

**SECTION A. Project Title: SMC Tank Trail**

**SECTION B. Project Description and Purpose:**

Due to substantial investments by the Army, SMC is experiencing unprecedented growth. SMC will be updating the infrastructure in the form of plant modernization and construction of new facilities. The long-term vision will improve efficiency of the existing operations and expand the core mission.

To support mission expansion, the SMC Program will increase its capabilities near the current SMC facility by proposing a Tank Trail. The Tank Trail will require widening current temporary roads to allow usage as a Tank Trail. The route will need to be suitable for potential use by a tracked vehicle ~12' wide. To avoid inadvertent off-route travel, it will need to be clearly delineated, e.g. stakes, markers, post, etc., and be approximately 20' in width. No upgrades to the road are proposed other than widening the road, removing vegetation for fire control, and potentially softening corners to avoid deterioration from sharp turns. The roads will be graded on an as-needed basis to maintain the 20' width, repair rutting, and remove vegetation. The roads may be plowed if snow removal is required during winter months.

The Tank Trail will be located outside of SMC's current perimeter fence. The project proposes the use of existing temporary roads near SMC as the route of the Tank Trail. See figure 1 for proposed loop.

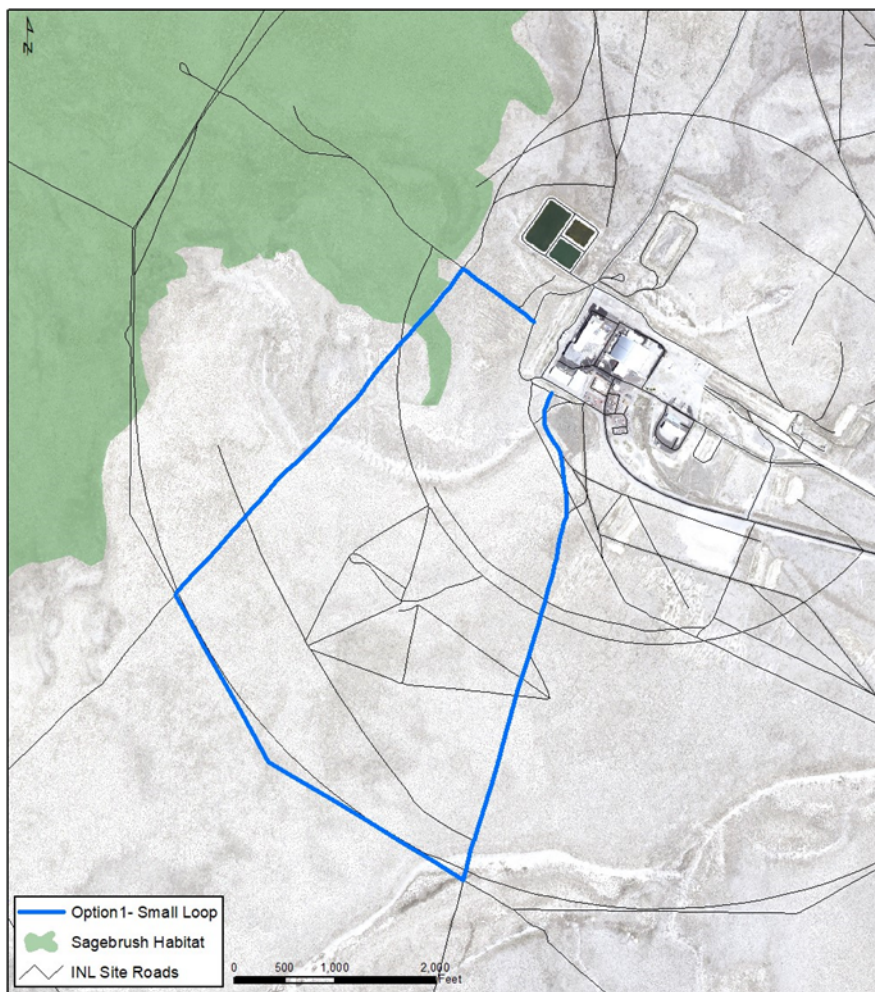


Figure 1. Proposed Tank Trail Loop for Road Improvements.

The blue line shows the proposed road improvements loop. Starting west of SMC on T-28, the loop will travel NW 0.16 miles to T-55, heading SW on T-55 0.82 miles, turning SE on T-53 for 0.79 miles, at 0.79 miles turning NE crossing T-44 at 0.75 miles and continuing back to T-28 for 0.97 miles. It is approximately 2.74 miles in length. The green area is protected sagebrush habitat which will impact about 0.26 acres. Sagebrush habitat mitigation will be required.

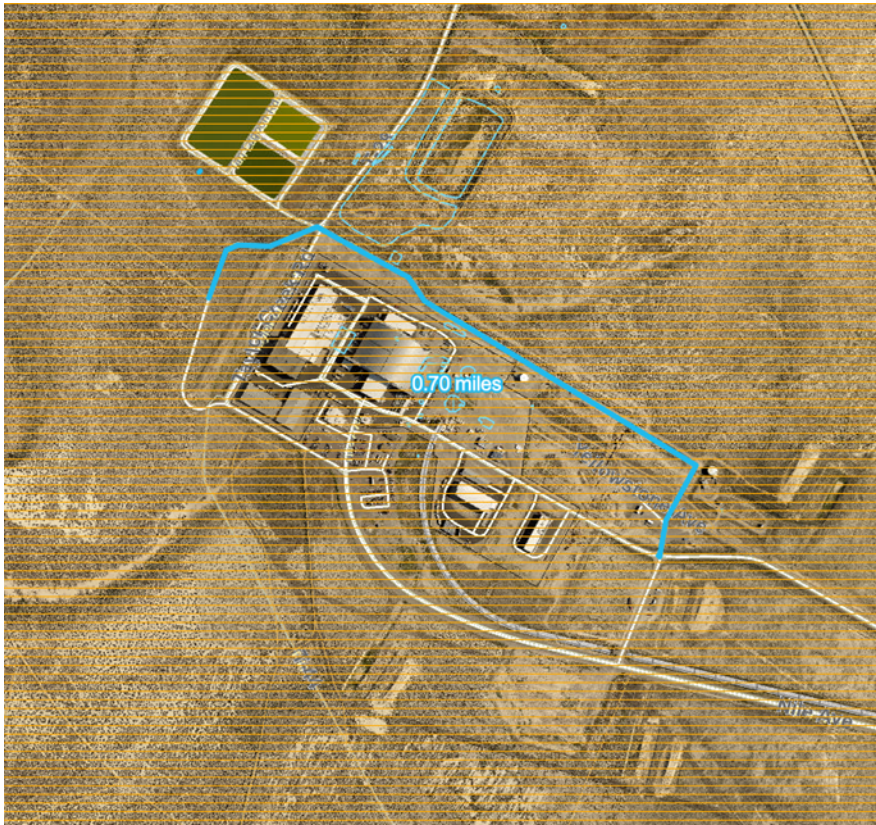


Figure 2. Tank Trail Access Route.

To access the Tank Trail, the tracked vehicle will exit SE of SMC on Snake Ave., travel NE to SMC's North perimeter road to T-28. The NE road between Snake Ave. and the North perimeter road will have to be extended in order to connect these two roads. This connection crosses an underground radioactive material area (URMA) and has a history of industrial use. Clearances with plant utilities will have to be verified and potentially moved or relocated, if necessary. Only the aboveground fiber lines will be moved for overhead clearances. The underground fiber lines will not be impacted by this project. An additional gate may also be required for security. If any work is conducted in the URMA, then INL radiological procedures and work controls will be followed.

In addition, if during the Cultural Resources Review staff determines there are archeological artifacts or other items to avoid or mitigate, the road may be shifted in the appropriate direction to miss these artifacts or items, or other appropriate mitigations will be recommended and implemented.

**SECTION C. Environmental Aspects or Potential Sources of Impact:**

**Air Emissions**

This activity and operation has the potential to generate fugitive dust.

**Discharging to Surface-, Storm-, or Ground Water**

This project is located within the boundaries of the storm water corridor and therefore it is considered to have reasonable potential to discharge to "Waters of the U.S.". If more than one acre within the storm water corridor will be disturbed, then the need for an Idaho Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (IPDES) storm water construction general permit (CGP) would need to be evaluated. A CGP requires best management practices (BMPs) to reduce the sediment and other pollutants discharged in storm water. It also requires periodic inspection of construction projects by persons knowledgeable about erosion and sediment control and pollution prevention.

**Disturbing Cultural or Biological Resources**

**DOE-ID NEPA CX DETERMINATION**  
**Idaho National Laboratory**

There is the potential for this work to impact vegetation and for project personnel to interact with various wildlife species. A Biological Resource Review will be arranged within two weeks prior to the initiation of any activities that might disturb soil or vegetation and again following completion of project activities. A nesting bird survey is included with the Biological Resource Review for actions occurring between April 1 - October 1 per compliance with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. Bat surveys are also included with the Biological Resource Review in accordance with the INL Bat Protection Plan.

Cultural: A Section 106 review was completed under CRMO project number (BEA-25-010) and resulted in No Historic Properties Affected. Please refer to the Hold Points and Project Specific Instructions of the ECP.

**Generating and Managing Waste**

When wastes are generated, how they are disposed can adversely affect the environment. Managing wastes appropriately and responsibly and implementing recycling or reuse practices, where feasible, during project activities can reduce the potential impact on the environment.

**Releasing Contaminants**

When chemicals are used during the project there is the potential for spills that could impact the environment (air, water, soil).

**Using, Reusing, and Conserving Natural Resources**

NA

**Environmental Justice**

NA

**SECTION D. Determine Recommended Level of Environmental Review, Identify Reference(s), and State Justification:** Identify the applicable categorical exclusion from 10 Code of Federal Regulation (CFR) 1021, Appendix B, give the appropriate justification, and the approval date.

For Categorical Exclusions (CXs), the proposed action must not: (1) threaten a violation of applicable statutory, regulatory, or permit requirements for environmental, safety, and health, or similar requirements of Department of Energy (DOE) or Executive Orders; (2) require siting and construction or major expansion of waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment or facilities; (3) disturb hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants, or Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA)-excluded petroleum and natural gas products that pre-exist in the environment such that there would be uncontrolled or unpermitted releases; (4) have the potential to cause significant impacts on environmentally sensitive resources (see 10 CFR 1021). In addition, no extraordinary circumstances related to the proposal exist that would affect the significance of the action. In addition, the action is not "connected" to other action actions (40 CFR 1508.25(a)(1) and is not related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant impacts (40 CFR 1608.27(b)(7)).

**References:** B1.13 "Pathways, short access roads, and rail lines"

**Justification:** Based on the purpose and need and description of the proposed action and potential environmental impacts, the proposed action fits within the class of actions that is listed in Appendix B CX B1.13. There are no extraordinary circumstances related to the proposed action that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposal. The proposed action has not been segmented to meet the definition of a categorical exclusion. This proposal is not connected to other actions with potentially significant impacts (40 CFR 1508.25(a)(1)), is not related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant impacts (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(7)) and is not precluded by 40 CFR 1506.1 or 10 CFR 1021.211 concerning limitations on actions during preparation of an environmental impact statement.

Authorizing the proposed action will not (1) threaten a violation of applicable statutory, regulatory, or permit requirements for environment, safety, and health, including DOE and/or Executive orders; (2) require siting of new facilities or expansion of existing facilities; (3) disturb hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants; (4) adversely affect environmentally sensitive resources; or (5) involve genetically engineered organisms, synthetic biology, governmentally designated noxious weeds, or invasive species.

B1.13 Pathways, short access roads, and rail lines. Construction, acquisition, and relocation, consistent with applicable right-of-way conditions and approved land use or transportation improvement plans, of pedestrian walkways and trails, bicycle paths, small outdoor fitness areas, and short access roads and rail lines (such as branch and spur lines).

Is the project funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Recovery Act)     Yes     No

Approved by Robert Douglas Herzog, DOE-ID NEPA Compliance Officer on: 2/14/2025