

DPA J21 – Existing Environmental and Engineering Conditions Overview

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Environmental Conditions

NEPA impacts on your project will depend on your plan. For this specific DPA, the following should be considered. This list is not meant to be exhaustive, but suggestive.

Please note that links were current as of the date of public posting of this document but may have changed.

Section 106 Resources

- There are **no** National Historic Trails that intersect the DPA
- There is one National Register of Historic Places resource within the DPA
- 10 Tribes have interest in Cherry and Sheridan Counties
 - o Apache Tribe of Oklahoma
 - o Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe of the Cheyenne River Reservation, South Dakota
 - o Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes, Oklahoma
 - o Crow Creek Sioux Tribe of the Crow Creek Reservation, South Dakota
 - o Lower Brule Sioux Tribe of the Lower Brule Reservation, South Dakota
 - o Oglala Sioux Tribe
 - o Pawnee Nation of Oklahoma
 - o Rosebud Sioux Tribe of the Rosebud Indian Reservation, South Dakota
 - o Santee Sioux Nation, Nebraska
 - o Standing Rock Sioux Tribe of North and South Dakota

Biological Resources

- Federally Listed Species Range
 - o Little Brown Bat – Under Review
 - o Monarch Butterfly – Proposed Threatened
 - o Northern Long-eared Bat – Endangered
 - o Piping Plover – Threatened
 - o Plains Spotted Skunk – Removed
 - o Regal Fritillary – Proposed Threatened
 - o Tricolored Bat – Proposed Endangered
 - o Whooping Crane - Endangered
- State Listed Species Range
 - o American Burying Beetle – Threatened
 - o Finescale Dace – Threatened
 - o Blacknose Shiner – Endangered
 - o Blowout Penstemon – Endangered
 - o Northern Redbelly Dace – Threatened
 - o Swift Fox – Endangered
 - o Western Prairie Fringed Orchid – Threatened
 - o Whooping Crane – Endangered

- **No** critical habitat identified

Wetlands

- Yes

Floodplain

- Cherry County is not FEMA mapped.
- Sheridan County is paper mapped only
 - o The DPA within Sheridan County does not appear to have mapped flood zones

Prime Farmland

- Yes

Hazardous Materials

- There are **no** regulated facilities within the DPA

Environmental Justice

- There are environmental justice populations within the DPA
 - o Low-Income Populations

Water Resources

- Snake River is **not** 303d listed, impaired for recreation
- Merritt Reservoir is 303d listed, impaired for aquatic life
- Niobrara River is 303d listed, impaired for recreation
- The DPA has **no** Wellhead Protection Areas

Classified Lands

- There are four NGPC properties within the DPA
 - o Merritt Reservoir WMA
 - o Merritt Reservoir SRA
 - o Borman Bridge WMA
 - o Valentine Fish Hatchery
- There is one USFS property within the DPA
 - o The Nebraska National Forest
- There is BLM Land within the DPA

Agencies that will be required

- Nebraska SHPO (Deputy SHPO, Michael Sothan)
 - o hn.hp@nebraska.gov
 - o Approximate 30-day review period
 - May require cultural/historical surveys
- US Fish and Wildlife (Region 6)
 - o Nebraskaes@fws.gov
 - o Approximate 30-day review period
 - May require completion of BA package
- US Army Corps of Engineers (Omaha District)
 - o ne404reg@usace.army.mil
 - o Approximate 30-day response time
- US Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service (Assistant State Soil Scientist, Elizabeth Gray)
 - o elizabeth.gray@usda.gov
- Nebraska Game and Parks Commission
- Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy
 - o NDEE.Assistance@nebraska.gov
- Nebraska Department of Natural Resources (Environmental Specialist, John Miller)
 - o john.j.miller@nebraska.gov

Engineering Conditions

County

- Cherry

City

- Valentine

Highways

- Highway 20: NDOT Permit Required

Agencies that will be required

- Cherry County
- City of Valentine
- NDOT District 8 (Permit Officer, John Raymond)
 - o john.raymond@nebraska.gov