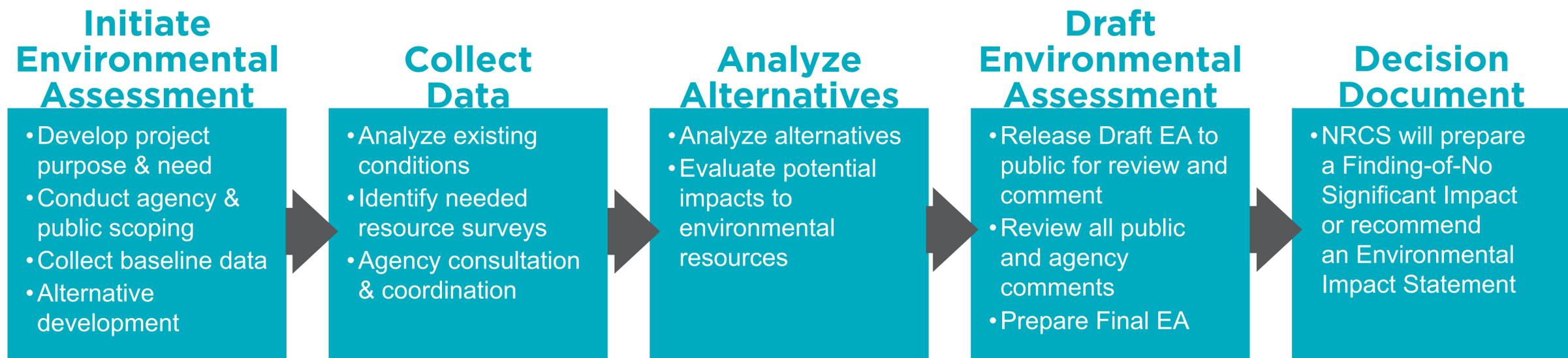
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NEPA PROCESS



WE ARE HERE



ANTICIPATED TIMELINE

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HOW TO SUBMIT A COMMENT

Written comments can be submitted remotely during the public scoping period **starting Sept. 17, 2020 and ending on Oct. 16, 2020**. All questions and comments should be directed to:

Elizabeth Spaulding, The Langdon Group



2760 W Excursion Ln, Ste 400
Meridian, ID 83642



208-685-9361



RaftRiver@IDWatershed.com

Por favor
contáctenos al
801-633-1056 ó
para información en
Español.

Comments must be received by Oct. 16, 2020. Additional information may be found at www.id.nrcs.usda.gov.

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