

Technical Report Summary: Vegetation, Wildlife & Aquatic Species

This summarizes the key findings of the *Draft Environmental Impact Statement* detailed in the *EQRB Vegetation, Wildlife and Aquatic Species Technical Report*.

Affected Environment

The study area extends beyond the project area to approximately 12,000 feet upstream and approximately 15,000 feet downstream on the Willamette River. The distance accounts for potential noise impacts underwater that can travel beyond the immediate vicinity of construction activity. The total amount of existing vegetation in the study area is about 2.5 acres including about 325 trees. Wildlife habitat types in the study area are a mix of riparian, urban, and aquatic, and the lower Willamette River provides habitat to nearly 50 species of native and non-native fish.

Mitigation

During construction, best management practices would be implemented to minimize impacts and disturbance to vegetation, wildlife, and aquatic species from in-water work, disturbance to vegetation, erosion control, and containment of construction materials. Actions include:

- Minimizing the disturbance area.
- Cleaning plant materials from equipment and gear would reduce the spread of invasive plant species.
- Riparian vegetation would be replaced.
- Trees in the study area would be flagged or have temporary fencing around them. Trees to be removed could potentially be preserved to be replanted.
- Cofferdams and bubble curtains would reduce exposure of fish to high levels of underwater noise and in-water sound pressure levels.

More information on this topic is available in the *Draft Environmental Impact Statement* and in the *EQRB Vegetation, Wildlife and Aquatic Species Technical Report*.

More information

Help shape the future of the Burnside Bridge and visit BurnsideBridge.org for more information.

For more information, contact:

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For information about this project in other languages, please call 503-209-4111 or email burnsidebridge@multco.us.

Para obtener información sobre este proyecto en español, ruso u otros idiomas, llame al 503-209-4111 o envíe un correo electrónico a burnsidebridge@multco.us

Для получения информации об этом проекте на испанском, русском или других языках, свяжитесь с нами по телефону 503-209-4111 или по электронной почте: burnsidebridge@multco.us.

Impacts from the Bridge Alternatives



No-Build Alternative

The only new impacts likely to occur would be from maintenance activities which would be more frequent than with the build alternatives. Following a Cascadia Subduction Zone (CSZ) earthquake, the No-Build Alternative would collapse and cause substantial new impacts to habitats beneath the bridge.



Impacts Common to all Build Alternatives

Direct impacts to vegetation, wildlife, and aquatic species would result from construction activities under any of the build alternatives. Permanent impacts from the build alternatives would include a loss of habitat from the placement of the structure, and impacts affecting aquatic species could come from ground improvement below the ordinary high-water mark. No indirect impacts to vegetation or wildlife are anticipated. Potential indirect impacts to aquatic species are anticipated to be negligible. All build alternatives would have temporary construction impacts and post CSZ earthquake, the build alternatives would not contribute to loss of resources.



Enhanced Seismic Retrofit Alternative

The area in which temporary construction impacts would occur is 29.5 acres. Permanent impacts to shallow water habitat are relatively minor considering the total amount of existing habitat in the project area. The Retrofit, Short-Span, and Long-Span Alternatives have the same permanent impacts to shallow water habitat (211 square feet).



Replacement Alternative with Short-Span Approach

The area in which temporary construction impacts would occur is 30.7 acres.



Replacement Alternative with Long-Span Approach

Same as for the Short-Span Alternative.



Replacement Alternative with Couch Extension

The area in which temporary construction impacts would occur is 34 acres. This alternative has the largest area of temporary construction impacts; potential direct impacts to vegetation are highest. This alternative also has the largest permanent impact to shallow water habitat (231 square feet).

Impacts from Construction Traffic Management



Without a Temporary Bridge

No additional impacts to vegetation, wildlife, and aquatic species resources beyond those described above are anticipated



With a Temporary Bridge

Use of a temporary detour bridge would lead to additional impacts under all build alternatives. Impacts would result from installation and removal of the temporary bridge and would be limited to the area the bridge would occupy.