



# CONSTRUCTED WETLANDS FOR RURAL WASTEWATER TREATMENT

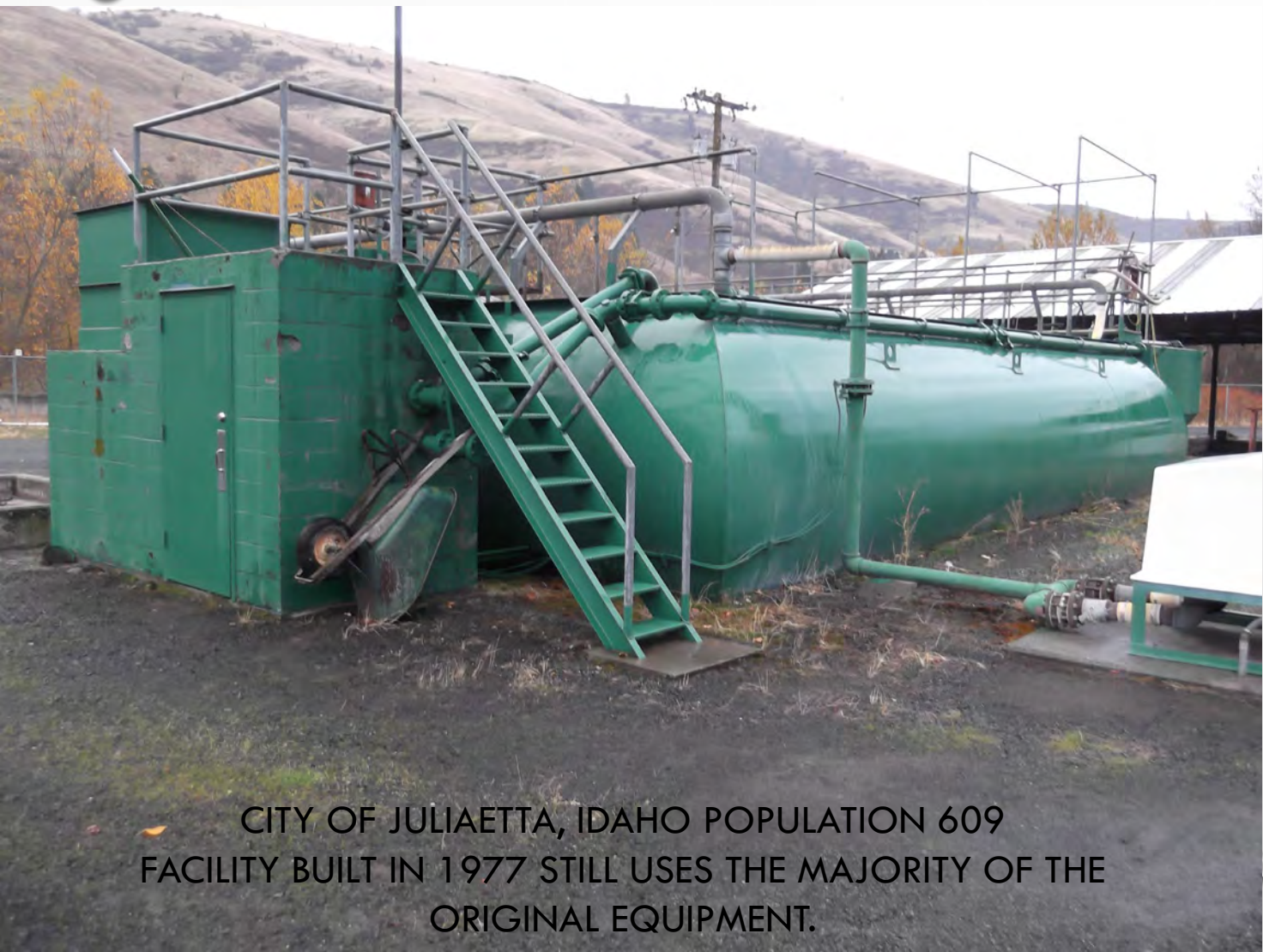
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# SMALL COMMUNITIES, BIG PROBLEMS...



CITY OF JULIAETTA, IDAHO POPULATION 609  
FACILITY BUILT IN 1977 STILL USES THE MAJORITY OF THE  
ORIGINAL EQUIPMENT.

- AGING INFRASTRUCTURE
- INCREASINGLY STRINGENT WATER QUALITY STANDARDS
- \$\$\$\$\$ SYSTEM UPGRADES
- SMALL TAX BASE
- STAFFING FOR M&O

The background of the slide is a light gray gradient with several realistic water droplets and bubbles of various sizes scattered across it. In the top-left corner, there is a small orange square icon containing a white speech bubble.

## QUICK FACTS:

THERE ARE 187 CITIES IN IDAHO WITH A POPULATION LESS THAN 5,000

IN ADDITION, THERE ARE UNINCORPORATED COMMUNITIES & SUBDIVISIONS USING CENTRALIZED WASTEWATER TREATMENT SYSTEMS

FROM 2015-2018, THE IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY FUNDED CONSTRUCTED LOANS FOR 8 IDAHO CITIES (POPULATION <6,000) TOTALING OVER \$60,000,000



# TRADITIONAL TECHNOLOGY



LAGOONS ARE COMMONLY USED FOR WASTEWATER TREATMENT IN SMALL COMMUNITIES, BUT PROVIDE NO ANCILLARY BENEFITS. RENOVATIONS STILL COST MILLIONS...



GOOGLE EARTH, 2019.



# CURRENT ISSUES

TRADITIONAL LAGOON INFRASTRUCTURE IS AGING AND WILL COST MILLIONS OF DOLLARS TO REPLACE

NEW DISCHARGE PERMITS CONTAIN HIGHER STANDARDS THAN BEFORE...

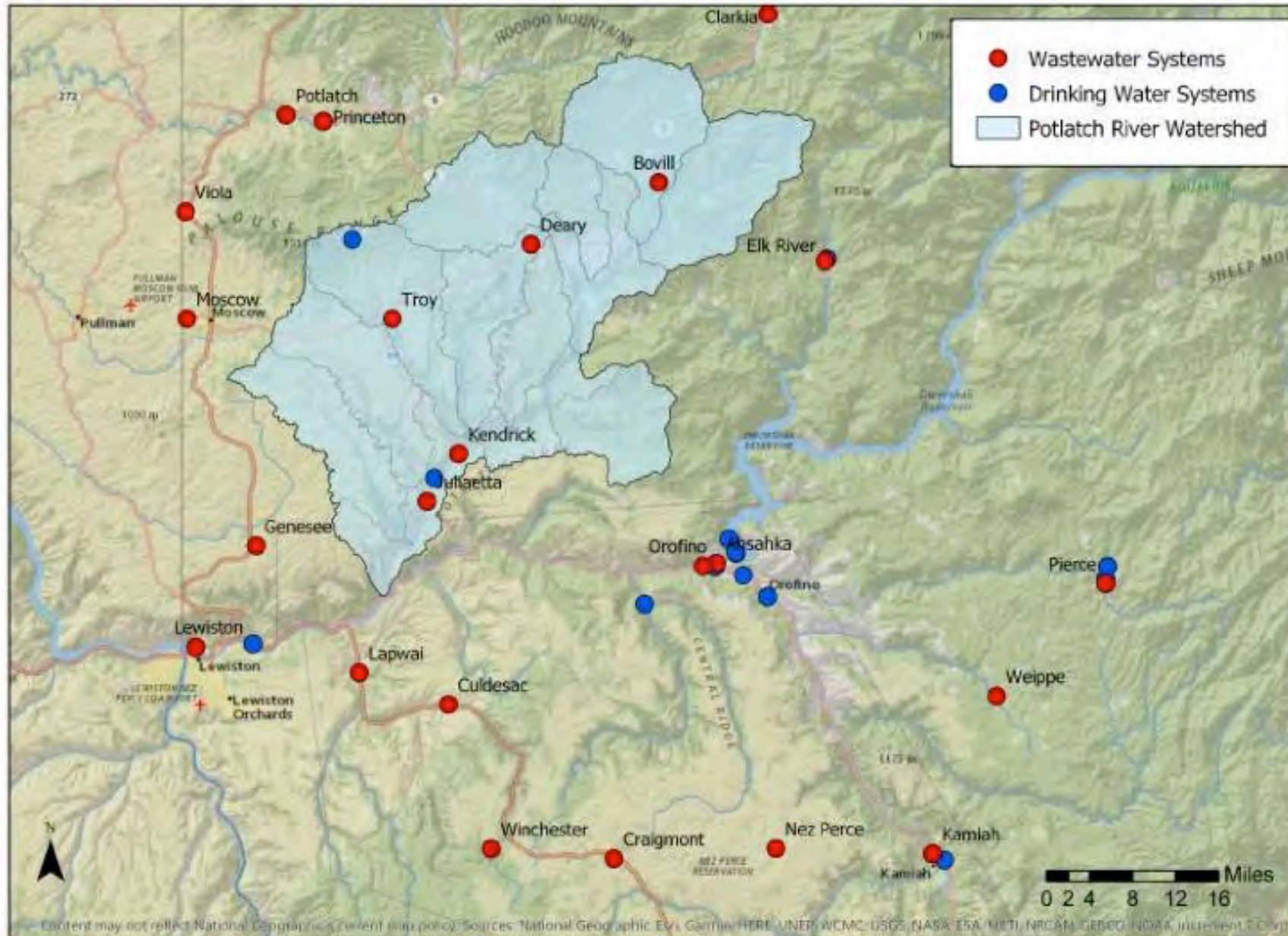
SUCH AS AMMONIA, PHOSPHOROUS, AND WATER TEMPERATURE

CITIES OBTAIN DRINKING WATER FROM THE SAME RIVERS THAT RECEIVE TREATED WASTEWATER

EFFECTIVE WASTEWATER TREATMENT → COST SAVINGS FOR CLEAN DRINKING WATER



# Drinking Water Sources & Wastewater Discharge in the Potlatch River Watershed & Vicinity





# TIME FOR CHANGE...

INFRASTRUCTURE IS REACHING THE END OF ITS USEFUL LIFE

IT IS EXPECTED THAT MANY FACILITIES WON'T BE ABLE TO  
MEET STANDARDS OF NEW DISCHARGE PERMITS

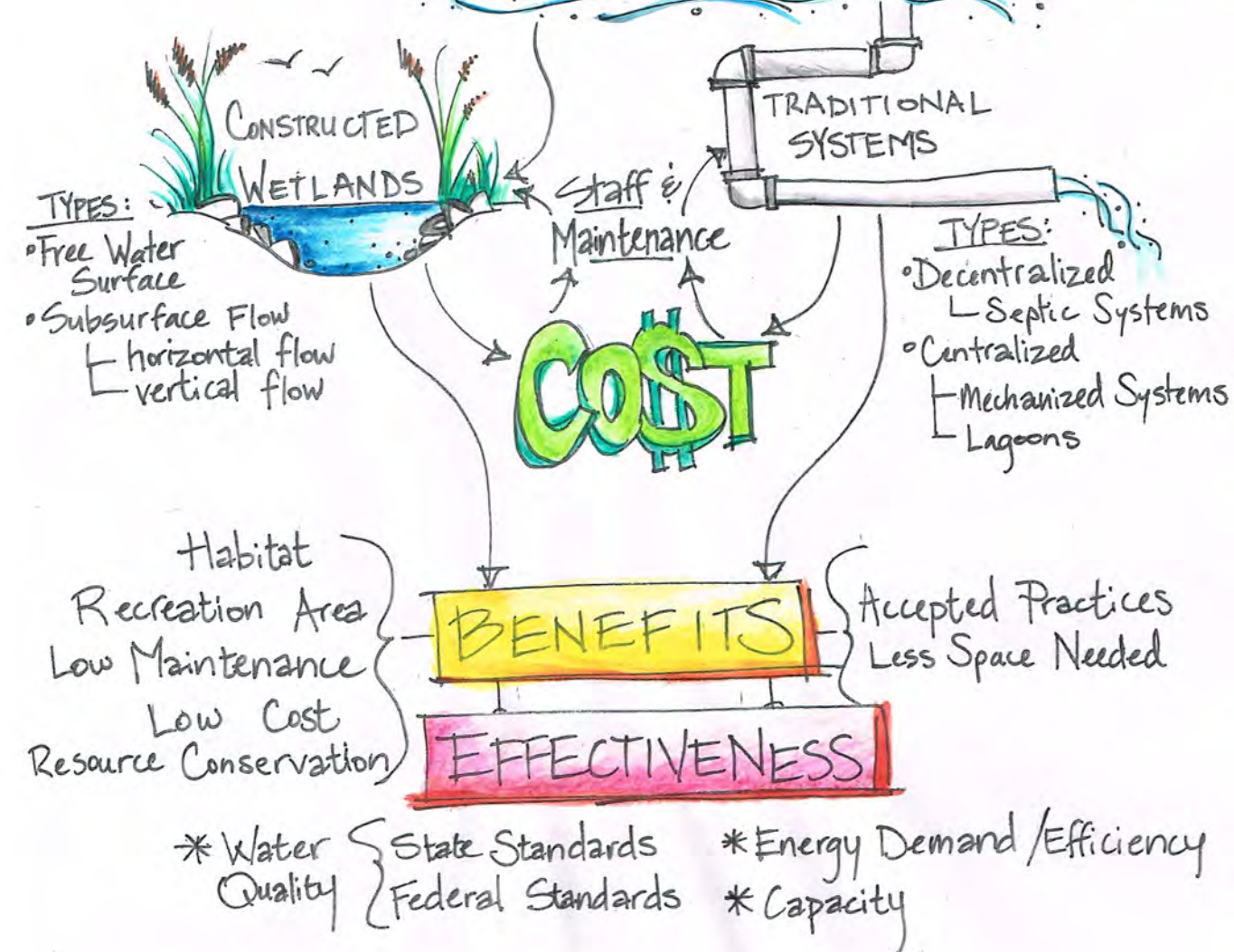
CONSTRUCTED WETLANDS MAY BE THE OPTION  
COMMUNITIES CAN'T AFFORD TO REFUSE!





# Wastewater

## Treatment



## PROJECT SCOPE & GOALS

- IDENTIFY THE CRITICAL COMPONENTS OF A CONSTRUCTED WETLAND
- IDENTIFY CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS TO PERMITTING AND FUNDING
- COMPARE COST AND BENEFITS OF CONSTRUCTED WETLANDS TO TRADITIONAL WASTEWATER TREATMENT METHODS



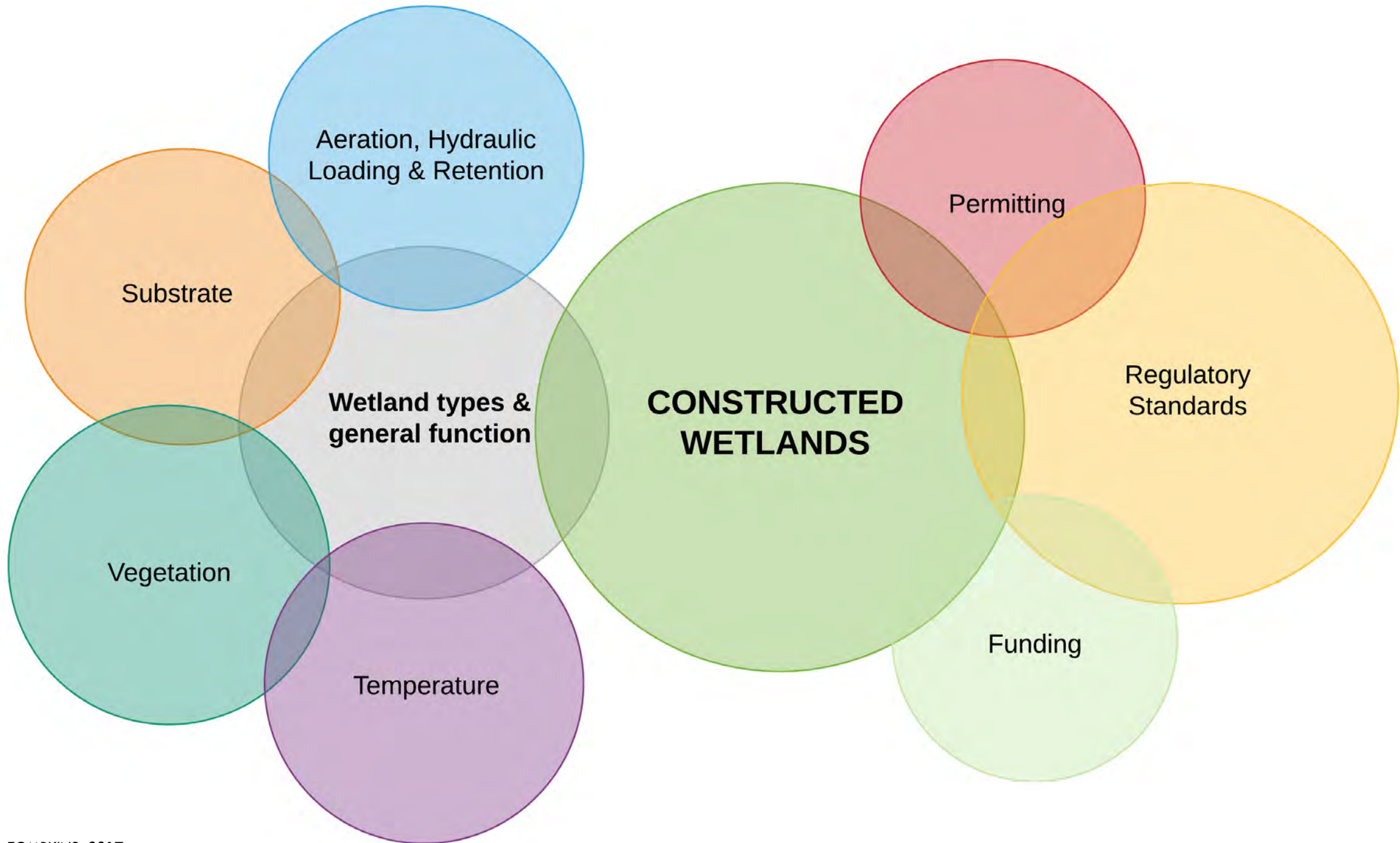
The background of the slide features a soft-focus image of a wetland. In the foreground, several tall, thin reeds with long, narrow leaves are visible. The water in the background is a pale, hazy blue, and the overall scene is bathed in a warm, golden light, suggesting a sunrise or sunset. Scattered throughout the image are several realistic-looking water droplets of various sizes, some in sharp focus and others blurred, adding a sense of freshness and moisture to the scene.

# WHY CONSTRUCTED WETLANDS?

HAVE LOW ENERGY NEEDS AND FEWER OPERATIONAL REQUIREMENTS COMPARED TO CONVENTIONAL WASTEWATER TREATMENT SYSTEMS

CAN PRODUCE HIGH QUALITY EFFLUENT AND AT LOWER POWER REQUIREMENTS THAN CONVENTIONAL ACTIVATED SLUDGE SYSTEMS

OFFER SEVERAL BENEFITS COMPARED TO TRADITIONAL CENTRALIZED TREATMENT SYSTEMS: LOWER WATER TEMPERATURE, LOWER ENERGY DEMAND, LOWER MAINTENANCE, LOWER COST, RECREATION AREA, RESOURCE CONSERVATION, HABITAT FOR WILDLIFE AND AQUATIC LIFE, AND ATTRACTIVE AESTHETICS







# GENERAL FUNCTION

CONSTRUCTED WETLANDS ARE...

“TREATMENT SYSTEMS THAT USE NATURAL PROCESSES INVOLVING WETLAND VEGETATION, FILTER MEDIA, AND THEIR ASSOCIATED MICROBIAL ASSEMBLAGES TO IMPROVE WATER QUALITY” (US EPA)

A POPULAR METHOD OF WASTEWATER TREATMENT FOR SMALL COMMUNITIES AND REMOTE LOCATIONS AROUND THE WORLD



# WETLAND TYPES

## CATEGORIES BASED ON HYDROLOGY:

1. FREE WATER SURFACE FLOW (FWS)

2. SUBSURFACE FLOW (SSF)

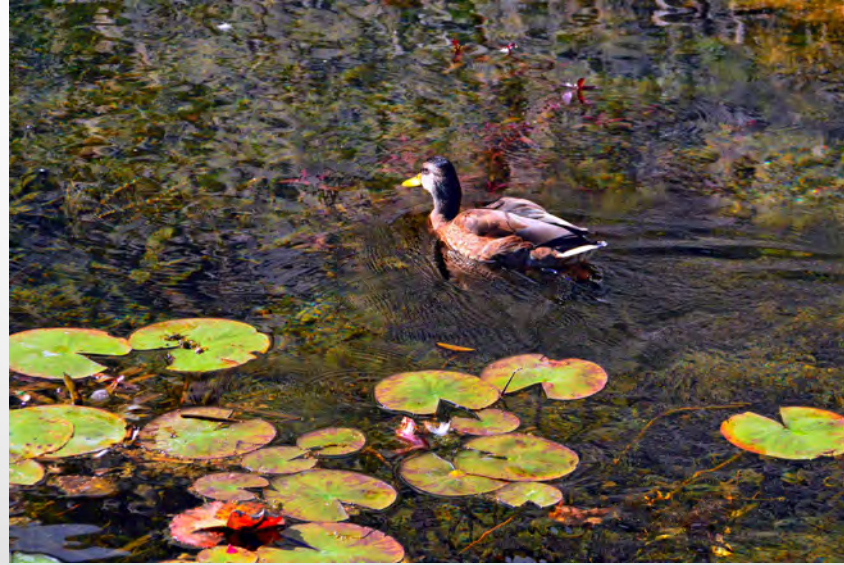
- \* VERTICAL SSF

- \* HORIZONTAL SSF

3. HYBRID



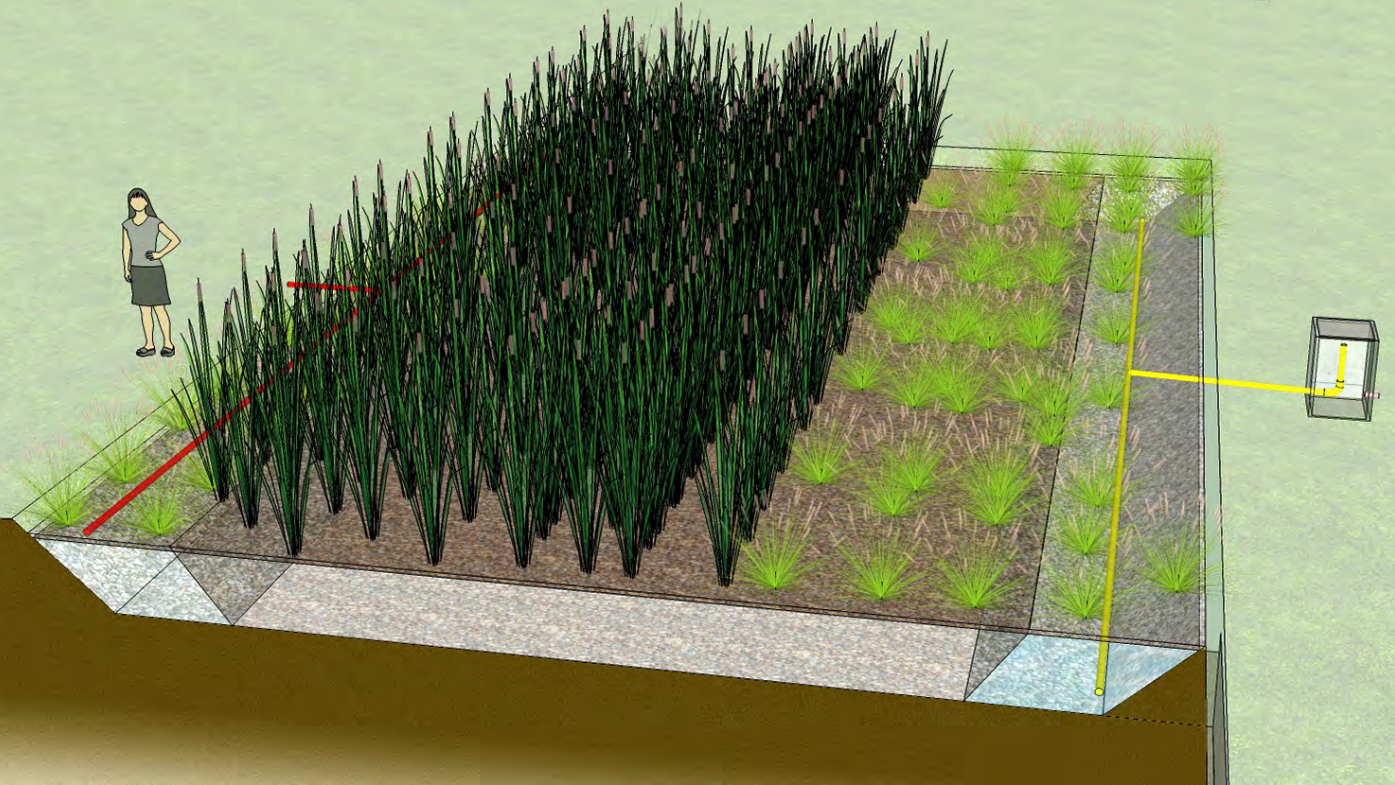
# FREE WATER SURFACE



OPEN SOURCE IMAGES, 2019.

- SIMILAR IN APPEARANCE TO NATURAL WETLANDS
- SHALLOW DEPTH OF WATER OVER A SATURATED SUBSTRATE
- BENEFITS: ATTRACTIVE, DRAW WILDLIFE, ALLOW HUMAN CONTACT WITH WATER
- DRAWBACKS: SUSCEPTIBLE TO FREEZING, POTENTIAL ODORS AND MOSQUITOS





# HORIZONTAL SUBSURFACE FLOW

- WATER FLOWS HORIZONTALLY THROUGH THE SUBSTRATE
- FIRST USED IN GERMANY IN 1974
- NOW USED IN TENS OF THOUSANDS OF EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
- BENEFITS: LACK OF ODORS, MOSQUITOS, AND MINIMAL RISK OF HUMAN CONTACT
- DRAWBACKS: DESIGN AND MATERIAL SPECS CRITICAL TO PREVENT CLOGGING OF SUBSTRATE/FILTER MEDIA
- SOMEWHAT PREFERENTIAL TO ANAEROBIC (DENITRIFYING) CONDITIONS





# VERTICAL SUBSURFACE FLOW

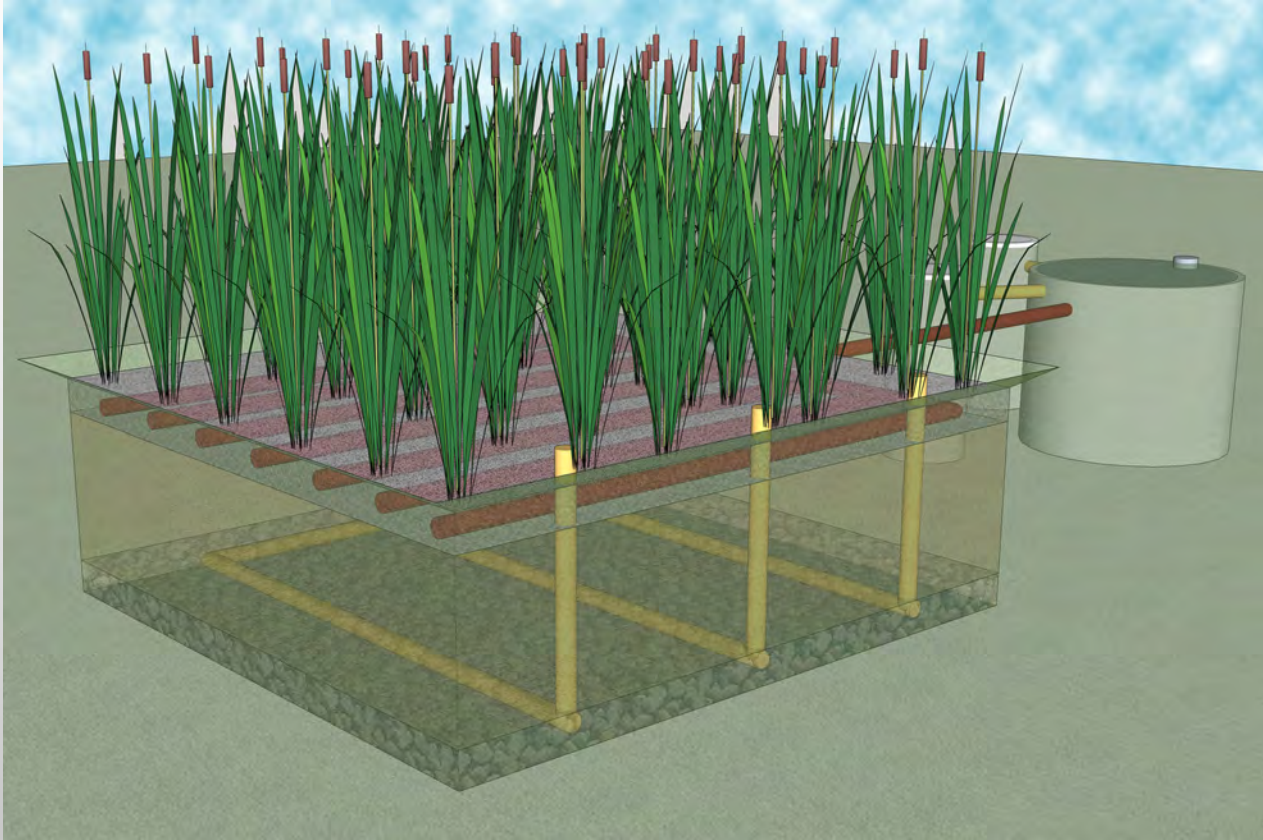


PHOTO & MODEL: GARY AUSTIN, LICENSE: CC-BY-SA-4.0.

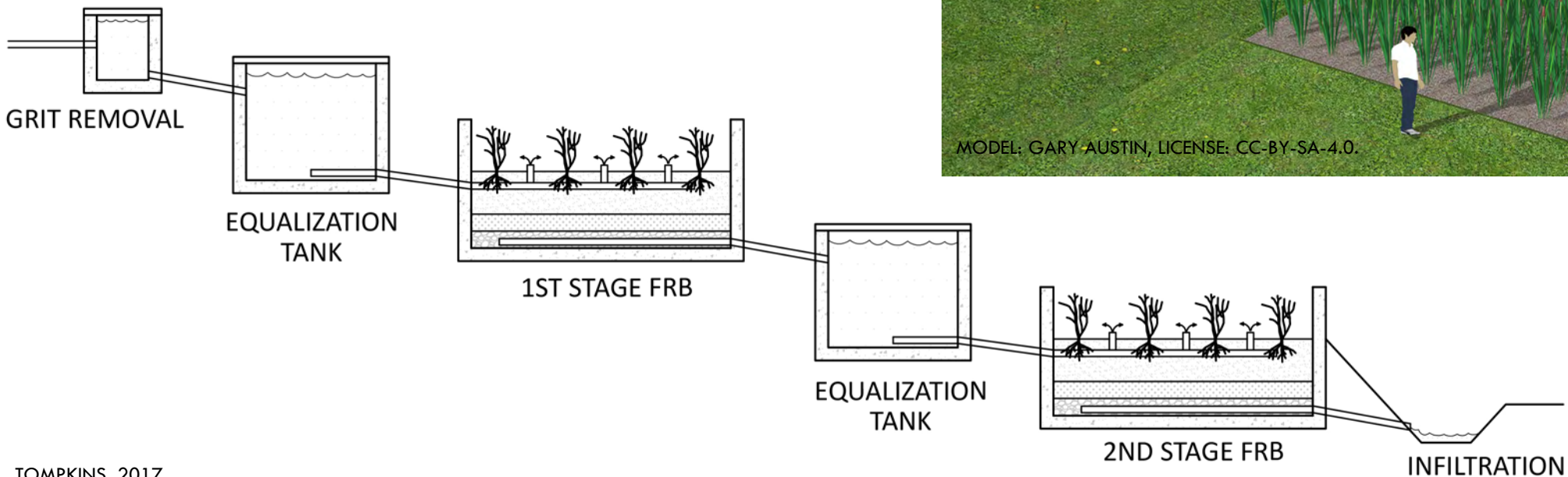
- WATER IS DISTRIBUTED BELOW SURFACE AND FLOWS VERTICALLY THROUGH THE SUBSTRATE
- BENEFITS: REQUIRE LESS AREA THAN FWS WETLANDS, LACK OF ODORS, MOSQUITOS, AND MINIMAL RISK OF HUMAN CONTACT
- FRENCH REED BED DESIGN DOES NOT REQUIRE PRETREATMENT
- SOMEWHAT PREFERENTIAL TO AEROBIC (NITRIFYING) CONDITIONS



# VERTICAL SUBSURFACE FLOW

## FRENCH REED BEDS

- RECEIVES RAW WASTEWATER
- MINIMAL PRETREATMENT FOR GRIT/OIL REMOVAL
- NO NEED FOR SEPTIC OR IMHOFF TANKS
- SLUDGE REMOVAL FROM 1<sup>ST</sup> STAGE BEDS EVERY 10+ YRS
- BENEFITS: REDUCED COST RELATED TO PRETREATMENT/SLUDGE HANDLING OVER OTHER SYSTEMS
- DRAWBACKS: POTENTIAL PERMITTING CHALLENGES RELATED TO VECTORING PATHOGENS FROM SURFACE SLUDGE

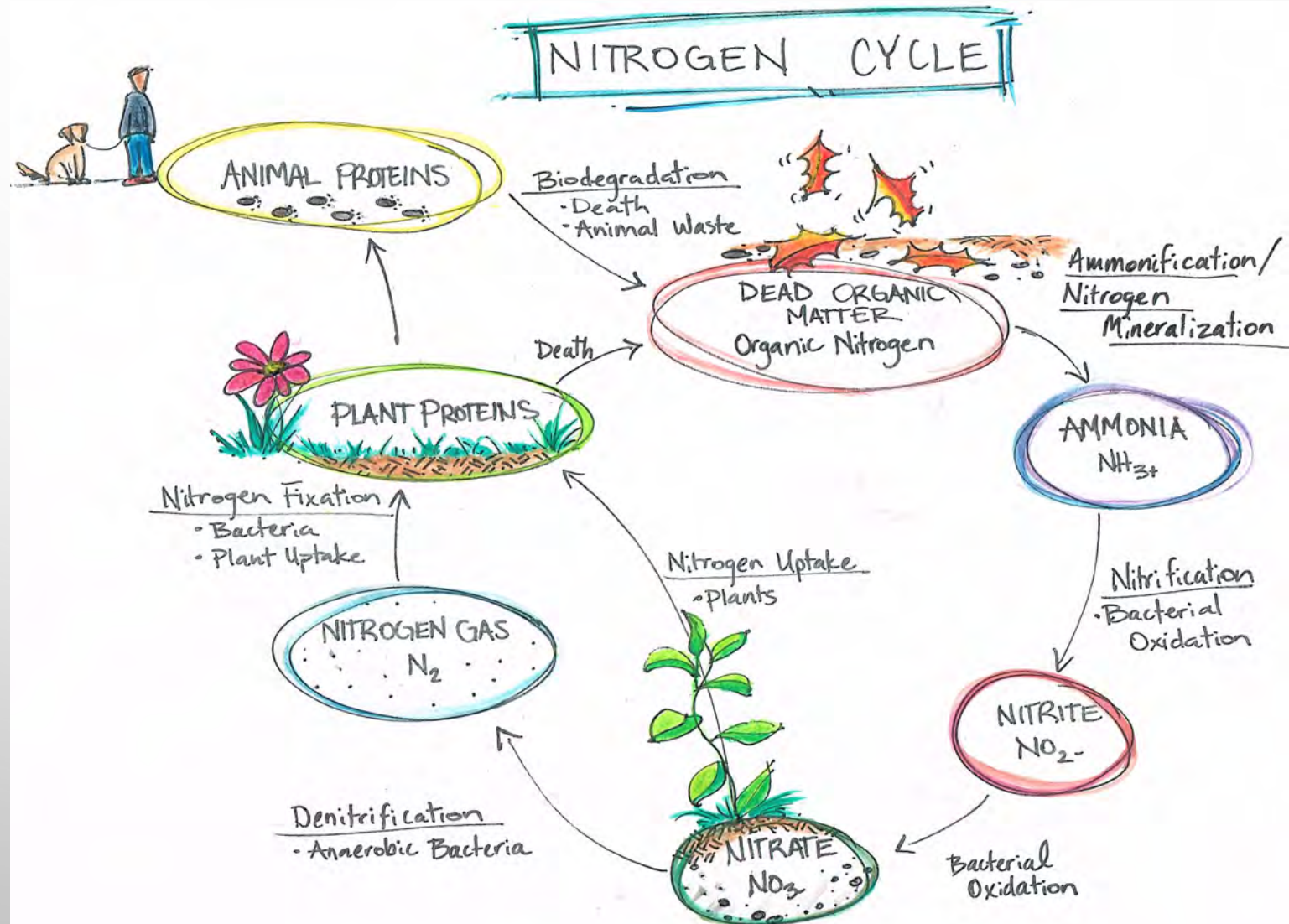




# CRITICAL COMPONENTS

## AERATION, HYDRAULIC LOADING, & HYDRAULIC RETENTION

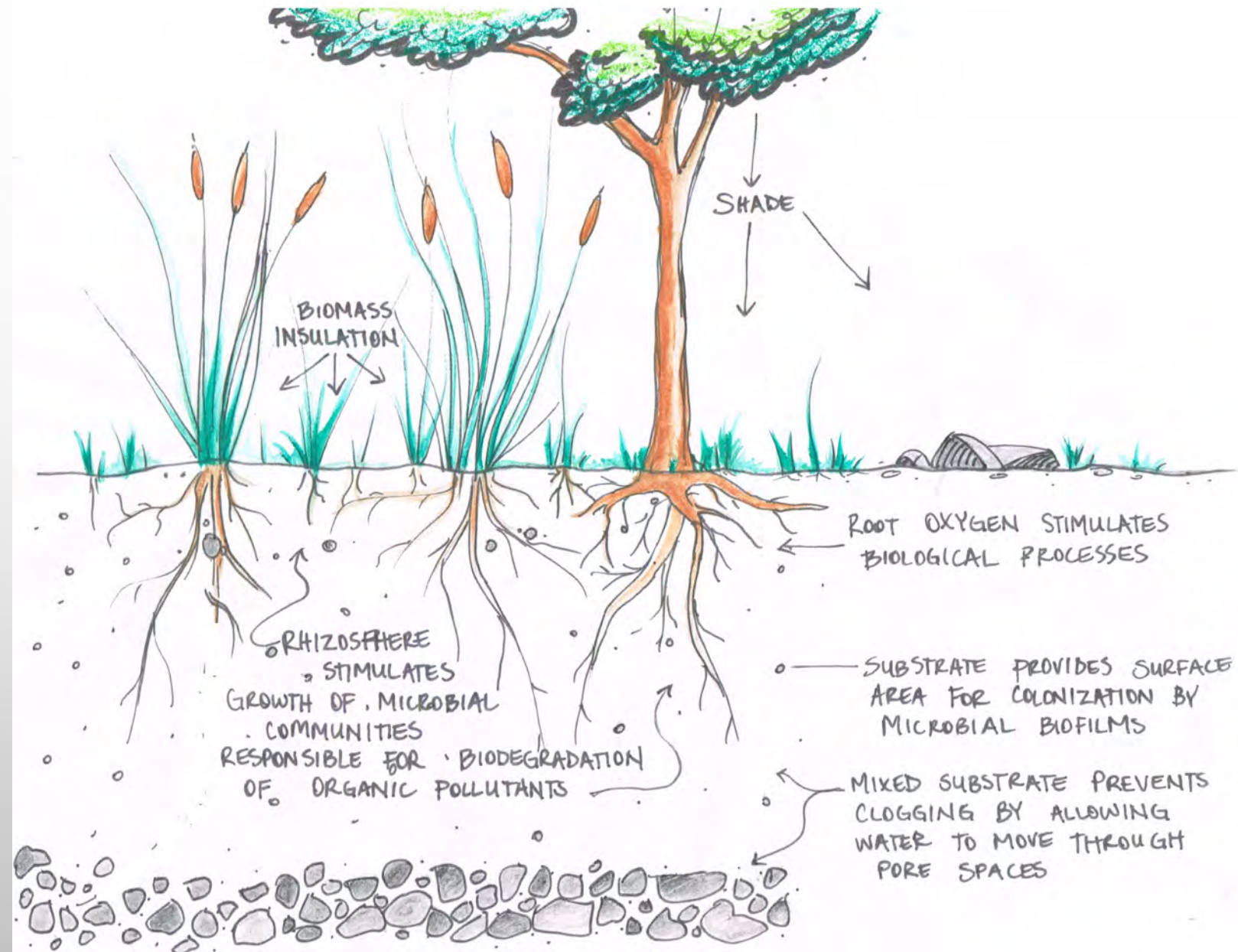
- CAN BE MANIPULATED TO CONTROL AEROBIC AND ANAEROBIC CONDITIONS TO PROMOTE AMMONIFICATION, NITRIFICATION, AND DENITRIFICATION
- EXAMPLES: DROP AERATION, FORCED AERATION, TIDAL (FILL & DRAIN) FLOW REGIMES, ETC.



# CRITICAL COMPONENTS

## PLANTS

- PROVIDE THERMAL PROTECTION AGAINST ICE
- PLANT GROWTH, RESPIRATION, AND NUTRIENT EXCHANGE SUPPORT MICROBES THAT BREAK DOWN POLLUTANTS
- POLY-CULTURE AND COLD-HARDY TRAITS IMPROVE TREATMENT EFFICIENCY

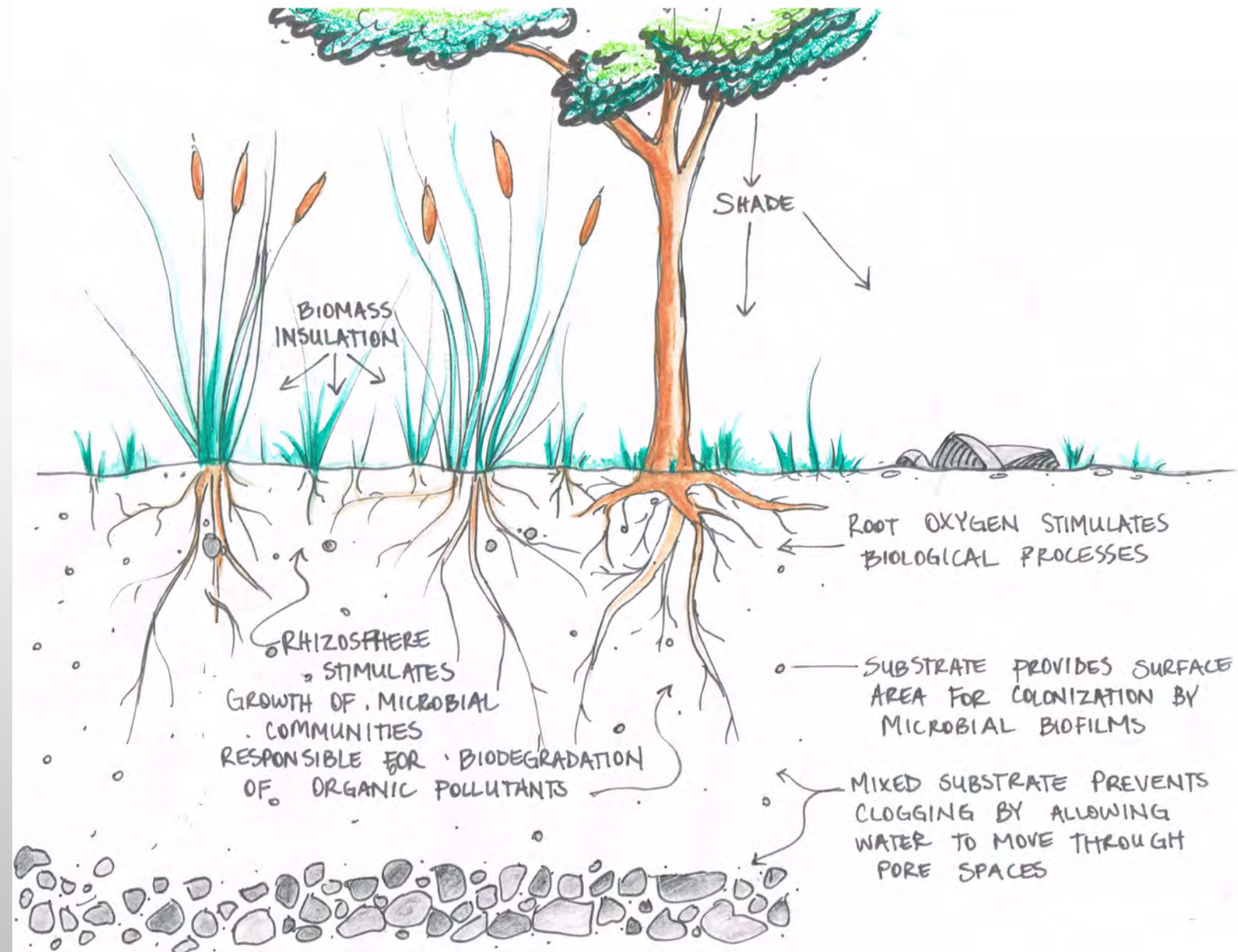




# CRITICAL COMPONENTS

## SUBSTRATE

- PROVIDES GROWING MEDIUM FOR PLANT MATERIALS AND MICROBIAL LIFE
- MIXED SUBSTRATES PROVIDE HIGH HYDRAULIC CONDUCTIVITY WHICH HELPS PREVENT CLOGGING
- SPECIFIC SUBSTRATES USED TO TARGET REMOVAL OF SPECIFIC POLLUTANTS





# CRITICAL COMPONENTS

## TEMPERATURE

- COLD TEMPERATURES SLOW MICROBIAL PROCESSES/NITRIFICATION AND DENITRIFICATION, BUT CAN STILL PROVIDE EFFECTIVE TREATMENT.
- COLD TEMPS DON'T EFFECT REMOVAL OF PHOSPHOROUS, TSS, BOD, COD
- USE COMMON SENSE: SOUTHERN ASPECTS, BURY PIPING, ALTERNATE FILTERS 2X WEEK
- SSF WETLANDS CAN REDUCE WATER TEMPERATURE



OPEN SOURCE IMAGES, 2019.



# CASE STUDY #1

## PRINSBURG, MINNESOTA



POPULATION 497

COST \$1,281,800 (2004)

+ \$30,000/YR CONTRACTED  
MONITORING, M & O

+ ANNUAL SEPTIC PUMPING

+ PUBLIC WORKS MANAGER



# CASE STUDY #1

## PRINSBURG, MINNESOTA

- SIZED TO TREAT 54,000 GPD
- GRAVITY CITY SEWER LINES
- PRETREATMENT - (4) 20,000 SEPTIC TANKS
- EVEN DISTRIBUTION TO (4) HORIZONTAL SSF WETLANDS WITH FORCED BED AERATION
- TOTAL SIZE = 1.57 ACRES
- (2) 15,000 G DOSING TANKS FEED (2) VERTICAL SSF SAND FILTERS FOR SECONDARY TREATMENT
- CHLORINATION/ DECHLORINATION PRIOR TO DISCHARGE TO SURFACE WATER



03/31/2015 10:58





# CASE STUDY #2

## MINOT, NORTH DAKOTA

POPULATION 50,000 (2018)

CONSTRUCTED 1991

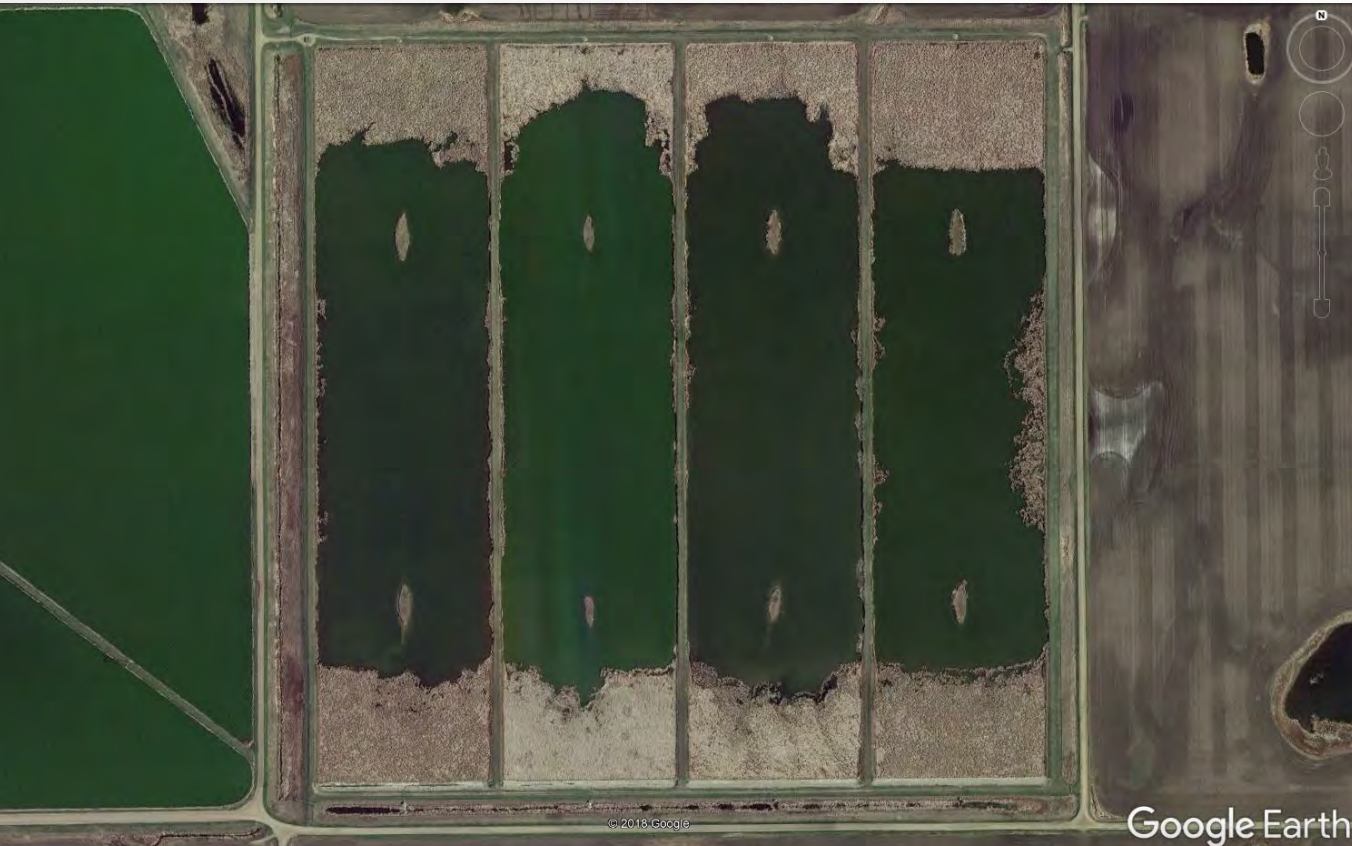
MINOT NPDES FACTSHEET, CURRENT.







CITY OF MINOT, 2019.



# CASE STUDY #2

## MINOT, NORTH DAKOTA

- TREATS 7.5 MILLION GPD
- PERMITTED AS LAGOON FACILITY WITH WASTEWATER STABILIZATION PONDS (I.E. FWS WETLANDS)
- PRIMARY TREATMENT = (2) 8-ACRE AERATION BASINS
- FOLLOWED BY (5) 140-ACRE LAGOON CELLS
- SECONDARY TREATMENT = (4) FWS WETLANDS OCCUPYING 160 ACRES
- WETLAND DEPTH & VEGETATION SPECIFIED TO FACILITATE REMOVAL OF BOD, TSS, NITRIFICATION, DENITRIFICATION, AND NUTRIENT REMOVAL
- FINAL TREATMENT = 2.5 MILE DRAINAGE WAY DISCHARGING TO SURFACE WATER MAY-DECEMBER



# CASE STUDY #3

## BOSTON MILLS HISTORIC DISTRICT

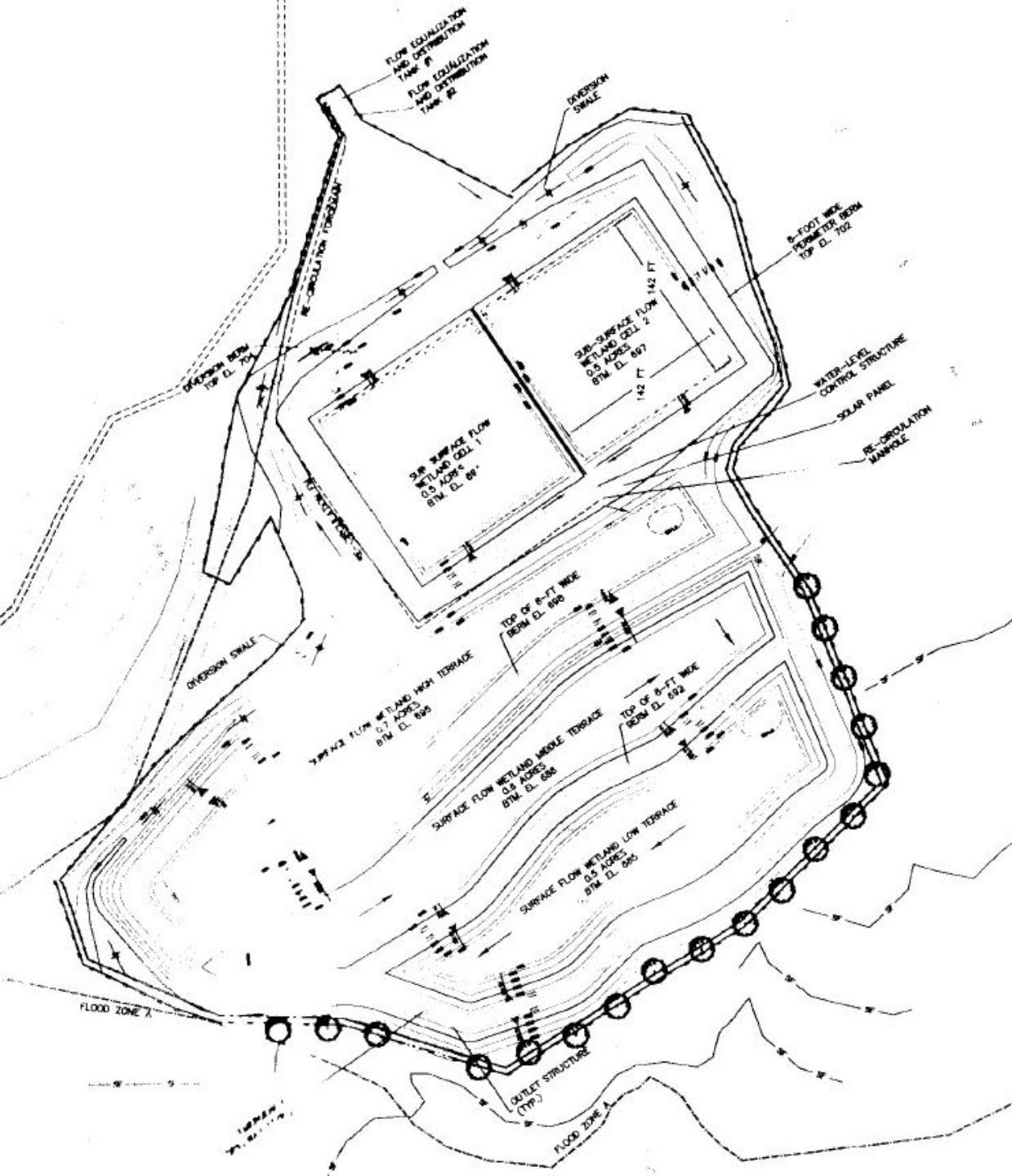


### CUYAHOGA VALLEY NATIONAL PARK, OHIO

COST \$132,500  
(2006 FEASIBILITY STUDY)

# CASE STUDY #3

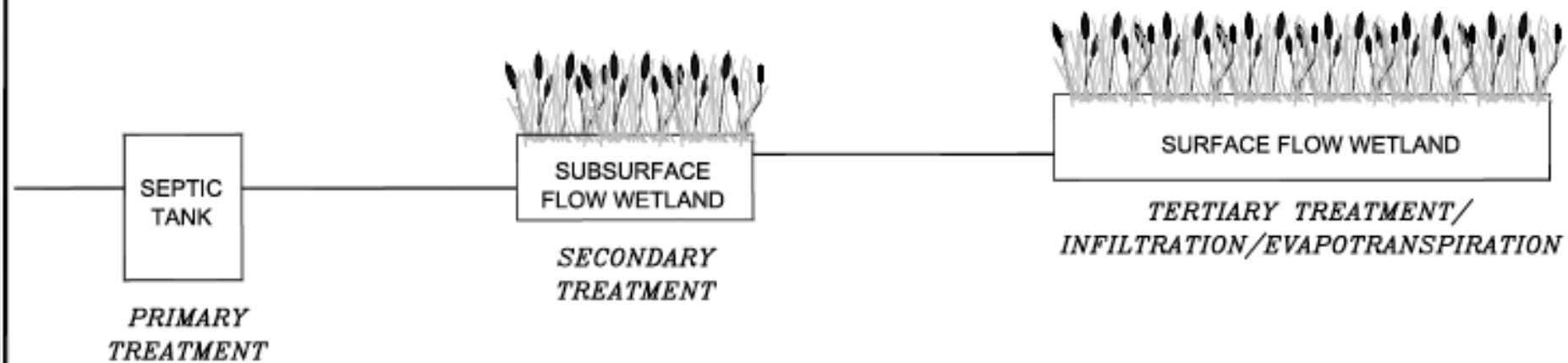
## BOSTON MILLS HISTORIC DISTRICT



- PROVIDES TREATMENT TO 6 STRUCTURES INCLUDING VISITORS CENTER, PUBLIC RESTROOMS, & OFFICES
- DESIGN CAPACITY 4999 GPD
- PRIMARY TREATMENT = SEPTIC TANK
- SECONDARY TREATMENT = SSF WETLAND TO REMOVE BOD AND SMALL SUSPENDED SOLIDS
- THROUGH AEROBIC & ANAEROBIC PROCESSES
- FINAL TREATMENT = FWS WETLAND FOR INFILTRATION & EVAPORATION
- BENEFITS: NO DISCHARGE PERMIT REQUIRED, MAINTAINS NATURAL AESTHETICS IN NATIONAL PARK W/HIGH VISIBILITY FROM HIGHWAYS
- CHALLENGE: AVOIDING 100-YR FLOODPLAIN



CONSTRUCTED WETLAND SYSTEM SCHEMATIC



BOSTON MILLS HISTORIC DISTRICT

Figure 5-1  
Sanitary Sewer System  
Feasibility Study

**URS**

# PERMITTING WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITIES

## AN IDAHO EXAMPLE

### **PLANNING**

FACILITY PLAN - DEVELOPED BY LICENSED ENGINEER  
MASTER PLANNING DOCUMENT/ENGINEERING REPORT  
COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENT OF OPERATIONAL NEEDS & SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS  
REQUIRED TO BE ELIBIGLE FOR STATE GRANT/LOAN FUNDING  
REVIEW & APPROVAL BY DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

### **ENGINEERING**

PRELIMINARY ENGINEERING REPORT  
COMPLETED BY COMMUNITY'S ENGINEER  
INCLUDES PLANS AND SPECS FOR PROPOSED TREATMENT SYSTEM  
REVIEW & APPROVAL BY DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

### **PERMITTING**

COMMUNITY REQUESTS MODIFICATION OF AN EXISTING DISPOSAL PERMIT, OR...  
APPLY FOR A NEW PERMIT  
MAY BE A DISCHARGE AND/OR REUSE PERMIT  
APPROVAL REQUIRED PRIOR TO IMPLEMENTATION OF SYSTEM



# WATER QUALITY STANDARDS

FEDERAL SECONDARY TREATMENT STANDARDS (40 CFR 133.102) UNDER THE CLEAN WATER ACT

Parameter	30-Day Average	7-Day Average
BOD <sub>5</sub>	30 mg L <sup>-1</sup>	45 mg L <sup>-1</sup>
TSS	30 mg L <sup>-1</sup>	45 mg L <sup>-1</sup>
BOD <sub>5</sub> and TSS Removal	85% minimum	---
pH	Between 6.0 and 9.0 standard units	

2018 NPDES PERMIT LIMITATIONS AND MONITORING REQUIREMENTS FOR JULIAETTA, IDAHO (EXCLUDING WATER TEMPERATURE WHICH IS LISTED SEPARATELY)

Parameter	Units	Effluent Limitations			Monitoring Requirements		
		Average Monthly	Average Weekly	Maximum Daily	Sample Location	Sample Frequency	Sample Type
<b>Parameters with Effluent Limits</b>							
BOD <sub>5</sub>	mg L <sup>-1</sup>	30	45	---	Influent and Effluent	1 month <sup>-1</sup>	Grab
	lb d <sup>-1</sup>	20	30	---			Calculation
BOD <sub>5</sub> % Removal	%	85 <u>minimum</u>	---	---	---	1 month <sup>-1</sup>	Calculation
TSS	mg L <sup>-1</sup>	30	45	---	Influent and Effluent	2 month <sup>-1</sup>	Grab
	lb d <sup>-1</sup>	18	30	---			Calculation
TSS % Removal	%	85 <u>minimum</u>	---	---	---	1 month <sup>-1</sup>	Calculation
<i>E. coli</i>	cfu ml <sup>-100</sup>	126	---	406 <u>instant. maximum</u>	Effluent	5 month <sup>-1</sup>	Grab
	µg L <sup>-1</sup>	12	---	21	Effluent	1 month <sup>-1</sup>	Grab



# 5 BENEFICIAL USES OF WATER

IDAHO ADMINISTRATIVE  
CODE (IDAPA 58.01.02.100)  
DEFINES 5 BENEFICIAL USES  
OF WATER

- SUPPORT AQUATIC LIFE
- PROVIDE RECREATION AREA
- MAINTAIN A SUSTAINABLE  
WATER SUPPLY
- PROVIDE WILDLIFE HABITAT
- IMPROVE AESTHETICS





# 5 BENEFICIAL USES OF WATER

- DO NOT QUALIFY AS “BENEFICIAL USES” WHILE WATER IS HELD IN A PRIVATE TREATMENT SYSTEM
- BUT BENEFITS ARE ACKNOWLEDGED BY REGULATORY AGENCIES
- RECEIVING WATERS ARE POSITIVELY IMPACTED







UNLIKE MECHANICAL  
TREATMENT SYSTEMS



CONSTRUCTED  
WETLANDS CAN  
PROVIDE BENEFITS  
WHILE WATER IS IN  
THE TREATMENT  
SYSTEM





# PERMITTING CHALLENGES

- NO CONSTRUCTED WETLANDS FOR WASTEWATER TREATMENT IN IDAHO, CREATING UNCERTAINTY IN PERMITTING
- METHOD OF TREATMENT IS INCLUDED IN THE FACILITY PLAN AT THE DISCRETION OF THE CONTRACT ENGINEER OR AT THE COMMUNITY'S REQUEST
- TECHNICALLY (BY THE BOOK) THERE ARE NO INCENTIVES FOR CONSTRUCTED WETLANDS, ONLY FOR EFFECTIVE TREATMENT METHODS, HOWEVER...
- THE REALITY THAT WETLANDS PROVIDE THE 5 BENEFICIAL USES OF WATER IS RECOGNIZED BY REGULATORY AGENCIES
- THEIR ABILITY TO LOWER WATER TEMPERATURE IS NOT WELL-KNOWN
- THEIR LOW-COST COMPARED TO TRADITIONAL METHODS IS NOT WELL-KNOWN



# FUNDING CONSTRUCTED WETLANDS

## TOTAL COSTS INCLUDE:

- CONSTRUCTION & INSTALLATION
  - MATERIALS
  - LABOR & SITEWORK
- OPERATIONS, MAINTENANCE, MONITORING
- DEPRECIATION OVER LIFETIME OF SYSTEM
- SIZE & COMPLEXITY

LOW MAINTENANCE  
CAN TRANSLATE TO  
LARGE SAVINGS OVER  
THE LIFETIME OF A  
SYSTEM



# FUNDING CONSTRUCTED WETLANDS

## EXAMPLE:

COST FOR A FRENCH REED BED SYSTEM IN ITALY (2014-2016) WAS STUDIED FOR A 500-1000 POPULATION EQUIVALENT (SIMILAR IN SIZE TO JULIAETTA)

NEW CONSTRUCTION WAS 364 EUROS (\$417 US) PER PE

= \$417,000 US FOR A SYSTEM WITH 1000 PE TREATMENT CAPACITY

AVERAGE ANNUAL O & M COST OF 5531 EUROS/YEAR (\$6340 US) FOR ENERGY & LABOR (REED HARVESTING, INSPECTIONS, & MONITORING)

PRIMARY O & M COST OF FRENCH REED BEDS IS COMPARATIVELY LESS THAN OTHER WETLAND SYSTEMS DUE TO REDUCED SLUDGE MANAGEMENT NEEDS



# FUNDING PROGRAMS

## FOR WASTEWATER SYSTEMS

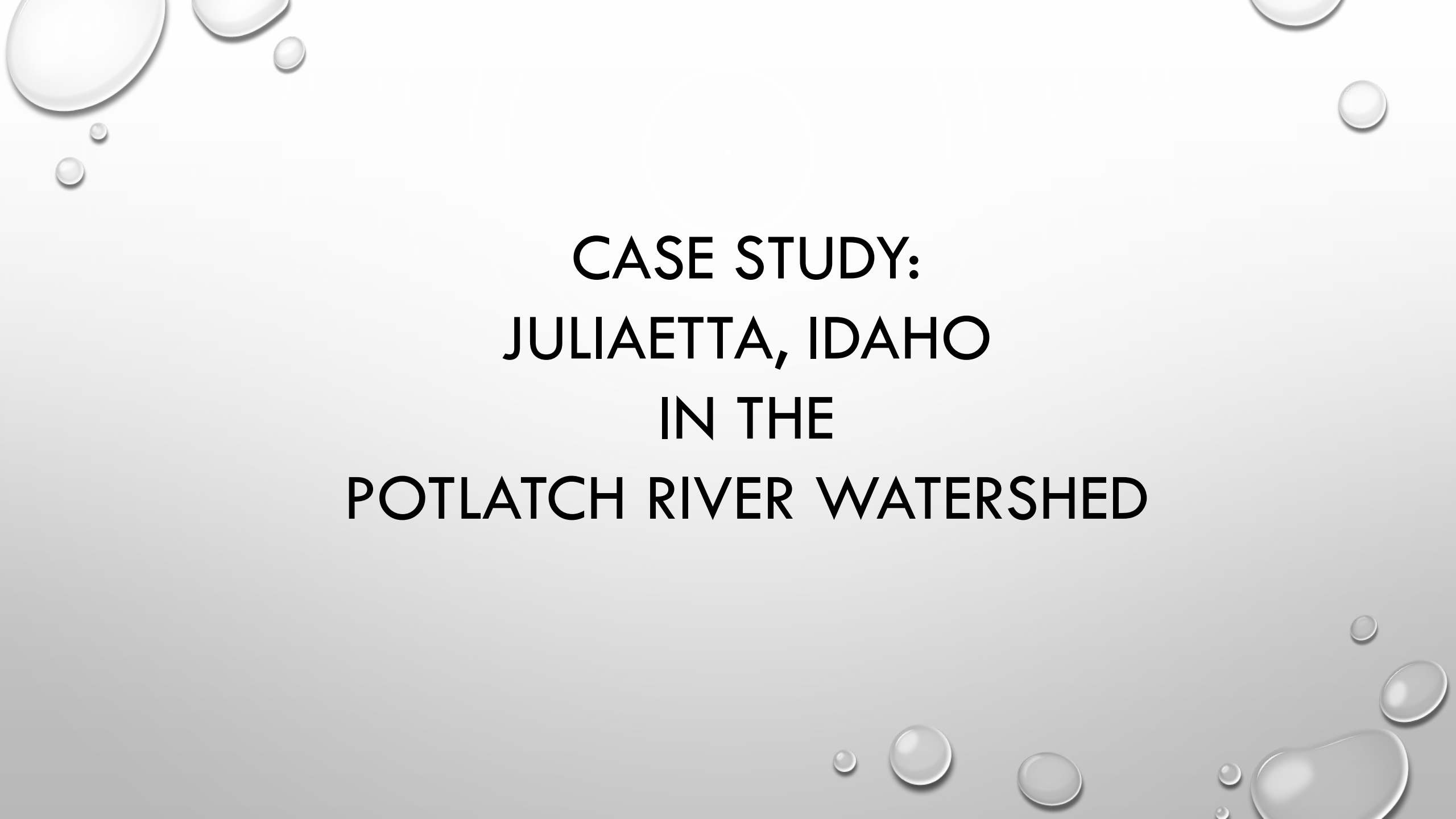
<b>Agency</b>	Idaho Department of Commerce	Idaho Department of Environmental Quality	National Rural Water Association	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	U.S. Department of Agriculture - Rural Development
<b>Program</b>	Community Development Block Grant	Wastewater Planning Grant; State Revolving Fund Low Interest Construction Loan	Rural Water Loan Fund	Section 595 Program - Environmental Infrastructure	Technical Assistance & Training (TAT) - Water & Waste Direct Loans & Grants
<b>Purpose</b>	Public facilities construction and improvements - sewer, water, etc.	Facility Planning & Construction	Water/Wastewater Project pre-development and small capital projects	Rural Water/Wastewater Improvements	Broad - construction, improvements, relocation, connections, land acquisition
<b>Eligibility</b>	> or = 51% Low-Moderate Income Communities	Public entities and non-profits	Public entities and non-profits, rural communities up to 10,000	Nevada, Montana, Idaho; <10,000 preferred	Rural communities up to 10,000 population
<b>Grantor/Community Match</b>	At least 50/50 to be competitive	50/50 planning; 100% construction	Maximum \$100,000 or 75% of total project cost	75/25	Grant - none; 45/55 Loan



# GENERAL CHALLENGES

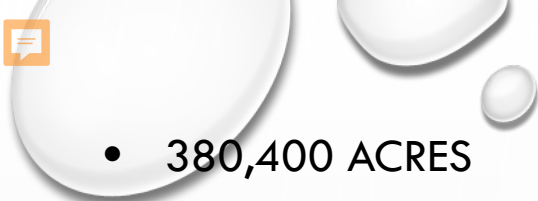
- PUBLIC ACCEPTANCE – THEY CAN'T SUPPORT WHAT THEY DON'T KNOW
- ENGINEERING – THEY CAN'T DESIGN WHAT WON'T GET PERMITTED BY DEQ
- PERMITTING – THEY CAN'T PERMIT WHAT ISN'T ENGINEERED BEYOND ALL DOUBT THAT THE PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY, AND WELFARE ISN'T AT RISK



The background features a light gray gradient with several realistic water droplets of varying sizes scattered in the corners. The droplets have highlights and shadows, giving them a three-dimensional appearance.

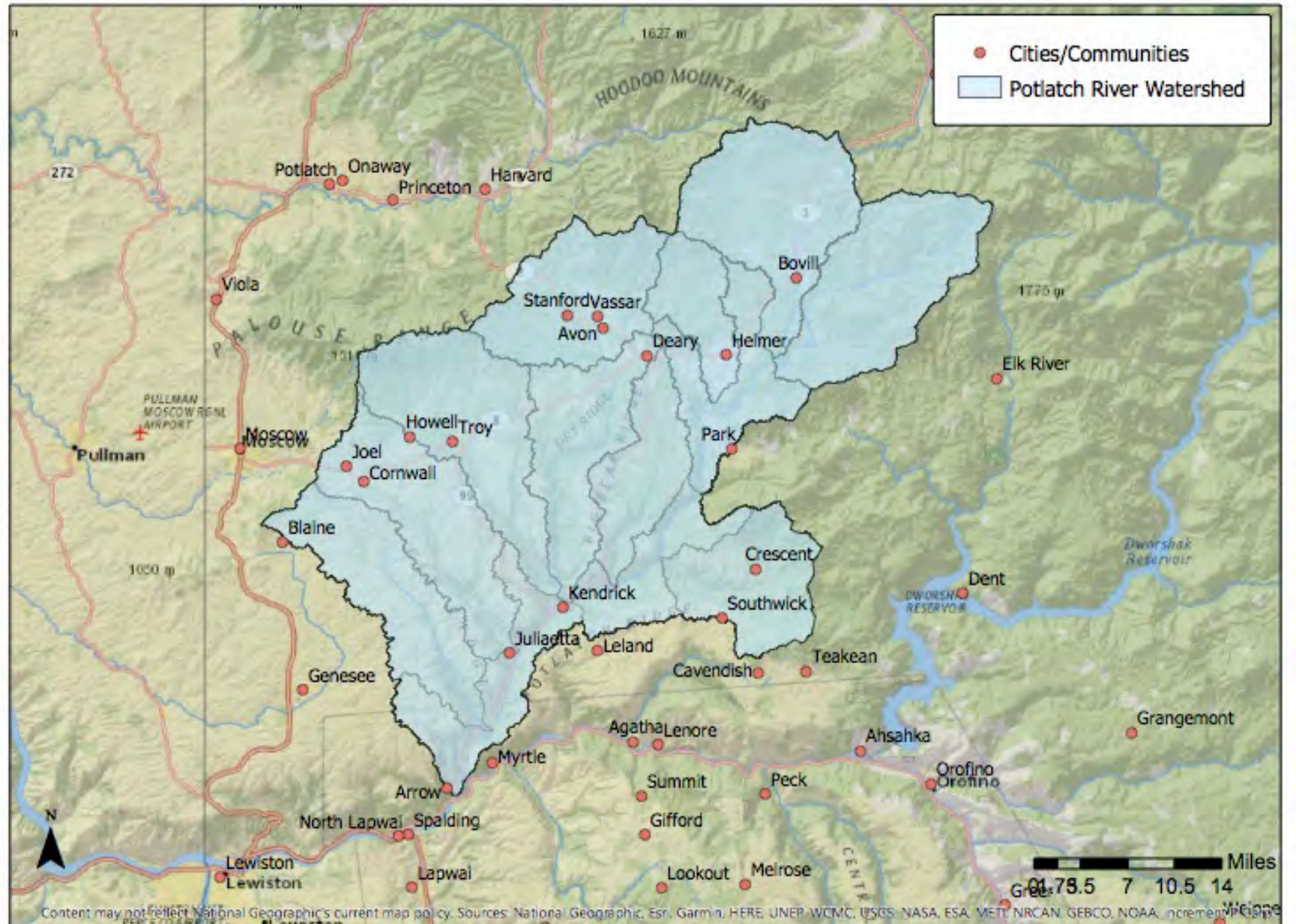
**CASE STUDY:  
JULIAETTA, IDAHO  
IN THE  
POTLATCH RIVER WATERSHED**





- 380,400 ACRES
- LAND USES
  - FORESTRY
  - LIVESTOCK
  - AGRICULTURE
  - RURAL RESIDENTIAL
  - COMMERCIAL
  - INDUSTRIAL
  - UNDEVELOPED
- POLLUTANTS
  - BACTERIA
  - DISSOLVED OXYGEN
  - AMMONIA
  - NUTRIENTS
  - OIL & GREASE
  - ORGANICS
  - PESTICIDES
  - SEDIMENT
  - TEMPERATURE
- SALMON SPAWNING HABITAT

## Potlatch River Watershed





# JULIAETTA, IDAHO



- POPULATION 609 (STABLE)
- AVE. TEMPERATURES
  - 28° F WINTER
  - 88° F SUMMER
- ELEVATION 1155 FT
- 18 INCHES ANNUAL PRECIP.
- HARDINESS ZONE 7A
- HEAT ZONE 3



# JULIAETTA, IDAHO

- CENTRALIZED WWT COMPLETED 1977
- STILL USES MOST OF ORIGINAL EQUIPMENT
- 590 CONNECTIONS
- OPERATED & MAINTAINED BY 2 OPERATORS IN TRAINING

- LOCATION DOWNSTREAM OF CITY CENTER
- TREATED EFFLUENT DISCHARGED TO WETLAND BASIN NEAR POTLATCH RIVER
- 2018 DISCHARGE PERMIT CONTAINS WATER TEMPERATURE STANDARDS



# City of Juliaetta Outfall and Path to River

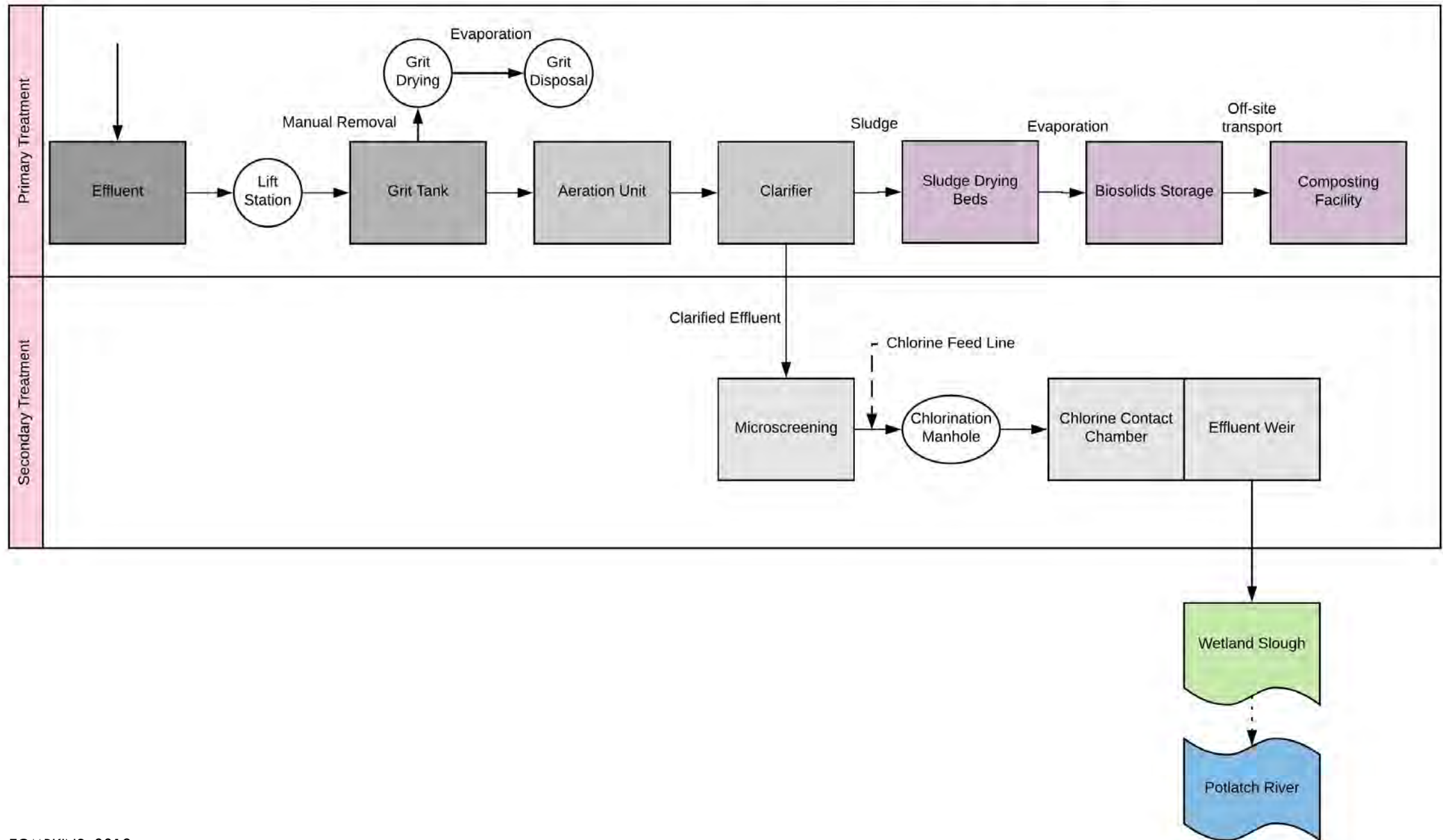
**Legend**  
Juliaetta Outfall



# EXISTING WASTEWATER OUTFALL



# Existing Mechanical Wastewater Treatment System, Juliaetta, ID









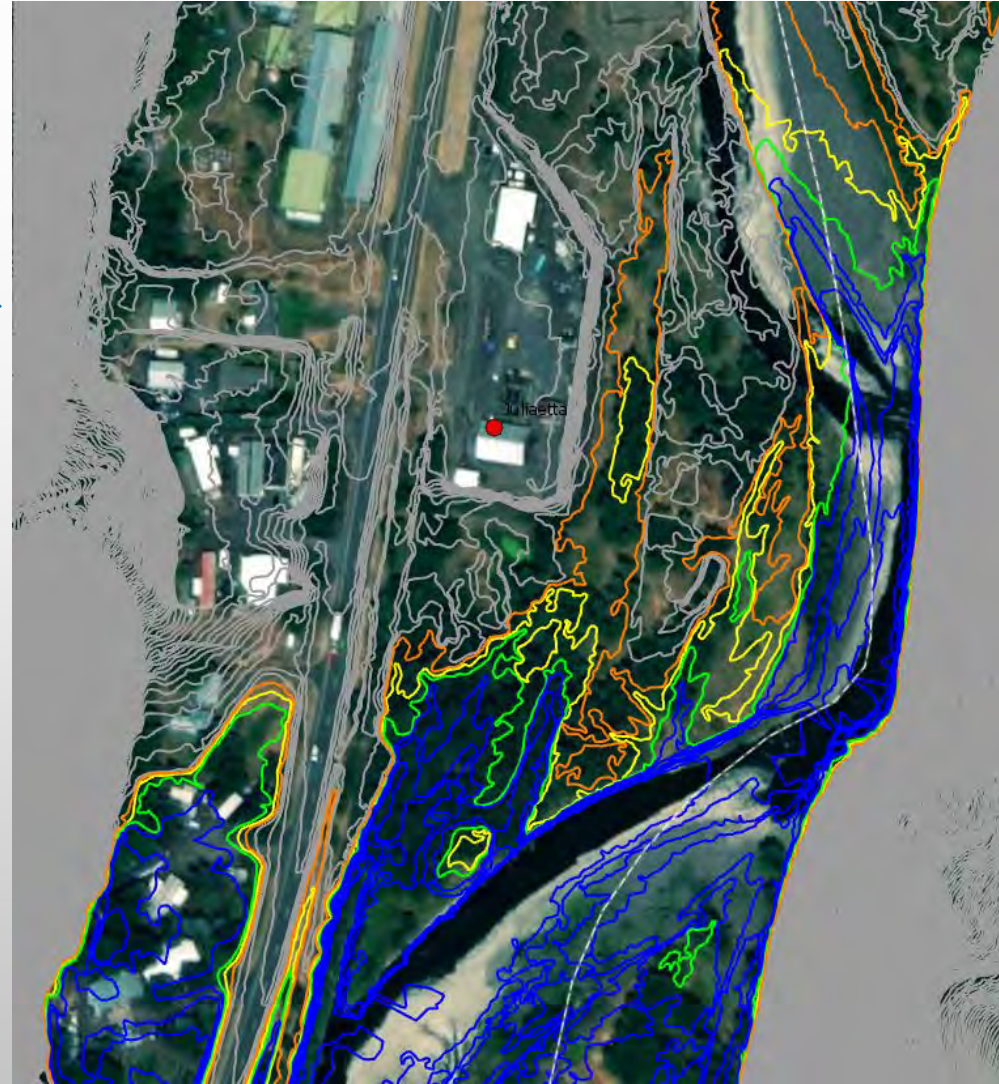
# FLOODPLAIN ANALYSIS



← 1970'S DATA

VS.

2016 LIDAR DATA →



TOMPKINS, 2019.

- FEMA FIRM MAPS NOT HELPFUL IN DETERMINING FLOODPLAIN
- FIRM FLOOD ELEVATION (1038) USED WITH CURRENT ELEVATION DATA TO INTERPOLATE 100-YEAR FLOODPLAIN
- SOILS = AQUIC XEROFLUVENTS
- SHALLOW DEPTH (18-24") TO WATER TABLE
- FROST DEPTH = 24"

TOMPKINS, 2019.



# LEWIS-CLARK VALLEY AMERICAN VITICULTURAL AREA

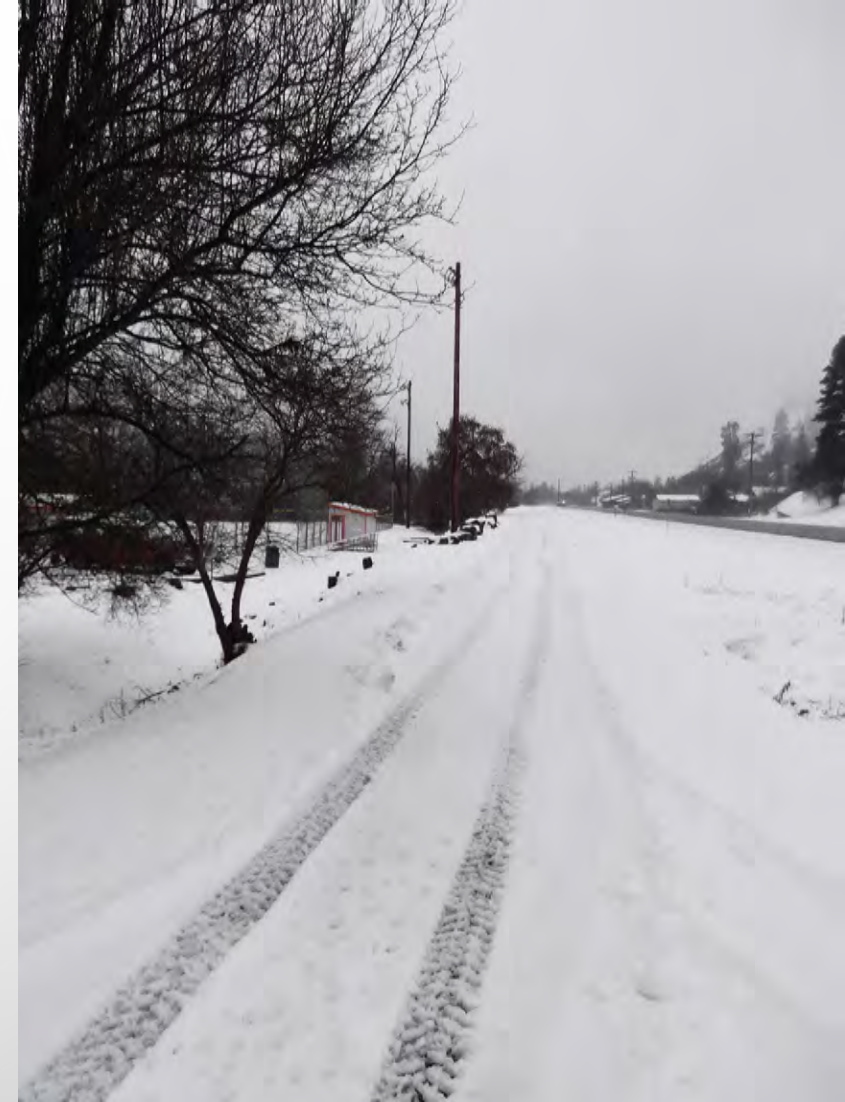
- HILLSIDES DOWNRIVER NOW FLOURISHING WITH VINEYARDS
- POTENTIAL FUTURE REUSE FOR IRRIGATION
- ADVANTAGE OF PLANT AVAILABLE NITROGEN
- REDUCE SURFACE WATER DEMAND FOR IRRIGATION







- PAVED REC PATH (ABANDONED RAILROAD BED) STOPS @ PARK
- PATH CONNECTS TO WWT SITE
- COULD EXTEND RECREATIONAL USE SOUTH BY PAVING PATH
- PARK IS LOCATED UPHILL FROM WWT FACILITY
- POTENTIAL REUSE TO IRRIGATE BALL FIELDS, BUT \$\$\$ TO PUMP UPHILL
- IRRIGATION/REUSE BENEFITS
  - + PLANT AVAILABLE NITROGEN
  - + REDUCES SURFACE WATER DEMANDS



TOMPKINS, 2019.

TOMPKINS, 2019.





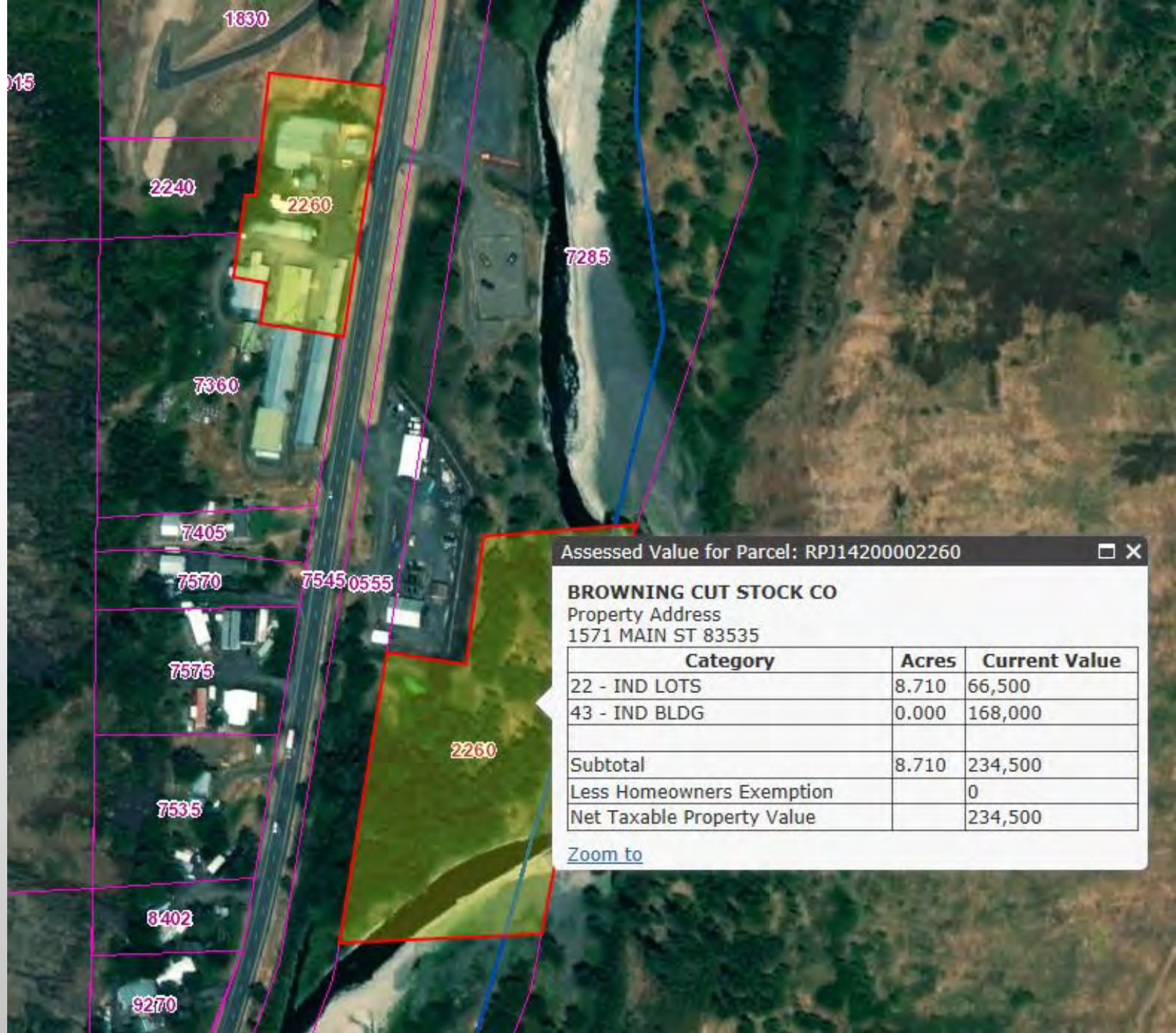
- JULIAETTA VOLUNTEER FIRE STATION IS LOCATED ADJACENT TO WWT FACILITY
- PRESENTS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR PARTIAL WATER REUSE VS. DISCHARGE TO SURFACE WATER BODY (POTLATCH RIVER)





# ADJACENT PROPERTY

- OUTFALL AND INFILTRATION CHANNEL MAY NOT BE OWNED BY JULIAETTA
- SURVEY NECESSARY TO LOCATE PROPERTY CORNERS
- 5.6 ADJACENT ACRES
- \$300-\$1000/ACRE
- \$1680-\$5600 TOTAL ASSESSED VALUE
- OPPORTUNITY FOR MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL LAND ACQUISITION





Wetland Types	Aeration, HLR, HRT	Plants	Substrate	Temperature
Surface Flow – best for secondary or tertiary treatment	Topography can be used to facilitate drop aeration	Polycultures provide higher treatment efficiencies than monocultures	Lightweight, mixed aggregates reduce clogging	Cold temperatures slow microbial processes
Horizontal Subsurface Flow – preferential for anaerobic conditions	Batch feeding can be used to control aeration and saturation	Polycultures provide better thermal insulation than monocultures	Mixed substrates provide surface area for microbial attachment	Cold temperatures can affect nitrogen removal at high HLR
Vertical Subsurface Flow – preferential for aerobic conditions	Low HLR increases treatment efficiency	Cold-tolerant plants support cold-tolerant bacteria and increase treatment efficiency	High adsorption substrates facilitate phosphorous removal	Prolonging HRT during cold temperatures increases treatment efficiencies
Vertical French Reed Bed – can be used for primary treatment	Low HRT increases aerobic conditions/nitrification	Roots and rhizomes stimulate growth and oxygenation of microbial communities essential to wastewater treatment	---	Sludge provides insulation and can prevent filter freezing, mulches can be problematic and should be used with caution
Hybrid System– eliminates limitations of a single system	High HRT increases anaerobic conditions/denitrification	Surface vegetation provides thermal insulation against ice formations	---	Site aspect, subsurface piping, and alternating filters can reduce temperature losses

# DESIGN CONCLUSIONS

- CONSTRUCTED WETLANDS CAN EFFECTIVELY TREAT WASTEWATER IN ALL CLIMATES AND THE FRENCH REED BED IS THE MOST COST EFFICIENT SYSTEM DUE TO REDUCED SLUDGE MANAGEMENT
- VERTICAL AND HORIZONTAL SSF WETLANDS CAN ALSO BE USED TOGETHER TO OVERCOME SITE CONSTRAINTS
- CRITICAL ELEMENTS MUST BE SPECIFIED TO MAXIMIZE TREATMENT EFFICIENCY
- SOME REGULATORY AGENCIES ARE IDEALLY POSITIONED TO INCENTIVIZE TREATMENT WETLANDS BECAUSE THEY ARE ALSO A FUNDING SOURCE (LIKE IDAHO DEQ)



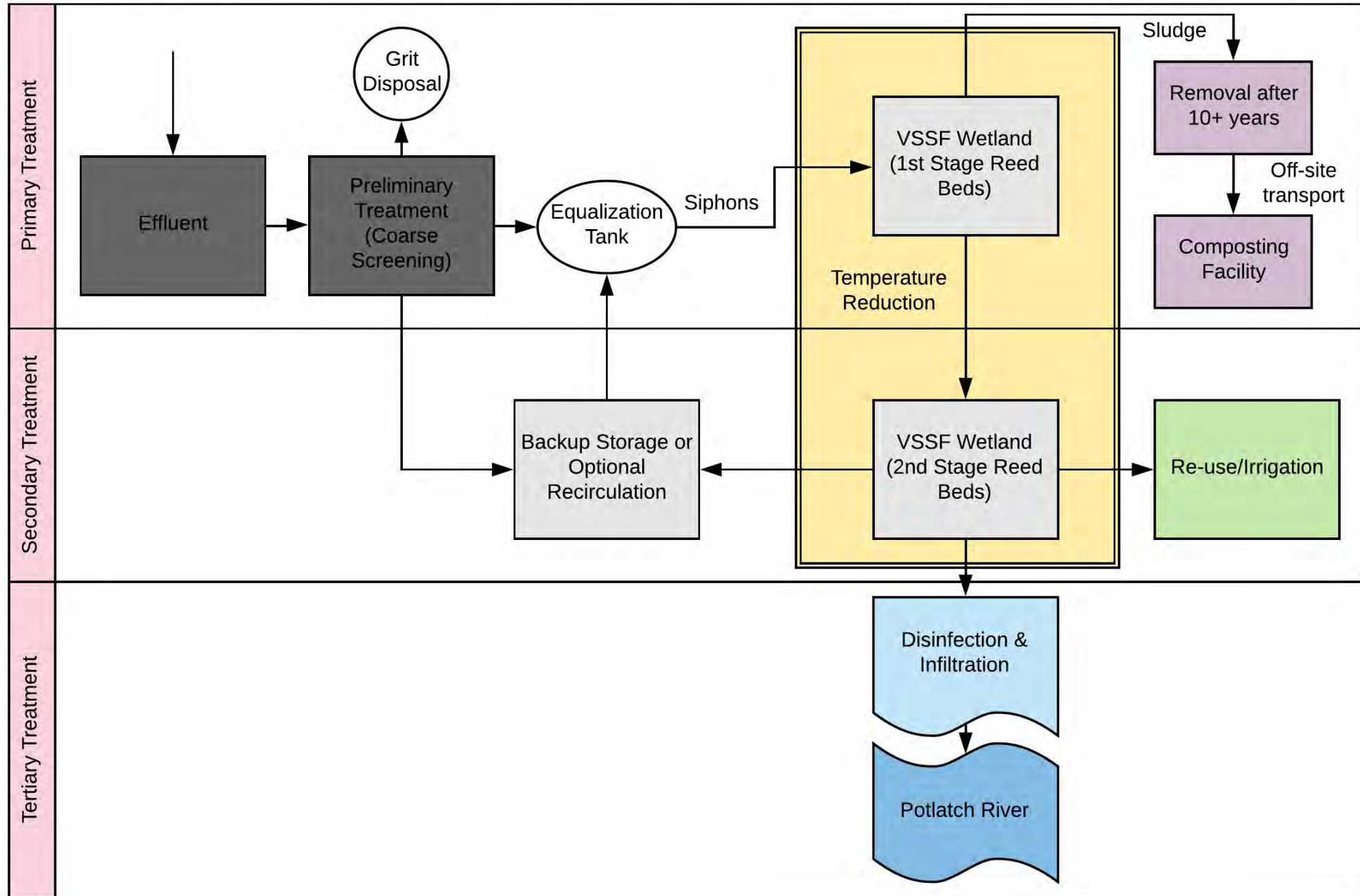
Native Perennial Wetland Grasses, Reeds, and Sedges	
Botanical Name	Common Name
<i>Carex amplifolia</i>	Bigleaf Sedge
<i>Carex aquitilis</i>	Water Sedge
<i>Carex lanuginosa</i>	Wooly Sedge
<i>Carex lenticularis</i>	Lens Sedge
<i>Carex microptera</i>	Small-winged Sedge
<i>Carex nebrascensis</i>	Nebraska Sedge
<i>Carex obnupta</i>	Slough Sedge
<i>Carex simulata</i>	Shortbeaked Sedge
<i>Carex utriculata</i>	Beaked Sedge
<i>Carex vesicaria</i>	Inflated Sedge
<i>Eleocharis palustris</i>	Creeping Spikerush
<i>Juncus articulatus</i>	Jointed Rush
<i>Juncus balticus</i>	Baltic Rush
<i>Juncus effuses</i>	Common Rush
<i>Juncus ensifolius</i>	Dagger-leaf Rush
<i>Juncus tenuis</i>	Slender Rush
<i>Scirpus acutus</i>	Hardstem Bulrush
<i>Scirpus cyperinus</i>	Woolgrass
<i>Scirpus microcarpus</i>	Small Fruited Bulrush
<i>Scirpus pungens</i>	Three-square Bulrush
<i>Scirpus validus</i>	Softstem Bulrush
<i>Typha latifolia</i>	Common Cattail

## DESIGN CONCLUSIONS

- CONSTRUCTED WETLANDS ARE CHEAPER THAN TRADITIONAL SYSTEMS AND MULTIPLE FUNDING SOURCES CAN BE LEVERAGED TOGETHER
- PERMITTING REQUIRES GOOD COMMUNICATION BETWEEN ENGINEER, COMMUNITY, AND REGULATORY AGENCIES
- REQUIRES A DESIGN TEAM WILLING TO CONSIDER THIS “NEW” TECHNOLOGY
- ADDITIONAL RESEARCH SHOULD INVESTIGATE THE USE OF NATIVE PLANTS AS AN ALTERNATIVE TO INVASIVE AND NON-NATIVE SPECIES



# Proposed Constructed Wastewater Treatment Wetland, Juliaetta, ID





NOTES:

- 1) SYSTEM SIZING BASED UPON A DESIGN POPULATION OF 905 AND AREA OF 2 M<sup>2</sup> PERSON<sup>-1</sup>.
- 2) PRETREATMENT SHALL CONSIST OF GRIT REMOVAL PRIOR TO DISTRIBUTION TO FIRST STAGE FRENCH REED BEDS.
- 3) FOLLOWING PRETREATMENT, WASTEWATER WILL FLOW TO AN EQUALIZATION TANK FOR FOR CONTROLLED DISTRIBUTION AND OPTIONAL AERATION.
- 4) A MINIMUM OF THREE FIRST STAGE AND THREE SECOND STAGE FRENCH REED BEDS IS REQUIRED.
- 5) 905 X 2 M<sup>2</sup> = 1,810 M<sup>2</sup> (19,482 FT<sup>2</sup>) TOTAL AREA REQUIRED FOR FIRST STAGE FRENCH REED BEDS AND AN ADDITIONAL 1,810 M<sup>2</sup> (19,482 FT<sup>2</sup>) REQUIRED FOR SECOND STAGE FRENCH REED BEDS.
- 6) 1,810 M<sup>2</sup> (19,482 FT<sup>2</sup>) DIVIDED BY 3 FRENCH REED BEDS = 603.3 M<sup>2</sup> (6,490 FT<sup>2</sup>) PER BED.
- 7) ONE OF 3 FIRST STAGE BEDS SHALL RECEIVE RAW WASTEWATER FOR 3.5 DAYS FOLLOWED BY A RESTING PERIOD OF 7 DAYS, DURING WHICH TIME WASTEWATER SHALL BE APPLIED TO THE SECOND AND THIRD FIRST STAGE BEDS FOR 3.5 DAYS EACH.
- 8) FOLLOWING PRIMARY TREATMENT IN FIRST STAGE BEDS, WASTEWATER WILL BE DISTRIBUTED TO SECOND STAGE BEDS IN SIMILAR FASHION.
- 9) METHOD OF DISINFECTION MAY INCLUDE ULTRAVIOLET DISINFECTION OR CHLORINATION/DECHLORINATION PRIOR TO INFILTRATION AND EVAPORATION.

LEGEND:

- FIRST STAGE FRENCH REED BED
- SECOND STAGE FRENCH REED BED
- INFILTRATION AREA
- NATIVE SHADE TREES
- RECREATIONAL PATH



# FINAL DESIGN

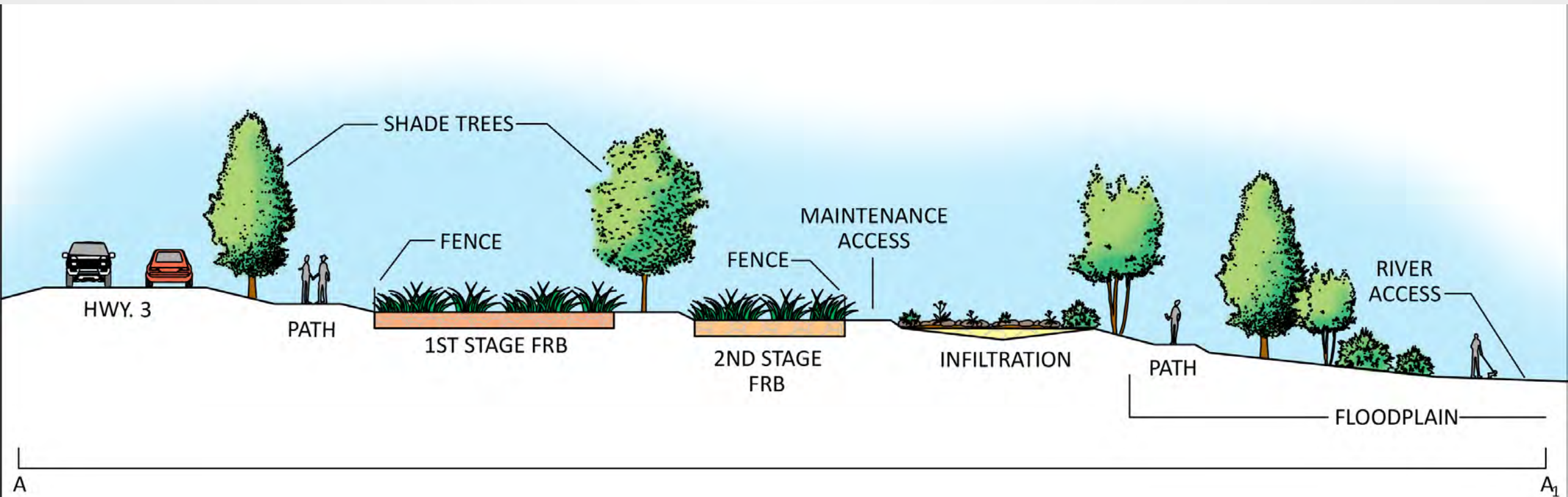
- FRENCH REED BED METHOD IS THE MOST COST-EFFECTIVE TREATMENT SYSTEM
- FENCING REQUIRED TO PREVENT DIRECT CONTACT RECREATION IN REED BEDS
- CAN BE INCORPORATED INTO A LANDSCAPE WITH RECREATIONAL PATHS, BENCHES, AND WILDLIFE HABITAT
- SUFFICIENT GRAVEL AREAS FOR NEW CONSTRUCTION ABOVE FLOOD ELEVATION ELIMINATES NEED FOR ADDITIONAL SITE DISTURBANCE
- ONCE OPERATIONAL, EXISTING SYSTEM CAN BE DECOMMISSIONED TO PROVIDE AREA WATER STORAGE, RECIRCULATION, AND/OR REUSE
- RECREATIONAL PATH PROVIDES RIVER ACCESS AND CONNECTS TO CENTENNIAL PARK

CITY OF JULIAETTA, IDAHO  
 CONSTRUCTED WETLAND FOR WASTEWATER TREATMENT



# FINAL DESIGN

- STORAGE INCREASES FLEXIBILITY FOR FUTURE USES: IRRIGATION OF CITY PARK OR VINEYARDS, FIRE STATION USE
- STRATEGICALLY LOCATED DECIDUOUS TREES PROVIDE SUMMER SHADE TO COOL EFFLUENT
- NATIVE VEGETATION PROVIDE WILDLIFE HABITAT: COVER AND FOOD SOURCES
- GRAVITY FLOW USED TO MINIMIZE ENERGY NEEDS
- INFILTRATION BASINS FACILITATE PERMITTING AS A REUSE FACILITY, PROVIDE STREAMBANK RECHARGE, AND FURTHER COOL WATER TEMPERATURE





# SELECT REFERENCES & RESOURCES

CONSTRUCTED WETLANDS AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT – AUSTIN & YU (2016)

CONSTRUCTED WETLANDS TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND DESIGN GUIDANCE – IOWA DEP. OF NATURAL RESOURCES (2007)

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SMALL-SCALE CONSTRUCTED WETLAND TREATMENT SYSTEMS FEASIBILITY, DESIGN CRITERIA, AND O&M REQUIREMENTS – WATER ENVIRONMENT RESEARCH FOUNDATION (2006)

TREATMENT WETLANDS – KADLEC & WALLACE (2<sup>ND</sup> EDITION, 2009)

WASTEWATER ENGINEERING TREATMENT AND REUSE – METCALF & EDDY (5<sup>TH</sup> EDITION, 2013)

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