



ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

IDAHO STATE VETERANS HOME LEWISTON

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This Environmental Assessment (EA) is being created by the Idaho Division of Veterans Services (IDVS) on behalf of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) in consideration of potential grant funding. The IDVS identifies, analyzes, and documents the potential physical, environmental, cultural, and socioeconomic impacts associated with the awarding of a federal grant to for the demolition of the existing facility and construction of a new State Veteran Home Lewiston, Idaho. The proposed project sits on 10.22 acres located at 821 21st Avenue in Lewiston, Nez Perce County, Idaho. The nursing home renovation will include a total replacement bed count of 66; total square footage (SF) will be approximately 76,710 SF. The renovation will consist of expanding the existing facility to the north, which will create two new 16-bed household wings. This allows the conversion of the current double-occupancy rooms with shared bathrooms into single-occupancy rooms with private bathrooms. The expansion will further enclose the northwest and northeast garden areas into secure courtyards and will be linked to the existing west and east wings to create a looped indoor walking path.

The **purpose** for VA's Proposed Action, the issuance of a federal grant, is to implement VA's authority under the State Home Construction Grant Program (SHCGP) to fund up to 65 percent of the cost of construction or acquisition of state nursing homes or domiciliaries for renovations/repairs to existing State Homes.

The Proposed Action, or the issuance of the federal grant, is **needed** to meet the intent of the SHCGP and for the IDVS to provide eligible veterans with a high-quality living facility and medical care.

Two alternatives are analyzed in this EA:

- The VA's **Proposed Action** would award a grant to expand and improve the State Veterans Home in Lewiston, Idaho, to provide single-occupancy rooms with private bathrooms, generate secure courtyards, and create a looped indoor walking path. Improvements further include replacement of outdated HVAC systems, a nurse call system, as well as other mechanical, plumbing, and electrical systems; and the incorporation of mitigation and preventative measures for infectious disease control to decrease the possibility of spreading viruses during a pandemic.
- The **No Action** alternative would not award a grant to improve and expand the State Veterans Home in Lewiston, Idaho.

The following table summarizes the potential environmental impacts of the Proposed Action and No Action.

Table 1 Summary of Impact Analysis

Resource / Issue	Proposed Action	No Action
Aesthetics	Minor short-term impacts from demolition and construction activities would be limited to daylight hours. Areas used for staging and other disturbed areas will be restored to their pre-existing conditions.	None

Resource / Issue	Proposed Action	No Action
Air Quality	Minor short-term air quality impacts would be mitigated through application of suppressants or palliatives. Disturbed areas will be stabilized with vegetation, mulch, or limiting earth moving construction activities during high wind conditions. No significant impact.	None
Cultural Resources	Through National Historic Preservation Action (NHPA) Section 106 consultation, VA, IDVS, and the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) determined that the proposed action/undertaking will result in no adverse effect to historic properties. Section 106 documentation can be found in Appendix C.	None
Geology and Soils	Minor short-term erosion and sedimentation impacts would be mitigated through BMPs and adherence to a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP).	None
Hydrology and Water Quality	Minor short-term erosion and sedimentation impacts would be mitigated by the implementation of the SWPPP and associated erosion and sediment control BMPs for soil stabilization. Landscaping and vegetation cover will be included in the design of the facilities to reduce irrigation requirements.	None
Wildlife and Habitat	The project site is in a developed area with no critical habitat for any species; less than significant impact to local general wildlife and habitat (primarily associated with local, minor, temporary adverse impacts related to construction activities).	None
Noise	All work will strictly follow local noise ordinances to minimize potential impacts to local area. Construction machinery will be shut off while not in use to limit idling noise. Impacts would be short-term and not be significant.	None
Land Use	The proposed facility expansion is compatible with the general vicinity which is comprised of exempt, recreation, residential and commercial developments. Impacts would be less than significant.	None
Floodplains, Wetlands, and Coastal Zone Management	No jurisdictional wetlands are present. Idaho is not located within any coastal zones. No adverse impacts to the 100-year floodplain.	None
Socioeconomics	No adverse impact. Possible short-term localized beneficial impact to employment during construction.	None
Community Services	Long-term beneficial impact to local and regional veterans by improving aging infrastructure at the facility.	Adverse impact by not replacing aging infrastructure at the facility.
Soil and Hazardous Materials	Wastes generated as part of renovation and construction activities would be properly managed and disposed of according to federal, state, and local regulations. Wastes would be collected and properly disposed of by waste disposal companies at an approved disposal facility. No significant impacts.	None
Traffic, Transportation and Parking	Construction activities will be scheduled to avoid peak traffic times. Short-term adverse impact from construction traffic, less than significant.	None
Utilities	No adverse impacts. The proposed facility expansion and improvements would connect to the existing utility network.	None

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1. INTRODUCTION

The Idaho Division of Veterans Services (the "IDVS") is dedicated to serving Idaho's Veterans and their families by delivering superior long-term care and enhanced quality of life for residents in its State Veterans Homes. Residency in the Idaho State Veterans Homes is available to honorably discharged Idaho Veterans and their spouses. Skilled nursing care is available to Idaho Veterans, and their spouses, who are certified as needing such care by a licensed physician. The Homes are certified for Medicare, Medicaid, and U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Service-Connected programs.

This site is located in central Lewiston, Idaho in a residential and commercial area with easy access to 8th Street and Bryden Canyon Road. Figures 1 and 1.1 reflect the general location and site boundary for the Lewiston property to be considered for this Environmental Assessment (EA).

In this EA, VA identifies, analyzes, and documents the potential physical, environmental, cultural, and socioeconomic impacts associated with the awarding of a federal grant to the IDVS for the demolition of the existing facility and construction of a new State Veteran Home Lewiston, Idaho. The proposed project sits on 10.22 acres located at 821 21st Avenue in Lewiston, Nez Perce County, Idaho. The nursing home renovation will include a total replacement bed count of 66; total square footage (SF) will be approximately 76,710 SF. The renovation will consist of expanding the existing facility to the north, which will create two new 16-bed household wings. This allows the conversion of the current double-occupancy rooms with shared bathrooms into single-occupancy rooms with private bathrooms. The expansion will further enclose the northwest and northeast garden areas into secure courtyards and will be linked to the existing west and east wings to create a looped indoor walking path.

This EA has been prepared, as required, in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 ([NEPA]; 42 US Code 4321 et seq.), Environmental Effects of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Actions (38 CFR Part 26), and in accordance with relevant guidance of VA's *NEPA Interim Guidance for Projects* (VA, 2010). These requirements specify that VA must evaluate the potential environmental impacts of VA facilities, operations, and related funding decisions prior to undertaking a proposed action. An EA provides sufficient evidence and analysis for determining whether an action would cause significant environmental impacts (requiring an EIS) or the agency can issue a finding of no significant impact (FONSI). A FONSI is a decision document that briefly presents the reasons why an action would not have a significant effect on the human environment. As required by NEPA and the implementing regulations from VA, the alternative of taking no action is evaluated, providing a baseline for comparison of potential impacts from the action alternative(s).

This EA presents the purpose of and need for the Proposed Action and the project background (Chapter 1), provides details of the alternatives (Chapter 2), and describes the affected environment and evaluates the potential environmental consequences (Chapter 3). The remainder of the document provides best management practices and monitoring (Chapter 4), a summary of agency coordination and public involvement (Chapter 5), references (Chapter 6), and a glossary (Chapter 7).

1.1 Background

The current State Veterans Home in Lewiston is an existing one-story skilled nursing facility with 66 beds provided in double-occupancy rooms. The current facility is approximately a 53,173 square feet (SF) building comprised of 32 semi-private Veterans bedrooms and two private Veterans bedrooms. The current facility provides an in-house barber, café, library, physical therapy room, activity room, large dining room, and a rose garden.

1.2 Purpose and Need for the Proposed Action

The **purpose** for VA's Proposed Action, the issuance of a federal grant, is to implement VA's authority under the State Home Construction Grant Program (SHCGP) to fund up to 65 percent of the cost of construction or acquisition of state nursing homes or domiciliaries for renovations/repairs to existing State Homes.

The Proposed Action, or the issuance of the federal grant, is **needed** to meet the intent of the SHCGP and for the IDVS to provide eligible veterans with a high-quality living facility and medical care.

Two alternatives are analyzed in this EA:

- The VA's **Proposed Action** would award a grant to expand and improve the State Veterans Home in Lewiston, Idaho, to provide single-occupancy rooms with private bathrooms, generate secure courtyards, and create a looped indoor walking path. Improvements further include replacement of outdated HVAC systems, a nurse call system, as well as other mechanical, plumbing, and electrical systems; and the incorporation of mitigation and preventative measures for infectious disease control to decrease the possibility of spreading viruses during a pandemic.
- The **No Action** alternative would not award a grant to improve and expand the State Veterans Home in Lewiston, Idaho.

1.3 Decision-Making

The VA, as a federal agency, is required to incorporate environmental considerations into its decision-making process for the actions it proposes to undertake. This is done in accordance with the regulations and guidance identified in Section 1.0. This EA:

- Informs the public of the possible environmental impacts of the Proposed Action and its considered alternatives, as well as methods to reduce these effects;
- Provides for public, state, inter-agency, and tribal input into VA's planning and evaluation;
- Documents the NEPA process; and
- Supports informed decision-making by the federal government

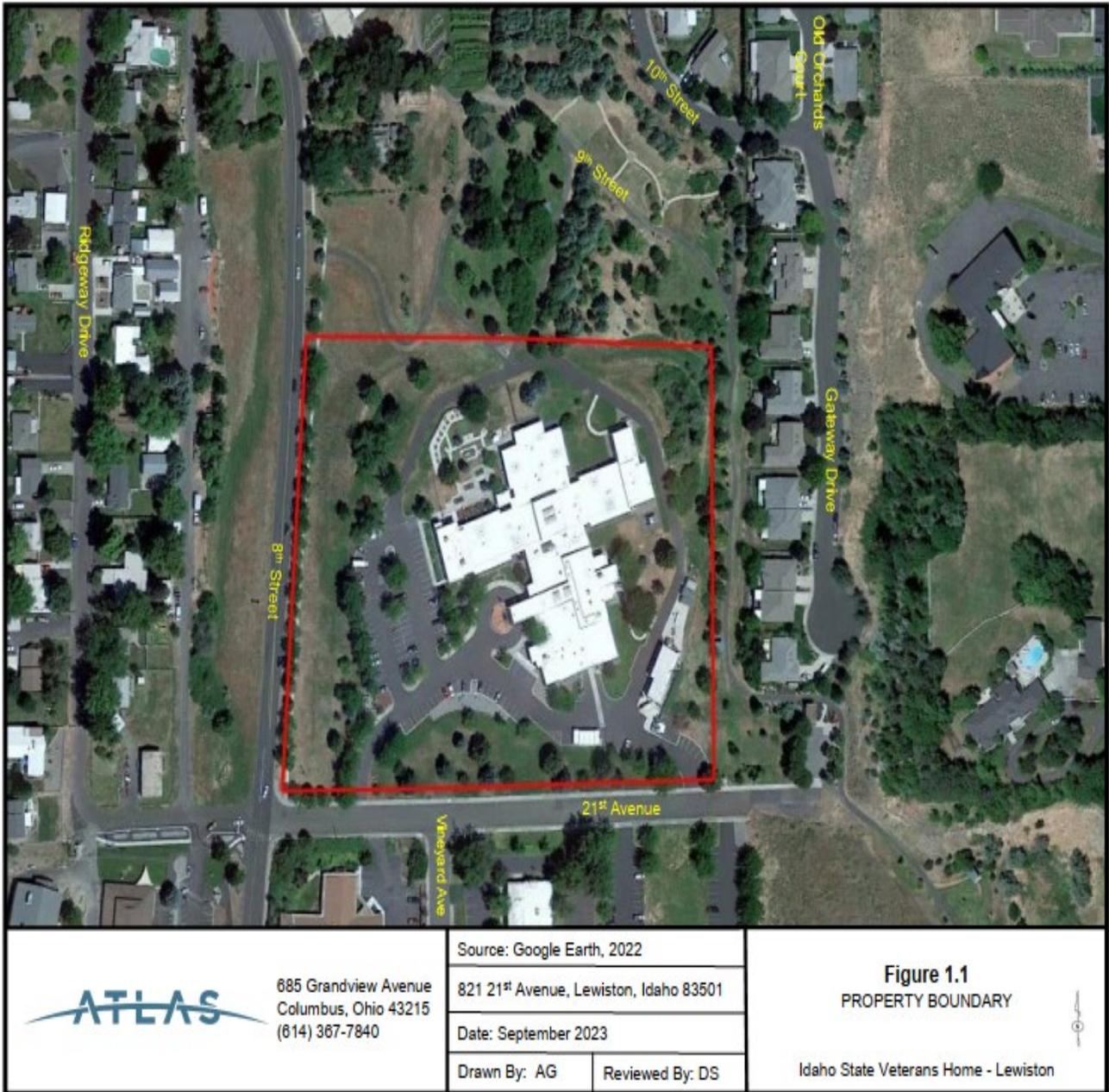
The decision document for this proposed federal undertaking also identifies the actions to which VA would commit to minimize environmental effects, as required under NEPA, its implementing regulations from VA (38 CFR Part 26), and VA's NEPA guidance (VA 2010).

The decision to be made is whether—having considered the potential physical, environmental, cultural, and socioeconomic effects—VA should implement the Proposed Action including, as appropriate, measures to reduce adverse effects.

Figure 1. Site Vicinity Map



Figure 1.1. Property Boundary



2. ALTERNATIVES

The alternatives evaluated in this EA are the Proposed Action and the No Action Alternative.

2.1 Proposed Action

Under the Proposed Action, VA would award a grant to IDVS to construct a 23,537 square foot additional wing onto the existing facility for a total estimated building area of 76,710 square foot. The facility will stay a one-story building with 66 licensed skilled nursing beds. As part of the Proposed Action, IDVS will replace current mechanical HVAC systems and the current outdated and inefficient nurse call system. The remodel of the current facility will provide a more homelike environment for the residents. The northwest and northeast garden areas will be enclosed and provide a secure courtyard for residents with dementia and other cognitive issues to enjoy safely. The new household wings will be linked to the current facility and will create an indoor walking path for staff and residents to enjoy year-round.

The two new 16-bed household wings will feature multiple small, shared dens, a dedicated dining area, and multiple small, shared living rooms. A caregiver work area and medication storage will be centrally located between the two wings. The renovated facility and addition will include a barber, café, activity room, physical therapy room, physical therapy garden, library, new rose garden with attached conservatory, sports bar, and a theater.

The Proposed Action will not displace any nursing home residents during the renovation of the project. IDVS will phase the existing building where residents will continue to reside until the completion of the renovated home. IDVS will work with the VA Office of Geriatrics & Extended Care to create a proper transition plan.

2.2 No Action Alternative

For this project, No Action is defined as VA not awarding the grant for IDVS to renovate the State Veterans Home in Lewiston, Idaho and continued use of the existing facility. The No Action alternative would negatively impact the continuance of quality care to Idaho's Veterans in northern Idaho and thus does not meet the purpose and need of the project. Veterans and their families residing in northern Idaho would be underserved in the future and would require Veterans and their families to acquire services from private nursing facilities or go without the nursing care and services they may require. Furthermore, the No Action Alternative would create hardships for families visiting their loved Veterans or eligible Veterans spouses residing in other State Veteran Homes because of the distance need to travel.

Figure 2. Proposed Floor Plan



PROPOSED FLOOR PLAN
NTS

Figure 2.1. Proposed Development Plan



3D schematic view of proposed north addition

3. AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT & ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

This section provides a description of the environmental resources that could potentially be impacted as a result of the Proposed Action and the No Action Alternative. It serves as a baseline from which to identify and evaluate potential impacts. Resources considered in this EA are aesthetics; air quality; cultural and historic resources; geology and soils; hydrology and water quality; wildlife and habitat; noise; land use; floodplains, wetlands, and coastal management; socioeconomics; community services; solid waste and hazardous materials; traffic, transportation, and parking; and utilities.

The existing conditions provide a baseline for analyzing potential impacts. Impacts are identified as either significant or less than significant. Where possible, impacts are identified as short-term, temporary, or long-term in relation to the length of the effect of the impact.

3.1 Aesthetics

The term aesthetic refers to the subjective visual perception of an area's natural beauty based on some qualitative scenic qualities. Factors typically included in a determination of aesthetic values include site characteristics such as topographic relief, prominence of water in the viewscape, type of vegetation present; diversity of scenery, level of human development or disturbance in the area, and presence or absence of any unique scenic features compared with surrounding land. Typically landscapes with greater diversity of features are considered to be of higher scenic quality.

3.1.1 Affected Environment

The current State Veterans Home is located in an urban setting in central Lewiston. The current facility is abutting 9th Street to the east, 21st Avenue to the south, and 8th Street to the west. The project site is semi-visible to drivers from each of these roads due to trees along the project boundary.

Buildings surrounding the skilled nursing facility include residential houses to the east beyond 9th Street, New Life Apostolic Church, Vassar-Rawls Funeral Home, and Wedgewood Terrace to the south beyond 21st Avenue, and residential houses to the west beyond 8th Street. Modie Park Conservancy is located north and east of the project site. Natural hills are present to the southeast.

3.1.2 Environmental Consequences

3.1.2.1 Proposed Action

Under the Proposed Action, construction would occur in an already developed area. Construction activities would include site preparation, grading, excavation, and vehicle traffic, movement of heavy equipment, and paving roadways and parking areas. Heavy equipment for construction activities would be required.

These activities would have short-term and minor impacts on aesthetics. Although these activities may not be aesthetically consistent with the surrounding area and would change over the course

of construction, they would end once construction is complete. Construction activities would be limited to daylight hours to minimize impact from equipment lights. Areas used for staging and other disturbed areas will be restored to their pre-existing conditions.

The appearance of the Veterans Home facility would fit within local norms and comply with local ordinances. Landscaping would be aesthetically attractive and be compatible with surrounding properties and land use. The facility would not create any minor noticeable long-term differences in aesthetics as it would remain one story. The State Veterans Home is not anticipated to result in significant adverse changes to the aesthetics.

3.1.2.2 No Action Alternative

Under the No Action alternative, no impacts to aesthetics would occur due to IDVS's actions, as the current building would remain unchanged. However, for this project, No Action is defined as VA not awarding the grant for IDVS to construct the State Veterans Home. As such, IDVS would not construct the needed addition to the Veterans Home in Lewiston which would negatively impact the care and quality of life IDVS can provide Idaho's Veterans in northern Idaho communities.

3.2 Air Quality

The Clean Air Act (CAA), as amended in 1990, requires the United States Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) to set National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for six common criteria air pollutants. The EPA designates areas that are meeting (attainment) or not meeting (non-attainment) the NAAQS. Areas are often divided by county or Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA). Areas not meeting NAAQS are designated non-attainment for the specific pollutant. Each state is required to demonstrate compliance with NAAQS and other components of the CAA through a State Implementation Plan (SIP). Air quality standards are currently in place for six "criteria" pollutants: carbon monoxide (CO), nitrogen dioxide (NO₂), ozone (O₃), sulfur oxides (SO_x, measured as sulfur dioxide [SO₂]), lead (Pb), and particulate matter with an aerodynamic diameter less than or equal to 10 micrometers (PM₁₀).

3.2.1 Affected Environment

According to the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) Idaho Nonattainment / Maintenance Status for Each County by Year for All Criteria Pollutants, Green Book, US EPA, the project is located in Nez Perce County, an area not located in any nonattainment or maintenance areas

3.2.2 Environmental Consequences

3.2.2.1 Proposed Action

Under the Proposed Action, construction activities and emissions from construction vehicles would have the potential for short-term and minor impacts to air quality. Construction activities such as site preparation, grading, and movement of heavy equipment could generate fugitive dust. There could be short-term health effects and nuisances such as reduced visibility. The amount of fugitive dust would depend on the soil type, wind speed, size, and intensity of the

activity, and the type of dust suppression measure implemented. These measures could include applying suppressants or palliatives such as water, clay additives, or polymers, stabilizing disturbed areas with vegetation or mulch or limiting earth moving construction activities during high wind conditions.

Short-term air quality emissions from the use of gasoline and diesel fueled construction vehicles and power tools would be expected for short durations during use. Examples of construction equipment that may be used include excavators, backhoes, graders, front-end loaders, dump trucks, roller compactors, water trucks, pump trucks, cranes, paving machines, concrete mixer trucks. Ensuring that construction equipment is operated and maintained in accordance with federal and state air quality requirements and using newer equipment with emissions controls and reducing idling of construction equipment would minimize emissions. No long-term adverse impacts in regard to air-quality from the construction or operation are expected.

Operation of the skilled nursing facility would not impact air quality. Since the site is developed and use HVAC systems, the Idaho Division of Veterans Services already has requirements in place for protection of air resources that include compliance with federal and state air quality regulations and standards. Replacement of the outdated HVAC systems would improve indoor air quality.

Short-term air quality impact from construction and operation of the skilled nursing care facility under the Proposed Action would be negligible.

3.2.2.2 No Action Alternative

Under the No Action alternative, no impacts to the air quality would occur, as the current building would remain unchanged. Traffic volumes and air quality would continue at current levels. However, for this project, No Action is defined as VA not awarding the grant for IDVS to construct the State Veterans Home in northern Idaho. As such, IDVS would not construct the needed addition to the Veterans Home in Lewiston which would negatively impact the care and quality of life IDVS can provide Idaho's Veterans in northern Idaho communities.

3.3 Cultural and Historic Resources

Cultural resources include both historic and prehistoric archaeological resources, as well as historic properties in the built environment. Cultural resources are protected through several federal laws and associated regulations, including the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), the Archaeological and Historic Preservation Act of 1974, the American Indian Religious Freedom Act of 1978, the Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979, and the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act of 1990.

The NHPA established the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), which is a list of all historic properties of the Nation that are worthy of preservation. Historic properties can include buildings, boundary markers, roads, shipwrecks, trolley cars, battlefields, and landscapes. The Idaho State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) is responsible for state level programs and regulations for Idaho.

Section 106 of the NHPA and its implementing regulations, 36 CFR Part 800, requires an assessment of the potential impact of an undertaking on historical properties that are within the proposed project's area of potential effect (APE), which is defined as the geographic area "within which an undertaking may directly or indirectly cause alternations in the character or use of historic properties, if any such properties exist."

3.3.1 Affected Environment

The current Lewiston State Veterans Home at 821 21st Avenue, Lewiston, Idaho, is not located in any state or national historic districts. The facility is located approximately 245 feet southwest of the National Register of Historic Places listed Lewiston Vineyard Gates.

In a letter dated April 5, 2023 (Appendix C), the Idaho State Historical Preservation Office (SHPO) stated that the proposed action/undertaking would have "no adverse effect on historic properties", specifically the National Register-listed Lewiston Vineyard Gates (69-4320) and the National Register-eligible Gateway to the Lewiston Orchards (69-17933).

VA included the proposed action/undertaking in a FY23 program-wide consultation package sent to all federally recognized tribes. VA's Office of Tribal Government Relations distributed this package. VA did not receive any interest in or comments on this project from federally recognized tribes.

Should unanticipated discoveries of cultural material or archaeological deposits be encountered during construction, the procedures codified at 36 CFR 800.13(b) would apply. Work shall be halted and IDVS will contact VA immediately.

3.3.2 Environmental Consequences

3.3.2.1 Proposed Action

Under the Proposed Action/undertaking, the renovation and addition to the State Veterans Home Lewiston will not adversely affect any historic properties. The Section 106 Criteria for Adverse Effect (36 CFR 800.5) defines an undertaking (action) as having an adverse effect on historic properties if the undertaking would alter, directly or indirectly, any of the characteristics that qualify a property for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places in a manner that would diminish the integrity of the property's location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, or association. The analysis considers potential effects to cultural resources located in and within view of the project area.

3.3.2.2. No Action Alternative

Under the No Action alternative, no impacts to cultural and historic resources would occur due to IDVS's actions, as the current building would remain unchanged. However, for this project, No Action is defined as VA not awarding the grant for IDVS to renovate the State Veterans Home. As such, IDVS would not construct the needed addition to the Veterans Home in Lewiston which would negatively impact the care and quality of life IDVS can provide Idaho's Veterans in northern Idaho communities.

3.4 Geology and Soils

The geology of an area refers specifically to the surface and near-surface materials of the earth and to how those materials were formed. These resources are typically described in terms of regional or local geology, including mineral resources, earth materials, soil resources, and topography.

3.4.1 Affected Environment

A Geotechnical Evaluation Report was completed on December 6, 2021. The conclusion of this report states: “Based on field exploration, laboratory testing and engineering analysis, the subject site is suited for development from a geotechnical engineering viewpoint. The recommendations presented in the report should be incorporated into the final design, grading, and construction phases of development.” (Appendix D).

The report recommends all grading activities should conform to International Building Codes (IBC) and the requirements of the City of Lewiston. During the earthwork phase of construction all removals, drain systems, slopes, and the general grading procedures of the contractor should be observed and the fill material selectively tested. If contaminated materials are discovered during construction, work would stop and appropriate procedures would be implemented as discussed in Section 4.0.

According to the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Web Soil Survey soils in the project area are listed as Chard silt loam, 2 to 10 percent slopes (25), and Chard silt loam, 10 to 25 percent slopes (26). Chard silt loam is classified as farmland of statewide importance; however, the project site has been developed since 1994 and is not used for agriculture.

3.4.2 Environmental Consequence

3.4.2.1 Proposed Action

Under the Proposed Action, construction activities would cause short-term impacts on soils due to removal of pavement, site leveling and regrading. Grading and site leveling would also cause minor changes to site topography. Disturbed and exposed soils would be prone to erosion by wind and stormwater. Wind erosion could temporarily increase airborne particulate matter in the area resulting in short-term air quality, health, visibility, and aesthetics impacts. Potential adverse effects from erosion or sedimentation would be mitigated through best practice management practices (BMPs) from the site-specific design development Erosion Control Plan Site Plan (C-001, C-100, and C-101) (Appendix A) referenced from the Idaho Division of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and adherence to a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit. Renovation and construction of an addition to the State Veterans Home would not adversely affect the geology or soils under the Proposed Action.

3.4.2.2 No Action Alternative

Under the No Action alternative, no impacts to geology or soils would occur due to IDVS' actions, as the current building would remain unchanged. However, for this project, No Action is defined

as VA not awarding the grant for IDVS to renovate the State Veterans Home. As such, IDVS would not construct the needed addition to the Veterans Home in Lewiston which would negatively impact the care and quality of life IDVS can provide Idaho's Veterans in northern Idaho communities.

3.5 Hydrology and Water Quality

Numerous laws and regulations protect both hydrology and water quality on the federal level and on the state and regional levels. On the federal level, the primary law protecting the “chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the nation’s waters” is the Clean Water Act (CWA). Section 104 certifications issued by states protect water quality, and Section 404 permits certifications issued by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) protects waters of the U.S., including wetlands (EO 11990).

3.5.1 Affected Environment

The property is currently developed as a skilled nursing facility. Stormwater utility is administered by the City of Lewiston. Onsite stormwater is managed by several catch basins and underground storm pipes that outfall to existing swales. No surface water, retention basins, or detention ponds are located on the property.

3.5.2 Environmental Consequence

3.5.2.1 Proposed Action

Under the Proposed Action, construction activities occur primarily within pre-disturbed areas that are adjacent to existing commercial structures. Construction activities such as site preparation, grading, movement of heavy equipment, and paving of parking areas could temporarily increase sedimentation and surface runoff. Potential impacts would be minimized with the implantation of a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) and associated erosion and sediment control BMPs as stated in the general notes (C-001) and referenced from the Idaho DEQ BMP for soil stabilization. (Appendix A). The SWPPP identifies potential Stormwater contaminants and addresses how to minimize Stormwater pollution. The SWPPP would specify BMPs designs to prevent Stormwater pollution such as temporary construction entrances, silt fences, inlet protection, ditch checks, and slope protection.

The amount of impervious and hardened surfaces such as parking areas and other paved areas will be higher than current conditions and therefore may cause an increase in surface runoff. However, landscaping, vegetation cover, enlarging existing swales and a SWPPP are included in the design of the facilities to reduce these effects. Landscaping and vegetation cover would stabilize soil and prevent erosion and sedimentation. Approximately 48 percent of the property will be pervious, and 52 percent of the property will be impervious. Under the Proposed Action, the renovation and construction of the addition to the State Veterans Home-Lewiston would not adversely affect the hydrology or water quality.

3.5.2.2 No Action Alternative

Under the No Action alternative, no impacts to hydrology and water quality would occur due to

IDVS's actions, as the current building would remain unchanged. However, for this project, No Action is defined as VA not awarding the grant for IDVS to renovate the State Veterans Home. As such, IDVS would not construct the needed addition to the Veterans Home in Lewiston which would negatively impact the care and quality of life IDVS can provide Idaho's Veterans in northern Idaho communities

3.6 Wildlife and Habitat

The Endangered Species Act establishes a national program for the conservation of threatened and endangered species of fish, wildlife, and plants, and the ecosystem upon which they depend. It is administered by the Department of Interior's U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS).

Under the Endangered Species Act, species may be listed as either "endangered" or "threatened." Endangered means a species is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range. Threatened means a species is likely to become endangered within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range.

3.6.1 Affected Environment

The project was assessed using the USFWS Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) system which identifies Federally-protected wildlife species with the potential to occur in the project area. Two species were identified: the Monarch Butterfly, and Spalding's Catchfly.

Table 2: Summary of Listed Threatened/Endangered Species for Nez Perce County, Idaho

Group	Species	Listing Status	Critical Habitat
Insects	Monarch Butterfly <i>Danaus plexippus</i>	Candidate	No critical habitat has been designated for this species.
Flowering Plants	Spalding's Catchfly <i>Silene spaldingii</i>	Threatened	There is proposed critical habitat for this species. The location of critical habitat is not available.

The project site is a developed area with no critical habitat for any of the species, and there would be less than significant impact to local general wildlife and habitat (primarily associated with local, minor, temporary adverse impacts related to construction activities).

3.6.2 Environmental Consequence

3.6.2.1 Proposed Action

The renovation of the State Veterans Home is expected to have less than significant adverse impacts to wildlife and habitat. Under the Proposed Action, 14 trees will be removed during construction and 25 trees are proposed. Under the Proposed Action, renovation and construction activities will not adversely affect wildlife and habitat.

3.6.2.2 No Action Alternative

Under the No Action alternative, no impacts to wildlife and habitat would occur due to IDVS's actions, as the current building would remain. However, for this project, No Action is defined as

VA not awarding the grant for IDVS to renovate the State Veterans Home. As such, IDVS would not construct the needed addition to the Veterans Home in Lewiston which would negatively impact the care and quality of life IDVS can provide Idaho's Veterans in northern Idaho communities.

3.7 Noise

The Noise Control Act of 1972 (42 USC 4901 et seq.) directs federal agencies to comply with applicable federal, state, interstate, and local noise control regulations. Noise is defined as unwanted sound that interferes with normal human activities or wildlife behavior or may otherwise diminish environmental quality.

Environmental noise is measured in decibels (dB) on the A-weighted scale (dBA), which is the scale most similar to the range of sound that the human ear can hear. The day-night average sound level is the average measure of sound that is accepted by federal agencies as a standard for estimating sound impacts and guidelines for land uses. The EPA recommends an average 24-hour exposure limit of 55 dBA to protect the public from all adverse effects on health and welfare in sensitive receptor areas. Receptors can include hospitals, schools, parks, playgrounds, libraries and residences.

3.7.1 Affected Environment

The current State Veterans Home-Lewiston is located within a residential and commercial area of Lewiston. The skilled nursing facility is bordered by two roads, to the south and west. Residential properties are located to the east and west. Commercial properties are located to the south of the current facility. The main source of noise at the project site is from vehicular traffic.

Potential sensitive receptors were reviewed within a 1-mile radius of the project area. Lewis-Clark State College is located approximately 3,605 feet to the northwest. Webster Elementary School is located approximately 2,037 feet to the north. Norman Hill Campus is located approximately 3,722 feet to the north. Lewis Clark Christian School is located approximately 3,832 feet to the north/northeast. Jennifer Middle School is located approximately 3,325 feet to the northeast. Whitman Elementary School is located approximately 4,898 feet to the northeast. McSorley Elementary School is located approximately 1,450 feet to the east.

3.7.2 Environmental Consequences

3.7.2.1 Proposed Action

Under the Proposed Action, renovation and construction of the addition to the State Veterans Home would increase ambient noise in the area surrounding the property, however, impacts would be short-term and only during construction. Increase in noise levels will occur primarily from heavy equipment associated with construction and demolition such as those in Table 3. The intermittent increase in noise would likely be an annoyance but would not exceed typical noise thresholds; thus impacts would not be significant. No long-term impacts due to noise are expected as operation of the new facility will be substantially the same as the operation of the current facility.

Table 3: Construction Equipment Noise Levels

Equipment	Typical Noise Level 50 Feet from Source (dBA)
Air Compressor	80
Backhoe	80
Concrete Pump	82
Dozer	85
Generator	82
Grader	85
Loader	80
Paver	85
Pneumatic Tool	85
Pump	77
Roller	85
Saw	85
Scraper	85
Truck	84

(Federal Highway Administration, 2017)

To mitigate noise levels, all work will strictly follow local noise ordinances to minimize potential impacts to local area. Work activities will not occur between 9pm and 7am (City of Lewiston, Idaho, Code of Ordinances, Chapter 24 – Offenses and Miscellaneous Provisions). Equipment will meet all federal, state, and local noise regulations. Machines will be shut off while not in use to limit idling noise.

3.7.2.2 No Action Alternative

Under the No Action alternative, no impacts to noise would occur due to IDVS's actions, as the current building would remain. However, for this project, No Action is defined as VA not awarding the grant for IDVS to renovate the State Veterans Home. As such, IDVS would not construct the needed addition to the Veterans Home in Lewiston which would negatively impact the care and quality of life IDVS can provide Idaho's Veterans in northern Idaho communities.

3.8 Land Use

Land use is described by land activities, ownership, and the governing entities' management plans. Local zoning defines land use types and regulated development patterns.

3.8.1 Affected Environment

The project area is located on 10.22 acres of land and houses the current one-story facility. The project site is bounded by three roads: 9th Street to the east, 21st Avenue to the south, and 8th Street to the west. Surrounding properties include private residences, Modie Park Conservancy, New Life Apostolic Church, Vassar-Rawls Funeral Home, and Wedgewood Terrace.

3.8.2 Environmental Consequences

3.8.2.1 Proposed Action

The Proposed Action is consistent with the intended long-term use of the property and has been designed to fit with the existing facility. The Proposed Action activities would be considered consistent with the existing and proposed land use in the area.

3.8.2.2 No Action Alternative

Under the No Action alternative, no impacts to land use would occur due to IDVS's actions, as the current building would remain. However, for this project, No Action is defined as VA not awarding the grant for IDVS to renovate the State Veterans Home. As such, IDVS would not construct the needed addition to the Veterans Home in Lewiston which would negatively impact the care and quality of life IDVS can provide Idaho's Veterans in northern Idaho communities.

3.9 Floodplains, Wetlands, and Coastal Management

The CWA (33 U.S.C. §1251 et seq.), as amended in 1977, established the basic framework for regulating discharges of pollutants into the waters of the United States (WOUS). The CWA National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (33 U.S.C. §1342) requires permits for stormwater discharges associated with construction activities. EO 11990 Protection of Wetlands requires Federal agencies to avoid or minimize adverse impacts on wetlands. EO 11988 Floodplain Management requires Federal agencies to avoid direct or indirect support of development within the 100-year floodplain whenever there is a practicable alternative. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) uses Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) to identify the regulatory 100-year floodplain for the National Flood Insurance Program.

3.9.1 Affected Environment

A review of FEMA FIRM panel numbers 1601040003B (dated 1/20/1982) (Appendix G) indicates that the Property is located in Zone C (No Shading), defined as an area of minimal flooding.

The USFWS National Wetland Inventory (NWI) Mapper indicated that no inventoried wetlands are located on the Site and surrounding properties. A riverine is depicted adjoining the Project Site to the east. No evidence of wetlands were observed during a reconnaissance of the Site.

According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration US Coastal Zone Management Act Boundary Map, the project area is not within the coastal zone.

3.9.2 Environmental Consequences

3.9.2.1 Proposed Action

The Proposed Action renovation and construction activities will not occur within a FEMA designated flood zone or wetlands. The Proposed Action will have no adverse impacts to floodplains, wetlands, or coastal barriers.

3.9.2.2 No Action Alternative

Under the No Action alternative, no impacts to floodplains, wetlands, and coastal management would occur due to IDVS's actions. However, for this project, No Action is defined as VA not awarding the grant for IDVS to renovate the State Veterans Home. As such, IDVS would not construct the needed addition to the Veterans Home in Lewiston which would negatively impact the care and quality of life IDVS can provide Idaho's Veterans in northern Idaho communities.

3.10 Socioeconomics

Federal agencies are required to address local economic and social conditions of federal actions. Socioeconomic indicators, such as population, housing, and regional economic activity inform the assessment of socioeconomics and are utilized to understand the community potentially affected by the proposed action.

3.10.1 Affected Environment

According to the U.S. Census for 2022, 21.4 percent of the Lewiston population are persons under 18 years old, 19.4 percent of the population are persons 65 years and over. 51.4 percent of the population are female persons. 15.2 percent of the Lewiston population is in poverty.

According to the National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs the estimated Veterans population in Idaho projected for 2022 was 120,739. Of this Veterans population 92.7 percent are white, 2.03 percent are black, and 5.27 percent are classified as "all others". There are 9,728 Veterans residing in the Idaho State Veterans Home Lewiston catchment area. Of these Veterans, 8934 are male and 794 are female. 5,430 Veterans in the Lewiston catchment area are aged 65 and older.

There are 11 community-based certified long-term health care facilities and no stand-alone facilities catering to adult day health care in the catchment area of the Idaho State Veterans Home-Lewiston. Once remodeled, the State Veterans Home Lewiston will provide 66 private beds for those Veterans in need.

3.10.2 Environmental Consequences

3.10.2.1 Proposed Action

The implementation of the Proposed Action would result in beneficial impacts to Veterans requiring nursing care. Currently, only seven of the existing single rooms have bathrooms that have showers with other bathrooms only containing a toilet and a sink. Showering is currently accomplished in a bathroom down the hall. Under the Proposed Action, instead of double occupancy rooms sharing one bathroom, Veterans will have their own rooms and bathrooms, each with a personal shower, improving quality of life. Other benefits include amenities that aren't currently provided, such as a physical therapy garden, rose garden with attached conservatory, sports bar, theater, multiple shared living rooms, and multiple shared dens. The Proposed Action would also benefit local contractors that perform site work along with the possible use of local construction materials and supplies.

3.10.2.2 No Action Alternative

Under the No Action alternative, no impacts to socioeconomics would occur due to IDVS's actions, as the current building would remain. However, for this project, No Action is defined as VA not awarding the grant for IDVS to renovate the State Veterans Home. As such, IDVS would not construct the needed addition to the Veterans Home in Lewiston which would negatively impact the care and quality of life IDVS can provide Idaho's Veterans in northern Idaho communities.

3.11 Community Services

Community services include fire and police protection, emergency medical services, schools, and recreational areas.

3.11.1 Affected Environment

Community services at the project area are provided by the City of Lewiston fire department, City of Lewiston police department, and Nez Perce County emergency services.

Recreational areas around the project area include Mountain Dew Skate Park located less than a mile to the northwest, Lewis Clark State College is located approximately less than three quarters of a mile to the northwest, Vollmer Park is located less than a mile to the north, Bengal Field is located less than three quarters of a mile to the northeast, and Modie Park and Conservancy is located approximately 172 feet to the east.

3.11.2 Environmental Consequences

3.11.2.1 Proposed Action

The Proposed Action Plan would slightly increase the demand for fire protection, police services, and emergency medical services, however this increase would be short-term and only during the

construction phase. During construction, there is the potential for an increase in workplace accidents related to construction activities. The implementation of best construction practices and health and safety procedures by the construction and work crew would minimize such hazards.

3.11.2.2. No Action Alternative

Under the No-Action Alternative, no impact to community services would occur as a result of any actions. However, for this project, No Action is defined as VA not awarding the grant for IDVS to renovate the State Veterans Home. As such, IDVS would not construct the needed addition to the Veterans Home in Lewiston which would negatively impact the care and quality of life IDVS can provide Idaho's Veterans in northern Idaho communities.

3.12 Solid Waste and Hazardous Materials

Hazardous substances are defined as any solid, liquid, contained gaseous, or semi-solid waste, or any combination of wastes that pose a substantial present or potential hazard to human health and the environment. Hazardous substances are primarily generated by industries, hospitals, research facilities, and the government. Improper management and disposal of hazardous substances can lead to pollution of groundwater or other drinking water supplies, and the contamination of surface water and soil. The primary Federal regulations for the management and disposal of hazardous substances are the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) and the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA; 42 USC sections 6901 et seq.).

3.12.1 Affected Environment

The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (IDEQ) is responsible for meeting Idaho's federal obligations under the RCRA and CERCLA. The IDEQ also administers those laws and regulations governing Petroleum Storage Tanks, including Aboveground Storage Tanks and Underground Storage Tanks. Solid wastes generated during the Proposed Action would be regulated by IDEQ.

A Phase I Environmental Site Assessment of the project site was completed March 28, 2023, in accordance with ASTM Standard Practice E1527-21. The results of the Phase I Environmental Site Assessment did not identify any existing "recognized environmental conditions" (RECs)

A client-directed asbestos survey was completed on February 14, 2024, for areas scheduled to be disturbed by renovations activities at the Subject Property. 73 asbestos samples were collected and sent to a laboratory for analysis. Laboratory results indicated no asbestos detected in the 73 samples tested. A representative sample of building materials was also sent to the laboratory for lead analysis. Laboratory results indicated lead concentration to be below the regulatory limit and therefore not considered to be hazardous and can be disposed of as construction debris. Laboratory results are included in Appendix I.

3.12.2 Environmental Consequences

3.12.2.1 Proposed Action

Under the Proposed Action, construction activities would result in short-term adverse impacts due to the increased use of petroleum and hazardous substances (such as oil, gasoline, solvents,

paints, etc.). Proper handling and storage of hazardous materials would minimize the risk of impacts from a spill. Solid wastes generated as part of demolition and construction activities would be properly managed and disposed of according to federal, state, and local regulations. Solid waste containers will be located in designated waste storage containment area. Waste disposal dumpsters will have lids or provide cover of a similarly effective means to minimize discharge of pollutants. Waste container lids will be closed when not in use and at the end of each business day.

Operations of the skilled nursing home facility would generate similar solid waste, hazardous materials, and medical wastes as the current operating facility. Waste generation activities at the proposed facility including handling, storage, and disposal, would be managed and disposed of in compliance with federal, state, and local regulations as they are in the existing facility. The wastes would be collected and properly disposed of by approved waste disposal companies at approved disposal facilities.

3.12.2.2 No Action Alternative

Under the No-Action Alternative, no change in the generation of solid and hazardous waste material at the project site. However, for this project, No Action is defined as VA not awarding the grant for IDVS to renovate the State Veterans Home. As such, IDVS would not construct the needed addition to the Veterans Home in Lewiston which would negatively impact the care and quality of life IDVS can provide Idaho's Veterans in northern Idaho communities.

3.13 Traffic, Transportation, and Parking

Transportation networks provide the means for moving throughout a community. This network includes major roadways such as freeways and highways, as well as local roads in neighborhoods. Analysis of transportation includes traffic and parking. Other factors that can be considered in an analysis are public transportation and pedestrian routes, which often alleviate impacts on roads from automobiles through providing alternative means of moving around an area.

3.13.1 Affected Environment

The current nursing care facility can be accessed by 21st Avenue which forms the southern site boundary. Vehicle traffic along this road is associated with travel to the State Veterans Home Lewiston and other commercial businesses, an assisted living facility, as well as Modie Park and Conservancy.

The IDVS has proposed a total of 143 parking spaces for the renovated State Veterans Home compared to the current 123 parking spots. The 143 parking spots include 10 ADA stalls. The parking will be used primarily for visitors and staff. Signs for parking and pedestrian crosswalk will be included in the design to help direct traffic.

3.13.2 Environmental Consequences

3.13.2.1 Proposed Action

Under the Proposed Action, a short-term impact to the transportation network in the surrounding project area would occur during construction. Construction activities would increase vehicle traffic, including trucks and work crew. Construction activities could be scheduled to avoid peak travel times. The Proposed Action also includes a total of 143 surface parking stalls to support the renovation and addition to the facility.

Widening and repaving will be required for the parking lot road that wraps around the facility. Parking stalls will be added in several locations as part of the road widening and repaving. IDVS will implement mitigation measures such as appropriate signage and safety measures for construction areas and possible lane closures. Temporary measures will also be taken for alternative parking for staff and visitors of the Veterans Home during construction.

Operations of the new skilled nursing facility will not have a negative impact as the project area is already developed and operating as a skilled nursing facility. Furthermore, no increase in traffic is expected as no additional staff is required since the bed count will stay the same.

3.13.2.2 No Action Alternative

Under the No-Action Alternative, no impact to traffic, transportation, and parking would occur as a result of any actions. However, for this project, No Action is defined as VA not awarding the grant for IDVS to renovate the State Veterans Home. As such, IDVS would not construct the needed addition to the Veterans Home in Lewiston which would negatively impact the care and quality of life IDVS can provide Idaho's Veterans in northern Idaho communities.

3.14 Utilities

Utilities include municipal water, sanitary sewer, electricity, gas, stormwater, and telecommunication services. Utilities may be provided by existing public utilities or private service providers.

3.14.1 Affected Environment

The property area is developed as a one-story skilled nursing facility. The City of Lewiston provides municipal sanitary and storm sewer utilities. Electrical and natural gas utilities are provided to the current State Veterans Home by Avista Utilities. Locations of existing utility connections are demarcated on the overall utility plan (C-600, C-703, and C-704) (Appendix A).

3.14.2 Environmental Consequences

3.14.2.1 Proposed Action

Under the Proposed Action, there would be no impact to utilities. According to the design development plan (C-600, C-703, and C-704) (Appendix A), new catch basins in the parking lot will connect to the existing swales. Essential connections to utility lines are being preserved and connected to the addition.

The operation of the new State Veterans Home will not result in an increase of consumption of public utilities since the bed count will stay the same.

3.14.2.2 No Action Alternative

Under the No-Action Alternative, no impact to utilities would occur as a result of any actions. However, for this project, No Action is defined as VA not awarding the grant for IDVS to renovate the State Veterans Home. As such, IDVS would not construct the needed addition to the Veterans Home in Lewiston which would negatively impact the care and quality of life IDVS can provide Idaho's Veterans in northern Idaho communities.

4. MITIGATION AND MINIMIZATION MEASURES

Table 4 summarizes the mitigation and minimization measures identified in Section 3.0. Mitigation measures are typically project specific requirements, not routinely implemented as part of a development project, that are necessary to reduce potentially adverse environmental impacts.

The table includes BMPs that are regularly implemented as part of proposed activities, impact minimization techniques, and monitoring opportunities to maintain impacts of the Proposed Action. In addition, regulatory compliance is not considered mitigation, but generally greatly contributes to reducing or preventing environmental impacts.

Table 4. Mitigation Measures by Resource

Resource	Description
Aesthetics	Short-term impacts from demolition and construction activities would be limited to daylight hours to minimize impact from equipment lights. Areas used for staging and other disturbed areas will be restored to their pre-existing conditions.
Air Quality	Short-term air quality impacts could be mitigated through application of suppressants or palliatives such as water, clay additives, or polymers, stabilizing disturbed areas with vegetation or mulch or limiting earth moving construction activities during high wind conditions.
Geology and Soils	As indicated on the Site Plans, short-term erosion and sedimentation impacts would be mitigated through BMPs as referenced from the Idaho Division of Environmental Quality and adherence to a SWPPP.
Hydrology and Water Quality	Short-term erosion and sedimentation impacts would be mitigated by the implementation of the SWPPP and associated erosion and sediment control BMPs for soil stabilization from the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality. Landscaping and vegetation cover will be included in the design of the facilities to reduce irrigation requirements. Spill and leak prevention and response procedures will be implemented during construction to reduce releases of vehicle fluids.

Resource	Description
Noise	<p>All work will strictly follow local noise ordinances to minimize potential impacts to local area. Work activities will not occur between 9pm and 7am. Construction machinery will be shut off while not in use to limit idling noise.</p>
Solid Waste and Hazardous Materials	<p>Wastes generated as part of renovation and construction activities would be properly managed and disposed of according to federal, state, and local regulations. Wastes would be collected and properly disposed of by waste disposal companies at an approved disposal facility.</p> <p>Proper vehicle maintenance and inspections will be up to date to reduce the potential for accidental releases of vehicle fluid.</p>
Traffic, Transportation, and Parking	<p>Short-term traffic and transportation impacts under the Proposed Action include disruptions to adjoining roadways. IDVS would implement mitigation measures such as putting up signs and possible lane closures to manage these effects. Construction activities will be scheduled to avoid peak traffic times.</p>

5. AGENCY COORDINATION AND PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

5.1 Agency Coordination

IDVS coordinated with the following agencies to request review and provide comments on the Proposed Action.

State Agencies

- Idaho State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO)
- Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (IDEQ)
- City of Lewiston
- Nez Perce County Health Department

Federal Agencies

- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (automated reply from IPAC system)

5.2 Native American Consultation

In FY23, FY24, and FY25, VA included the proposed action/undertaking in a program-wide consultation package sent to all federally recognized tribes. VA's Office of Tribal Government Relations distributed this package. VA did not receive any interest in or comments on this project from federally recognized tribes.

5.3 Public and Agency Review

The IDVS, on behalf of VA, will publish and distribute the Draft EA for a 30-day public comment period as announced by a Notice of Availability (NOA) which will be published with the Lewiston Tribune. Review copies of the Draft EA will also be made available online at <https://tinyurl.com/draftealewiston> or www.Veterans.idaho.gov and a hardcopy will be available at the Lewiston City Library located at 411 D St, Lewiston, ID 83501. The NOA will also be sent to federal, state, and local agencies to inform them of the 30-day comment period.

Comments or requests for additional information will be sent to:

Tracy Schaner
Deputy Chief Administrator, Idaho Division of Veterans Services
351 Collins Road, Boise, Idaho 83702
Tracy.schaner@veterans.idaho.gov

Any comments received during the 30-day public comment period would be addressed in the Final EA.

6. REFERENCE CITED

City of Lewiston Planning and Zoning Map, Dated March 16, 2023

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Map Service Center website, msc.fema.gov.

Federal Highway Administration. (2017, August). *Construction Noise Handbook*. Retrieved October 2021, from Chapter 9 Construction Equipment Noise Levels and Ranges: https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/Environment/noise/construction_noise/handbook/handbook09.cfm

Koordinates, US Coastal Zone Management Act Boundary Map, website (<https://koordinates.com/layer/20522-us-coastal-zone-management-act-boundary/>).

Lewiston, Idaho Code of Ordinances / Chapter 24 – Offenses and Miscellaneous Provisions, (https://library.municode.com/id/lewiston/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=COOR_CH_24OFMIPR_ARTIINOCORE).

United States Department of Agriculture, National Resources Conservation Service, Web Soil Survey website: (<http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/>).

United States Department of Environmental Protection, Idaho Nonattainment/Maintenance Status for Each Count by Year for All Criteria Pollutants, website: (https://www3.epa.gov/airquality/greenbook/anayo_id.html).

United States Department of Environmental Protection, EJSCREEN: Environmental Justice Screening and Mapping Tool, website (<https://ejscreen.epa.gov/mapper/>).

USEPA, National Environmental Policy Act, <https://www.epa.gov/nepa>

United States Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) National Wetlands Inventory Wetlands Online Mapper website, (<http://wetlandsfws.er.usgs.gov/>.)

US Fish and Wildlife Service, Environmental Conservation Online System, *Species by County Report* (<https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp0/reports/species-by-current-range-county?fips=12055>).

[USGS, National Map Viewer, https://viewer.nationalmap.gov/advanced-viewer/](https://viewer.nationalmap.gov/advanced-viewer/)

7. GLOSSARY

Aesthetic Resources — Pertaining to the quality of human perception of natural beauty.

Affected Environment — A portion of the NEPA document that succinctly describes the environment of the area(s) to be affected or created by the alternatives under consideration. Includes the environmental and regulatory setting of the proposed action.

Alternative — A reasonable way to fix the identified problem or satisfy the stated need.

Ambient Air Quality Standards — Those standards established according to the Clean Air Act to protect health and welfare.

Attainment Area — Region that meets the National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) for a criteria pollutant under the Clean Air Act.

Best Management Practices (BMPs) — Methods, measures, or practices to prevent or reduce environmental impacts.

Contaminants — Any physical, chemical, biological, or radiological substances that have an adverse effect on air, water, or soil.

Cultural and Historic Resources — The physical evidence of our Nation's heritage. Includes archaeological sites; historic buildings, structures, and districts; and localities with social significance to the human community. Cultural resources are defined by VA Handbook 7545 as "all aspects of the human environment that have historical, architectural, archaeological, or cultural significance, including, but not limited to, historic properties, archaeological resources and data, Native American ancestral remains and cultural items, religious places and practices, historical objects and artifacts, historical documents, and community identity."

Decibel (dB) — A unit of measurement of sound pressure level.

Direct Impact — A direct impact is caused by a proposed action and occurs at the same time and place.

Emission — A release of a pollutant.

Endangered Species — Any species that is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range.

Environmental Assessment (EA) — A concise public document prepared by a federal agency to aid an agency's compliance with NEPA and support its determination of whether to prepare an environmental impact statement or a finding of no significant impact.

Erosion — The wearing away of the land surface by detachment and movement of soil and rock fragments through the action of moving water and geological agents.

Finding of Significant Impact (FONSI) — A FONSI is a decision document that briefly presents the reasons why an action would not have a significant effect on the human environment.

Floodplain — The relatively flat area or lowlands adjoining a river, stream, ocean, lake, or other body of water that is susceptible to being inundated by floodwaters.

Fugitive Dust — Particles light enough to be suspended in air, but not captured by a filtering system. For this document, this refers to particles put in the air by moving vehicles and air movement over disturbed soils at construction sites.

Geology — Science that deals with the physical history of the earth, the rocks of which it is composed, and physical changes in the earth.

Groundwater — Water found below the ground surface. Groundwater may be geologic in origin and as pristine as it was when it was entrapped by the surrounding rock or it may be subject to daily or seasonal effects depending on the local hydrologic cycle. Groundwater may be pumped from wells and used for drinking water, irrigation, and other purposes. It is recharged by precipitation or irrigation water soaking into the ground. Thus, any contaminant in precipitation or irrigation water may be carried into groundwater.

Hazardous Materials — Generally any material that poses a threat to human health and/or the environment. Hazardous materials are typically toxic, corrosive, ignitable, explosive, or chemically reactive. For this document, a hazardous material is any one of the following:

- Any substance designated pursuant to section 311 (b)(2)(A) of the Clean Water Act.
- Any element, compound, mixture, solution, or substance designated pursuant to Section 102 of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act, as listed in 40CFR 302.4.
- Any hazardous substance as defined under Resource Conservation and Recovery Act.
- Any toxic pollutant listed under TSCA.
- Any hazardous air pollutant listed under Section 112 of the Clean Air Act.
- Any imminently hazardous chemical substance or mixture with respect to which the USEPA Administrator has taken action pursuant to Subsection 7 of TSCA.
- The term does not include: 1) Petroleum, including crude oil or any thereof, which is not otherwise specifically listed or designated as a hazardous substance in any above statute. 2) Natural gas, natural gas liquids, liquefied natural gas, or synthetic gas usable for fuel (or mixtures of natural gas and such synthetic gas).

Historic Property — Any prehistoric or historic district, site, building, structure, or object included in, or eligible for inclusion in, the National Register of Historic Places maintained by the Secretary of the Interior. This term includes artifacts, records, and remains that are related to and located within such properties. The term includes properties of traditional religious and cultural importance to an Indian tribe or Native Hawaiian organization and that meet the National Register criteria.

Indirect Impact — An indirect impact occurs later in time or farther removed in distance from the action causing it but is still reasonably foreseeable. Indirect impacts may include induced changes in the pattern of land use, population density or growth rate, and related effects on air, water, and other natural and social systems.

Listed Species — Any plant or animal designated by a state or the federal government as a threatened, endangered.

Mitigation — Program-or project-specific measures taken to reduce adverse impacts on the environment.

National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) — Nationwide standards set up by the USEPA for widespread air pollutants, as required by Section 109 of the Clean Air Act. Currently, six pollutants are regulated by primary and secondary NAAQS: carbon monoxide, lead, nitrogen dioxide, ozone, particulate matter, and sulfur dioxide.

National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) — A provision of the Clean Water Act that prohibits discharge of pollutants into waters of the United States unless a special permit is issued by the Environmental Protection Agency, a state, or, where delegated, a tribal government on an Indian reservation.

National Register of Historic Places — The nation's inventory of known historic properties that have been formally listed by the National Park Service (NPS). The National Register of Historic Places is administered by the NPS on behalf of the Secretary of the Interior. National Register listings include districts, landscapes, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that meet the set of criteria found in 36 CFR 60.4.

Non-attainment Area — An area that has been designated by the USEPA or the authorized state air quality agency as exceeding one or more national or state ambient air quality standards.

Parcel — A plot of land, usually a division of a larger area.

Sensitive Receptors — Include, but are not limited to children, and the elderly, as well as specific facilities, such as long-term health care facilities, rehabilitation centers, convalescent centers, retirement homes, residences, schools, playgrounds, and childcare centers.

Soil — The mixture of altered mineral and organic material at the earth's surface that supports plant life.

Solid Waste — Non-liquid, non-soluble materials ranging from municipal garbage to industrial wastes that contain complex and sometimes hazardous substances. Solid wastes also include sewage sludge, agricultural refuse, demolition wastes, and mining residues. Technically, solid waste also refers to liquids and gases in containers. Regulatorily, a solid waste is any discarded material that is not excluded by 40 CFR 261.4(a) or that is not excluded by variance granted under 40 CFR 260.30 and 40 CFR 260.31.

Threatened Species — Any species that is likely to become an endangered species within the

foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range.

Topography — The relief features or surface configuration of an area.

Watershed — The region draining into a particular stream, river, or entire river system.

Wetlands — Areas that are regularly saturated by surface or groundwater and, thus, are characterized by a prevalence of vegetation that is adapted for life in saturated soil conditions. Examples include swamps, bogs, fens, marshes, and estuaries.

Wildlife Habitat — Set of living communities in which a wildlife population lives.