

Blaine County Land Water and Wildlife Program

Heagle Park Floodplain Restoration Pre-App Narrative

City of Hailey staff and the Wood River Land Trust are seeking solutions enhance habitat and stabilize a failing bank south of Heagle Park along the Big Wood River. A floodplain berm between the Big Wood River and the City of Hailey pump station was historically armored with large rocks so infrastructure would not be compromised. After the 2017 flood the bank was eroded and is currently deteriorating, whilst the pump station was raised to accommodate extreme flood events.

The Heagle Park Floodplain Restoration Project proposes habitat enhancement and bank stabilization that will provide needed protection to the City of Hailey pump station and increase flood conveyance throughout the project reach. The Project extent is located south of Heagle Park along the east bank, the side channel running along Della Mountain, and downstream through the Cove Canal diversion and into the Colorado Gulch Preserve (Figure 1).



Figure 1. General project location overview

The Riparian area along the Big Wood River and Hailey Greenway is a valued resource that provides recreational access, habitat for wildlife, and room for natural floodplain processes. Within the Hailey Greenway, the river has been impaired from historical impairments such as channelization, dredging, and development encroaching into the floodplain. As stated in the Hailey Greenway Master Plan, “excessive sediment supply due to upstream erosion and channelization, combined with insufficient sediment transport capacity through the greenway reach, caused sediment deposition and premature flooding through the Della View neighborhood in Hailey”. One recommendation from the Master Plan to address

underlying causes of fluvial instability, is task R7: “*Stream stabilization and restoration from Heagle Park to Colorado Gulch*”.

The principal elements of the project are to notch and open the side channel along Della Mountain, install log jams along the east bank, regrade and plant the floodplain bench, and install various log structures to benefit hydraulic pathways and fish habitat.

Project benefits include:

- Return area to natural elevation and increase floodplain connectivity
- Bank stabilization using natural materials
- Protection of the City of Hailey pump station
- Enhance fish and wildlife habitat
- Increase flood conveyance through the reach
- Evaluate if proposed conditions will alleviate flooding in Della View Neighborhood

The Wood River Land Trust is committed to working with stakeholders on restoration treatments that benefit the community and the natural environment, whilst protecting critical infrastructure.