

United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Cottonwood Field Office
1 Butte Drive, Cottonwood Idaho 83522

DECISION RECORD

Partridge Creek Bridge Repair Project
DOI-BLM-ID-C020-2016-0005-EA

1. Background

Bureau of Land Management (BLM) engineers while conducting routine scheduled bridge inspections identified maintenance and repair needs for the Partridge Creek Bridge. Scouring (3-4 feet) has occurred under one of the bridge abutments making it unsafe for vehicles and is at risk for additional scouring which would further jeopardize bridge integrity. The 2015 Tepee Springs Fire burned approximately 82% of the drainage with the majority rated as moderate to high severity. Consequently, the drainage is at increased risk for higher peak flows and additional risks from channel scouring or flood damage to the bridge.

The existing bridge is located on a BLM road easement across private lands in the Partridge Creek drainage. The bridge is currently used primarily by private land owners, BLM, and Idaho Department of Lands to access lands in the Partridge Creek area.

The BLM proposes to conduct bridge repairs during low flow periods (winter or summer 2016). Construction activities would include construction of a temporary coffer dam to isolate the abutment work area, dewatering of the coffer dam work site, conduct a concrete pour to stabilize the undercut and scoured abutment, and placement of rock (riprap) along the bridge abutment. Immediately upstream from the bridge an eroding streambank would be stabilized with rock (riprap) placement to protect the bridge and streambank from high flow scouring. As needed, erosion and sediment control measures would take place to avoid or minimize adverse erosion, sediment, and turbidity.

The purpose of this project is to provide a safe bridge crossing of Partridge Creek for motorized vehicle use and provide access to private, State, and Federal lands.

2. Decision

It is my decision to implement the Partridge Creek Bridge Repair Project, as shown in the attached map and as described below. The proposed action is to conduct bridge maintenance and repair activities for the Partridge Creek Bridge during 2016 low flow winter and summer periods (February 1 through March 15 or July 15 through August 15) and construction activities would occur during low flow periods (e.g., <15-20 cfs). In accordance with 43 CFR 5003.1(b), this decision is effective immediately upon signature.

Construction specifics include the following:

1. All instream construction activity would occur between February 1 through March 15 or July 15 through August 15, dependent on low flow conditions.

2. Construction of coffer dam with sand bags and polypropylene to isolate the concrete fill and abutment work site from the stream. Dewatering of the work site shall be conducted so no uncured concrete will be placed below waterline. Pumping and dewatering of work site will be to an upslope settling area located on moderately sloped area adjacent to the road (west side of Partridge Creek). Water pumped to settling area will also be filtered through straw bales and vegetation before entering Partridge Creek.
3. After coffer dam is in place for isolation of abutment work site and de-watering in preparation for concrete pour an evaluation of current stream flows, coffer dam elevation, and predicted weather will be conducted. Concrete pour would proceed only if stream flows and predicted climate are compatible with isolation of work site and not allowing uncured concrete contacting water.
4. Within the constructed forms an estimated 1.5 cubic yards of poured concrete will be placed in the fill area of the undercut abutment.
5. When concrete is cured and construction forms are removed, an estimated 37 cubic yards of riprap material will be placed adjacent to the concrete fill area and abutment and also includes an eroding streambank located upstream of the bridge. It is estimated that approximately 20 cubic yards of riprap material will be placed below mean high water level.
6. Riprap material will have an average diameter 14 – 18 inches of (Class 4) and will be selectively placed using an excavator (thumb and bucket) and by hand (e.g., under the bridge). Streambank riprap placement will minimize adverse impacts to riparian vegetation where possible without compromising desired streambank stability and desired benefit of structural integrity related to the existing bridge.
7. Re-watering of the isolated work site would occur with curtailing of all pumping activity and allowing water to seep into work site. When water level within isolated work site is the same as unaltered stream flows; the coffer dam would be removed incrementally until all coffer dam material is removed from stream channel.
8. As needed, sediment and erosion control measures would include the use of sediment fences, mulching, straw bales, and wattles. Seeding (see Table 1 below) and plantings of desired species (e.g., red-osier dogwood, alder sp., willow sp., and Rocky Mountain maple) would also occur in disturbed areas to provide for long term erosion control and bank stability. Certified weed free straw mulch would be used.

Table 1. Rehabilitation Seed Mixture

Species	Percentage	Pounds per Acre
Streambank Wheatgrass	35%	7 lbs.
Mountain Brome	35%	7 lbs.
Hard Fescue	10%	2 lbs.
Tufted Hairgrass	10%	2 lbs.
Annual Ryegrass	10%	2 lbs.
TOTAL	100%	20 lbs.

9. No fuel storage will be authorized on site. Slip-on tank capacity for equipment fueling would not exceed 100 gallons. Fueling and maintenance activities would occur a minimum of 100 feet from any water course. An emergency spill kit would be located on site during construction.
10. Staging areas for equipment, construction material, and settling pond area for water pumping would occur in the west side terrace area adjacent to the bridge (within 50 feet – 75 feet of the bridge). The east side of the bridge would also be used for staging as needed, but would be expected to be minimal.
11. The settling pond area where water would be pumped for de-watering of the coffer dam is planned to occur on the west side of bridge, on north side of approach road approximately 30-50 feet from bridge. If needed to avoid adverse impacts (e.g., erosion, sediment, and turbidity), other potential settling pond options for a settling pond would be on south side of the approach road or on the east side of bridge within 30 – 50 feet of bridge. Pumped water would filter through straw bales and natural vegetation before entering Partridge Creek.
12. Prior to placement of coffer dam and de-watering, the abutment work site would be “netted” to move and flush fish out of the work area. During the de-watering process the work site would be inspected to insure no fish are present and any observed fish would be netted and placed downstream of the work site. Activities will be stopped immediately and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) will notified immediately if more than 20 juvenile steelhead and two juvenile spring/summer Chinook salmon are handled, and more than six juvenile steelhead and two juvenile spring/summer Chinook salmon are injured or killed.
13. All equipment (e.g., excavator) used for construction activity shall be cleaned and any leaks repaired prior to arriving at the project. Equipment will be inspected daily for leaks or accumulations of grease, and fix any identified problems before entering areas that drain directly to Partridge Creek or the Salmon River.
14. Washout of concrete equipment may occur on site and would be in an area where washout will not reach live waters (minimum 300 feet from Partridge Creek or Salmon River).

15. All heavy equipment prior to entering the project area (e.g., excavator, dump truck, etc.) will be cleaned, washed, and inspected to insure invasive species are not present.
16. If turbidity monitoring detects levels that are 50-NTU above baseline (150 feet downstream of project area), construction activity causing elevated levels would be temporarily curtailed and/or additional erosion and sediment control measures would be implemented to lower turbidity levels to acceptable levels (<50 NTU above baseline) before construction activities continue. NMFS will be notified immediately if turbidity plumes at 150 feet downstream of the source exceed state water quality turbidity standards for more than 60 minutes.
17. All construction activity will be in accord with state and federal permits and authorizations (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Idaho Department of Water Resources, and Idaho Department of Environmental Quality).
18. A project monitoring report will be submitted to NMFS and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service within three months of project completion.

3. Authority

The authority for this decision is contained in the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA, 43 USC 1715), as amended and in 43 CFR 4190.1.

4. Rationale

My decision is based on consideration of the protective resource design and mitigation measures contained in the environmental assessment for this project (DOI-BLM-ID-C020-2016-0005-EA), management requirements of applicable laws and policies, and the comments received from public involvement and agency consultations for this project. The Proposed Action and the No Action alternatives were both analyzed in the EA. The Proposed Action was selected because it best meets the need for providing a safe bridge crossing of Partridge Creek and minimizing adverse impacts to Partridge Creek, water quality, and aquatic habitats.

The project is consistent with Federal, state and local laws and requirements. It conforms to 2009 Cottonwood Resource Management Plan (EA, section 4.0), specifically with direction for access easements on page 49 of the RMP for Action LR-1.4.1, "Where appropriate and feasible, maintain existing, and acquire new, access easements." Project design measures have been incorporated into the proposed actions to specifically minimize or avoid adverse impacts to special status fish, water quality, riparian and aquatic habitats, and conforms with management direction for aquatic and riparian resources on page 30 of the RMP for Action AF-1.3.1, "Activities within RCAs (Riparian Conservation Areas) will be designed to minimize or avoid adverse impacts on the riparian and aquatic habitat(s) through implementation of specific standards and guides in the Aquatic and Riparian Management Strategy (Appendix D, Aquatic and Riparian Management Strategy)."

The action will not violate other Federal, State, and local laws or requirements for the protection of the environment (FONSI, Intensity factors 9 and 10). Viable populations of species would be maintained as required by the Endangered Species Act and BLM

Special Status Species policy (EA, sections 7.3, 7.4, and 7.5). The BLM has planned the project to incorporate applicable Federal, State and local requirements, Endangered Species Act, Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, Idaho State Water Quality Standards, Idaho Forest Practices Act, and Idaho Stream Channel Protection Act.

5. Public Involvement

Scoping for preparation of this EA included publishing information on the BLM ePlanning website on December 4, 2015, and sending letters requesting comments from various groups and the public on December 7, 2015. The BLM received comments from two individuals, Idaho County Commissioner's, and four agencies (State and Federal) that were considered in the development of the proposed action and identification of issues for analysis.

The BLM will post the EA, along with the Finding of No Significant Impact and this decision, on the ePlanning internet site.

6. Coordination and Consultation

The BLM sent a letter describing the proposal to the Nez Perce Tribe on November 20, 2015 requesting review and comments regarding the proposed action. Early coordination has been conducted with the Tribe and a copy of the draft-environmental analysis and biological assessment was sent to the Tribe. Coordination with the Tribe did not identify any concerns for traditional cultural properties or their ability to exercise treaty rights.

The BLM also completed consultation under section 7 of the Endangered Species Act for ESA-listed wildlife and fish. The BLM coordinated with NOAA Fisheries (National Marine Fisheries Service - NMFS) and U.S. Fish and Wildlife (USFWS) biologists in preparing a Biological Assessment specific to the Proposed Action. The Biological Assessment includes all agreed upon project design measures that were identified during the consultation process with NMFS and USFWS. NMFS submitted a Biological Opinion and the USFWS submitted a Letter of Concurrence regarding the analysis of the proposed project and determinations made for ESA-listed fish.

In addition, the BLM completed consultation under section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act with the Idaho State Historic Preservation Office.

7. Protest and Appeal

This decision constitutes my final decision. Any party that is adversely affected by it may appeal to the Interior Board of Land Appeals in accordance with the regulations contained in 43 CFR, Part 4. A notice of appeal must be filed in this office (Cottonwood Field Office, 1 Butte Drive, Cottonwood, Idaho 83522) within 30 days from receipt of this decision. The Notice of appeal must be sent certified mail. The appellant has the burden of showing that the decision is in error in a statement of reasons. If a statement of reasons for the appeal is not included with the notice, it must be filed with the Interior Board of Land Appeals (IBLA), Office of Hearings and Appeals, U.S. Department of the Interior, 801 North Quincy St., Suite 300-QC, Arlington, VA 22203 within 30 days of filing the notice of appeal with the authorized officer. In accordance with 43 CFR

4190.1, this decision is in effect upon signature. Any request for stay of this decision, in accordance with 43 CFR 4.21, must be filed with your notice of appeal.

/s/

2/19/16

Robbin B. Boyce
Acting Field Manager

Date

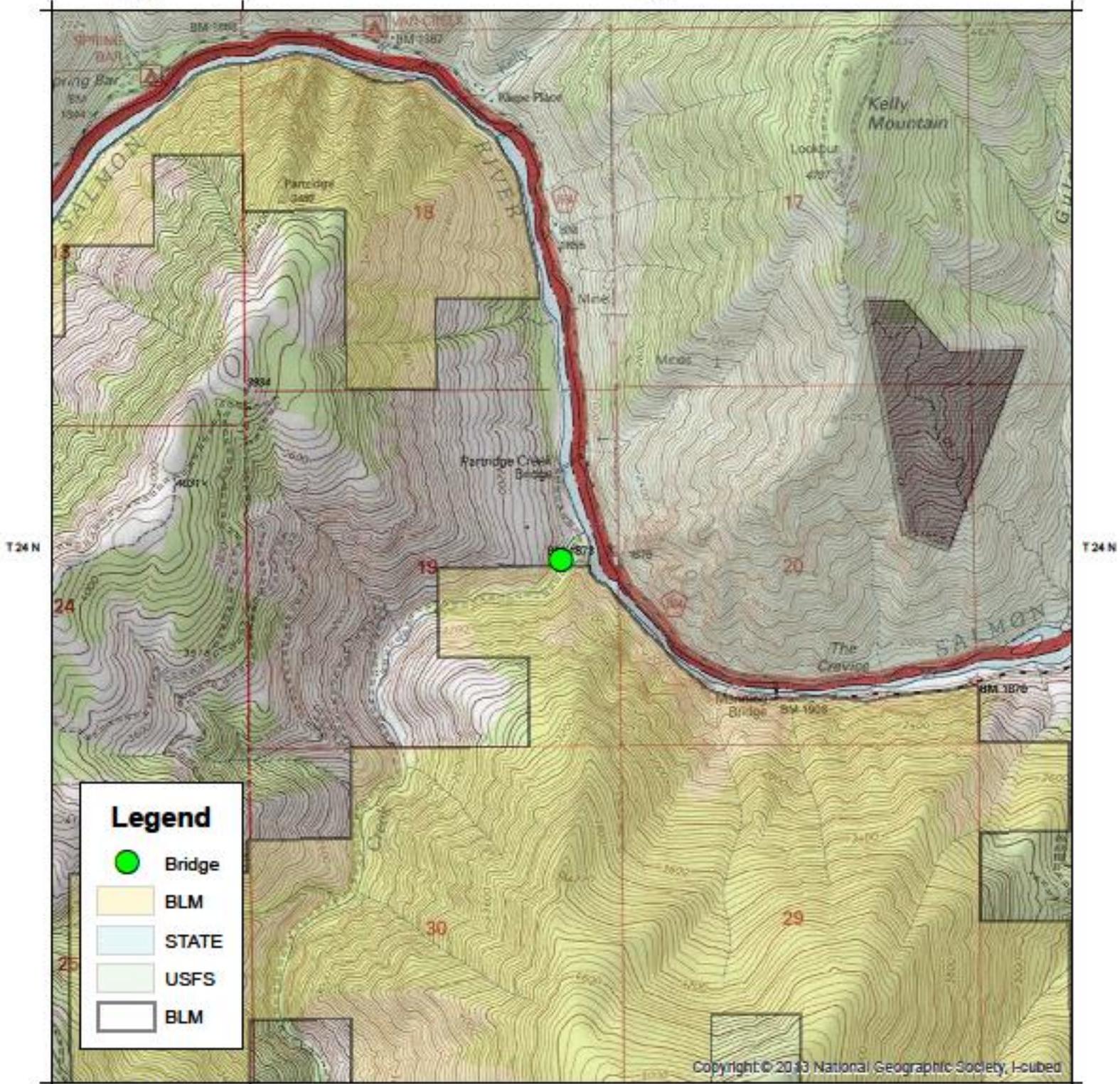
Attachment: Project Map

Partridge Creek Bridge Repair

DOI-BLM-ID-C020-2016-0005-EA

R2E

R3E



Legend

-  Bridge
-  BLM
-  STATE
-  USFS
-  BLM

Copyright © 2013 National Geographic Society, I-cubed

R2E

R3E



The surface management status ("land ownership") should be used as a general guide only. Official land records, located at the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and other offices, should be checked for up-to-date information concerning any specific tract of land.

No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management. The accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual use or aggregate use with other data is not guaranteed. The following cannot be made Section 508 compliant. For help with its data or information, please contact the BLM Idaho State Office Webmaster at 208-373-4000.

Map Created: 11/19/2015

1:24,000

0 0.075 0.15 0.3 0.45 0.6 Miles

Map Projection: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 11N

