ENVIRONMENTAL STUDY

Project Name: **UTN: Steinaker Service Canal Trail - Phase One** PIN: **21890**

Project No.: **S-TR03(2)** Job/Proj: **74835**

Prepared By: **Nicholas Kronshage**

For guidance in preparing this environmental study, refer to the UDOT Environmental Process Manual of Instruction:

http://www.udot.utah.gov/go/environmental

REQUIRED SIGNATURES

I have reviewed the information presented in this Environmental Study and I hereby attest that the document is complete and the details of the document are correct.

Reviewer (Signature): _____ **Date:** _____

Reviewer (Printed): _____

Firm/UDOT Region: _____

STATE FUNDED PROJECTS

As a result of this Environmental Study, UDOT finds that this project will NOT cause significant environmental impacts.

Approved: _____ **Date:** _____

UDOT Region Environmental Manager

1. Purpose and Need for Action

As it exists now, there is limited pedestrian access between SR-121 (500 North) and US-40 in northeast Vernal in Uintah County, Utah. As part of the Utah Trail Network, UDOT has identified the need to better improve accessibility along this corridor in order in enhance pedestrian safety and support access to several facilities in the area. Several schools, including the Utah State University, Uintah Basin Technical College, and Uintah High School, are located along the corridor, along with an office plaza, and elder care facility.

The purpose of the project is to improve connectivity for Utahns of all ages and abilities and promote safer active transportation in the community.

2. Description

The Utah Department of Transportation (UDOT) proposes to construct a 1.9-mile-long shared path with portions along SR-121 and the Steinaker Service Canal to serve pedestrians and bicyclists between US-40 and SR-121. The path will be located on the south side of SR-121, beginning at the intersection of Aggie Boulevard (2000 West) and SR-121. From there the path will head east to the Steinaker Service Canal where it will begin to follow the canal south, running parallel to and west of the canal. The project will continue south along the canal and terminate at US-40, just east of Aggie Boulevard. Figure 1 depicts the project location and its vicinity. All work associated with this project will be confined entirely within UDOT, County, and Canal Right-of-Way.

3. Public Hearing/Opportunity for Public Hearing

NO This project could result in public controversy or substantial impacts to adjacent properties, or substantially changes roadway geometry.

NO There are significant social, economic, environmental or other effects. If YES, a Categorical Exclusion is not applicable. Consult with UDOT Central Environmental Services.

YES UDOT/FHWA has determined that a public hearing is in the public interest.

If the answer to ANY of the above questions is YES, a public hearing or opportunity for a public hearing is required (attach documentation identifying date and location of hearing, summary of comments, and responses to substantial comments, or include certification of opportunity for hearing.)

The following types of public involvement have been provided:

YES Public Hearing in accordance with state and federal procedures

NO Opportunity for Public Hearing

YES Open House

NO Other:

YES Documentation is attached identifying the date and location of hearing, summary of comments, and responses to substantial comments; or the Certification of Opportunity for a Hearing is attached.

4. Right-of-Way

NO Acquisition of Right-of-Way is required.

N/A The right-of-way required is significant because of its size, location, use, or relationship to remaining property and abutting properties. (If the right-of-way required is significant, the project does not qualify as a Categorical Exclusion.)

5. Cultural

According to the UDOT Region NHPA/NEPA Specialist and/or the Architectural Historian, the Finding of Effect for the project is one of the following:

NO No historic properties affected

YES No adverse effect

NO Adverse effect

Project documentation for determination of eligibility and finding of effect consists of one of the following and is attached:

NO Memo from UDOT Region NEPA/NHPA Specialist and/or Architectural Historian stating a finding of No Historic Properties Affected.

YES SHPO concurrence with the Determinations of Eligibility and Finding of Effect AND memo from UDOT Region NEPA/NHPA Specialist and/or Architectural Historian stating a finding of No Adverse Effect or Adverse Effect.

NO Have letters for Native American Consultation been sent? Attach letters.

NO Have letters for federal and state agencies, CLGs, historical societies, etc. been sent? If so attach letters.

NO Do the impacts to historic properties require mitigation?

If YES, a signed Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) is attached.

6. Paleontological

YES This project is one of the 16 types of projects listed in Stipulation III of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Utah Geological Survey (UGS) that has no effect on paleontological resources and does not require notification to the UGS. If YES, a memo from the UDOT Region NEPA/NHPA Specialist is attached (can be included in cultural memo).

For all other projects, the UGS has been notified and has responded with the following (attach UGS letter and memo from the UDOT Region NEPA/NHPA Specialist):

N/A There are no known paleontological localities in the area of potential effects and the formations in the project area have a low potential for containing fossil remains (Class 1 or 2).

N/A Fossil-bearing formations (Class 3-5) and/or known paleontological localities are present in the area of potential effects, but the UDOT Region NEPA/NHPA Specialist (or paleontologist) has determined that they will not be affected by the project.

N/A Fossil-bearing formations (Class 3-5) and/or known paleontological localities are present in the area of potential effects and may be affected by construction activities. A survey and/or monitoring by a qualified paleontologist is required.

Comments: A memo from the UDOT Regional Specialist is attached.

7. Threatened, Endangered, or Candidate Species

For Federally or State Funded Projects:

YES Project will have **"no effect"** to T&E species, or their critical habitats, protected under the Endangered Species Act. If YES, attach **"no effect"** memo or review/comments (in the case of local government projects) from UDOT's Wildlife Biologist.

NO Project **"may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect"** T&E species, or their critical habitats, protected under the Endangered Species Act. If YES, attach BA and "concurrence" from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services (USFWS). List all mitigation/conservation measures.

NO Project **"may affect, and is likely to adversely affect"** threatened and endangered species, or their critical habitats, protected under the Endangered Species Act. If YES, attach BA and USFWS BO. List all mitigation/conservation measures.

NO The USFWS has issued a **"jeopardy"** opinion regarding this project. If YES, attach BA and BO as above. This project cannot go forward without being reconsidered.

8. Wildlife

NO Project has the potential to affect state-sensitive species, important wildlife habitat, big game migration routes, habitat connectivity, migratory birds, or fish spawning habitat or fish passage.

Memo from UDOT Wildlife Biologist is attached.

Comments: A concurrence memo from the UDOT Natural Resource Specialist is attached.

9. Invasive Species

If the project involves earthwork, grading or landscaping, there is potential to introduce or spread invasive weed species.

YES Based upon location, this project has the potential to introduce or spread invasive species included on the noxious weed list of the State of Utah and the county noxious weed lists.

10. Noise

Projects that may affect noise levels to adjacent receptors include changes in roadway alignment, roadway widening and the addition of traffic lanes.

NO This project has the potential to increase noise to adjacent receptors.

N/A A noise study is attached.

11. Wetlands, Water Resources, Storm Water, and Floodplains

Wetlands and Water Resources

NO The project is a type that does not have the potential to affect or cross Waters of the United States. If YES, no concurrence letter is needed.

NO Project affects waters of the United States (e.g. wetlands, mudflats, lakes, or perennial or ephemeral streams). If NO, have a UDOT Landscape Architect provide a concurrence letter stating they agree with the determination. In order to indicate "NO" on this question, answers to the following statements must also be "NO".

NO Project impacts perennial, intermittent, or ephemeral streams that have a riparian vegetation component. If YES, a Programmatic General Permit 40 (PGP40), also known as a Stream Alteration Permit, from the Utah Division of Water Rights will be required.

NO Project exceeds the impact limitations for streams or washes indentified in the PGP40. If YES, both a PGP40 and a separate Department of the Army permit will be required.

NO Project impacts an ephemeral wash not captured under PGP40 that has an ordinary high water mark (OHWM) with a connected flow to a downstream Traditional Navigable Water and the impact below the OHWM exceeds 1/10 of an acre per crossing. If YES, a Department of the Army permit will be required.

NO Project impacts a perennial or intermittent stream below the OHWM less than 1/10 of an acre per crossing. If YES, notification to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will be required.

NO Project impacts navigable waters of the United States (Lake Powell, Flaming Gorge Reservoir, Bear Lake, Green River - mouth to 20 miles above Green River Station, Colorado River - mouth of Castle Creek to Cataract Canyon - 4.5 miles below mouth of Green River) below the OHWN. If YES, a Section 10 Department of the Army permit will be required.

NO Project impacts jurisdictional wetlands. If YES, a Department of Army Nationwide Permit (NWP) will be required for wetland impacts under the 1/2 acre threshold; a Letter of Permission (LOP) will be required for wetland impacts between 1/2 and 1 acre; an Individual Permit (IP) will be required for impacts greater than 1 acre.

NO Project impacts non-jurisdictional wetlands. If YES, wetland mitigation may still be required under the federal policy of "no net loss." Consult UDOT Environmental Section.

Storm Water Runoff

YES Project disturbs 1 acre or more of ground surface.

If YES, a UPDES Storm Water Discharge Permit for Construction Activities is required from the Utah Division of Water Quality.

Floodplains

YES This project requires new construction or alteration of existing structures within the FEMA designated 100-year flood plain.

If YES, a Development Permit is required from the local permit official.

12. Hazardous Waste

NO Has a visual inspection of the project area found substances that may be hazardous to human health and/or the environment?

YES This project involves excavation beyond or below the existing roadway footprint.

If YES to either question 1 or 2, then site investigations and coordination with DEQ may be necessary.

Comments: A review of the EPA Enivromapper and Utah Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Interactive map was conducted on April 22nd, 2025. The Utah DEQ map indicated seven environmental incidents reports within a .5-mile buffer of the project. Each report was reviewed, and it was determined none of the incidents are within the project area. Therefore, none of these incidents has the potential to effect the project.

Additionally, five petroleum storage tank sites were identified within the .5-mile buffer. One site, located at Uintah High School and adjacent to the project footprint was reviewed for history of leaking storage tanks reports. No open or closed incidents for leaking storage tanks were identified at the site. Listed tanks will have no effect on the project.

Should any unexpected contaminination be encountered during construction, it will be managed in accordance with UDOT Standard Specification 01355, Section 3.1.

13. Prime, Unique, Statewide, or Locally Important Farmland

Projects in areas whose land use maps indicate no current or future farming activities would not usually affect farmlands.

NO This project MAY affect Prime, Unique, Statewide, or Locally Important Farmlands.

N/A The Natural Resource Conservation Service letter and Form AD1006 are attached.

14. Air Quality

YES This project has the potential to increase particulate matter due to construction activities.

NO This project adds or alters roadway capacity or will result in increased traffic volumes at signalized intersections.

If YES, the Air Quality Supplement is attached.

15. Relocations

NO There may be relocations of residences or businesses as a result of this project.

16. Land Use/Urban Policy

NO This project may affect land use or urban policy.

17. Section 4(f) Properties

N/A Section 4(f) properties are impacted.

N/A An Individual Section 4(f) Evaluation AND written concurrence from UDOT Environmental Services on the Individual Section 4(f) determination is attached.

N/A A Programmatic Section 4(f) Evaluation AND written concurrence from UDOT Environmental Services on the Programmatic Section 4(f) determination is attached.

N/A The 4(f) property(s) is an historic property and the impact is considered **de minimis**.

N/A SHPO has concurred in writing on UDOT's **"no adverse effect"** determination to historic properties and has been notified of the intent to make a **de minimis** finding. Attach letter to SHPO and **de minimis** agreement letter.

N/A The 4(f) property(s) is a park, recreational area, wildlife or waterfowl refuge and the impact is considered **de minimis**.

N/A The official(s) with jurisdiction have concurred, in writing, that the project will **"not adversely affect"** the activities, features, and attributes that qualify the resource for protection under Section 4(f) and have been notified of the intent to make the **de minimis** impact finding. Letters are attached.

N/A The project sponsor has provided public notice and opportunity for public review and comment. Describe public involvement efforts in the comments below.

N/A Written concurrence from UDOT Environmental Services is attached.

18. Other Environmental Factors Considered

This Project, except as noted and explained in attachments, will have no disproportionate, serious or lasting effect on the following:

NO Visual

NO Social/Economic

NO Natural Resources

NO Construction

NO Energy

NO Geology/Soils

NO Wild/Scenic Rivers

NO Ecology

19. Conclusion

NO This project may have substantial controversy or significant impacts.

MITIGATION COMMITMENTS

CONSTRUCTION		Responsible
Air Quality	Requirements outlined in Standard Specification 01572 titled "Dust Control and Watering" will be followed.	Contractor
Invasive Species	Comply with UDOT General Provision Section 01355 (ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE) and Standard Section 02924 (NOXIOUS WEED CONTROL).	Contractor

PRELIMINARY ENGINEERING		Responsible
Floodplains	The project will require new construction or alteration of existing structures within the FEMA 100-year flood plain. Therefore a flood plain development permit is required from the local community's permit official prior to construction.	Udot Region Environmental
Water Quality	The project will disturb 1 acre or more of ground surface. Therefore, a storm water pollution prevention plan (SWPPP) must be included in the plans.	Udot Region Environmental
Water Quality 2	UPDES Permit from the Division of Water Quality must be obtained prior to construction.	Contractor

Environmental Commitments Signature Page

Project Name: **I-15; End of PCCP to MP 239.7**
Project Number **F-I15-6(274)230**
PIN: **20851**

The purpose of this page is to ensure the environmental commitments that are made while following the environmental process are reasonable and feasible to those divisions they will affect. Frequently, as in maintenance preservation projects, UDOT Standard Specifications will provide the mitigation necessary for potential environmental impacts and only require review by the Environmental Manager. However, if special commitments exist that cannot be mitigated by current UDOT Specifications, then additional review is required from both the Project Manager and District Engineer (or Designee). This signature page is required to be included on all UDOT environmental documents regardless of type.

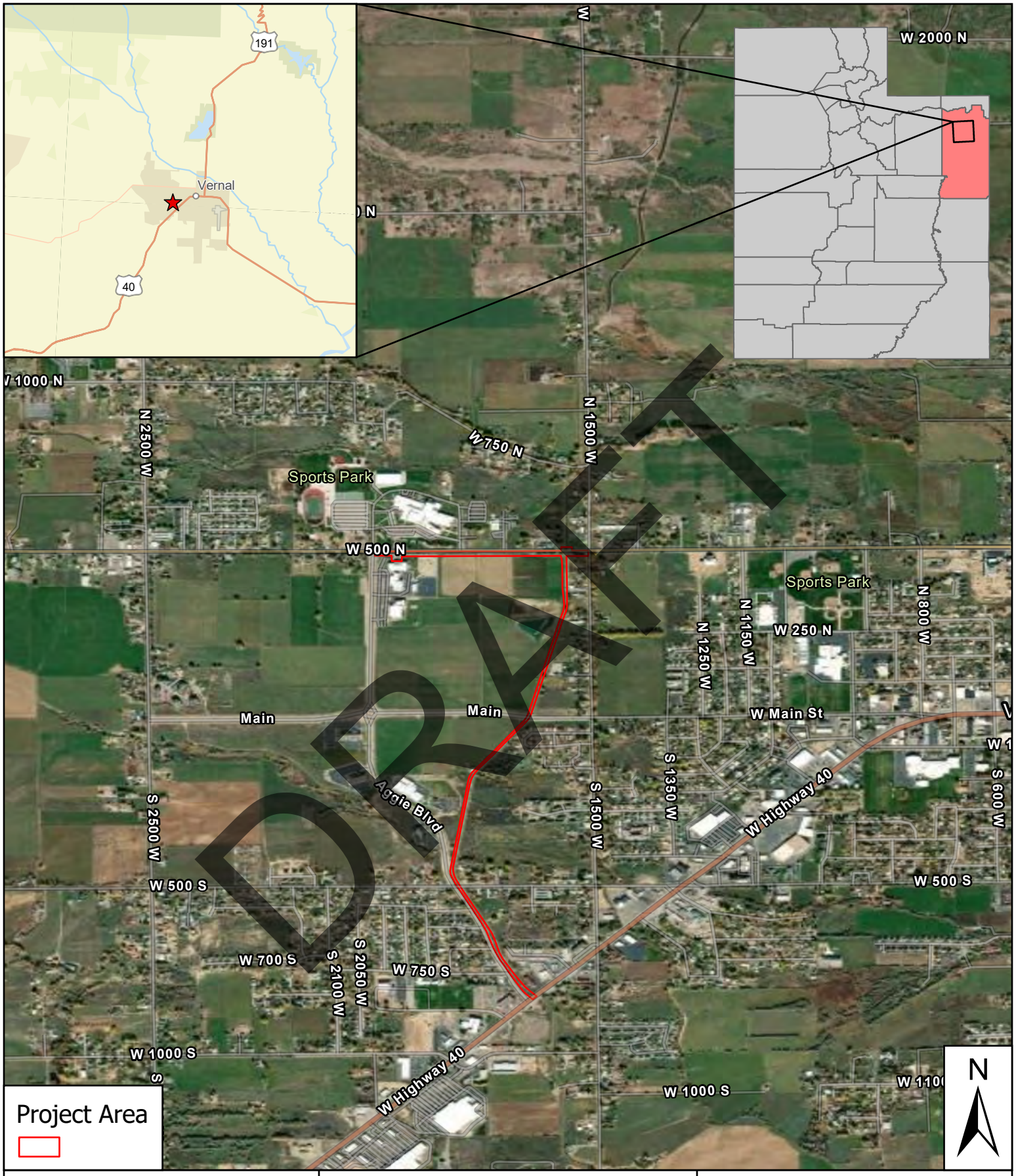
☒ The environmental commitments in the document can be mitigated by following current UDOT specifications. (Environmental Manager Review and Signature Required.

_____
UDOT Environmental Manager

☐ The environmental commitments in this document require mitigation beyond what is provided by following current UDOT specifications. Special commitments are believed to be designable, financially feasible, constructible, and maintainable (Project Manager and Resident Engineer Review and Signature Required)

_____
Project Manager

_____
Resident Engineer



0 2,000 4,000 Feet

1 inch = 2,000 feet

Reference Layer: ESRI Aerial, ESRI Streets

Figure 1. General Vicinity

Steinaker Service Canal Trail
UDOT PIN 21890

Vernal, Uintah County, Utah

WILSON & COMPANY

Created By: Dalton Kidder
Reviewed By: Peter Steele

6/24/2025

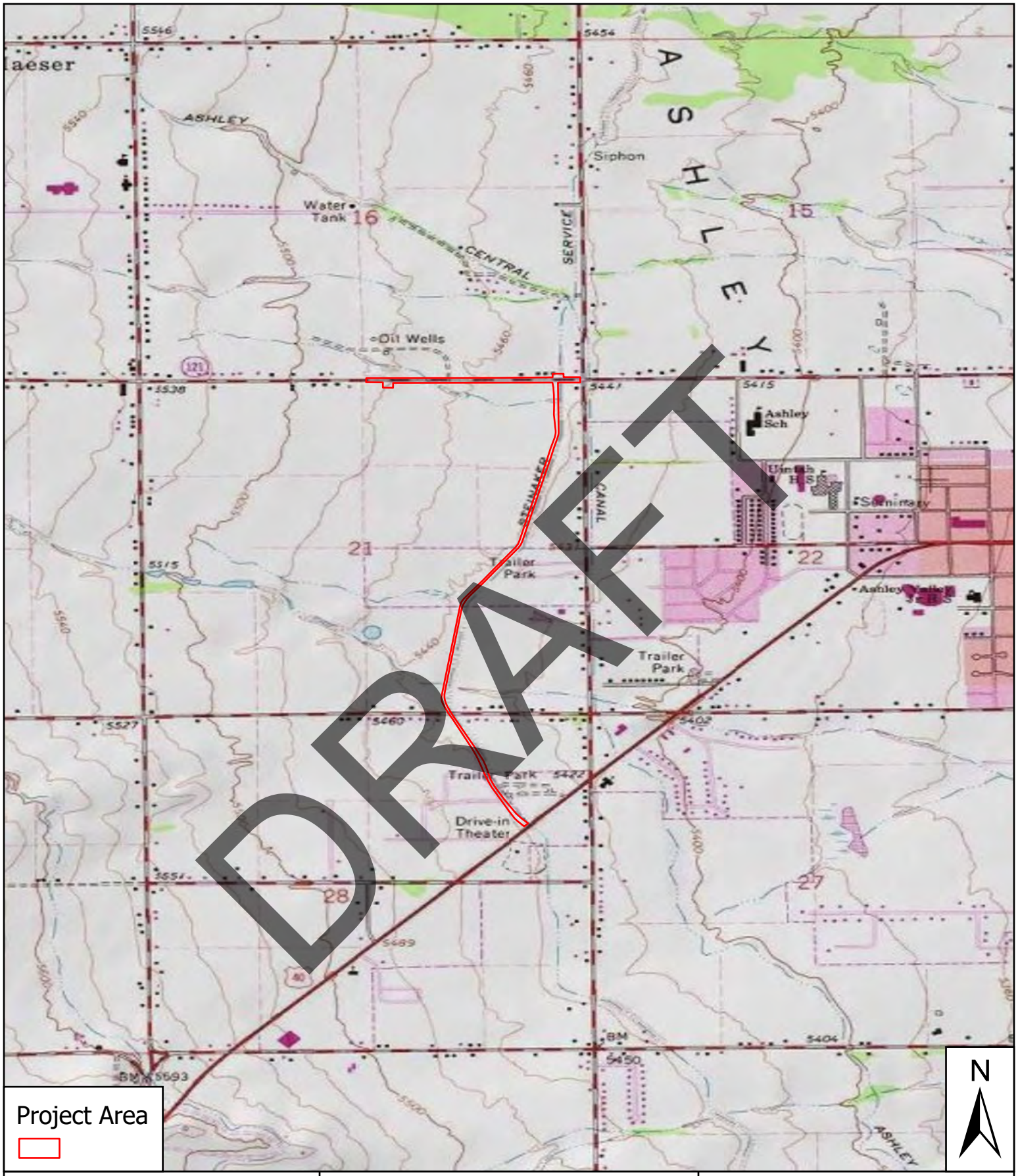


Figure 2. USGS 1: 24,000
Vernal NE, UT Quadrangle

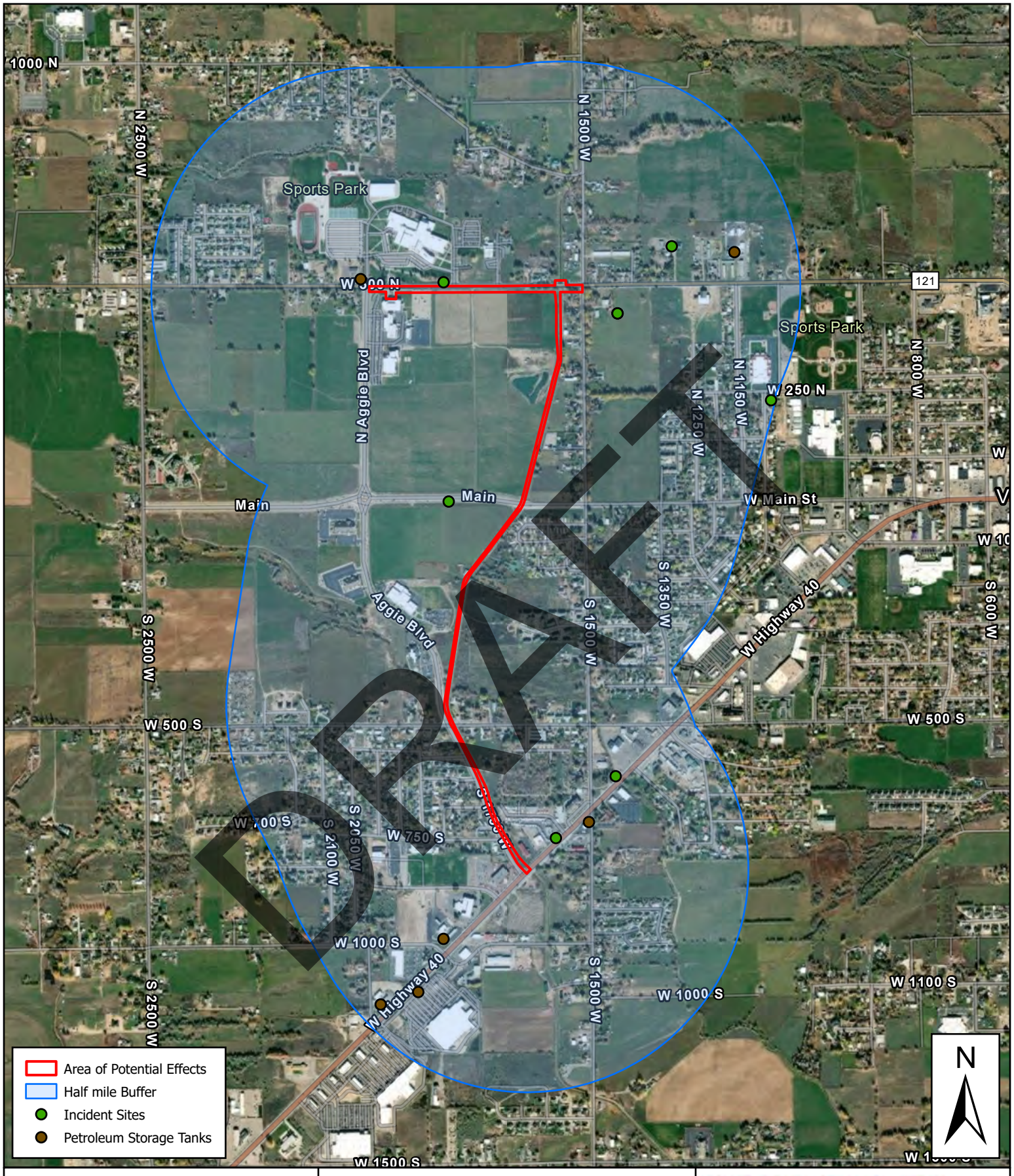
Steinaker Service Canal Trail
UDOT PIN 21890

Vernal, Uintah County, Utah

WILSON & COMPANY

Created By: Dalton Kidder
Reviewed By: Peter Steele

6/24/2025



0 1,000 2,000 4,000

US Feet

1 inch = 2,000 feet

Reference Layer: Utah DEQ, ESRI Aerial

Utah DEQ Site Map

Steinaker Service Canal Trail

Vernal, Uintah County, Utah

WILSON & COMPANY

Created By: Nick Kronshage
Reviewed By: Peter Steele

7/22/2025

Memorandum

Environmental Services

DATE: June 25, 2025

TO: Dalton Kidder, Project Biologist, Wilson & Company

FROM: Matt Howard, Natural Resources Manager

SUBJECT: Steinaker Service Canal Trail PIN 21890

Dalton,

I have reviewed the Biological Resource Memo prepared for the Steinaker Service Canal Trail project concerning potential impacts to threatened and endangered species and concur with its findings. The proposed improvements would have no effect on federally listed species. The project would not result in direct or incidental take under the BGEPA and MBTA. I have evaluated the project for impacts to greater sage-grouse. The project does not take place within a SGMA, nor does it take place within mapped habitat for sage-grouse and would therefore have no impact on sage-grouse or its habitat.

Sincerely,

Matt Howard
Natural Resource Manager

Biological Resource Evaluation

Utah Department of Transportation

Steinaker Service Canal Trail
Uintah County, Utah
UDOT PIN 21890
UDOT Project No. S-TR03(2)
4/22/2025

Biological Resource Evaluation

Prepared for

Utah Department of Transportation

Steinaker Service Canal Trail
Uintah County, Utah
UDOT PIN 21890
S-TR03(2)

Prepared by

WILSON & COMPANY
HIGHER RELATIONSHIPS

10813 South River Front Parkway, Suite 475
Salt Lake City, UT 84095
801-364-34164

Table of Contents

1.0 Introduction

As part of its efforts to support active transportation opportunities, the Utah Department of Transportation (UDOT) has proposed a trail construction project in Vernal, Utah. This project will construct a 1.9-mile shared use path from 500 North (SR-121) to US-40 in Vernal. The path will follow a portion of the Steinaker Service Canal, as well as a segment of 500 North, and connect to a local school, senior citizens center, and office plaza. The project will not remove any trees, and will be constructed within existing right-of-way (ROW).

2.0 Methodology

This section describes how data was collected to inform determinations.

2.1 Project Area

The project area is located along the Steinaker Canal between 500 N and Highway 40 in Vernal, Utah. At the intersection of the canal and 500 N, the project area extends along the south side of 500 N until it reaches Aggie Boulevard to the west and 1500 W to the east. The elevation of the project area ranges from 5,446 feet (1,660 meters) to 5,470 feet (1,667 meters) above mean sea level. The project area is identified in **Figure 1** (**Appendix A**).

Recent (2023) aerial images show that land in the vicinity of the project is primarily agricultural, industrial, or residential. Vegetation consists of typical managed, suburban ROW flora, with grasses, weeds, and milkweed (*Asclepias* spp.) lining the canal. Data obtained from the NRCS was used to determine the soil series within the project area. The project area is composed of several different soil types. The most prevalent are: Turzo-Umbo complex with 0 to 2 percent slopes (40.7% of project area), Umbo clay loam with 0 to 2 percent slopes (20.9% of project area), and Wyasket loam with 0 to 2 percent slopes (20.2% of project area) (NRCS, 2025). The soil types found in the Action Area have a slow infiltration rate when thoroughly wet and a slow rate of water transmission. (NRCS, 2025). The Wyasket loam is the only soil type in the Action Area that is hydric. The Umbo Clay loam and the Wyasket loam are the only soil types in the Action Area classified as Not Prime Farmland (NRCS, 2025).

2.2 Pedestrian Survey

On May 15, 2025, a cultural resources survey of the project area was conducted by Wilson & Company (Wilson & Co.). The archaeologist conducting the survey took photos of the vegetation in and around the project area. These photos were consulted for more accurate likelihood of occurrence determinations for listed species.

2.3 Desktop Analysis

Wilson & Co. reviewed literature and agency databases to obtain information on potential occurrences of natural communities and special-status species. The search for records encompassed the proposed project area and a half-mile wide buffer.

A species list for the project area was obtained from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) website. In addition, the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources (DWR) Wildlife Habitat Analysis Tool (WHAT) records of occurrence were reviewed for documentation of species occurrences within the vicinity of the project. A review of the USFWS Threatened and Endangered Species Critical Habitat database was conducted to provide information on critical habitat designation. Information on soils was obtained from the U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). Other sources, including recent aerial imagery, Google maps, and surficial geology shapefiles from the State of Utah, were used in the supporting analysis.

3.0 Results

This section describes determinations and the rationale behind them.

3.1 Threatened, Endangered, and Candidate Species

The USFWS IPaC was utilized to determine the potential occurrences of federally listed endangered, threatened, and proposed species within the proposed project area. In total seven (7) species were identified to have the possibility to occur in or around the proposed project area. The species identified included four fish species endemic to the Colorado River and its tributaries: bonytail (*Gila elegans*), Colorado pikeminnow (*Ptychocheilus lucius*), humpback chub (*Gila cypha*), and razorback sucker (*Xyrauchen texanus*); two insect species: monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*) and Suckley's cuckoo bumble bee (*Bombus suckleyi*); and one plant species: Ute ladies'-tresses (*Spiranthes diluvialis*). **Table 1** provides a detailed description of the federally listed species, their habitat requirements, previous occurrences, and potential for occurrence in the proposed project area.

Wilson & Co. concluded that likelihood of occurrence was none or low for all listed species except the monarch butterfly. Milkweed (*Asclepias* spp.) was observed in multiple locations during the cultural resources survey. All observed occurrences were on the banks of Steinaker Canal. Monarch butterflies are a migratory species and can occur incidentally across most of the continental United States. Their transient life history and the presence of milkweed in the project area led to a moderate likelihood of occurrence determination.

The only listed species identified by the IPaC with a low likelihood of occurrence is the Ute ladies'-tresses (*Spiranthes diluvialis*). They generally prefer floodplains associated with perennial streams, which the project area does not contain. However, there have been documented cases of the species along irrigation channels, and the project area is within their known range. None could be identified from the cultural survey photos. While there is a chance that the species will occur along the canal

banks, construction near the canal will be limited to the existing access road and associated berm, so impacts to suitable habitat for this species are not anticipated.

Table 1. Federally Listed Species That May Occur or be Affected by the Proposed Project

Species	Status	Designated Critical Habitat	Habitat Requirements	Previous Occurrences	Potential for Occurrence	Rationale
Bonytail (*Gila elegans*)	Endangered	None in project area	Species prefers main-stem rivers, usually in or near deep swift water, in flowing pools and eddies just outside the main current.	Unknown; project vicinity does not contain suitable habitat.	None	Project would have negligible effects on the canal, and work in the canal will be conducted when water is not present, resulting in no impacts to water quality.
Colorado pikeminnow (*Ptychocheilus lucius*)	Endangered	None in project area	Typically medium to large rivers. Adults use various habitats, including deep turbid strongly flowing water, eddies, runs, flooded bottoms, or backwaters	Unknown; project vicinity does not contain suitable habitat.	None	Project would have negligible effects on the canal, and work in the canal will be conducted when water is not present, resulting in no impacts to water quality.
Humpback chub (*Gila cypha*)	Threatened	None in project area	Typically large rivers. Adults use various habitats, including deep turbulent currents, shaded canyon pools, areas under shaded ledges in moderate current, riffles, and eddies	Unknown; project vicinity does not contain suitable habitat.	None	Project would have negligible effects on the canal, and work in the canal will be conducted when water is not present, resulting in no impacts to water quality.
Razorback sucker (*Xyrauchen texanus*)	Endangered	None in project area	Species is often associated with sand, mud, and rock substrate in areas with sparse aquatic vegetation, where temperatures are moderate to warm	Unknown; project vicinity does not contain suitable habitat.	None	Project would have negligible effects on the canal, and work in the canal will be conducted when water is not present, resulting in no impacts to water quality.
Monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*)	Proposed Threatened	None in project area	Species is transient and depends on milkweed for breeding.	Unknown	Moderate	Milkweed has been observed in the project area along the canal.
Suckley's cuckoo bumble bee (*Bombus suckleyi*)	Proposed Endangered	None designated	Populations are variable relying on host bee colonies across a range of ecosystems.	Unknown	None	Most land around project is agricultural or developed, not ideal for

			Habitat with wildflowers optimal.			wildflowers or host bee colonies.
Ute ladies'-tresses (*Spiranthes diluvialis*)	Threatened	None designated	Primarily found in moist meadows associated with perennial stream terraces, floodplains, and oxbows. Some have been found along irrigation canals.	Unknown	Low	Project area is within known range, but land use around the project is agricultural or developed, no perennial streams or floodplains.

Source: USFWS IPaC 2024a, USFWS species descriptions, NatureServe, Utah DWR

None: Species have not been documented in the project area, the project area is outside the species' known range, and/or no suitable habitat is present.

Low: Species have not recently been documented in the project area, existing habitat conditions in the project area preclude the establishment of viable populations, or the species ranges widely, and individuals could incidentally occur in the area.

Moderate: Species have not been recently documented in the project area, but potentially suitable habitat is present and there is a reasonable likelihood for the species to occur in the project area.

High: Species have been recently documented in the project area or there is a high likelihood of occurrence based on the species' known range and/or the presence of suitable habitat.

3.2 Species under Conservation Agreement

Wilson & Company reviewed USFWS Environmental Conservation Online System (ECOS) to determine the presence of any non-listed species with special conservation agreements.

No suitable habitat was identified for any species under a conservation agreement.

3.3 Migratory Birds

The project area includes primarily agricultural and highly developed land. There are no known raptor nests documented near the project. There have been no observations of bald and golden eagles in this area. The project will not result in any tree removal, no nest substrate would be impacted, and the project occurs where regular traffic and human activity occurs. Due to the scope of the project and location, take of protected species is not anticipated under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) or the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (BGEPA).

4.0 Summary

Wilson's biologists conducted a review of federally threatened and endangered species potentially occurring within the proposed project area. According to the USFWS IPaC tool, seven federally listed or proposed species have the potential to occur at the project location. After assessing the project area for suitable habitat, Wilson determined that two species, the monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*) and the Ute ladies'-tresses (*Spiranthes diluvialis*) may have habitat present. Monarchs depend

on milkweed vegetation, which is present along the Steinaker Service Canal. Ute ladies'-tresses depend on consistent moisture, which is unlikely in the project area.

For further consideration, the proposed project would occur within the existing access road or within existing ROW with only short-term impacts in both. Construction of the proposed project may create short-term disturbances to the vegetation immediately around the existing road surface and canal. Construction activities could temporarily displace fauna from short-term noise increases.

5.0 References

Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS). National Cooperative Soil Survey, Web Soil Survey and Digital Aerial Photographs, Howard County. US Department of Agriculture, 2012. Accessed from: http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/HomePage.htm

NatureServe Explorer, Accessed from https://explorer.natureserve.org

US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) Wetlands Online Mapper, National Wetland Inventory (NWI) Layer. Accessed from: http://www.fws.gov/wetlands/Data/Mapper.html

United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). (2021). Environmental Conservation Online System (ECOS). Accessed from: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/

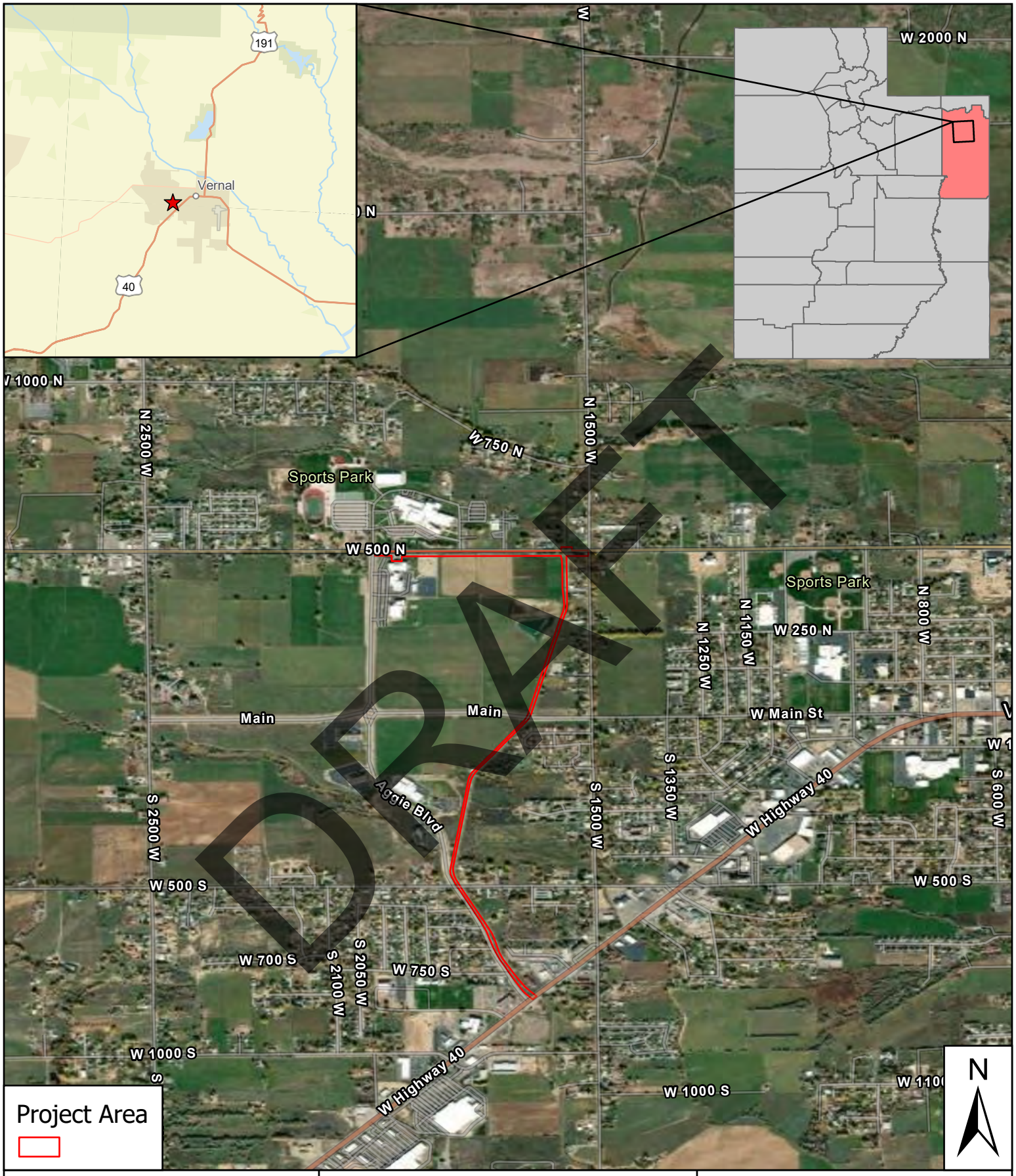
United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) (n.d.). Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC). Accessed from: https://ecos.fws.gov/ipac/

USGS Topographic 7.5-minute Map, USGS Quads. Accessed from: http://topozone.com/map

Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, Utah Species Field Guide.
Accessed from: https://fieldguide.wildlife.utah.gov/

Utah Native Plant Society, Utah Rare Plant Guide.
Accessed from: https://utahrareplants.org/rpg_species

Appendix A – Project Maps



0 2,000 4,000 Feet

1 inch = 2,000 feet

Reference Layer: ESRI Aerial, ESRI Streets

Figure 1. General Vicinity

Steinaker Service Canal Trail
UDOT PIN 21890

Vernal, Uintah County, Utah

WILSON & COMPANY

Created By: Dalton Kidder
Reviewed By: Peter Steele

6/24/2025

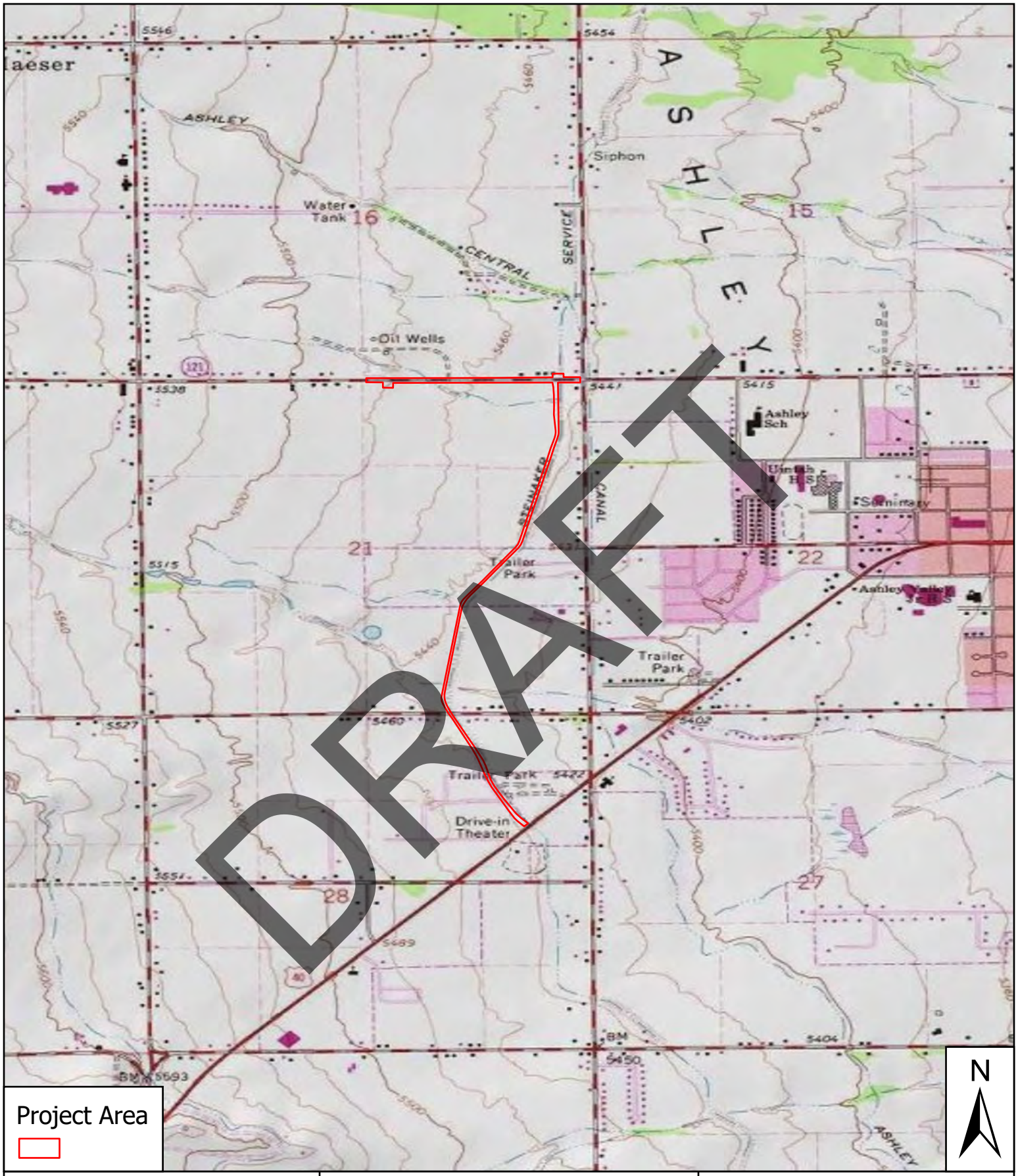


Figure 2. USGS 1: 24,000
Vernal NE, UT Quadrangle

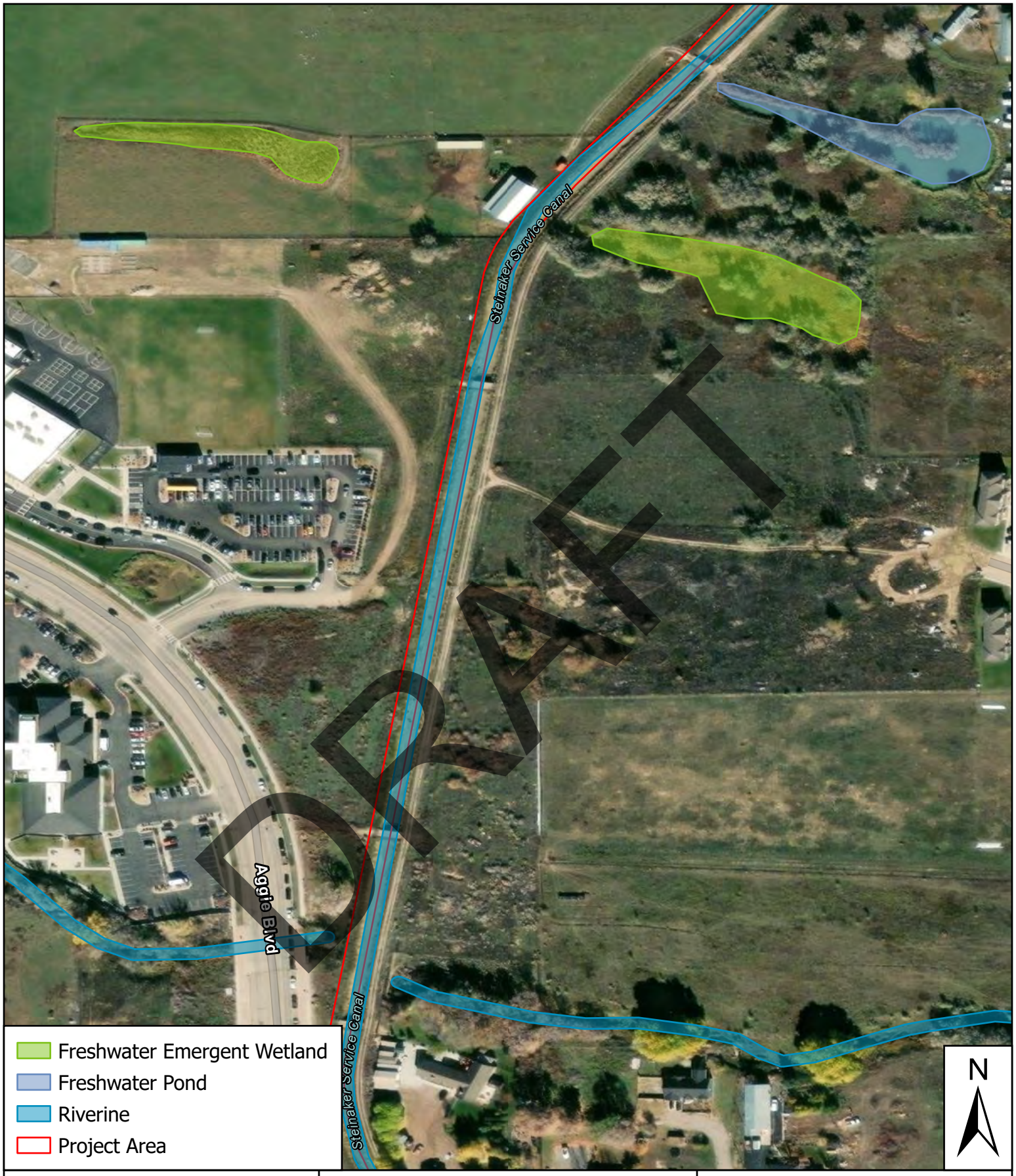
Steinaker Service Canal Trail
UDOT PIN 21890

Vernal, Uintah County, Utah

WILSON & COMPANY

Created By: Dalton Kidder
Reviewed By: Peter Steele

6/24/2025



0 225 450 Feet

1 inch = 225 feet

Reference Layer: Esri Aerial

Figure 3. NWI with study area (1)

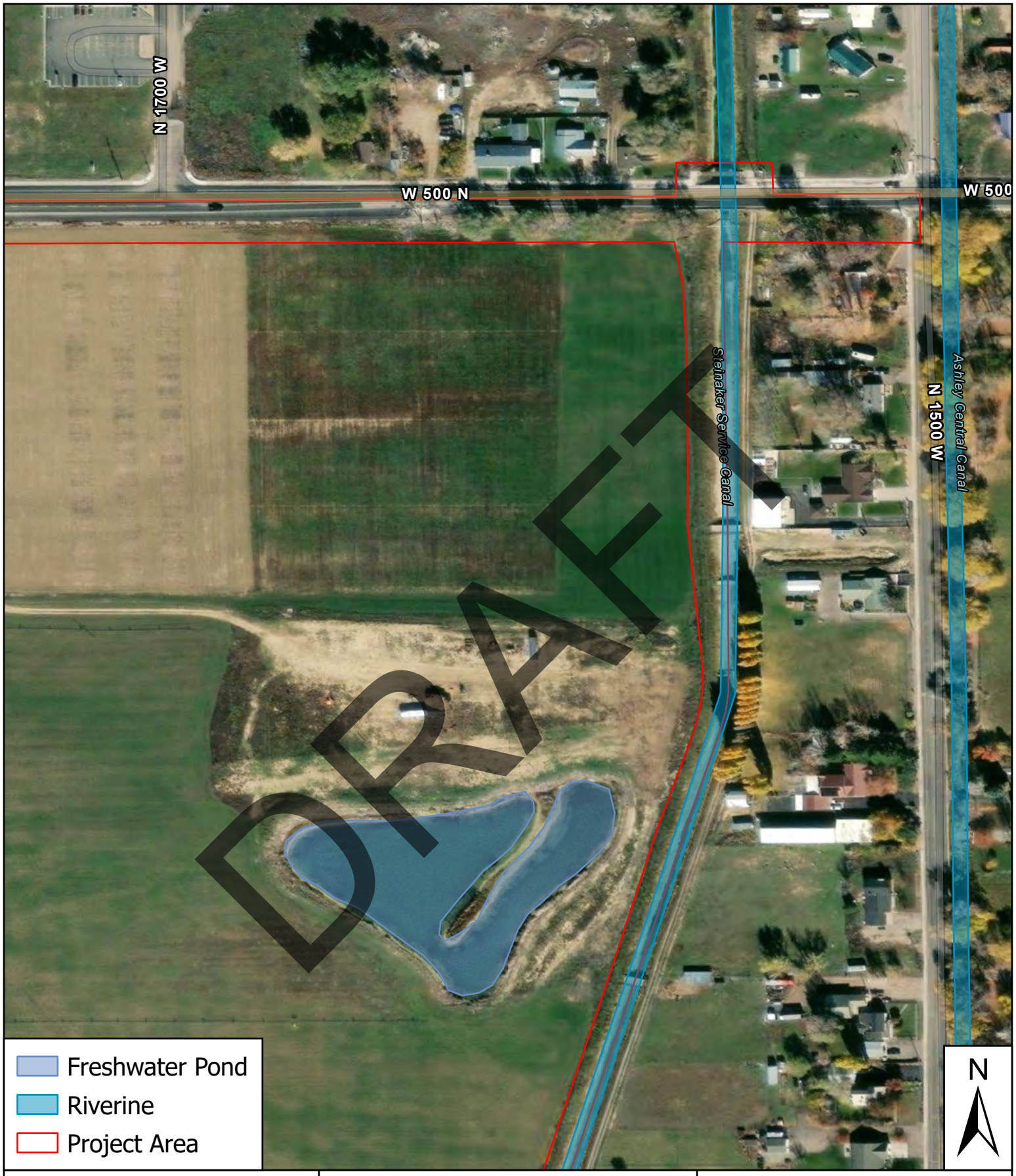
Steinaker Service Canal Trail
UDOT PIN 21890

Vernal, Uintah County, Utah

WILSON & COMPANY

Created By: Dalton Kidder
Reviewed By: Peter Steele

6/24/2025



0 225 450 Feet

1 inch = 225 feet

Reference Layer: Esri Aerial

Figure 4. NWI with study area (2)

Steinaker Service Canal Trail
UDOT PIN 21890

Vernal, Uintah County, Utah

WILSON & COMPANY

Created By: Dalton Kidder
Reviewed By: Peter Steele

6/24/2025

Appendix B – USFWS IPaC Official Species List

United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Utah Ecological Services Field Office
2369 West Orton Circle, Suite 50
West Valley City, UT 84119-7603
Phone: (801) 975-3330 Fax: (801) 975-3331

In Reply Refer To: 04/17/2025 15:43:34 UTC
Project Code: 2025-0084682
Project Name: Steinaker Service Canal Trail

Subject: List of threatened and endangered species that may occur in your proposed project location or may be affected by your proposed project

To Whom It May Concern:

The enclosed species list identifies threatened, endangered, proposed, and candidate species, as well as proposed and final designated critical habitat, that may occur within the boundary of your proposed project and/or may be affected by your proposed project. The species list fulfills the requirements of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) under section 7(c) of the Endangered Species Act (Act) of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*).

New information based on updated surveys, changes in the abundance and distribution of species, changed habitat conditions, or other factors could change this list. Please feel free to contact us if you need more current information or assistance regarding the potential impacts to federally proposed, listed, and candidate species and federally designated and proposed critical habitat. Please note that under 50 CFR 402.12(e) of the regulations implementing section 7 of the Act, the accuracy of this species list should be verified after 90 days. This verification can be completed formally or informally as desired. The Service recommends that verification be completed by visiting the IPaC website at regular intervals during project planning and implementation for updates to species lists and information. An updated list may be requested through the IPaC system by completing the same process used to receive the enclosed list.

The purpose of the Act is to provide a means whereby threatened and endangered species and the ecosystems upon which they depend may be conserved. Under sections 7(a)(1) and 7(a)(2) of the Act and its implementing regulations (50 CFR 402 *et seq.*), Federal agencies are required to utilize their authorities to carry out programs for the conservation of threatened and endangered species and to determine whether projects may affect threatened and endangered species and/or designated critical habitat.

A Biological Assessment is required for construction projects (or other undertakings having similar physical impacts) that are major Federal actions significantly affecting the quality of the human environment as defined in the National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 4332(2)(c)). For projects other than major construction activities, the Service suggests that a biological

evaluation similar to a Biological Assessment be prepared to determine whether the project may affect listed or proposed species and/or designated or proposed critical habitat. Recommended contents of a Biological Assessment are described at 50 CFR 402.12.

If a Federal agency determines, based on the Biological Assessment or biological evaluation, that listed species and/or designated critical habitat may be affected by the proposed project, the agency is required to consult with the Service pursuant to 50 CFR 402. In addition, the Service recommends that candidate species, proposed species and proposed critical habitat be addressed within the consultation. More information on the regulations and procedures for section 7 consultation, including the role of permit or license applicants, can be found in the "Endangered Species Consultation Handbook" at:

https://www.fws.gov/sites/default/files/documents/endangered-species-consultation-handbook.pdf

Migratory Birds: In addition to responsibilities to protect threatened and endangered species under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), there are additional responsibilities under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (BGEPA) to protect native birds from project-related impacts. Any activity, intentional or unintentional, resulting in take of migratory birds, including eagles, is prohibited unless otherwise permitted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (50 C.F.R. Sec. 10.12 and 16 U.S.C. Sec. 668(a)). For more information regarding these Acts, see https://www.fws.gov/program/migratory-bird-permit/what-we-do.

The MBTA has no provision for allowing take of migratory birds that may be unintentionally killed or injured by otherwise lawful activities. It is the responsibility of the project proponent to comply with these Acts by identifying potential impacts to migratory birds and eagles within applicable NEPA documents (when there is a federal nexus) or a Bird/Eagle Conservation Plan (when there is no federal nexus). Proponents should implement conservation measures to avoid or minimize the production of project-related stressors or minimize the exposure of birds and their resources to the project-related stressors. For more information on avian stressors and recommended conservation measures, see https://www.fws.gov/library/collections/threats-birds.

In addition to MBTA and BGEPA, Executive Order 13186: *Responsibilities of Federal Agencies to Protect Migratory Birds*, obligates all Federal agencies that engage in or authorize activities that might affect migratory birds, to minimize those effects and encourage conservation measures that will improve bird populations. Executive Order 13186 provides for the protection of both migratory birds and migratory bird habitat. For information regarding the implementation of Executive Order 13186, please visit https://www.fws.gov/partner/council-conservation-migratory-birds.

We appreciate your concern for threatened and endangered species. The Service encourages Federal agencies to include conservation of threatened and endangered species into their project planning to further the purposes of the Act. Please include the Consultation Code in the header of this letter with any request for consultation or correspondence about your project that you submit to our office.

Attachment(s):

- Official Species List

OFFICIAL SPECIES LIST

This list is provided pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, and fulfills the requirement for Federal agencies to "request of the Secretary of the Interior information whether any species which is listed or proposed to be listed may be present in the area of a proposed action".

This species list is provided by:

Utah Ecological Services Field Office
2369 West Orton Circle, Suite 50
West Valley City, UT 84119-7603
(801) 975-3330

PROJECT SUMMARY

Project Code: 2025-0084682
Project Name: Steinaker Service Canal Trail
Project Type: Recreation - New Construction
Project Description: Conversion of access road to ped trail
Project Location:

The approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: https://www.google.com/maps/@40.4530218,-109.56242763521013,14z

Counties: Uintah County, Utah

ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT SPECIES

There is a total of 7 threatened, endangered, or candidate species on this species list.

Species on this list should be considered in an effects analysis for your project and could include species that exist in another geographic area. For example, certain fish may appear on the species list because a project could affect downstream species. Note that 4 of these species should be considered only under certain conditions.

IPaC does not display listed species or critical habitats under the sole jurisdiction of NOAA Fisheries[1], as USFWS does not have the authority to speak on behalf of NOAA and the Department of Commerce.

See the "Critical habitats" section below for those critical habitats that lie wholly or partially within your project area under this office's jurisdiction. Please contact the designated FWS office if you have questions.

---

1. NOAA Fisheries, also known as the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), is an office of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration within the Department of Commerce.

FISHES

NAME STATUS

Bonytail *Gila elegans* Endangered

There is **final** critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat.
This species only needs to be considered under the following conditions:

- Water depletions in the upper Colorado River basin adversely affect this species and its critical habitat. Effects of water depletions must be considered even outside of occupied range.

Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1377

Colorado Pikeminnow *Ptychocheilus lucius* Endangered

Population: Wherever found, except where listed as an experimental population
There is **final** critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat.
This species only needs to be considered under the following conditions:

- Water depletions in the upper Colorado River basin adversely affect this species and its critical habitat. Effects of water depletions must be considered even outside of occupied range.

Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/3531

Humpback Chub *Gila cypha* Threatened

There is **final** critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat.
This species only needs to be considered under the following conditions:

- Water depletions in the upper Colorado River basin adversely affect this species and its critical habitat. Effects of water depletions must be considered even outside of occupied range.

Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/3930

Razorback Sucker *Xyrauchen texanus* Endangered

There is **final** critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat.
This species only needs to be considered under the following conditions:

- Water depletions in the upper Colorado River basin adversely affect this species and its critical habitat. Effects of water depletions must be considered even outside of occupied range.

Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/530

INSECTS

NAME STATUS

Monarch Butterfly *Danaus plexippus* Proposed Threatened

There is **proposed** critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat.
Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9743

Suckley's Cuckoo Bumble Bee *Bombus suckleyi* Proposed Endangered

Population:
No critical habitat has been designated for this species.
Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/10885

FLOWERING PLANTS

NAME	STATUS
Ute Ladies'-tresses *Spiranthes diluvialis*	Threatened

No critical habitat has been designated for this species.
Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/2159

CRITICAL HABITATS

THERE ARE NO CRITICAL HABITATS WITHIN YOUR PROJECT AREA UNDER THIS OFFICE'S JURISDICTION.

YOU ARE STILL REQUIRED TO DETERMINE IF YOUR PROJECT(S) MAY HAVE EFFECTS ON ALL ABOVE LISTED SPECIES.

IPAC USER CONTACT INFORMATION

Agency: Utah Department of Transportation
Name: Dalton Kidder
Address: 4065 St. Cloud Dr.
City: Loveland
State: CO
Zip: 80538
Email dalton.kidder@wilsonco.com
Phone: 9705516923

Appendix C – Utah Natural Heritage Program Species Report

Utah Division of Wildlife Resources
1594 W. North Temple
Salt Lake City, UT 84116
(801) 538-4700, wildlife.utah.gov

WHAT
WILDLIFE HABITAT ANALYSIS TOOL

Report Number: dak_17112

Report Date: 2025-04-17 11:24:02

Steinaker Trail

Location: Vernal. UT
Description: Upgrading access road by canal to pedestrian trail

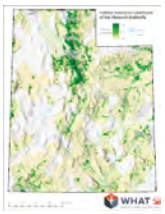
Project Area of Interest with a half-mile and two-mile radius.

Half-Mile Radius

Species Name	Scientific Name	UWAP Status	ESA Status	Last Reported Date	SDHM
Hamilton's Milkvetch	*Astragalus hamiltonii*	SGCN	None	1995-01-01 00:00:00	
Ute Ladies' Tresses	*Spiranthes diluvialis*	SGCN	LT	1997-08-31 00:00:00	

Species Name	Scientific Name	UWAP Status	ESA Status	Last Reported Date	SDHM
White-tailed Prairie Dog	*Cynomys leucurus*	SGCN	None	2002-SUM	

Two-Mile Radius

Species Name	Scientific Name	UWAP Status	ESA Status	Last Reported Date	SDHM
Large Marble Butterfly	*Euchloe ausonides*	SGCN	None	2014-05-01	
Monarch butterfly	*Danaus plexippus*	SGCN	None	2022-06-21	 Full View
	Bombus griseocollis	None	None	2022-06-30	
Niobrara Ambersnail	*Oxyloma haydeni*	None	None	1942-PRE	
Nokomis Fritillary	*Speyeria nokomis*	None	None	1968-08-19	
California Myotis	*Myotis californicus*	None	None	1983-08-15	
Creeping Bentgrass	*Agrostis stolonifera*	None	None	2020-09-03 17:35:56	

Species Name	Scientific Name	UWAP Status	ESA Status	Last Reported Date	SDHM
Creeping Spikerush	*Eleocharis palustris*	None	None	2020-09-03 17:35:56	
Field Horsetail	*Equisetum arvense*	None	None	2020-09-03 17:19:11	
Uinta Basin Springparsley	*Cymopterus duchesnensis*	None	None	1976-05-08 00:00:00	
Hamilton's Milkvetch	*Astragalus hamiltonii*	SGCN	None	1995-01-01 00:00:00	
Ute Ladies' Tresses	*Spiranthes diluvialis*	SGCN	LT	2020-09-03 17:54:29	
Blue Grosbeak	*Passerina caerulea*	None	None	1951-08-04	
Western Yellow-billed Cuckoo	*Coccyzus americanus occidentalis*	SGCN	LT	1985-10-18	
Black-footed Ferret	*Mustela nigripes*	SGCN	LE; XN	1984-07-14	
Greater Sage-grouse	*Centrocercus urophasianus*	SGCN	None	1984-PRE	
Golden Eagle	*Aquila chrysaetos*	SGCN	None	2007-05-07	
White-tailed Prairie Dog	*Cynomys leucurus*	SGCN	None	2002-SUM	

Species Name	Scientific Name	UWAP Status	ESA Status	Last Reported Date	SDHM
Midget Faded Rattlesnake	*Crotalus oreganus concolor*	SGCN	None	1947-08-10	
Band-tailed Pigeon	*Patagioenas fasciata*	SGIN	None	2004-05-14	

Definitions

State Status	
SGCN, SGIN	Species of greatest conservation need (SGCN) or the special subcategory, species of greatest Information need (SGIN), are listed in the Utah Wildlife Action Plan (UWAP) and also included in the Utah Field Guide
U.S. Endangered Species Act	
LE	A taxon that is listed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as "endangered" with the probability of worldwide extinction
LT	A taxon that is listed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as "threatened" with becoming endangered
LE;XN	An "endangered" taxon that is considered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to be "experimental and nonessential" in its designated use areas in Utah
C	A taxon for which the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has on file sufficient information on biological vulnerability and threats to justify it being a "candidate" for listing as endangered or threatened
PT/PE	A taxon "proposed" to be listed as "endangered" or "threatened" by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Species Distribution and Habitat Suitability Models

Species distribution and habitat suitability models (SDHMs) can inform wildlife management decisions such as habitat protection, enhancement, and restoration. They may also help assess environmental impacts by identifying species' habitats. When reevaluating SDHMs with new information, they can help identify or track changes or trends in habitat quality. SDHMs assess habitats' spatial arrangement and connectivity, identify crucial habitats, or describe the environmental conditions a species selects. SDHMs provide an understanding of the impacts of invasive species spread and identify suitable areas for species translocations/re-introductions.

SDHMs show a predicted suitable habitat for a species based on various biotic and abiotic environmental factors. These models may be useful for statewide evaluation but should not be considered verified species presence or absence. Field survey information should be utilized to verify the presence or absence of taxa when making species-specific decisions.

Models produced by the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources (DWR) were conducted using a blend of Generalized Linear Models, Generalized Additive Models, Random Forest Models, Boosted Regression Tree Models, and Maximum Entropy Models.

Mitigation Strategies

Typical recommendations to consider and help guide project activities to avoid, minimize or mitigate impacts on wildlife and their habitats from project disturbances are displayed below for some wildlife species found within/near your project area.

Common Name	Strategy
Golden Eagle	Avoid disturbance within 0.5 miles from nest Feb. 1 - Aug. 15
mule deer	Avoid disturbance in crucial winter habitats Dec. 1 - Apr. 15 and crucial summer range during fawning May 15 - July 15. Avoid, minimize or mitigate impacts from large-scale development that occur within crucial elk habitats. Voluntary mitigation is recommended at a 4:1 ratio, meaning 4 acres of improved or conserved habitat for every 1 acre of disturbance.

The DWR understands that mitigation strategies might conflict. Please reach out to DWR staff to develop strategies to minimize impacts on wildlife while still achieving project goals. Your project is located in the following UDWR region(s):

DWR Region Full Name	Regional Phone	Impact Analysis Biologist	Email	Phone
Northeastern Region	435-781-9453	Tom Platero	tdplatero@utah.gov	435-219-3557

Wildlife Action Plan

The Utah Wildlife Action Plan (UWAP) is Utah's guiding document for native species conservation. The DWR encourages parties to use the UWAP in their environmental planning, as it provides a conservation framework to prevent future listings under the ESA.

Disclaimer

The information provided in this report is based on data existing in the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources' central database at the time of the request. It should not be regarded as a final statement on the occurrence of any species on or near the designated site, nor should it be considered a substitute for on-the-ground biological surveys. Moreover, because the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources' central database is continually updated, any given response is only appropriate for its respective request.

The Utah DWR provides no warranty nor accepts any liability occurring from any incorrect, incomplete, or misleading data or from any incorrect, incomplete, or misleading use of these data.

The results include a query of species tracked by the Utah Natural Heritage Program and Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, which includes all species listed under the U.S. Endangered Species Act, species in the Utah Wildlife Action Plan, and other species. Other significant wildlife values might also be present on the designated site.

For additional information about species listed under the Endangered Species Act and their Critical Habitats that may be affected by activities in this area or for information about Section 7 consultation under the Endangered Species Act, please visit https://ecos.fws.gov/ipac/ or contact the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Utah Ecological Services Field Office at (801) 975-3330 or utahfieldoffice_esa@fws.gov.

The "Not For Consultation" watermark is meant to inform users that this tool is not a substitute for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) environmental review process. While this tool provides courtesy information on ESA species for context, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is the authority on Information for Planning and Consultation Endangered Species Act Reviews. Additionally, the Wildlife Habitat Analysis Tool provides information to assist in analysis but does not replace coordination and consultation with Utah Division of Wildlife Resource biologists who can often serve as an expert resource for site-specific information.

Supplemental Data

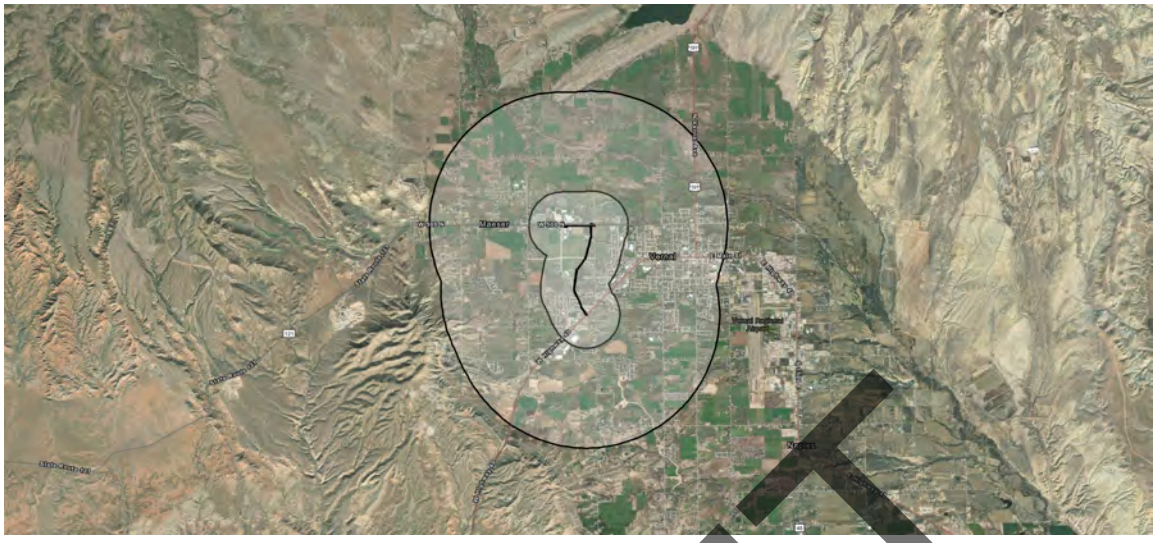
Unmapped Corridors

Unmodeled Corridors: Absent

Wildlife Habitat Information

Species	Season	Value	Comments
California Quail	year-long	crucial	
Mule Deer	year-long	crucial	Fawning habitat.
Mule Deer	year-long	substantial	
Ring-Necked Pheasant	year-long	crucial	

Mule Deer Habitat



Comments	Season	Species	Value
Fawning habitat.	year-long	Mule Deer	crucial
	year-long	Mule Deer	substantial

Report Generated For

Name: Dalton Kidder
Organization: Wilson & Company, Inc., Engineers & Architects
Email: dalton.kidder@wilsonco.com
Phone: (970)-551-6923

End of Report

Thank you for using the Utah Wildlife Habitat Analysis tool. Feel free to reach out to the department for additional information or assistance.

Prepared by

WILSON & COMPANY
HIGHER RELATIONSHIPS

10813 South River Front Parkway, Suite 475
Salt Lake City, UT 84095
801-364-3164

July 1, 2025

Memorandum

To: Rich Crosland
UDOT Region Three Environmental Manger

From: Ron Steiner 12:54 pm, Jul 01 2025
UDOT Natural Resource Specialist

Subject: **Environmental Review for Aquatic Resources and Noxious Weed Species**
Steinaker Service Canal Trail
Pin 17068, S-TRO3(2)

Project Purpose, Description and Scope of Work:

The Utah Department of Transportation (UDOT) has proposed a trail construction project in Vernal, Utah. This project will construct a 1.9-mile shared use path from 500 North (SR-121) to US-40 in Vernal. The path will follow a portion of the Steinaker Service Canal, as well as a segment of 500 North, and connect to a local school, senior citizens center, and office plaza. The project includes the following:

- *Installation of shared use path along the south side of 500 North*
- *Conversion of access road on the west side of Steinaker Canal to shared use path*
- *Installation of pedestrian bridge over Steinaker Canal on the south side of 500 North*

The above referenced project has been reviewed within the proposed project limits by Dalton Kidder of Wilson and Company (June 25, 2025 Memo), a hired consultant, and UDOT Environmental for the following categories of resources identified in the Environmental Study. UDOT provides the following recommendations for the proposed project.

Water Resources and Wetlands:

The project has been evaluated for waters of the U.S. (WOTUS) including wetlands regulated by U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Army Corps), under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act and other waters under the jurisdiction of the State of Utah as part of the State Alteration Permit Program. An initial desktop analysis of current USGS topographic maps, aerial imagery and National Wetland Inventory (NWI) maps within and adjacent to the project.

The project crosses Steinaker Canal limits have been mapped and no other WOTUS or wetland habitat was identified. Water flowing within the canal may be considered

UTAH DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
210 West 800 South, Richfield, UT 84701
(541) 808-7741 | rlsteiner@utah.gov

potentially jurisdictional water by the Army Corps. The canal would not be considered a natural stream by the State of Utah.

The structure will be replaced outside of April -October, so that construction activities occur during low or no flows, and outside of irrigation season. No CWA requirements are needed due to working outside of active irrigation season. There is no requirement to comply with the State of Utah Stream Alteration Permit because the canal is not considered a natural stream.

Mitigation Commitments:

- *None*

Utah Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (UPDES):

This project will disturb more than one (1) acre of earth and therefore is required to comply with the Utah Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (UPDES) Utah Construction General Permit (CGP).

Mitigation Commitments:

- *Comply with CGP, by preparing the Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) during project design; provide SWPPP to the project awarded contractor before Notice to Proceed. (Awarded Designer)*
- *Comply with CGP, by finalizing the SWPPP before beginning any earth disturbing activities and submit Notice of Intent (NOI); implement and maintain the project SWPPP according to CGP requirements throughout project construction. (Awarded Contractor)*

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Floodplains:

FEMA Floodplain maps within the project area do show a Special Flood Hazard Areas (SFHA). Work within the mapped SFHA floodplain is required to obtain a floodplain development permit from the Local Floodplain Authority.

Mitigation Commitments:

- *Before construction begins, coordinate with the Local Floodplain Authority to apply for and obtain a Floodplain Development Permit. (Awarded Designer)*
- *Comply with the Floodplain Development Permit throughout project construction. (Awarded Contractor)*

Noxious Weed Species:

The project will disturb the earth. To minimize the introduction and spread of noxious weeds, construction equipment must be cleaned before arriving on site, in accordance with UDOT Standard Section 01355 (ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE).

Mitigation Commitments:

- *None*

Memorandum

To: Ron Steiner, Utah Department of Transportation

From: Dalton Kidder, Biologist

CC: Peter Steele, Rocky Mountain Practice Lead

Date: 6/25/2025

Re: PIN 21890, PN S-TR03(2), Steinaker Service Canal Trail – Waters of the US Memorandum

---

The purpose of this memorandum is to 1) identify the presence of potential waters of the U.S. (WOTUS), including wetlands, in the study area; 2) evaluate the effects of the proposed project, if any, on these resources; and 3) request UDOT's review of the findings herein.

Project Description

The Utah Department of Transportation (UDOT) has proposed a trail construction project in Vernal, Utah. This project will construct a 1.9-mile shared use path from 500 North (SR-121) to US-40 in Vernal. The path will follow a portion of the Steinaker Service Canal, as well as a segment of 500 North, and connect to a local school, senior citizens center, and office plaza. The project includes the following:

- Installation of shared use path along the south side of 500 North
- Conversion of access road on the west side of Steinaker Canal to shared use path
- Installation of pedestrian bridge over Steinaker Canal on the south side of 500 North

Evaluation Sources

The study area has been reviewed for potential WOTUS, including wetlands. A desktop evaluation for water resource features was conducted using aerial imagery, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service National Wetlands Inventory data, and the FEMA Flood Map Service Center. The proposed project location consists of the south side of 500 North (entirely within right-of-way (ROW)) and the west side of Steinaker Canal. A jurisdictional determination from the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers was not obtained, as it was not necessary due to the lack of resources.

1. Evaluation
    a. Study Area Setting

The project occurs along Steinaker Canal and 500 North in Uintah County, Utah. Recent (2023) aerial images show that land use in the vicinity of the project is a mixture of developed and agricultural land. The elevation of the project area ranges from 5,446 feet (1,660 meters) to 5,470 feet (1,667 meters) above mean sea level. Vegetation consists of typical managed, suburban ROW flora, with grasses, weeds, and milkweed (Asclepias spp.) lining the canal. Data obtained from the NRCS was used to determine the soil series within the project area. The project area is composed of several different soil types. The most prevalent are: Turzo-Umbo complex with 0 to 2 percent slopes (40.7% of project area), Umbo clay loam with 0 to 2 percent slopes (20.9% of project area), and Wyasket loam with 0 to 2 percent slopes (20.2% of project area) (NRCS, 2025). The soil types found in the Action Area have a slow infiltration rate when thoroughly wet and a slow rate of water

transmission. (NRCS, 2025). The Wyasket loam is the only soil type in the Action Area that is hydric. The Umbo Clay loam and the Wyasket loam are the only soil types in the Action Area classified as Not Prime Farmland (NRCS, 2025).

b. Wetlands and Waters of the U.S., Other Water Resources

The area within the project vicinity was mapped on the National Wetlands Inventory (NWI). According to the database, while some wetlands exist in proximity to the proposed project area, none are found within. The NWI identifies Steinaker Canal as a Riverine resource (see Figure 2 & 3). The proposed project location does not overlap with any of the wetland resources and no impacts to them are anticipated. While the project does overlap with Steinaker Canal, it overlaps only where the pedestrian bridge will be constructed. The bridge is planned to be constructed between October and April, when there will be no water in the canal, and as a result, impacts to the Steinaker Canal are not anticipated.

Section 73-3-29 of the Utah Code requires any governmental agency or other organization wishing to alter the bed or banks of a natural streams to obtain written authorization from the State Engineer. This project does not involve any alterations to the bed or bank of any aquatic resources.

c. Stormwater

The construction of this project will disturb over one acre of ground.

d. Floodplains

The majority of the project area along Steinaker Canal is in FEMA Flood Hazard Zone A, with a 1% annual chance of flooding (100-year flood) (See Figure 4).

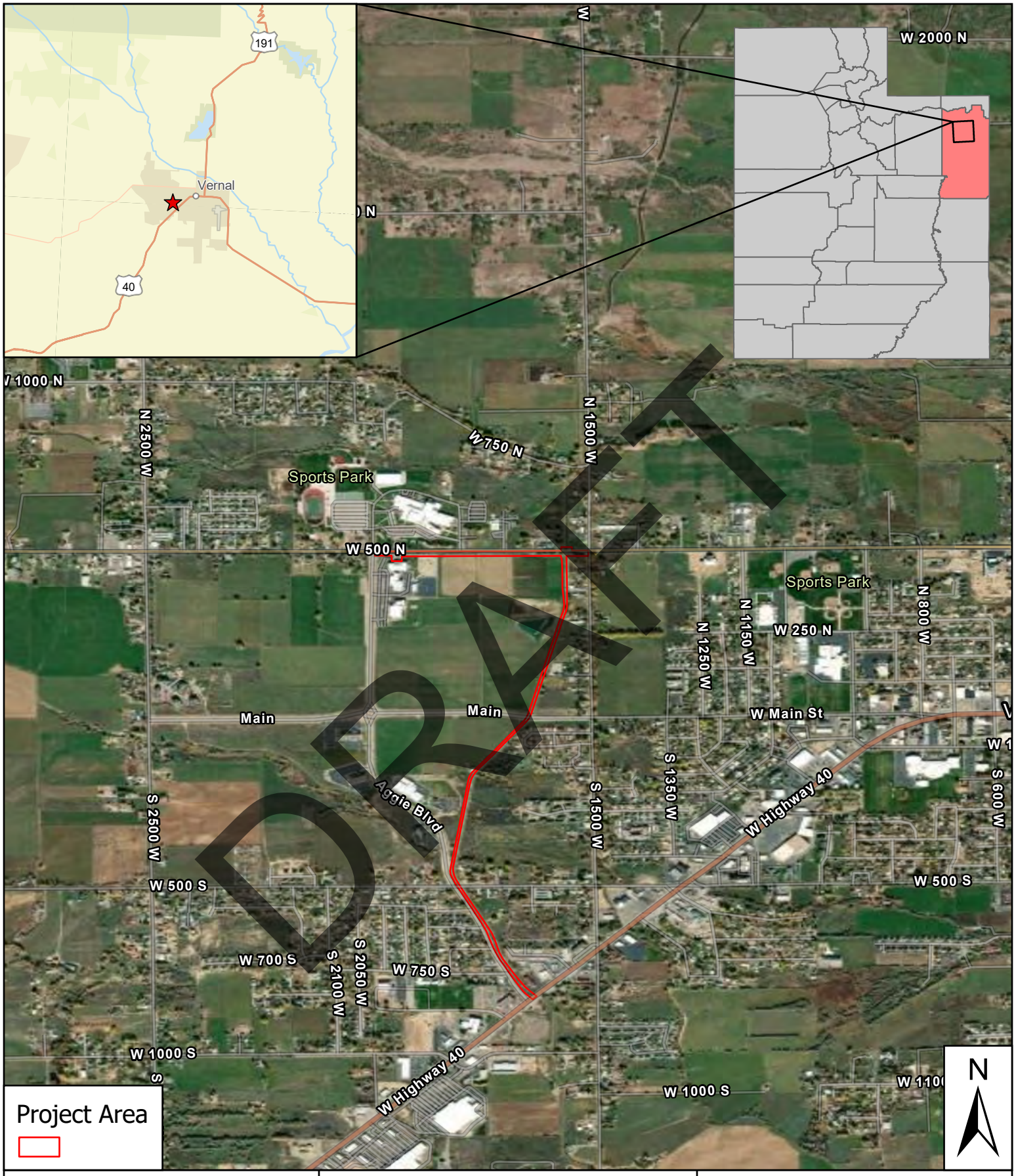
e. Noxious Weeds

This project includes earthwork, which has the potential to introduce noxious weeds.

If additional information or clarification is needed regarding this assessment, please contact me at dalton.kidder@wilsonco.com.

Sincerely,

Dalton Kidder
Biologist



0 2,000 4,000 Feet

1 inch = 2,000 feet

Reference Layer: ESRI Aerial, ESRI Streets

Figure 1. General Vicinity

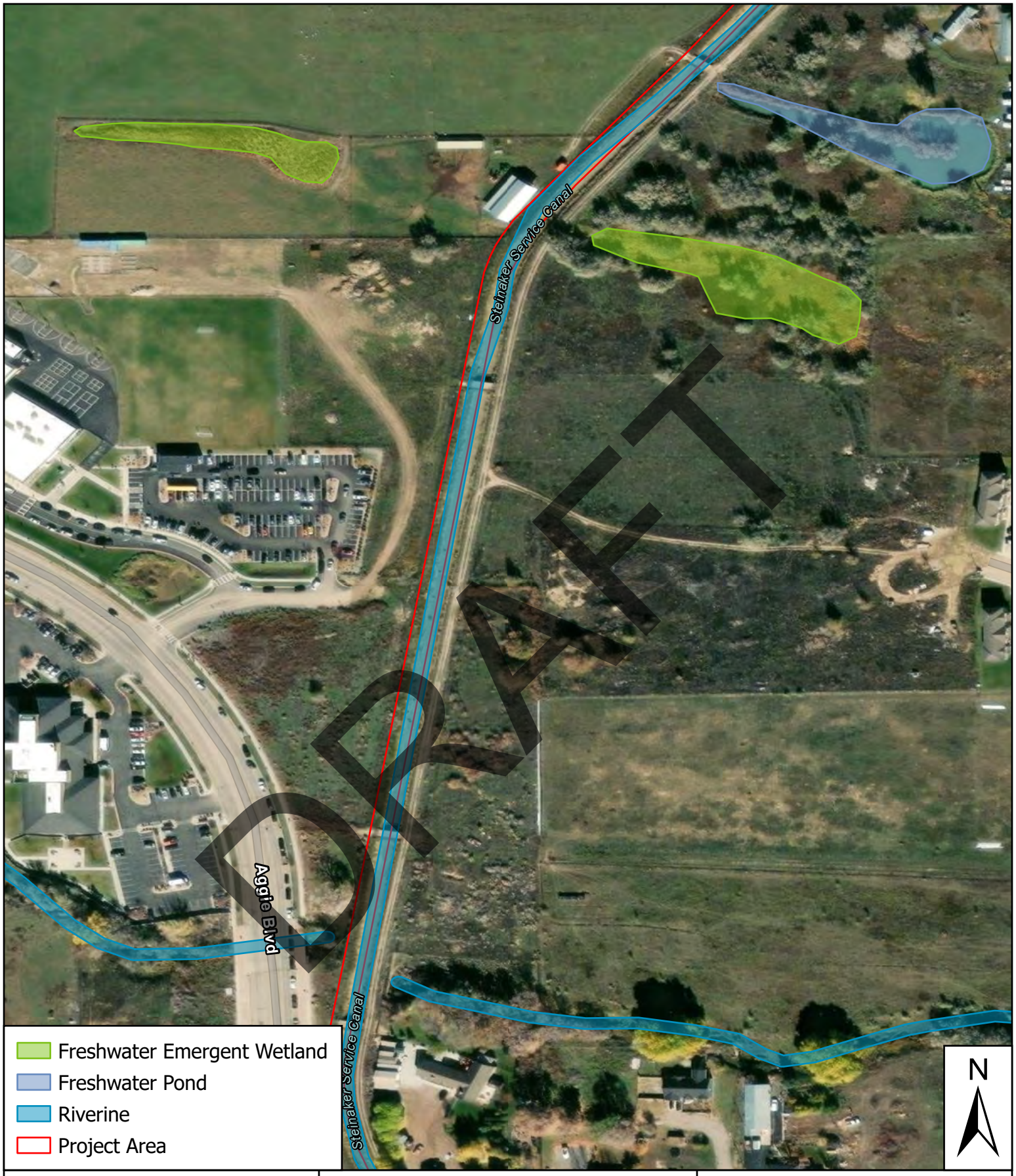
Steinaker Service Canal Trail
UDOT PIN 21890

Vernal, Uintah County, Utah

WILSON & COMPANY

Created By: Dalton Kidder
Reviewed By: Peter Steele

6/25/2025



0 225 450 Feet

1 inch = 225 feet

Reference Layer: Esri Aerial

Figure 2. NWI with study area (1)

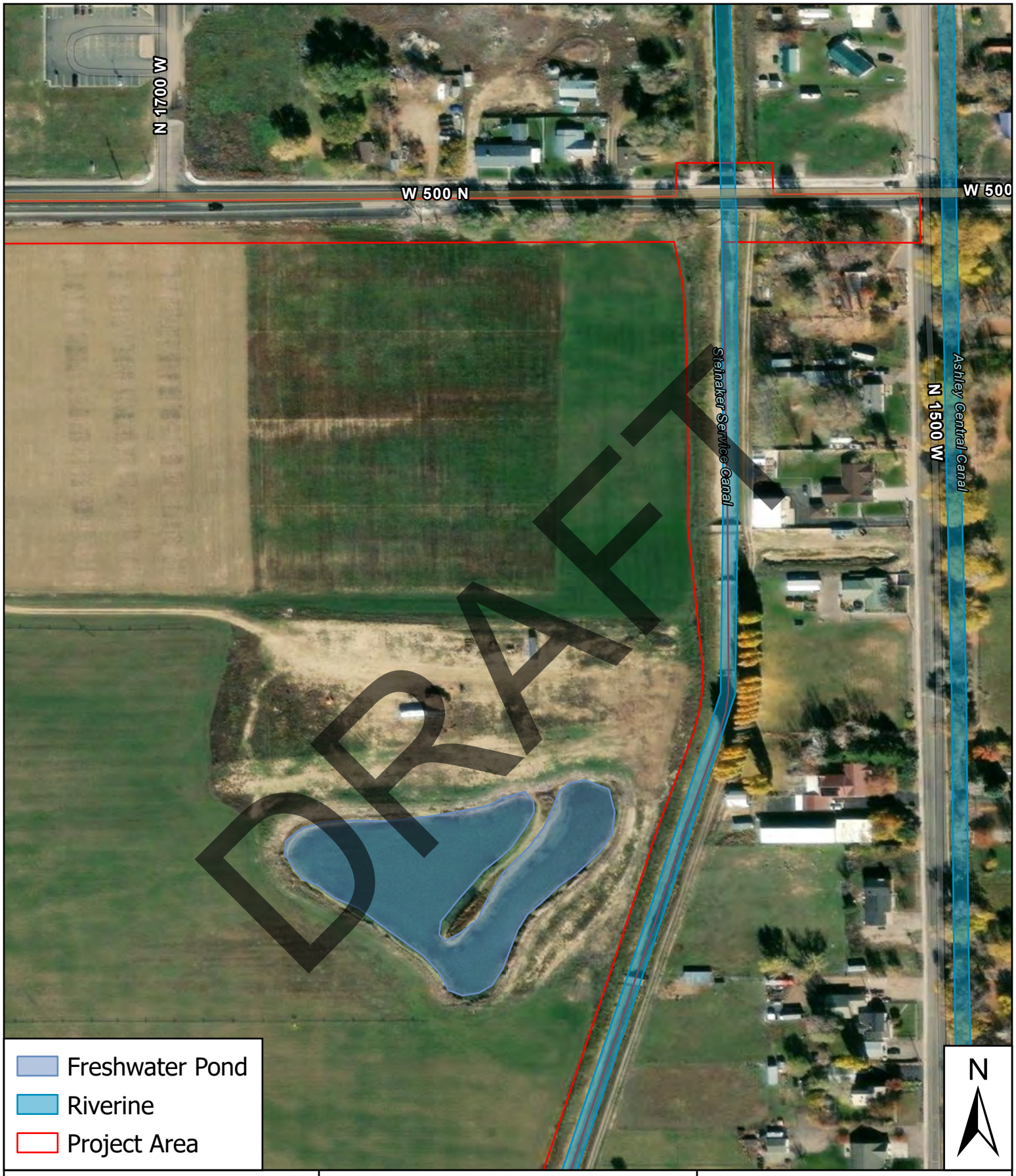
Steinaker Service Canal Trail
UDOT PIN 21890

Vernal, Uintah County, Utah

WILSON & COMPANY

Created By: Dalton Kidder
Reviewed By: Peter Steele

6/25/2025



0 225 450 Feet

1 inch = 225 feet

Reference Layer: Esri Aerial

Figure 3. NWI with study area (2)

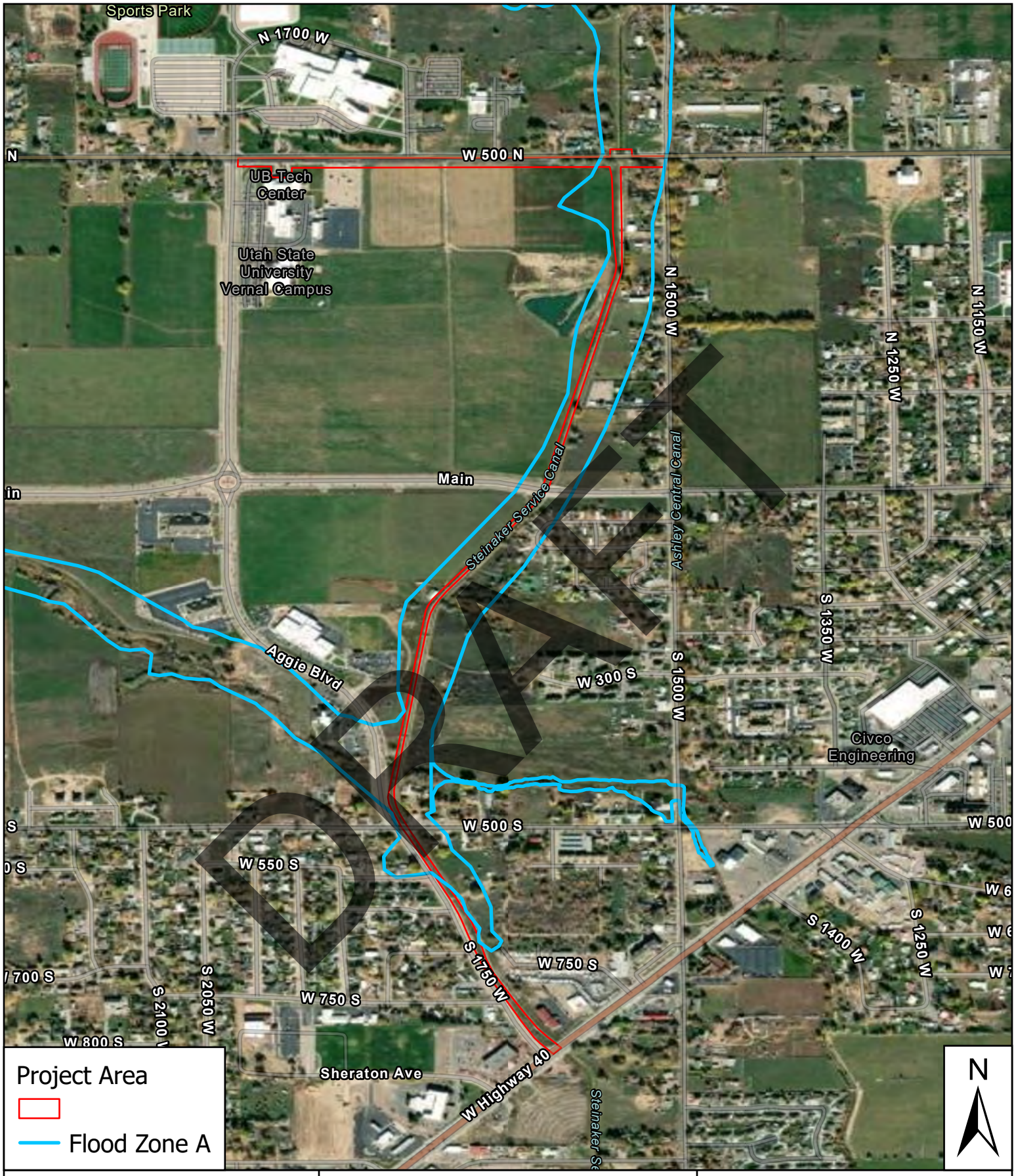
Steinaker Service Canal Trail
UDOT PIN 21890

Vernal, Uintah County, Utah

WILSON & COMPANY

Created By: Dalton Kidder
Reviewed By: Peter Steele

6/25/2025



0 1,000 2,000 Feet

1 inch = 1,000 feet

Reference Layer: ESRI Aerial

Figure 4. FEMA Floodplain

Steinaker Service Canal Trail
UDOT PIN 21890

Vernal, Uintah County, Utah

WILSON & COMPANY

Created By: Dalton Kidder
Reviewed By: Peter Steele

6/25/2025