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Ecological Baseline Studies

JBR Environmental Consultants, Inc. (JBR) provides a wide variety of biological resource management and ecological services throughout the West. Our scientists have extensive field experience. Our managers have coordinated projects with multiple federal and state agencies. Our clients have demonstrated their confidence in our staff by consistently sending us repeat business.

Project Experience

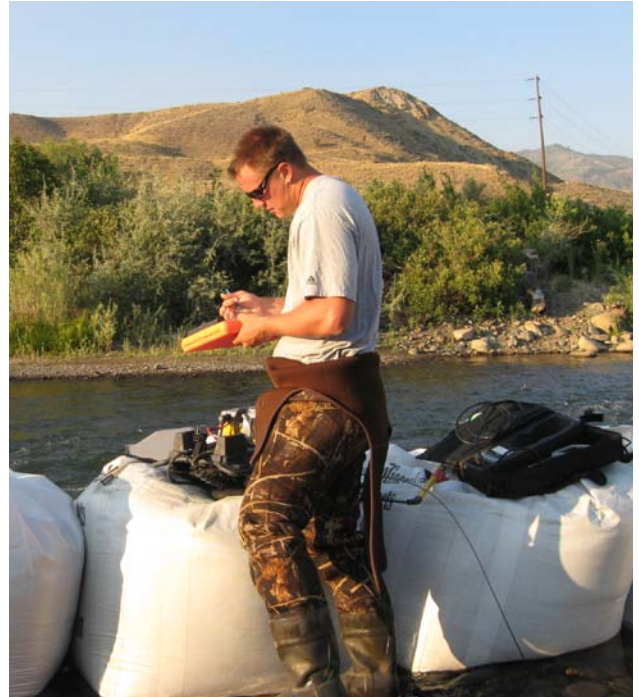
PacifiCorp/UAMPS St. George Switchyard & 138/345 kV Power Line Upgrade Project, UT

In January 2004, PacifiCorp, as the designated representative for the project, proposed the St. George Switchyard (SGSY) and Red Butte/Central to SGSY/Middleton Transmission Line Upgrade Project to the Bureau of Land management (BLM), the US Forest Service (USFS), the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and the Washington County Habitat Conservation Advisory Committee. JBR was retained by PacifiCorp to conduct all aspects of the environmental permitting process and obtain the required approvals.

JBR's team of GIS, biology, and NEPA specialists:

- conducted intensive mapping and baseline habitat assessments for the proposed new disturbance areas;
- prepared information for agency reviews and discussion related to the issues surrounding critical habitat for the desert tortoise;
- prepared an Environmental Assessment, a Biological Assessment, and a Biological Evaluation;
- conducted all of the necessary biological field surveys (e.g., special status species, vegetation, wildlife, raptors, and song birds); and
- provided construction monitoring to ensure compliance with the Biological Opinion issued by USFWS and other agency terms and conditions.

JBR staff has excellent working relationships with both the decision makers and proponents as evidenced by the repeat project work in this area and with the individuals involved.



Services

- Comprehensive baseline biological surveys
- Vegetation mapping, botanical inventories, and noxious weed surveys
- Reclamation and revegetation success monitoring
- Wetland delineations and riparian surveys
- Wetland design and mitigation monitoring
- Wildlife habitat assessments
- Big game, game bird, breeding bird, and raptor surveys
- Bat studies and bat mitigation related to mine closures or redevelopment
- Aquatic and macroinvertebrate surveys
- Threatened, endangered, and special status species surveys
- Pre-construction clearance surveys
- Construction monitoring
- Post-construction monitoring

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Project Experience

Rancho San Rafael Regional Park Wetlands Restoration Project, NV

JBR teamed with Kennedy Jenks Consultants and Kelley Erosion Control to create 3.4 acres of riparian wetland for Washoe County Department of Regional Parks and Open Space. The project consisted of the restoration of a creek located at the Rancho San Rafael Regional Park in Reno, Nevada. For this project, JBR conducted the biological baseline studies and successfully obtained the state and federal environmental permits. JBR performed the wetland delineation, vegetation and wildlife assessments, and water quality evaluation. JBR prepared the wetland mitigation and monitoring plan needed to obtain a Clean Water Act Section 404 permit from the US Army Corps of Engineers. JBR also prepared specifications for plant material installation and a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan. Ongoing tasks include monitoring to track success, annual compliance reporting, inspecting for noxious weeds, identifying erosion control needs, and providing permitting assistance.

In recognition of its efforts, JBR has been awarded the Elmer H. Anderson Parks Excellence Award 2008 for its work on the Rancho San Rafael Regional Park Wetlands Restoration Project. This annual award recognizes outstanding efforts in the field of Park Planning, Design, and Development in the State of Nevada.

J.R. Simplot Co. Dairy Syncline Phosphate Mine, ID

Beginning in 2003 and continuing through to present, JBR has performed baseline wildlife (including migratory bird, raptor, and ground-nesting bird species), vegetation, noxious weeds, threatened and endangered species, wetlands, water resources, noise, and visual surveys for J.R. Simplot Company's proposed Dairy Syncline Phosphate Mine. Located in the southeastern Idaho phosphate belt, the Dairy Syncline project area is over 3,000 acres and includes the main pit, mill and office facilities, tailings pond, access roads, electric transmission line, and slurry pipeline located on BLM, USFS, and private land.

JBR biologists have conducted species-specific surveys for such wildlife as great grey and boreal owl, three-toed woodpecker, northern goshawk, bats, several amphibian species, fur-bearing mammals and predator species, and fish. Surveys were conducted during all target seasons in accordance with USFS protocols. JBR biologists and GIS specialists also conducted intensive mapping and baseline habitat assessments for the proposed disturbance areas, including both the exploration and production project phases. JBR staff prepared Environmental Assessments in 2003 and in 2009 for exploration work on USFS land, with mineral rights administered by BLM, and they are currently preparing baseline technical reports for all resources to be evaluated under the Environmental Impact Statement. JBR staff have worked closely with both BLM and USFS agency project managers and resource specialists throughout the planning, exploration, and production permitting processes.

Expert Staff

Our multi-disciplinary biological and ecological resource staff includes:

- Botanists
- Wildlife Biologists
- Conservation Biologists
- Certified Wetland Specialists and Riparian Scientists
- Hydrologists and Watershed Scientists
- Range Scientists
- Soil Scientists



Related Experience

We have prepared documents, resource management plans, and permit applications on behalf of both private and public sector clients for a broad range of development and land use proposals, including:

- Biological Assessments/Biological Evaluations
- Environmental Assessments/Environmental Impact Statements/Specialist Reports
- Habitat Assessment and Management Plans
- Reclamation Plans
- Wetland Delineations
- Weed Control Plans
- Mitigation and Monitoring Plans