

Wayland, Joshua

From: Brian Barton <Brian@jonesanddemille.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 28, 2019 4:35 PM
To: Wayland, Joshua
Cc: Floyd, Kathryn K.; MKFawal@Venable.com; Eric Johnson; 'Mike Mckee'; Michael Hawley; Coalition UBRy; Hemphill, Mark; Keller, Kevin
Subject: UBRy - DRAFT wetland delineation methodology summary
Attachments: UBRy DRAFT Delineation Methodology 190228.docx

Josh:

Please find the attached draft wetland delineation methodology summary, as prepared by HDR. We welcome any comments as we work together to get it right. The fieldwork schedule information will be sent following the meeting with the Corps next week.

Thank you!

Brian Barton, PE
Principal
Jones & DeMille Engineering, Inc.
435.979.7650

Uinta Basin Railway: Proposed Draft Wetland Delineation Field Methodology

Background

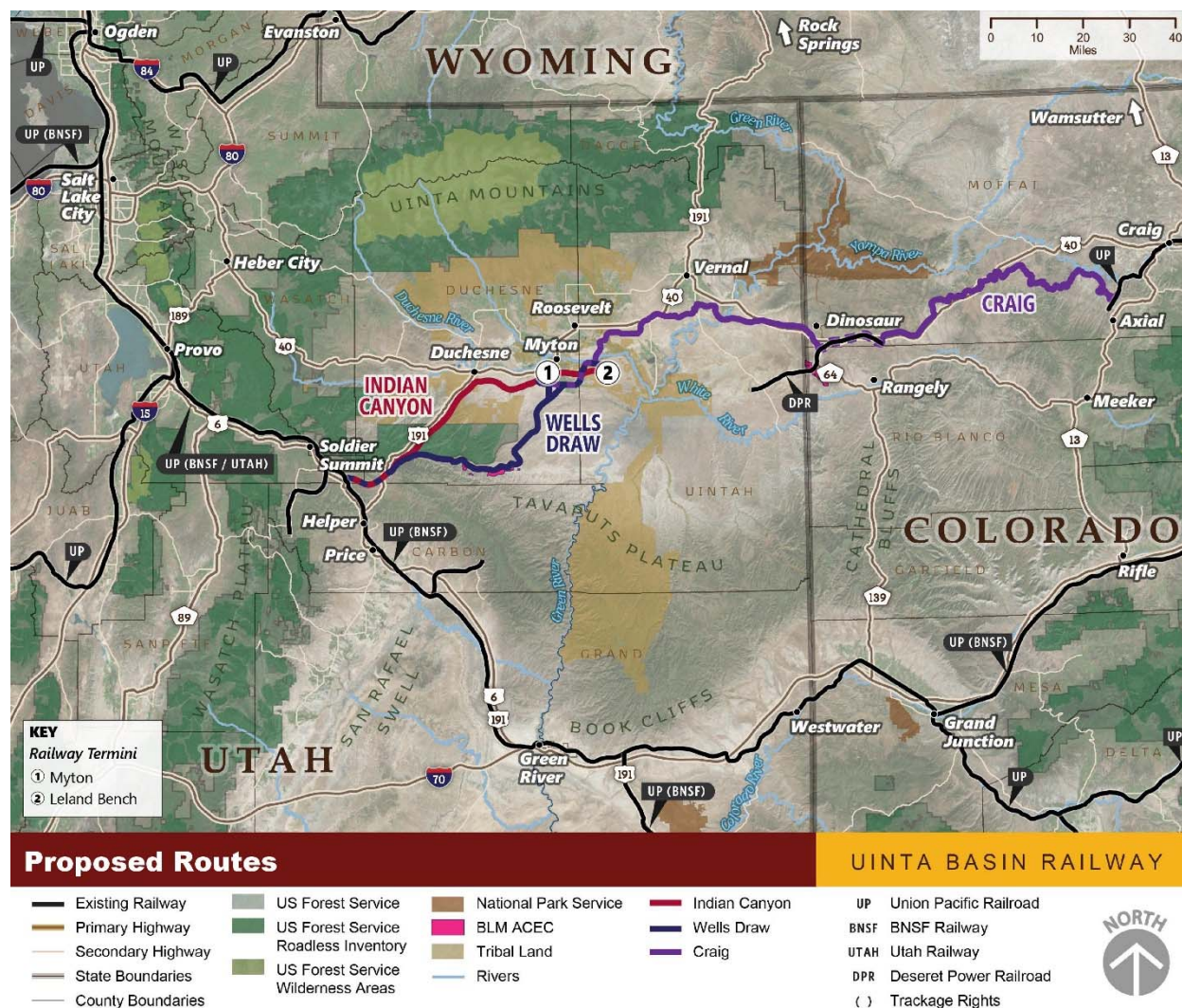
This plan outlines the proposed methodology for the collection of the baseline (existing condition) waters of the United States (WOUS) data for the three proposed railway routes (Indian Canyon, Wells Draw and Craig).

HDR plans to conduct field delineation survey of WOUS, along the three selected routes, see Figure 1, within the 2000-foot route corridor. Based on the February 15, 2019 railway alignments, the total route mileage for all three proposed routes is about 370 miles, however there is an estimated 310 unique miles, if we consider overlapping route segments, tunnels, and assume we would not have to survey the existing DPR rail corridor.

The Surface Transportation Board (STB) will be the lead agency to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) working with the project sponsor, Seven County Infrastructure Coalition (Coalition). The wetland delineation work that would be conducted under this plan will support both the analysis in the EIS and Individual Permit Application.

This methodology will first be coordinated with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Utah and Nevada Section Office and revised, if needed, to reflect USACE comments and discussion topics. The revised methodology will be submitted to the STB for approval, prior to agency consultation.

Figure 1. Proposed Route Alignments



Draft WOUS Delineation Methodology

HDR proposes to conduct field work to identify potential WOUS for the three selected routes, as shown in Figure 1, above.

HDR will conduct delineation fieldwork in accordance with following Clean Water Act regulations and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) procedures, and guidance:

- 1987 Corps of Engineers Wetlands Delineation Manual (Environmental Laboratory 1987)
- Regional Supplement to the Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual: Arid West Region (Version 2.0) (USACE 2008)
- A Field Guide for the Identification of the Ordinary High Water Mark (OHWM) in the Arid West Region of the Western United States: A Delineation Manual (Lichvar and McColley 2008) and Updated Datasheet for the Identification of the Ordinary High Water Mark

(OHWM) in the Arid West Region of the Western United States (Curtis and Lichvar 2010)

HDR will collect field data to delineate aquatic resources (wetlands and other waters such as streams and lakes) within the route corridor areas that is adequate to prepare an aquatic resources delineation report in general accordance with the *Minimum Standards for Acceptance* for the USACE Sacramento District. Anticipated fieldwork methods to address these standards are as follows:

- At least one set of paired data points, documented in data forms, for each wetland resource or complex.
- Data points and cross-sections for streams, documented in data forms for ephemeral and intermittent streams.
- Wetlands and other aquatic resources in the survey area will be mapped in the field using an iPad that is linked to a global positioning system (GPS) unit with sub-meter accuracy.
- Site photos of each aquatic resource delineated.

Landscape characteristics across a majority of the three route corridors pertain to the Arid West Region. A portion of the proposed route corridors, through the Roan Cliffs and the West Tavaputs Plateau, can be characterized as mountainous terrain. HDR proposes to use the Arid West supplements (for wetlands and streams) for the entire survey area.

In 2014, HDR conducted aquatic resources delineation surveys for UDOT's Uinta Basin Railroad project. These surveys were never submitted to the USACE for jurisdictional determination, as the project was cancelled. The 2014 surveys were conducted on portions of the proposed routes, covering about 85 miles. HDR proposes to visit the 2014 surveyed areas to verify through visual observation that the hydrology and vegetation characteristics appear consistent with the 2014 delineation survey. Delineation data forms from 2014 would be incorporated for verified aquatic resources. New data forms would be employed to delineate sites with differences from the 2014 delineation survey.

To formally identify delineated aquatic resources that qualify as WOUS, HDR will prepare an aquatic resources delineation report to submit to USACE to request a jurisdictional determination. HDR will prepare the report in accordance with the *Minimum Standards for Acceptance* for the USACE Sacramento District.