

Cache County Blacksmith Fork River Flooding

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Public Scoping Project Description

The Blacksmith Fork River flowing through southern Logan, Utah does not have sufficient capacity to safely convey flood flows downstream. The surrounding Country Manor Subdivision and Riverside RV Park experience flooding from the lack of river flood flow capacity. The proposed project is located in the vicinity of Main Street (US-89/91)/1700 South. Approximately 16 homes in the Country Manor Subdivision on the northern side of the river were at risk of becoming flooded during the 2011 flood event and a sandbag wall (~3 to 4 feet tall) was created to protect these homes. The Riverside RV Park was flooded with approximately 2 feet of water during the 2011 flood event and the majority of the residents were relocated outside of the flood limits.

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Cache County and Logan City are analyzing alternatives to reduce flood impacts to the land and homes surrounding the Blacksmith Fork River during elevated flows in the river. Conceptual alternatives that have been identified during the scoping process include the following:

- No Action: No protection to property and homes would be implemented and the area adjacent to the river would be allowed to flood under existing conditions.
- Trashrack: A structure to collect large woody debris flowing in the river would be constructed so that it can be removed from the river during flood events so that it does not create impoundments in the river downstream.
- Debris Basin: A portion of the flood flows in the river would be diverted through a basin constructed in an open area adjacent to the river to catch debris (small woody debris, gravel, cobbles, etc.) that could potentially create impoundments in the river downstream.
- Levees/Dikes: Levees and/or dikes would be constructed adjacent to the Blacksmith Fork River to prevent flood flows from overtopping the banks and flood adjacent property and homes.
- Floodwall: A concrete floodwall would be constructed adjacent to the Blacksmith Fork River to prevent flood flows from overtopping the banks and flood adjacent property and homes.
- Floodplain Easement: Property adjacent to the river would be converted to a floodplain easement that would allow the property to be flooded during elevated flows in the river. This property would not receive any flood prevention assistance during flood events.
- Other Alternatives: Other alternatives identified by the public and project team during scoping will be analyzed during the NEPA process to reduce flood impacts to the surrounding community.

NEPA Analysis

This project is being partially funded by the NRCS Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) program to reduce impacts from future flood events in the Blacksmith Fork River. A NEPA Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) was prepared by NRCS for the EWP program; however, this project does not fit within the analysis parameters of the Programmatic EIS since this project will increase flood protection above 2011 pre-flood protection levels. NRCS, as the lead federal agency, is initiating additional NEPA analysis in the form of an Environmental Assessment to analyze impacts to the natural and human environment from this project. The Environmental Assessment will comply with the Council on Environmental Quality's regulations at 40 CFR Parts 1500-1508 which require an evaluation of potential environmental impacts associated with federal projects and actions.

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Figure 1

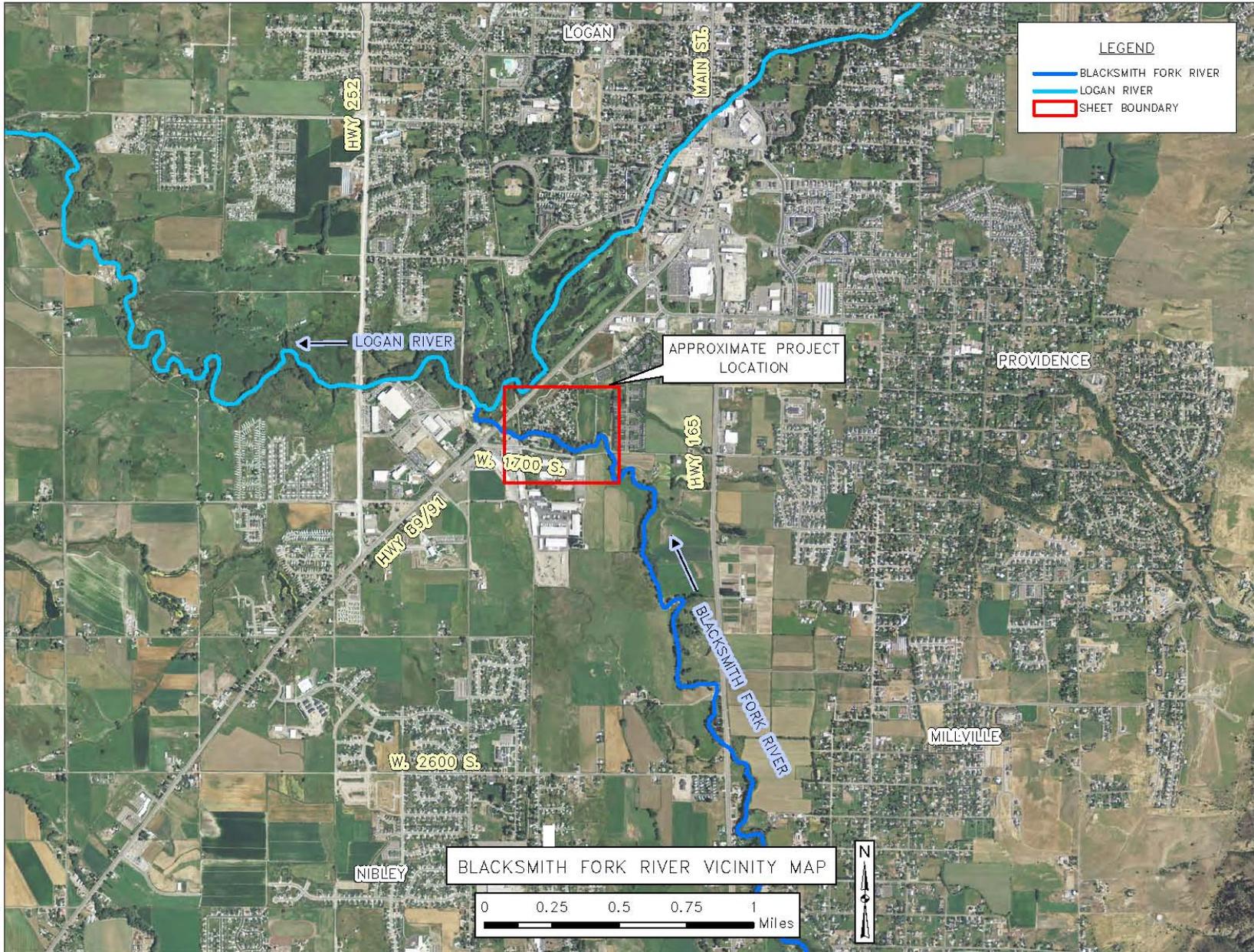


Figure 2

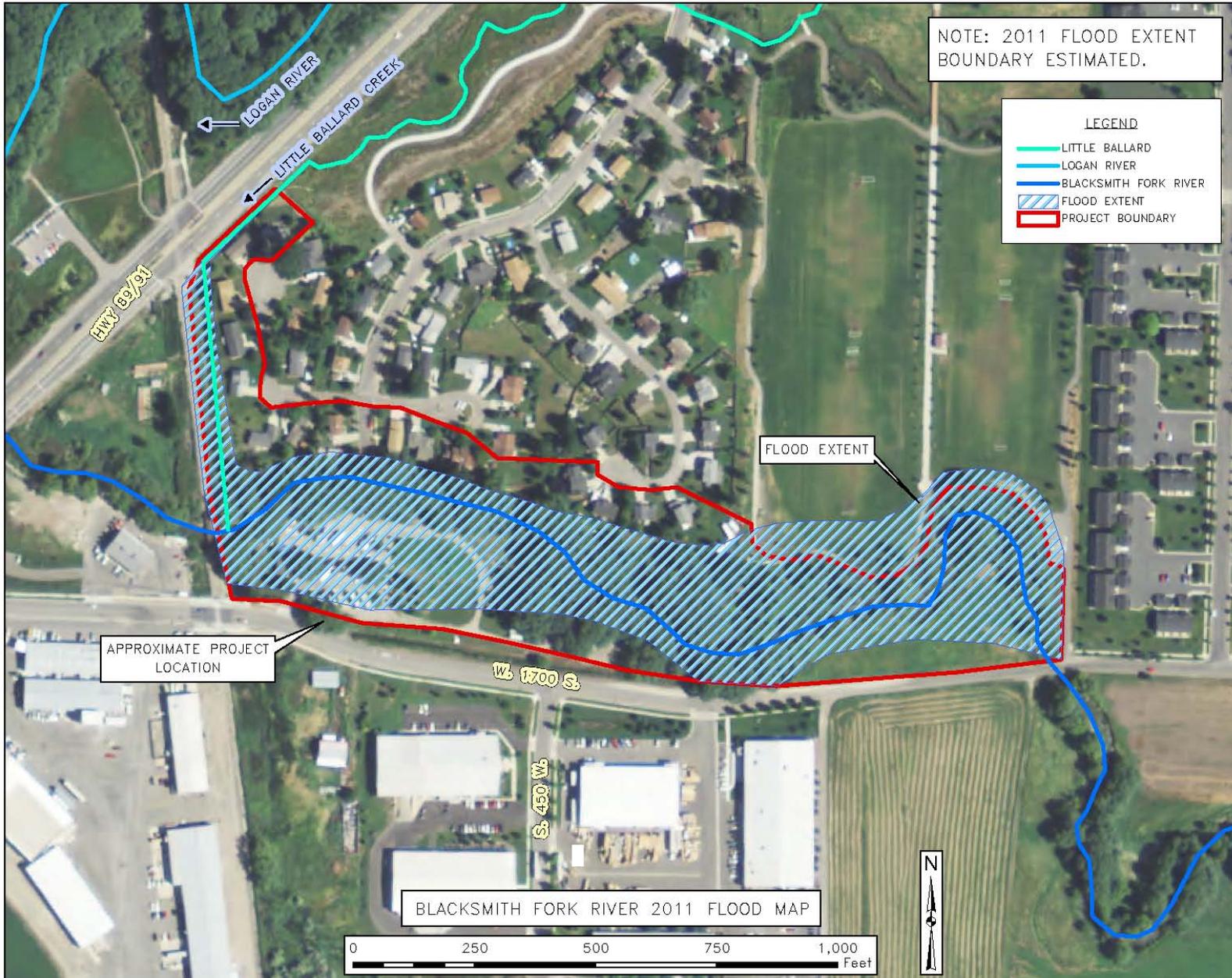
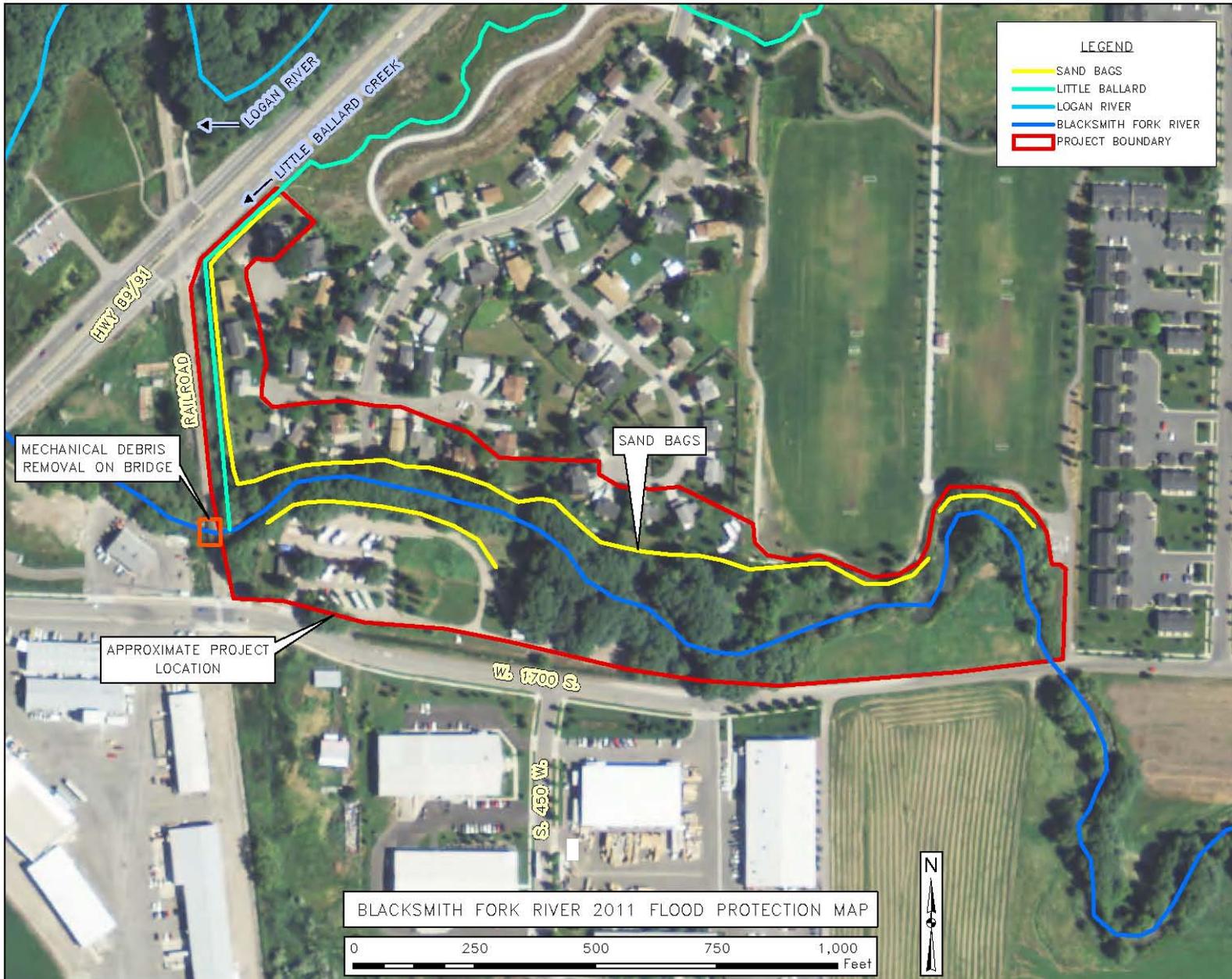


Figure 3



Photos



Riverside RV Park during 2011 Flood Event



Floodwall in Riverside RV Park during Low Flow



Country Manor Sandbag Wall during 2011 Flood Event



Country Manor Sandbag Wall during Low Flow

Photos



Country Manor Dike with No Sandbags during Low Flow



Country Manor next to Little Ballard Creek during Low Flow



Soccer Fields and Sandbag Wall during Low Flow



Open Field Upstream of RV Park during Low Flow