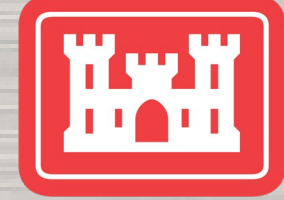


WELCOME AND MEETING PURPOSE

The public comment scoping process is a chance for the public to comment on the proposed project, suggest alternatives, identify potentially significant issues or probable impacts on the public interest, or share relevant information or analyses for the United States Army Corps of Engineers to consider in the National Environmental Policy Act analysis and Clean Water Act permit decision.

Please submit comments by April 6, 2026



CLEAN WATER ACT AND USACE REGULATORY PROGRAM

The United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) is neither a proponent or opponent of the Nebraska Department of Water, Energy, and Environment's proposed Perkins County Canal Project.

MISSION: The Regulatory Program is committed to protecting the Nation's aquatic resources and navigation capacity, while allowing reasonable development through fair and balanced decisions. USACE evaluates permit applications for essentially all construction activities that occur in the Nation's waters, including wetlands.



CLEAN WATER ACT AND USACE REGULATORY PROGRAM

The Clean Water Act (33 United States Code § 1344) gives the United States Corps of Engineers (USACE) the responsibility to evaluate permits for discharge of dredge or fill materials into waters of the United States. The evaluation is done through the Regulatory Program.

USACE follows Section 404(b)(1) Guidelines (40 Code of Federal Regulations Part 230) when evaluating permits for these discharges. The guidelines require an evaluation process and a factual determination on the potential effects of a proposed discharge on the physical, chemical, and biological components of the aquatic environment and human use characteristics.

PUBLIC INTEREST REVIEW

The United States Army Corps of Engineers' decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impacts, including cumulative impacts, of the proposed activity and its intended use on the public interest. Relevant factors may include the following:

- Conservation
- Economics
- Aesthetics
- General environmental concerns
- Wetlands
- Historic properties
- Fish and wildlife values
- Flood hazards
- Floodplain values
- Land use
- Navigation
- Shore erosion and accretion
- Recreation
- Water supply and conservation
- Water quality
- Energy needs
- Safety
- Food and fiber production
- Mineral needs
- Considerations of property ownership
- In general, the needs and welfare of the people

Please provide information related to these evaluation factors in your comments

OTHER FEDERAL REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS

- National Environmental Policy Act (42 United States Code § 4321 et seq.)
 - Requires federal agencies to evaluate major federal actions and inform decision makers and the public.
 - The United States Army Corps of Engineers will evaluate the Clean Water Act permit decision in an Environmental Impact Statement.
- National Historic Preservation Act (54 United States Code § 306108)
 - Requires federal agencies to consider the effects of federal actions on historic properties.
 - The proposed project has the potential to effect National Historic Trails.
- Endangered Species Act (16 United States Code § 1536)
 - Requires federal agencies to ensure their actions do not jeopardize the existence of listed species or adversely modify designated critical habitat.
 - The proposed project may affect eight species (bird, fish, insect, and plant) listed under the Endangered Species Act.

Please provide information on any historic properties and listed or proposed to be listed species that could be affected by the proposed project in your comments

NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT PROCESS

We Are Here

Scoping
February 20 –
April 6, 2026

**Analysis
Development**

**Draft EIS
Publication**

**Final EIS
Publication**

**Record of
Decision***

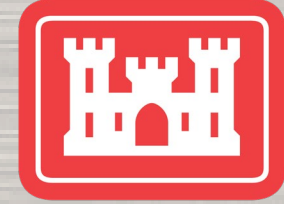
Public Comment
Period

Public Comment
Period

Clean Water Act
Permit Decision

EIS - Environmental Impact Statement

*The United States Army Corps of Engineers Regulatory Division makes the Clean Water Act permit decision with the Record of Decision when serving as the lead agency.



PROPOSED PROJECT PURPOSE

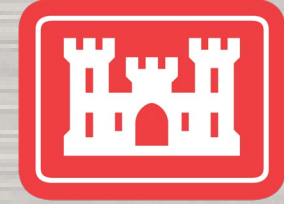
Department of Water, Energy, and Environment Project Purpose (DWEE)

DWEE's stated purpose for the proposed project is to secure South Platte River inflows at the Colorado-Nebraska state line during the non-irrigation season at a minimum rate of 500 cubic feet per second, along with capacity to divert excess flows, which may be retimed to support Nebraska's irrigation needs in the South Platte River on a basis consistent with the terms of Article VI of the South Platte River Compact.

US Army Corps of Engineers* (USACE)

USACE will develop a basic and overall project purpose during the analysis effort. This will be used to identify reasonable and practicable alternatives to the proposed project that may be analyzed in the Environmental Impact Statement and considered in the USACE's permit decision.

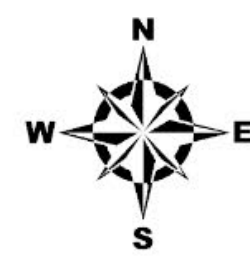
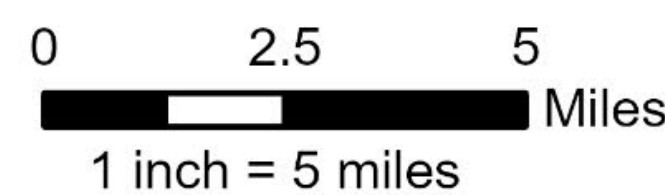
* Clean Water Act Section 404(b)(1) guidelines are found at 40 Code of Federal Regulations Part 230.



PROPOSED PROJECT ELEMENTS

- The Department of Water, Energy, and Environment's proposed project would divert water from the South Platte River near Ovid, Colorado and return it to the South Platte River near Roscoe, Nebraska.
- The water would be conveyed through approximately 60.8 miles of newly constructed or modified existing canals.
- Canal elements include river-gated and canal-gated structures to divert and control flows into the canal and lined and unlined canal structures.
- Reservoir elements include two dams and storage reservoirs, one with a capacity of approximately 17,000 acre-feet, and the other with approximately 70,000 acre-feet.
- There would be three locations where water would be returned to the South Platte River.

PROPOSED PERKINS COUNTY CANAL PROJECT OVERVIEW



For Environmental Review Purposes Only



Source: Z:\Clients\IM_P\Perkins_County_Canal\ArcGIS\GEO\AGO.aprx
Date: (3/3/2026)

PROPOSED PROJECT ELEMENTS OVERVIEW

Proposed Project Element	Canal Length (miles)	Maximum Irrigation Storage Volume (acre-feet)	Maximum Irrigation Storage Pool Area (acres)	Permanent Limits of Disturbance (acres)	Temporary Workspace (acres)	
					Limits of Construction	Staging
South Platte River Diversion Structure	N/A	N/A	N/A ¹	61	63	79.0
Canal Segment 1	25.5	N/A	N/A	670	321	5.5
Canal Segment 1R	1.3	N/A	N/A	Included in Segment 1	Included in Segment 1	N/A
Riverview West Dam and Storage Reservoir	N/A	17,000	666	116	32	N/A ²
Canal Segment 2	1	N/A	N/A	18	11	0.0
Western Irrigation District Canal Modernization ³	14.2	N/A	N/A	296	TBD	TBD
Canal Segment 3	16	N/A	N/A	443	196	4.4
Roscoe Draw Dam and Storage Reservoir	N/A	70,000	2,369	59	8	41
Canal Segment 4	2.8	N/A	N/A	54	32	1.2
Total	60.8	87,000	3,035	1,717	663	131.1

¹ The seasonal inundation area is 18.4 acres.

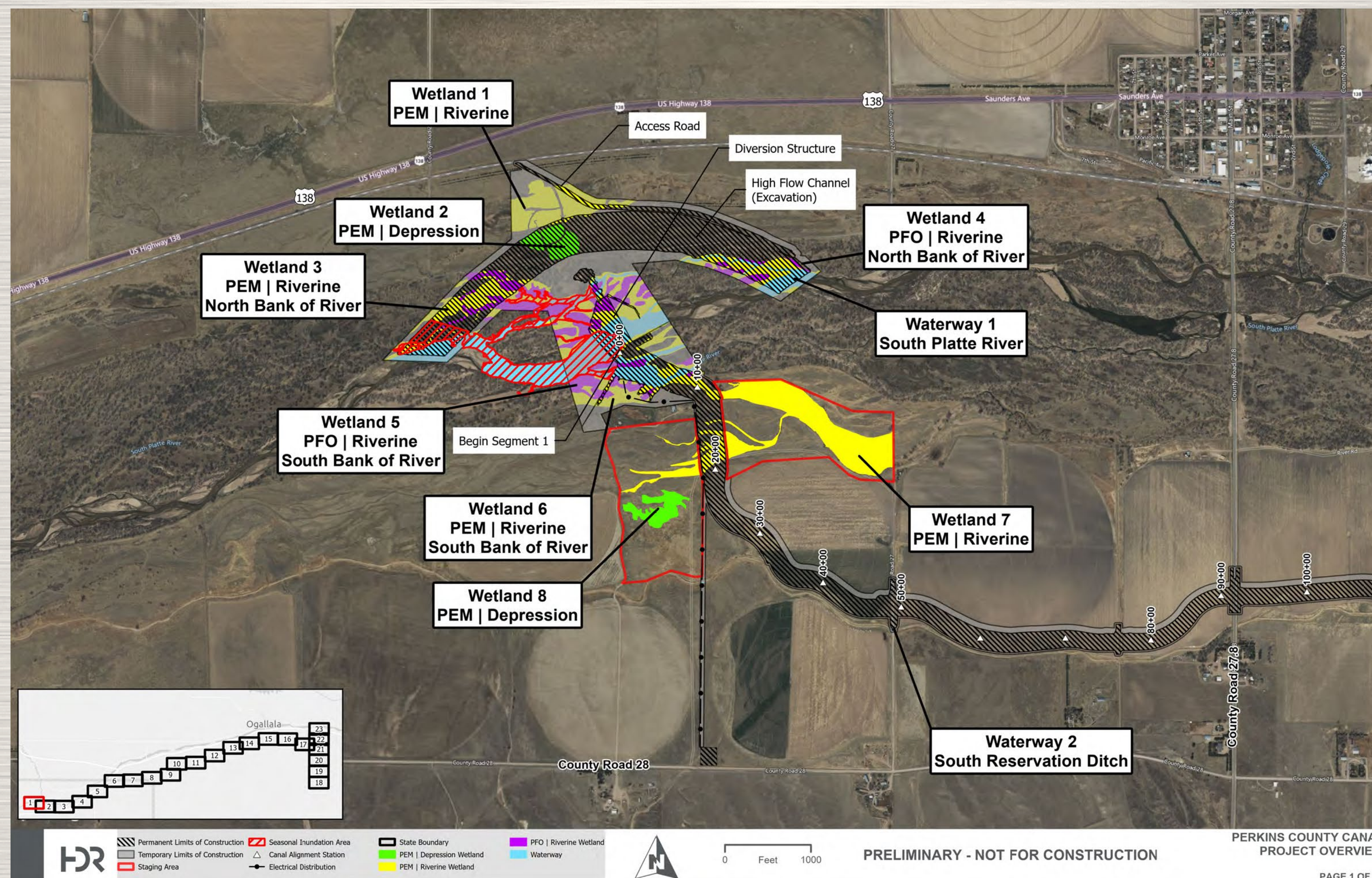
² Staging areas include the permanent limits of construction associated with the auxiliary spillway.

³ The Western Irrigation District Canal Modernization is being undertaken by the Western Irrigation District.

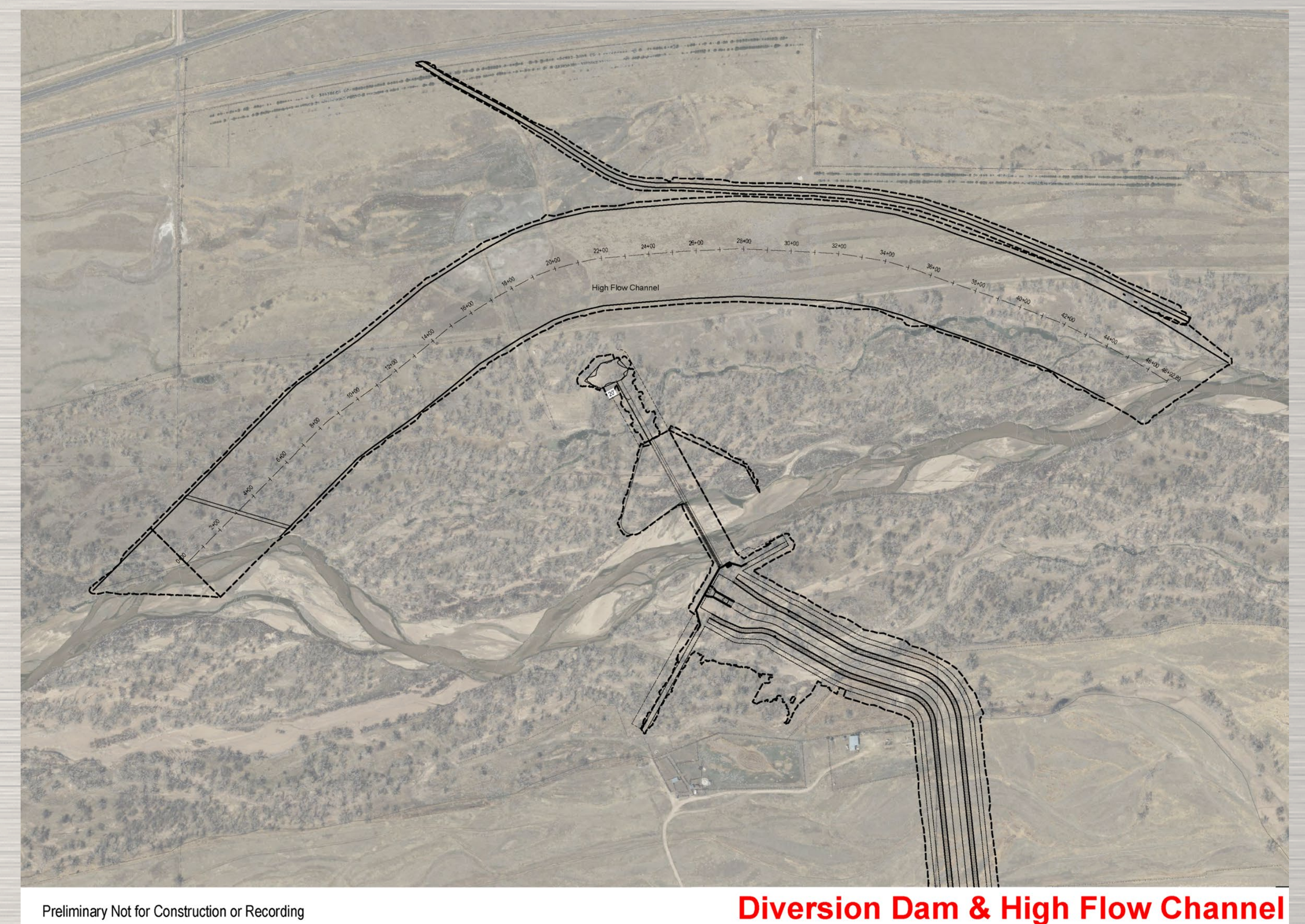
PROPOSED PROJECT AQUATIC IMPACTS AND EXAMPLE MAPS

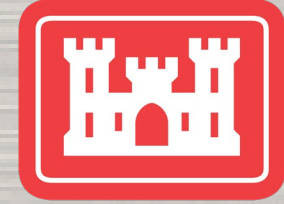
- Total acreage of permanent aquatic resource impacts would be approximately 50.9 acres.
- Total acreage of temporary aquatic resource impacts would be approximately 74.4 acres.

Diversion Dam and High Flow Channel Aquatic Resource Impact Figure



Diversion Dam and High Flow Channel Plan View



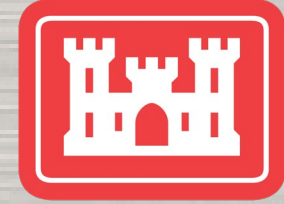


COMMENT SUBMISSION GUIDANCE

Scoping comments should be as specific as possible and contain as much detail as necessary to inform the United States Army Corps of Engineers' National Environmental Policy Act analysis of the proposed action.

We request your comments to assist the United States Army Corps of Engineers with the following:

- Identify other potential alternatives to the proposed project, including avoidance, minimization, and/or other mitigation measures.
- Identify significant issues that should be addressed.
- Identify any data, studies, information, or analysis regarding impacts to waters of the United States, physical or chemical resources, other biological resources, socioeconomic impacts, or other impacts affecting the human environment.
- Information on current or planned activities in, or in the vicinity of, the proposed action and their potential impacts on the proposed action or affected environment.



TO SUBMIT COMMENTS

Verbally at the in-person or virtual meetings

Email:

- pcc.eis@usace.army.mil

Physical address:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Omaha District Regulatory Division
Attention: PCC
1616 Capitol Avenue
Omaha, NE 68102

Regulatory Request System:

- <https://rrs.Corps.army.mil/rrs> using the search term NWO-2023-00518

For more information:

- <https://www.nwo.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory-Program/Colorado/EIS-Perkins-County-Canal/>
- Or scan the QR code:

