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Teardown on old IDL building began this week

- By Tyson Juarez The Gazette Record
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Workers at the Idaho Department of Lands (IDL) are getting used to their new office space as the project nears completion.

Employees of the IDL moved into their new administration building in February and starting this week, phase two of the project is now under way.

Contractors started tearing down the old administrative building Monday and will continue into this week.

St. Joe area manager Tony Brede said phase two will consist of demolition of the old admin building along with the creation of a retaining wall and leveling the east portion of the property to be at the same grade as the new asphalt parking lot that was installed last year.

Contractors will also install new fencing around the property and complete landscaping around the site.

Brede said he estimates the project will be complete towards the end of June.

He said while the administration got good use out of the old admin building, it was time for it to go. The building has received multiple add-ons over its lifespan and had insulation problems said Brede.

“Well there are some people who are sentimental about it going, but there’s other people who thought it was a long time coming, me included,” Brede said. “We did what we could with it, but we were ready for a new building.”

He said he and the other employees are still getting used to the nicer amenities at their newly constructed office. He said the overall building is still close to having the same amount of space as the old admin building and is only about 80 square feet bigger.

“We like it, we’ve been happy with it,” Brede said. “I think we are still getting used to all the good and niceties that we didn’t have at the old office.”

The IDL also received a new shed for their fire equipment that is housed behind the new admin office. Brede said they have yet to move in to the new structure as it is still awaiting to be cleared for occupancy which he said should happen sometime next week.

“It’s been good though, and the contractors have been great to work with. Any issues that pop up they are quick to respond,” he added.

Brede said the IDL has worked with GENO Construction who has been the main contractor on the project. He said Liberty Excavation did most of the site work and dug sewer and water lines and Cannon Hill Construction is handling the demolition of the old admin office.

He said they will also utilize eco blocks from St. Maries Concrete on the retaining wall that is slated to be built.

“We are trying to do as much locally as possible to save on our costs,” Brede said.

Brede said the IDL is planning to host a grand opening and open house sometime towards the end of summer. The public will be invited to come and see what’s new on the property.

“If they want to come and walk through the new building, we’ll be happy to have them down,” he said.