

Lower Duchesne Wetlands Project

Questions & Answers

WATER RESOURCES

Q: Will the LDWP cause groundwater to rise and affect crops or infrastructure?

A: No. Under the Project's Proposed Action, there would be no increase in the ground water table outside of the LDWP project boundaries with the exception of a slight increase in the water table within two existing oxbows south of River Road adjacent to the Riverdell South site.

- Thirty-two groundwater wells, 50 shallow water table sampling points, surveyed cross sections of the Uresk Drain and oxbow systems, and water table measurements taken at road crossings were used to analyze the impacts of the project on groundwater.
- Results indicate that the groundwater table slopes away from Myton, toward the east and south to the Duchesne River. Under the Proposed Action, the water volume and duration applied to restored wetlands, in conjunction with the water table gradient, would cause only a very localized, if any, rise in the underlying water table in the Uresk Drain Unit. There would be no effect on the ground water levels at the Myton Cemetery. (See project area map on the reverse side of this page.)

Q: Will the Project interfere with water rights?

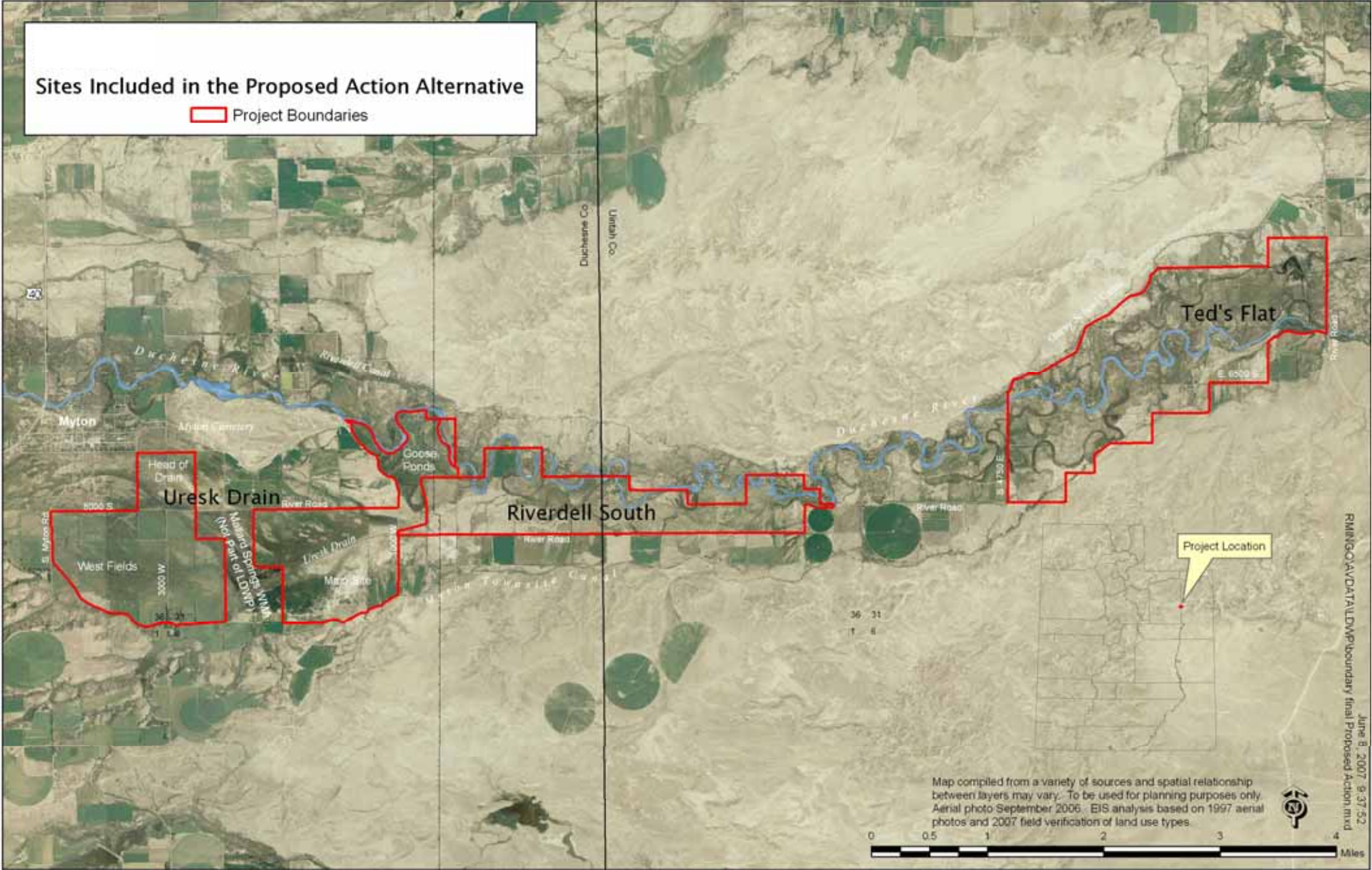
A: No, but there may be less water available to junior water rights holders in the Duchesne River system in below average flow years.

- Although project area lands are of mixed ownership, all the water rights in the project area are senior reserved Indian water rights with an 1861 priority date. Indian water rights are the most senior water rights on the Duchesne river.
- For junior water right holders:
 - In low flow years, there could be a slight reduction in available water on the Duchesne River, from 127 to 162 acre-feet (based upon the full exercise of the senior reserved Indian water rights pertaining to Project lands).
 - In very low flow years, in which the flow at Myton is less than 37,000 acre-feet, there could be a reduction of 718 to 908 acre-feet of natural flow water available (based upon the full exercise of the senior reserved Indian water rights pertaining to Project lands).
 - There would be no measurable change in the Duchesne River flow at Randlett.

Q: What about the water quality in the Duchesne River?

- A:**
- There would be a net increase in Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) of 0.68 ppm in the Duchesne River downstream of Myton.
 - There would be no measurable change in the TDS concentrations at Randlett.

Sites Included in the Proposed Action Alternative
 Project Boundaries



Map compiled from a variety of sources and spatial relationship between layers may vary. To be used for planning purposes only. Aerial photo September 2006. EIS analysis based on 1997 aerial photos and 2007 field verification of land use types.

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