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Bureau of Land Management

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Environmental Assessment DOI-BLM-ID-T030-2011-0029-EA

Sun Valley Management Framework Plan Amendment
And
Point of Rocks Ranch Land Sale
IDI-35249

Prepared for the Bureau of Land Management by
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MPE, Inc.

September 2012

BLM

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Sun Valley Management Framework Plan Amendment
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ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Number: DOI-BLM-ID-T030-2011-0029-EA
Project Name: Point of Rocks Ranch Land Sale
Applicant: Point of Rocks Ranch, LLC
Preparer: Shelly Scott/Mary Ann Mix, MPE, Inc.
Date of Preparation: December 2010 – September 2012

REVIEWED BY:

Bureau of Land Management

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1.0 PURPOSE AND NEED

1.1 Introduction

The Point of Rocks Ranch, LLC (PORR) has submitted a request to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Shoshone Field Office (SFO), to consider disposing of a 3.4-acre parcel of public land adjacent to private property owned by PORR. PORR is an Idaho-Limited Liability Corporation. The subject parcel is vacant land that was initially thought to be in private ownership and included within the adjacent PORR private property. The PORR had unknowingly and inadvertently included the 3.4-acre parcel of public land within a fenced agricultural field as it appeared to be a part of the ranch lands. The PORR has currently altered its farming operations to remove the subject parcel from agricultural use until a decision is made on their request for the BLM to consider disposal of the subject parcel.

The 3.4-acre parcel of public land is not identified for disposal in the *Sun Valley Management Framework Plan* (MFP) and would require an amendment to change that designation. The subject parcel of land meets the criteria for disposal but has not been designated as such. This proposed plan amendment would identify the subject parcel for disposal allowing the BLM to offer the subject parcel to PORR using direct (non-competitive) sale procedures.

The subject parcel of public land is located south of the North Picabo Road in Blaine County, Idaho, and is separated by the North Picabo Road from the public land located north of the road. The North Picabo Road, which is graveled, extends along the north side of an irrigated field, creating the northeast border of the 3.4 acre parcel; the west border is along the section line between sections 15 and 16, with the south border being along the border between the NW¼SW¼ and the SW¼SW¼; thus, creating this triangular shaped piece of property. The PORR owns about 523 of private lands directly adjacent to the subject parcel on two of its three sides.

1.2 Purpose of and Need for Proposed Action

The purpose of the plan amendment is to amend the Sun Valley MFP to identify selected parcels of public land for disposal. The need for the action is in response to the PORR filing a proposal requesting the BLM to consider the disposal of a 3.4-acre parcel of public land. The need for the plan amendment is to identify the subject parcel of public land for disposal to accommodate the sale.

The subject parcel is located about two miles north of Picabo, Idaho, and south of the North Picabo Road (see Maps 1-3 in Appendices). The immediately surrounding properties are as follows:

> North/East: North Picabo Roads extends along the northeast side of the subject parcel with vacant public land beyond.
>
> South: Irrigated fields that are part of the 523-acre PORR are located south of the subject parcel.
>
> West: Irrigated fields that are part of the PORR are located immediately west of the subject parcel with non-irrigated vacant hillside land to the northwest. A home and outbuildings of the PORR are located approximately 900 feet northwest. Vacant land owned by the Dry Creek Cattle Association is located further northwest and north of the PORR.

The subject parcel proposed for disposal is difficult and uneconomical to manage since it is currently fenced in with the surrounding private lands owned by PORR. The Proposed Action for disposal would serve the public objective by allowing the BLM to formally resolve an inadvertent trespass. The disposal would allow for the road to become the boundary between public and private lands in the area allowing

for a more identifiable boundary and improving efficiencies in the management of both the public and private lands in the area. The disposal of the 3.4-acre subject parcel in fee simple would allow PORR to formally consolidate the parcel with the adjacent ranch property. A contiguous parcel of approximately 526 acres of private land would be created.

1.3 Decisions to be Made

Under the scope of the upcoming analysis certain decisions are to be made. The BLM SFO Manager will determine the method to resolve the trespass that is in the best interests of the public's land and resources. These decisions are whether to:

- approve the plan amendment to identify the subject parcel for disposal, thus resulting in a BLM sale offer disposal of the 3.4-acre subject parcel in fee simple via a direct sale as requested by PORR; or

- deny the plan amendment and subsequent rejection of PORR's request for BLM to consider the disposal of the 3.4-acre subject parcel.

1.4 Conformance with Applicable Land Use Plan

The public lands administered by the BLM in the project area are guided by the 1981 BLM Sun Valley MFP. In 2003, the *Amendments to Shoshone Field Office Land Use Plans for Land Tenure Adjustment and Areas of Critical Environmental Concern* (Amendment) were completed to amend existing land tenure adjustment decisions and guidance previously contained in the Sun Valley MFP. The Amendment identifies five land management zones each with different emphasis on land retention, disposal, and criteria for land ownership adjustment. The 3.4-acre subject parcel is located in Zone 5 which is generally defined as the area within and influenced by Wood River Valley and within the viewshed of Bellevue, Hailey, Ketchum and Sun Valley. The emphasis within Zone 5 is "to consolidate ownership to provide public access, and improve efficiencies in public lands management." (BLM 2003). The Proposed Action is provided for in the Amendment as its general management philosophy for Zone 5 is to allow disposal of public lands through sale or exchange.

The subject parcel is available for disposal as described in the Amendment. The proposed plan amendment validates that the parcel has been screened according to the process outlined in the Amendment and has been found to meet the criteria for a sale in the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of October 21, 1976, as amended (FLPMA). The plan amendment would only apply if the Proposed Action is selected.

1.5 Relationship to Statutes, Regulations, or Other Plans

The amendment to the Sun Valley MFP and sale of public land are two separate actions addressed in this environmental assessment (EA).

1.5.1 *Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1973 (FLPMA)*

Section 202(a) of Title II of FLPMA requires the Secretary of Interior, with public involvement, to develop, maintain, and when appropriate, revise land use plans that provide by tracts or areas for the use of the public lands. BLM policy requires *"Planning decisions…be developed in concert with sustainable development concept. These concepts include a vision of economic prosperity, a healthy environment, and a just and equitable society."* Therefore, it is necessary and appropriate that land use plans, programs, and projects be evaluated for their contributions to social, environmental, and economic goals. BLM

regulations guiding the development of land use plans and plan amendments require preparation of planning criteria (43 CFR 1610.4-2). These criteria guide development of the plan or amendment and ensure that it is tailored to identify issues and unnecessary data collection is avoided. The following criteria are intended to streamline and simplify the planning process:

- Plan cooperatively with other Federal agencies, Tribal governments, local government, and all other affected groups and individuals.
- Use best existing data to the extent possible.
- Identify opportunities to resolve problems.
- Formulate a range of alternatives from an emphasis on protection of natural values to maximizing human land uses and facilities.
- Document analysis of alternatives in plain language and discuss minor issues briefly.
- Select the preferred alternative based on the combination which best meets demands for public land while minimizing disruption of the human environment.
- Decisions in any plan amendment will be consistent with existing land use plans and policies of adjacent Federal, Tribal, State, and local agencies and entities.

Disposal of public lands through sale actions is allowable on BLM-administered lands per Title II of FLPMA and the BLM regulations at 43 CFR 2700, at the discretion of the Secretary of the Interior or their delegated officer. FLPMA allows the disposal of tracts of public land that due to their location or other characteristics are difficult and uneconomic to manage as part of the public lands, and are not suitable for management by another Federal department or agency. Regulations at 43 CFR 2711.3-3 allows for the use of a direct sale action when the public benefit would best be served by this type of disposal action. Examples include: when the adjoining land ownership pattern and access indicate a direct sale is appropriate; and when a need to resolve inadvertent unauthorized use or occupancy of the lands exists.

1.5.2 *Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA)*

The sale of the parcel has been reviewed for its potential to affect the Endangered Species Act (ESA) listed species or their proposed or designated critical habitats which may occur within the project area. The BLM determined that suitable habitat for ESA-listed species may be present within the project area; however, the sale of the subject parcel of public land is not likely to adversely affect ESA-listed species. No formal consultation with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) is necessary.

1.5.3 *Clean Water Act of 1972*

The Clean Water Act of 1972, as amended, provides for the protection, restoration, and improvement in water quality. The Clean Water Act enables States to establish programs for regulating and managing point and non-point sources of pollution and directs Federal agencies to comply with State water quality laws. Various Executive Orders, Department of Interior and BLM manuals also direct the BLM to maintain and improve water quality. There would be no impacts to water or water quality from the Proposed Action as Silver Creek is located over 1/4 mile from the subject parcel, and no other surface water exists on the subject parcel.

1.5.4 *Resources Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) of 1976 and the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act of 1980 (CERCLA)*

The Resources Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) of 1976 and the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act of 1980 (CERCLA) contain implications for land transfers including Federal land sales. In accordance with these laws and their implementing regulations, the Federal agency is required to evaluate all property proposed for transfer for the presence of hazardous substances and to include a notice in the contract for property transfer that identifies the type and quantity of any hazardous substance that has been stored, released, or disposed of on the property and when the storage, release, or disposal occurred. Under current BLM policy, the Environmental Site Assessment conducted on Federal lands prior to disposal must conform to the Standards and Practices for All Appropriate Inquiry (40 CFR 312) (BLM 2011). An Environmental Site Assessment has been performed, and would be updated prior to the issuance of a patent. The assessment conforms to the BLM policy and identifies physical hazards, solid waste, and non-scope issues that may be on the subject parcel. No hazardous materials, physical hazards, solid waste or non-scope issues were identified on the parcel.

1.5.5 *National Historic Preservation Act of 1966*

To ensure compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, an intensive cultural resource survey was completed on the subject parcel (Walsworth and Associates 2010). The report was submitted to the State Historic Preservation Office and they concurred there would be no effect to historic properties.

1.5.6 *Migratory Bird Treaty Act*

The Proposed Action is in accordance with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, as amended, with Executive Order 13186, dated January 11, 2001.

1.5.7 *Executive Orders and Policies*

Several Executive Orders (EOs) are applicable. These consist of EO 11988, *Floodplain Management*; EO 11990, *Protection of Wetlands*; and EO 13443, *Facilitation of Hunting Heritage and Wildlife Conservation*. In accordance with EOs 11988 and 11990, floodplains and wetland areas were mapped using the USFWS National Wetland Inventory mapping data. The subject parcel is not located in any floodplain nor does it contain any wetlands. Consistent with the BLM multiple use directive, comments were solicited from the Idaho Department of the Fish and Game (IDFG) during the scoping process to gather input regarding hunting heritage and wildlife habitat conservation.

The 2004 BLM National Sage-Grouse Conservation Strategy emphasizes partnership in conserving sage-grouse habitat through consultation, cooperation, and communication with the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (WAFWA), the USFWS, the U.S. Department of the Agriculture Forest Service (USFS), the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), state wildlife agencies, local sage-grouse working groups, and various other public and private partners (BLM 2004). The 2011 *National Greater Sage-Grouse Planning Strategy* (BLM 2011) outlines a planning strategy effort for greater sage-grouse conservation that emphasizes partnership in conserving greater sage-grouse habitat through new or revised regulatory mechanisms within the BLM-management of public lands. The planning strategy is in the process of developing procedures. BLM's Washington Office Instructional Memorandum (IM) 2012-043 provides interim conservation policies and procedures to be applied to ongoing and proposed authorizations and activities that affect the sage-grouse and its habitat. BLM IM 2012-044 provides direction to the BLM for considering sage-grouse conservation measures during the land use planning process in accordance the developing National Sage-Grouse Planning Strategy. Biological inventories

were conducted on the subject parcel that identified suitable habitat for the greater sage-grouse on and adjacent to the subject parcel. In 2012, the BLM identified areas of preliminary priority habitat (PPH) in conformance with IM 2012-043 (BLM 2012). These are areas designated by BLM that have the highest conservation value to maintaining sustainable greater sage-grouse populations.

The Idaho Department of Water Resources (IDWR) is responsible for the allocation of surface and groundwater within the state under Idaho Code, Title 42. The IDWR is also responsible for assisting the courts in the adjudication of water rights, processing change applications, and enforcing the state's water laws. There are no water rights held by the United States that would be affected by the disposal of the subject parcel. If the PORR would like to amend and/or apply for the use of water on the subject parcel after the issuance of a patent they would need to follow IDWR's statutory and administrative procedures.

Blaine County has the 3.4-acre subject parcel zoned within the A-40, Agricultural Zone; thus, disposal of this smaller parcel and consolidation with the 523-acre PORR would comport with the County's zoning intent.

1.6 Scoping, Public Involvement, and Issues

A Notice of Realty Action was published in the Federal Register on October 26, 2010 (FR Vol. 75, No. 206, pp 65649-65650), segregating the subject parcel from appropriation under the public land laws, including the mining laws, except the sale provisions of the FLPMA. Publication of this notice in the Federal Register initiated a 45-day public comment period for the BLM's consideration of disposal of the subject parcel that provided for acceptance of comments through December 10, 2010. A copy of the notice was also published in the Times-News and Idaho Mountain Express on December 1, 2010, December 8, 2010, and December 15, 2010. A Notice of Intent to Prepare a Land Use Plan Amendment was published in the Federal Register on November 10, 2011 (FR Vol. 76, No. 218, pp 70162-70163); which initiated a 30-day public comment period which provided for the acceptance of comments through December 12, 2011.

A scoping packet dated January 12, 2011, and containing information related to the proposal, preliminary issues and alternatives as well as a copy of the Notice of Realty Action was sent to interested parties. Chapter 5 includes a listing of the interested parties.

In response to the publication of the notices and the scoping packet, comments were received from Kathy Gregg, and the Blaine County Road and Bridge Department. The comments regarded the general philosophy of disposing of public lands, the loss of public lands, and protection of valid existing rights. The BLM responded to comments; see the project file at the SFO for comment letters and responses. Western Land Exchange also requested to be added to the list of interested parties.

1.6.1 *Identification of Issues*

In consideration of the comments received during the comment periods and scoping process the following issues associated with the BLMs consideration of disposal of the subject parcel were identified. These issues were addressed during preparation of the EA.

- Would the Proposed Action or alternatives displace wildlife and impact any special status wildlife?

- Would the Proposed Action or alternatives affect vegetation communities and any special status plants?

- Would the Proposed Action or alternatives increase invasive plant and noxious weed populations?

2.0 DESCRIPTION OF ALTERNATIVES, INCLUDING PROPOSED ACTION

The alternatives were developed upon issues identified through internal BLM scoping as well as public comment. The alternatives were designed to address the identified issues as well as provide the opportunity for comparisons upon which a decision can be based.

2.1 Proposed Action, Alternative 1

The proposed plan amendment would identify a 3.4-acre parcel of public land for disposal. The BLM would then be allowed to offer the subject parcel to PORR using direct (non-competitive) sale procedures pursuant to Sections 203 and 209 of FLPMA and the BLM regulations at 43 CFR 2700. The disposal of the 3.4-acre subject parcel in fee simple would allow the BLM to formally resolve an inadvertent trespass while allowing for better efficiencies in the management of the lands within the project area. PORR would be able to acquire and consolidate the subject parcel with their adjacent ranch property creating a contiguous parcel of approximately 526 acres of private land.

The disposal would include both the surface and mineral estates for the subject parcel described as follows:

Boise Meridian,
T. 1S, R. 20E,
Sec. 15, Lot 6.

The purchase price would be no less than fair market value determined by an appraisal completed under the direction of the Office of Valuation Services. Upon receipt of the purchase price, BLM would issue a patent to the subject parcel in the name of the PORR. The patent would contain the following terms, conditions and reservations:

- A reservation of right-of-way to the United States for ditches canals constructed by the authority of the United States under the Act of August 30, 1890, 43 U.S.C. 945;

- A condition that the conveyance be subject to all valid existing rights of record;

- A notice and indemnification statement under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (42 U.S.C. 9620(W)), indemnifying, and holding the United States harmless from any release of hazardous materials that may have occurred; and

- Additional terms and conditions that the authorized officer deems appropriate.

2.2 No Action, Alternative 2

Under the No Action alternative the subject parcel would remain unidentified for disposal and the BLM would not be allowed to offer the parcel for sale. The subject parcel would remain in Federal ownership and would be subject to all applicable Federal land laws and regulations. The BLM would resolve the inadvertent trespass with the required removal of the existing fencing and rehabilitation of the disturbed areas with native vegetation.

2.3 Alternatives Considered but Eliminated from Detailed Study

2.3.1 *Competitive Bid Method Disposal*

BLM's current policy and regulations for land sales [43 CFR 2710.0-6(c)(1-5)] require use of competitive sale procedures unless the authorized officer determines that public interest would best be served by modified competitive bidding or direct (non-competitive) sale. In this instance, PORR owns about 523 acres of land that surround or adjoin the subject parcel proposed for disposal. The subject parcel was thought to have been in private ownership and included within the PORR for several years. This alternative was eliminated from detailed analysis because there is a need to recognize the adjoining ownership pattern and access as well as to resolve an inadvertent trespass [43 CFR 2711.3-3(a)(4 & 5)].

2.3.2 *Exchange*

This alternative would dispose of the 3.4-acre parcel via an exchange for a parcel of private property as yet unidentified. From an environmental aspect, the disposal of the subject parcel by exchange would have similar impacts as those associated with the proposed sale action. The main difference would be the potential impacts of the acquisition of additional parcels that would then be managed by the BLM. This alternative did not prove feasible as the PORR does not have land with higher natural resources values to exchange with the BLM.

2.3.3 *Non-Disposal/Land Use Authorization*

This alternative would allow the subject parcel to remain in Federal ownership with the issuance of a renewable land use authorization. A plan amendment would be required to allow a land use authorization for farming or any cultivation of the parcel to be issued, as this use is currently not in conformance with the Sun Valley MFP, as amended by the 2003 Amendment. The processing and administration of the land use authorization would outweigh the benefits of retaining the subject parcel in Federal ownership. This alternative is not considered to be a viable alternative because the subject parcel would continue to be difficult and uneconomical to manage.

3.0 AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

This EA describes the affected environment on the 3.4-acre subject parcel, considers and analyzes the environmental consequences of the Proposed Action alternative for a plan amendment and subsequent disposal of the subject parcel.

3.1 General Setting

The subject parcel is located about 2 miles north of the town of Picabo on US Highway 20, which parallels the old Union Pacific Railroad, in Blaine County, Idaho. The subject parcel is within the Silver Creek drainage. Silver Creek is located approximately one-quarter mile south of the subject parcel and generally flows in an east/southeasterly direction. The Silver Creek drainage is world renowned for its clear streams and high quality trout fishing. A majority of the Silver Creek drainage area is protected and preserved by The Nature Conservancy and other conservation groups.

The topography of the subject area is fairly level, sloping down slightly from the hills to the north primarily in a southeasterly direction. The adjacent hillside to the northwest peaks at over 5,400 feet above sea level; nearby peaks extends to over 6,000 feet above sea level. The subject parcel itself is at an elevation of approximately 4,900 feet above sea level. An intermittent stream is depicted on the USGS

map, skirting the bottom of the nearby hillside to the northwest; another intermittent stream is depicted just northeast of the subject parcel, extending from Bradley Summit.

Summers typically have warm days and cool nights with winter weather being typical of mountain valleys of this latitude and elevation. In winter, the average temperature is 21º F at Picabo and the average daily minimum temperature is 10 degrees. The lowest temperature on record, which occurred at Picabo on January 24, 1962, is –33º F. In summer, the average temperature is 64 degrees and the average daily maximum temperature is about 81 degrees. The highest recorded temperature, which occurred at Picabo on July 21, 1960, is 101 degrees. The total annual precipitation is about 13 inches in Picabo. Of this, about 40% usually falls in September through April. The average seasonal snowfall is 47 inches at Picabo. The prevailing wind is from the southwest. Average wind speed is highest, 11 miles per hour, in spring (www.wcc.nrcs.usda.gov/climate; www.usclimatedata.com).

The 3.4-acre subject parcel consists of part of a vacant agricultural field, surrounded by a metal and wood post wire fence to the northeast. Along the fence, and adjacent to the North Picabo Road at the northeast perimeter, is a thin band of sagebrush. The subject parcel had previously been cultivated as part of the non-native alfalfa field until it was discovered to be public land.

3.2 Resources Considered in the Analysis

During the analysis process, the BLM interdisciplinary team considered several resources and supplemental authorities that would potentially be affected by the Proposed and No Action alternatives. The project file contains a complete list of the resources and supplemental authorities that were considered and reasons why some resources are not analyzed in the EA (e.g. resource not present in the project area).

Resource field studies and reports prepared by independent resource specialists, including archaeologist, wildlife biologist, botanist, geologist, hazardous materials/chemical engineer, were completed to assess the presence or absence of environmental resources which have the potential to occur within the project area. These reports are included in the project file at the SFO. The BLM SFO also provided data, information, and analyses from their interdisciplinary team. Based on the field studies, analysis of existing data, and knowledge of the area by the both the independent and BLM resource specialists, it was determined that the resources which have the potential to be affected by the Proposed or No Action alternatives are: Wildlife; Including Threatened, Endangered, Candidate or BLM Sensitive Species, and Migratory Birds; Vegetation; Including BLM Sensitive Species, Noxious Weeds & Invasive Plants; and Prime Farmlands.

A cultural resources inventory was conducted in June 2010 by Claudia Walsworth, Walsworth and Associates. Intact ruts of Goodale's Oregon Trail are located to the north of the parcel; however, the portion of Goodale's Cutoff (10 BN 885) that borders the subject parcel were obliterated years ago by the creation of the North Picabo Road. No previously recorded cultural resources were discovered on the subject parcel as a result of the records review. No new cultural resources were discovered upon field inventory. Upon transfer to PORR, the parcel would continue to be farmed as it previously was. No change is anticipated to the viewshed of 10 BN 885 from the current condition. It was determined that there would be no impact to eligible cultural resources.

A Phase I Environmental Site Assessment for the subject 3.4-acre parcel was conducted in May 2010 by ACS-Assessment and Compliance Services to determine if any recognized environmental conditions exist that may preclude the proposed disposal of the parcel. The assessment conformed to the BLM Manual Handbook H-2000-02, *Environmental Site Assessments for Disposal of Real Property*. No evidence of any hazardous substance releases, past environmental contamination, or existing solid waste dumping

were identified on the subject parcel. No evidence of mining or other potential uses of hazardous materials were observed on the vacant Federally-owned hillsides above the subject parcel. No industrial uses were observed in the immediate area. The nearest operating gasoline station to the subject parcel is located at the Picabo Store approximately two miles south.

In June 2010, a Mineral Potential Report was completed by Terry Maley, consulting geologist, and approved by John S. Garth, BLM Geologist, with a finding of no known mineral values for locatable, leasable, and salable minerals existed for the subject parcel. To avoid unmanageable split estate, it was determined that the mineral estate would be transferred together with the surface estate, as provided by Section 209 of FLPMA.

3.2.1 *Wildlife, Including Threatened, Endangered, Candidate or BLM Sensitive Species and Migratory Birds*

Current assessments and existing data maintained by the USFWS, BLM, the IDFG, or other entities and scientific literature were reviewed for the project area to identify potential wildlife species occurrence. Potential for occurrence determination is based on the presence of suitable habitat and/or documented occurrences. An on-site wildlife survey was conducted by Guy Bonnivier a Wildlife Biologist with parcel, PORR, local and regional expertise. The BLM special status wildlife species with potential occurrence on the subject parcel are listed in Table 1.

Table 1 - BLM special status wildlife species with potential habitat on the subject parcel.

Type 1 - Threatened, Endangered, Proposed, and Candidate Species **-** These species are listed by the USFWS or the National Marine Fisheries Service as threatened or endangered, or they are proposed for listing under the ESA.
Canada lynx *(Lynx canadensis)* – Threatened
Greater sage-grouse *(Centrocerus urophasianus)* - Candidate
Yellow-billed cuckoo *(Coccyzus americanus)* – Candidate
Wolverine *(Gulo gulo luscus)* – Candidate
Type 2 - Range-wide/Globally Imperiled Species **-** These are species that are experiencing significant declines throughout their range with a high likelihood of being listed in the foreseeable future due to their rarity and/or significant endangerment factors.
Bald eagle *(Haliaeetus leucocephalus)*
Pygmy rabbit *(Brachylagus idahoensis)*
Gray wolf *(Canis lupus)*
Type 3 - Regional/State Imperiled Species **-** These are species that are experiencing significant declines in population or habitat and are in danger of regional or local extinctions in Idaho in the foreseeable future if factors contributing to their decline continues.
Loggerhead shrike (*Lanias ludovicianus*)
Sage sparrow (*Amphispiza belli*)
Brewer's sparrow (Spizella breweri)
Prairie falcon (Falco mexicanus)
American Peregrine Falcon *(Falco peregrinus anatum)*
Trumpter Swan *(Cygnus buccinators)*
Northern Goshawk *(Accipiter gentilis)*
Willow Flycatcher *(Empidonx trailii)*
Townsend's Big-eared Bat *(Corynorhinus {Plecotus} townsendii)*
Common garter snake *(Thamnophis sirtalis)*
Western toad *(Bufo boreas)*
Woodhouse toad *(Bufo woodhousii)*
Piute ground squirrel *(Spermophilus mollis artemisae)*

Type 4 - Peripheral Species - These are species that are generally rare in Idaho with the majority of the breeding range largely outside the state.
None
Type 5 – Watch List Species - Watch list species are not considered BLM sensitive species and associated sensitive species policy guidance does not apply. Watch list species include species that may be added to the sensitive species list depending on new information concerning threats, species biology or statewide trends.
N/A
Migratory Bird Species. Over 800 species, or their parts (feathers, eggs, nests, etc), are protected from removal from private property. The following species would be expected to occur on the subject parcel:
Loggerhead Shrike
Sage Sparrow
Brewer's Sparrow
Prairie Falcon
American Peregrine Falcon
Trumpeter Swan
Northern Goshawk
Willow Flycatcher

3.2.1.1 Type 1. Threatened, Endangered, Proposed and Candidate Species

Canada lynx. The Canada lynx is a Federally-threatened species (Federal Register Notice March 24, 2000). No critical habitat for the Canada lynx has been designated in Idaho outside of Boundary County. The Canada lynx occur primarily in boreal and sub-boreal northern forests and western montane forests in North America. The Canada lynx has the potential to occur in the northern Blaine County vicinity; Few historical accounts exist that identify lynx occurring near the subject parcel. Historical records from the Idaho Natural Heritage Program note incidental observations in 1972 near Queens Crown between Picabo and Carey and in 1984 near Bellevue. Due to the low number of historic accounts identifying the Canada lynx near the subject parcel, neither the Proposed nor No Action alternatives are not expected to impact the species and discussion will not be carried through the analysis.

Greater sage-grouse. Due to population declines and habitat fragmentation, the USFWS has concluded that the greater sage-grouse warrants protection under the ESA (Federal Register Notice March 5, 2010). However, the USFWS has determined that proposing the species for protection is precluded by the need to take action on other species facing more immediate and severe extinction threats. As a result, the greater sage-grouse was placed on the list of candidate species for protection under the ESA. The greater sage-grouse is also listed as a species of conservation concern in Idaho (IDFG 2005). Greater sage-grouse habitat consists of leks, nesting, brood-rearing, and winter habitats. PPH for the greater sage-grouse has been identified on the subject parcel; however, that are no known leks within 0.6 miles of the parcel. There are two active leks (2011) within three miles of the parcel; the closest lek is 1.85 miles away. There are several more inactive/not verified status leks within three miles of the subject parcel. (pers. comm., T. Barrier, BLM, July 2012). The greater sage-grouse is commonly known to feed in alfalfa fields during dry summer and fall months. The subject parcel is part of a more than 120-acre alfalfa field that lies immediately adjacent to a public road.

Yellow-billed cuckoo. On July 25, 2001, the USFWS concluded that listing the yellow-billed cuckoo as a distinct vertebrate population segment west of the Continental Divide was warranted, but precluded the listing due to higher priority listing actions (Federal Register Notice July 25, 2001). There is no suitable habitat for the Yellow-billed cuckoo on the subject parcel although there may be occurrences of the Yellow-billed cuckoo in the general vicinity of the Silver Creek drainage (BLM, 2012).

Wolverine. Based on the range contraction and threats to the wolverine, the USFWS concluded that listing the wolverine as a distinct vertebrate population segment in the contiguous United States was warranted, but precluded the listing due to higher priority listing actions (Federal Register Notice December 14, 2010). Wolverines have been documented in the Wood River Valley and surrounding areas as recently as 2008. There is no suitable habitat for the wolverine on the subject parcel.

3.2.1.2 Type 2. Rangewide/Globally Imperiled Species

Bald Eagle. There is an active (2012) bald eagle nest approximately five miles west of the subject parcel. Bald eagles use the area year-round (pers. comm., T. Barrier, BLM, August 2012).

Pygmy Rabbit. The pygmy rabbit occurs in the western (mainly in the northwestern) United States. The species can be found primarily in the southern half of Idaho where it is considered rare, but locally abundant in some areas. Pygmy rabbit surveys were completed from 2006 to 2008 and indicated that there were populations in two BLM grazing allotments in the SFO. The two grazing allotments with known pygmy rabbit populations are the Timmerman Hills Allotment and the Macon Flats Allotment, both of which are located at least eight miles west of the subject parcel (BLM, 2012). This species prefers areas with tall dense sagebrush and loose soils. Pygmy rabbits are active throughout the year, and are most often above ground near dawn and dusk. Inactive periods are spent in underground burrows. Breeding occurs during the spring and early summer; females may produce a litter of approximately six young about thirty days after mating. Pygmy rabbits primarily eat sagebrush, but other vegetation is also consumed. As its name implies, the pygmy rabbit is the smallest of all rabbits in North America.

Gray Wolf. The gray wolf (*Canis lupus*) was previously listed as threatened but was removed from the List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife on May 5, 2011 (Federal Register Notice May 5, 2011). The gray wolf has the potential to be present on the subject mostly in winter/spring.

3.2.1.3 Type 3. Regional/State Imperiled Species

Sensitive bird species found in the SFO and protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act are noted with an asterisk (*).

Loggerhead Shrike*. The loggerhead shrike is a medium sized songbird found throughout North America, typically occurring in open landscapes characterized by widely spaced shrubs and low trees within a variety of plant associations, including arid shrublands, grasslands, savannahs, pasturelands and farmlands. Tree and shrubs used for nesting generally share common characteristics of having dense foliage and can be brushy and thorny. Shrikes use open habitats for foraging during both breeding and non-breeding seasons (Pruitt 2000; Humple 2008). The population of this species has declined in the northeastern parts of its large range, possibly due to loss of suitable habitat and use of pesticides.

Sage Sparrow*. The sage sparrow is a medium-sized bird of the western U.S. and northwestern Mexico. Sage Sparrows are often tied to sagebrush habitats, although they can also be found in brushy stands of saltbush, chamise, and other low shrubs of the arid Interior Mountain West. The most widespread population (subspecies *nevadensis*) breeds in the interior of the western U.S. between the Rocky Mountains and the coastal ranges such as the Cascades. It winters in the Mexican-border states and northern Sonora and Chihuahua. A related population (subspecies *canescens*) breeds in south-central California. Although Sage Sparrow numbers are generally strong, significant declines in sagebrush habitat in the West could be expected to decrease populations in the near future.

Brewer's Sparrow*. The brewer's sparrow is a species of special concern as listed by IDFG. Brewer's sparrows are closely associated with sagebrush habitat. They prefer high quality sage steppe habitat composed of dense stands of mountain big sagebrush overstory, native grasses and forb understory. Adults return to the same breeding sites year after year. Brewer's sparrow breed in sagebrush habitat and they nest on or near the ground in the dense sagebrush. They feed on insects and seeds. Brewer's sparrow occupy large contiguous sage steppe more frequently than small patches. The Brewer's sparrow are likely to occur in the project vicinity.

Prairie Falcon*. The prairie falcon is primarily associated with perennial grasslands, savannahs, rangeland, some agricultural fields, and desert scrub areas. The prairie falcon uses open terrain for foraging and nets in open terrain with canyons, cliffs, escarpments, and rock outcrops. This species typically builds nests in a scrape on a sheltered ledge of a cliff overlooking a large, open area. This species could occur in the project area.

American Peregrine Falcon*. The American peregrine falcon breed mostly in woodland, forest, and coastal habitats near wetlands, lakes, rivers, or other water on high cliffs, banks, dunes, and mounds. Peregrine falcons will nest on man-made structures and occasionally use tree or snag cavities or old nests of other raptors. Peregrine falcons require protected cliffs and ledges for cover. Riparian areas and coastal and inland wetlands are important habitats year-round, especially in non-breeding seasons (Zeiner et al 1990a). Peregrine falcons live mostly along mountain ranges, river valleys and coastlines.

Trumpeter Swan*. The trumpeter swan is the heaviest native North American bird and on average is the largest extant waterfowl species on the planet. A male Trumpeter can reach a length of 6 feet, with a 10-foot wingspan and weight of 38 pounds (Wood 1983). Their breeding habitat is large shallow ponds and wide slow rivers in the Pacific Northwest and central North America. In winter, this species migrates from Alaska as far south as Texas and southern California. Their diet is almost entirely aquatic plants although in winter they may also eat grasses and grains left in fields. In the 19th and early 20th centuries, the Trumpeter Swan was hunted heavily, both as game and a source of feathers. Recent data released in 2001 from the USFWS indicate conservation efforts are showing sustained growth for the past 30 years (Caithamer 2001); however, in some areas the bird continues to be listed as a threatened or a sensitive species. This species may occupy the Silver Creek drainage.

Northern Goshawk*. The northern goshawk prefer middle and higher elevations, and mature, dense conifer forests and deciduous habitats. Northern goshawks hunt in wooded areas, using snags and dead-topped trees for observation and prey-plucking perches. This species usually nests on north slopes, near water, in the densest part of stands, but close to openings. Northern goshawks use old nests and maintain alternate sites. Nests are generally constructed in the largest trees of dense, old, or mature stands with high canopy closure and sparse groundcover, near the bottom of moderate slopes, and near water or dry openings (NatureServe 2011). No suitable habitat occurs on the subject parcel.

Willow Flycatcher*. The willow flycatcher is a small, insect-eating neotropical migrant that breeds in a variety of usually shrubby, often wet, habitats. Breeding habitat is typically moist meadows, perennial streams and riparian deciduous shrubs or trees, such as willow or alder, which are essential elements on willow flycatcher territories (Craig and Williams, 1998; Sedgwick 2006). The Silver Creek drainage may provide habitat for this species.

Townsend's Big-eared Bat. The townsend's big-eared bat is a medium sized bat with very long ears. The bat's ears can reach a length of 38 mm (1.5 inches). When the bat's ears are laid back they extend to the middle of its body. The fur is pale gray or brown above and buff colored on the underside. This mammal will use a variety of habitats, almost always near caves or other roosting areas. They can be found in pine forests and desert scrub habitats. When roosting, they do not tuck into cracks and crevices,

like most bats, but prefer large open areas (DesertMuseum 2012). The species is sensitive to disturbance and will abandon roost sites after human interference (Bradley et al 2006).

Common Garter Snake. The common garter snake typically has a pattern of yellow stripes on a brown or green background, and an average length of 22 inches. The habitat ranges from forests, fields, prairies, to streams, wetlands, meadows, marshes, ponds; it is most often found near water as it is a semi-aquatic animal like most snakes. It is found at elevations from sea level to mountain locations. Their diet consists of amphibians, earthworms, fish, small birds, and rodents. Animals that eat this species include large fish, bullfrogs, snapping turtles, larger snakes, hawks, raccoons, foxes, wild turkeys, and domestic cats and dogs.

Western Toad. The western toad is smaller than the American bullfrog, and has a stocky, gray to green-colored body, a light-colored stripe down its back, and short legs. The toad tends to walk rather than hop. This species has gold-flecked eyes with noticeable oval pupils. Behind each eye is an oblong swelling, called a paratoid gland which secretes a white poison and can cause death to a dog. Western toads live near springs, streams, meadows, woodlands. They are usually near water but hibernate in burrows during winter months. They are most active at twilight, just after the sun has set (www.BLM.gov/id 2012). The Silver Creek drainage may provide habitat for this species and subspecies, Woodhouse's Toad.

Woodhouse's Toad. The woodhouse's toad is a subspecies of the Western toad. It is brown/green or yellow with dark spots. This toad also has the enlarged glands (paratoid glands) on the side of the neck, behind the eyes that secrete a viscous white poison.

Piute Ground Squirrel. The piute ground squirrel is commonly found in the Great Basin and Columbia Plateau of Utah, Nevada, California, Oregon, Idaho, and Washington. The species is quite common throughout its range in Idaho and Utah, where it is usually found in desert or grassland habitats. The Piute ground squirrel eats grasses, seeds, crops, other vegetation, and sometimes meat. The species mates in late winter or early spring, and females produce a litter of five to ten young about 24 days after mating. The Piute ground squirrel is active during the day, but the species is not active year-round. In fact, Piute ground squirrels are often active only during the spring and the fall, becoming inactive during the hot dry summer and the cold winter. Because of its affinity for crops, the Piute ground squirrel can cause a great deal of agricultural damage in some areas. No ground squirrel burrows were observed on the subject parcel, but the parcel provides suitable habitat for the species.

3.2.1.4 Big Game and Other Wildlife Species

The 3.4-acre subject parcel provides summer, winter, and transitional range for mule deer and elk. Other wildlife species that are known to occasionally occur within the general vicinity include coyote, badger, skunk, small rodents, small songbirds, raptors, and waterfowl associated with the Silver Creek drainage.

3.2.2 *Vegetation; Including BLM Sensitive Species, Noxious Weeds and Invasive Plants*

The subject parcel is currently within an alfalfa field that is well maintained with a small amount of grass, dandelions, and the following noxious weeds: Canada thistle *(Cirsium arvense)*, rare bindweed *(Convolvulus aviculare)*, and hounds tongue *(Cynoglossum officinale)*. The fence line is dominated by sagebrush; and the area between the fence line and the North Picabo Road contains populations of cheatgrass *(Bromus tectorum)*, an invasive, non-native species, as well as some prickly lettuce *(Lactuca seriola)*, an annual weed. Bugleg goldenweed *(Pyrocomma insecticruris)*, a BLM Type 3 special status plant and mourning milkvetch *(Astragalus atratus inseptus)*, a BLM Type 4 special status plant, are known to occur within a few miles of the subject parcel. However, correspondence with state and Federal

regulatory agencies along with a field survey conducted by Botanist Carol Blackburn in 2010 indicates that no special status plant species or critical habitat exist on the subject parcel.

The subject parcel has been disturbed over the years, as a result of the agricultural activities when the parcel was thought to be included as part of the PORR. The BLM SFO has an active weed control program that annually updates the locations of noxious weeds and treats known weed infestations utilizing chemical, mechanical, and biological control techniques. The BLM SFO has developed partnerships with state, county, and private organizations to cooperatively combat noxious weed infestations across ownership boundaries. Infestations of noxious weeds are treated contingent upon the BLM's annual weed budget, employee availability, and noxious weed priority.

3.2.3 *Prime Farmland*

Prime farmland, as defined by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), is land that has the best combination of physical and chemical characteristics for producing food, feed, forage, fiber, and oilseed crops and is available for these uses. It could be cultivated land, pastureland, forestland, or other land, but it is not urban or built-up land or water areas. The soil quality, growing season, and moisture supply are those needed for the soil to economically produce sustained high yields of crops when proper management, including water management, and acceptable farming methods are applied. In general, prime farmland has an adequate and dependable supply of moisture from precipitation or irrigation, a favorable temperature and growing season, acceptable acidity or alkalinity, an acceptable salt and sodium content, and few or no rocks. The water supply is dependable and of adequate quality. Prime farmland is permeable to water and air. It is not excessively erodible or saturated with water for long periods, and it either is not frequently flooded during the growing season or is protected from flooding. Slope ranges mainly from 2 to 8 percent. A recent trend in land use in some areas has been the loss of some prime farmland to industrial and urban uses. The loss of prime farmland to other uses puts pressure on marginal lands, which generally are more erodible, droughty, and less productive and cannot be easily cultivated.

The subject parcel occurs on soils that have been identified by the NRCS as Carey Lake loam, 2 to 4 percent slopes, and Justesen loam, 4 to 8 percent slopes (http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov). Carey Lake soils are deep, well drained soils that formed on level to gently sloping alluvial fan terraces and have slopes of 0 to 4 percent. Elevation ranges from 4,700 to 6,000 feet. Permeability is moderately slow. Justesen soil consists of deep, well drained soils that formed in alluvium from rhyolitic, basaltic, and sedimentary rocks. Justesen soils are on alluvial fans, fan terraces, toeslopes, and foothills at elevations of 4,600 to 7,000 feet, and have slopes of 0 to 30 percent. Permeability is moderately slow (https://soilseries.sc.egov/usda.gov).

The anticipated future use of the subject parcel is to be utilized for agricultural purposes, as previously was the case.

4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

This chapter describes the environmental consequences of the Proposed Action alternative for a plan amendment and subsequent disposal of the subject 3.4-acre parcel and the No Action alternative. The No Action alternative reflects the current situation within the project area and will serve as the baseline for comparing the environmental effects. The topics are discussed by resource, in the same order as those described in Chapter 3, Affected Environment.

For each resource topic, the impact analysis follows the same general approach. Effects were based on a review of relevant scientific literature, previously prepared environmental documents, resource field studies, and the best professional judgment of the respective resource specialists. Information on the affected environment and potential environmental consequences is derived from resource reports prepared by the proponents' team of independent specialists during the period of 2010-2012. Additional information, analyses, and reviews were prepared by the BLM SFO.

Knowledge is, and always will be, incomplete regarding many aspects of the terrestrial species, vegetative communities, the economy, and communities and their interrelationships. The ecology, inventory, and management of ecosystems are a complex and evolving discipline. However, basic ecological relationships are well established, and a substantial amount of credible information about ecosystems in the project study area is known. The alternatives were evaluated using the best available information about these ecosystems. While additional information may add precision to estimates or better specify relationships, new information would be unlikely to appreciably change the understanding of the relationships that form the basis for the evaluation of effects. The numbers generated and used for comparison of effects are for analysis purposes only.

Direct and Indirect Effects. Effects are described and are qualified as short-term and long-term, as appropriate, and may also be described as direct or indirect. Direct effects are caused by an action and occur at the same time and place as the action. Indirect effects are caused by an action and occur later in time or farther removed from the area, but are reasonably foreseeable.

Cumulative Effects. Cumulative effects are considered for each resource. Cumulative effects were determined by combining the effects of the alternatives with other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions.

4.1 Direct/Indirect Effects of the Proposed Action

4.1.1 Wildlife; Including Threatened, Endangered, Candidate or BLM Sensitive Species and Migratory Birds

The proposed land use plan amendment and subsequent land sale would not alter the existing habitat and would not reduce the amount of suitable habitat for foraging activities by the greater sage-grouse that may utilize the project area. The suspected low, incidental use level of the subject parcel by greater sage grouse would not likely result in the listing of this candidate species as threatened or endangered.

The land use plan amendment and subsequent sale of the subject parcel would not likely contribute to the need to list the yellow-billed cuckoo as threatened or endangered. Yellow-billed cuckoo are not expected to use the subject parcel because there is no habitat on the subject parcel. Although the Silver Creek drainage generally contains suitable habitat for the species, past agricultural activities on the subject parcel have not altered the nearby habitat.

Any of the BLM Sensitive wildlife and bird species that may make use of the general project area or the subject parcel are expected to continue using the area for dispersed foraging activities. Renewed cultivation of the subject parcel could provide additional foraging activities to wildlife and bird species that may be in the general area vicinity.

4.1.2 *Vegetation; Including BLM Sensitive Species, Noxious Weeds, and Invasive Plants*

Due to the past agricultural activities, the land use plan amendment and subsequent sale of the subject 3.4-acre parcel would not result in loss of upland vegetation. The existing invasive, non-native plants and

noxious weed species would continue to be present on the subject parcel. The treatment of these species would be transferred to PORR upon implementation of the Proposed Action.

4.1.3 *Prime Farmland*

The Proposed Action would allow for the return of the 3.4-acre subject parcel to active cultivated and irrigated agricultural land, thus increasing the amount of prime farmland in the general project vicinity and contributing to the local economy.

4.2 Direct/Indirect Effects of No Action Alternative

4.2.1 *Wildlife; Including Threatened, Endangered, Candidate or BLM Sensitive Species and Migratory Birds*

The No Action alternative is not anticipated to increase the level of effects to wildlife beyond that which currently exists. The removal of the existing fencing and the rehabilitation of the parcel with native vegetation would provide additional habitat for wildlife. However, even with the re-establishment of the native vegetation the proximity of the North Picabo Road and the proximity of the human presence in the adjacent agricultural field would be disturbances that would lessen the beneficial impact of the additional habitat. The suspected low, incidental use on the subject parcel by the greater sage-grouse would not be impeded or create any significant affect upon the species. The No Action alternative would not contribute to the need to list the yellow-billed cuckoo as threatened or endangered.

4.2.2 *Vegetation; Including BLM Sensitive Species, Noxious Weeds, and Invasive Plants*

Under this alternative, the subject parcel would remain under current ownership and management. No land use plan amendment or transfer of land would occur. There has already been disturbance on the subject parcel due to the agricultural activities that occurred while the parcel was thought to have been in private ownership. The existing fence would be removed and the disturbed areas rehabilitated with native vegetation. Treatment of the subject parcel for noxious weeds would continue to be the responsibility of the BLM.

4.2.3 *Prime Farmland*

The No Action alternative would permanently remove the 3.4-acre parcel from productive and active agricultural activities, thus reducing the amount of prime farmland in the general project area.

4.3 Cumulative Effects

4.3.1 *Past and Present Actions*

The BLM has issued and renewed 20-year grazing permits for grazing allotments within the general vicinity area. The BLM is currently developing a travel management plan (North Highway 20 Travel Management Plan - TMP) for all the BLM-administered public land administered by the SFO north of Highway 20. Development of the proposed plan that would amend the Sun Valley MFP is in the preliminary stages, and expands on the 2007 Blaine County Cooperative Conservation and Travel Plan by designating roads and trails within the project area.

4.3.2 *Reasonably Foreseeable Future Actions*

The BLM is developing a national strategy to preserve, conserve, and restore sagebrush habitat, the ecological needs of the greater sage-grouse. The BLM will issue national policy and direction based on local needs and information, to guide the agency's actions and to raise the importance of sagebrush conservation in planning efforts.

4.3.3 *Cumulative Effects of the Proposed Action*

4.3.3.1 Wildlife, Including Threatened, Endangered, Candidate or BLM Sensitive Species and Migratory Birds

The subject parcel is adjacent to existing cultivated agricultural property, which is not considered high quality habitat for wildlife. The reversion of the subject parcel back to cultivated and irrigated agricultural lands would not have a significant consequential effect on wildlife or migratory birds.

4.3.3.2 Vegetation, Including BLM Sensitive Species, Noxious Weeds, and Invasive Plants

Previous use of the subject parcel as cultivated and irrigated agricultural land most likely assisted in controlling the noxious weeds and invasive plants, but also allowed for their increase following removal of these actions. The proposed action would allow the subject parcel to once again be cultivated, thus assisting in controlling the spread of noxious weeds to the adjacent privately held property, or nearby public lands. Natural plant communities would not be restored to the parcel.

4.3.3.3 Prime Farmland

The proposed return to agricultural practices on the subject parcel would add productive and sustainable development to the area of prime farmland in Blaine County.

4.3.4 *Cumulative Effects of No Action*

4.3.4.1 Wildlife; Including Threatened, Endangered, Candidate or BLM Sensitive Species and Migratory Birds

The cumulative effects to wildlife for the No Action alternative would for the most part be the same as the proposed action. The subject parcel and the general area of cultivated farmland would continue to support wildlife and bird species, as applicable.

4.3.4.2 Vegetation, Including BLM Sensitive Species, Noxious Weeds, and Invasive Plants

Cumulative effects with regards to vegetation would continue to contribute to the persistence of invasive, non-native plants and noxious weeds on the subject parcel, until such time as treatment and control could be implemented.

4.3.4.3 Prime Farmland

Cumulative effects to prime farmland as a result of the No Action alternative would decrease agricultural activities in Blaine County and eliminate productive cultivation on the subject parcel.

5.0 CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

In addition to the information contained in the Scoping, Public Involvement, and Issues section of Chapter 1, in February 2011, the proposed land use plan amendment and subsequent land sale was listed as an action for which the BLM SFO was preparing an EA on the BLM Idaho National Environmental Policy Act database webpage.

As part of tribal consultation, the Shoshone-Bannock and Shoshone-Paiute Tribes were presented with information regarding the BLMs consideration of the disposal of the subject parcel to solicit comments. The Shoshone-Bannock Tribes were sent a scoping notification letter on January 12, 2011, and information was presented at a meeting on January 20, 2011. The Tribes are not in support of the disposal of any public lands, no matter how small. The BLM SFO regularly meets with the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes on projects throughout the field office. Information on the BLMs consideration of the disposal of the subject parcel was initially presented to the Tribes on October 27, 2011. In general, the Tribes have expressed their opposition to any public land disposals. None of the Tribes have provided information about, or expressed interest in, any particular historic properties of religious and cultural significance on the subject parcel.

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Lisa Cresswell, Archaeologist/ Shoshone Field Office NEPA Coordinator
Tara Barrier, Wildlife Biologist
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David Freiberg, Outdoor Recreation Planner
John Garth, Geologist
John Kurtz, Outdoor Recreation Planner
Kasey Prestwich, Forester
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Joanna Tjaden, Rangeland Management Specialist

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Subcontractors
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Carol Blackburn, Botanist
Conservation Inc., Guy Bonnivier, Wildlife Biologist
Terry S. Maley, Consulting Geologist
Nelson Appraisal, R. William Nelson
Walsworth and Associates, Claudia Walsworth, Archaeologist

5.3 Interested Parties

Shoshone-Bannock Tribes
Shoshone-Paiute Tribes
The Honorable Mike Crapo
The Honorable James Risch
The Honorable Butch Otter
The Honorable Michelle Stennett
The Honorable Donna Pence
Idaho Department of Fish and Game
Idaho Department of Lands
Blaine County Commissioners
Blaine County Road & Bridge
Barton Family Trust
Dry Creek Cattle Association
Kathy Gregg
Richard & Milo Mecham
John, William & CE Molyneaux
Picabo Livestock Co. Inc.
Picabo Ranch LP
Point of Rocks Ranch LLC
Richard Saiya
Tick-Tock LLC
Western Land Exchange
Wood River Land Trust

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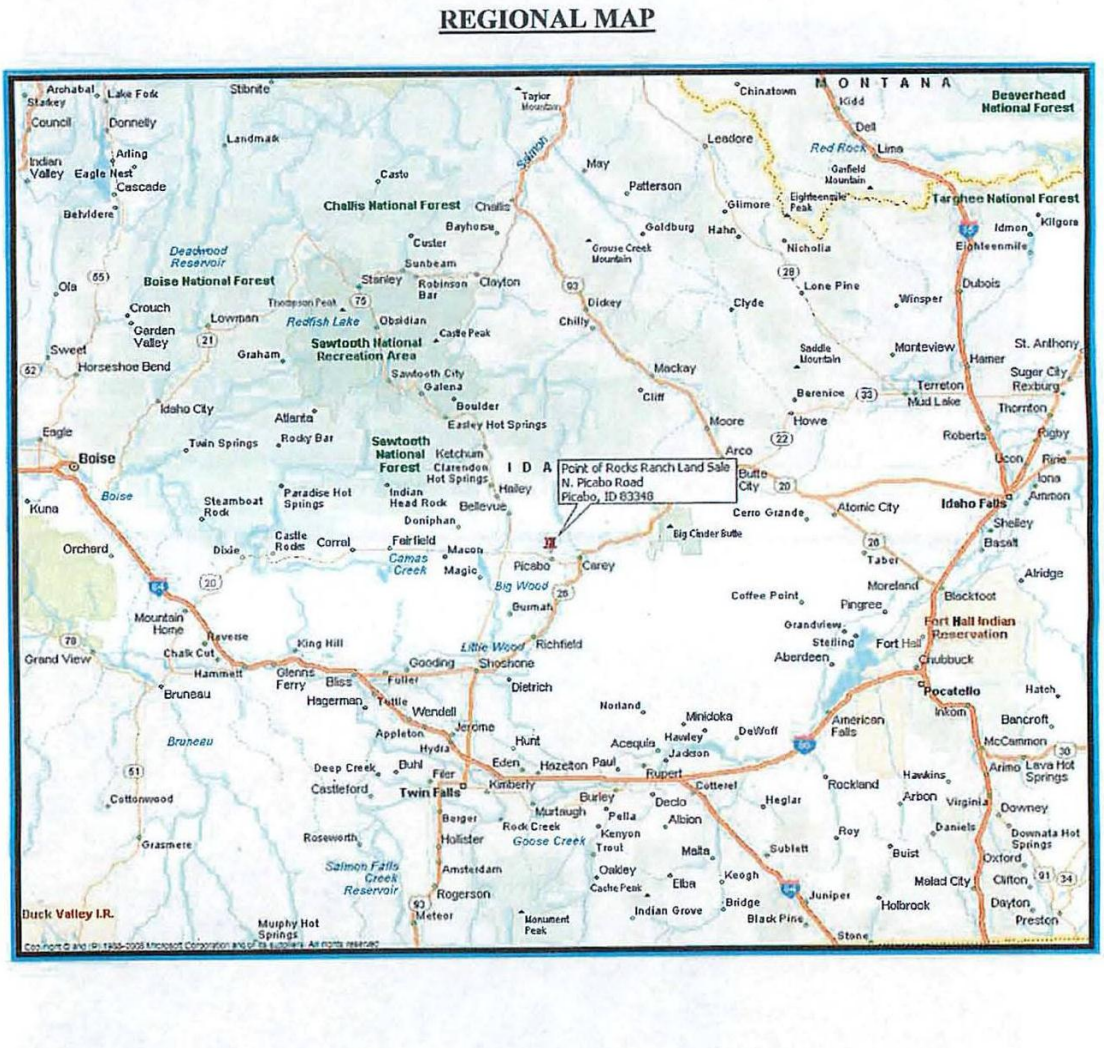
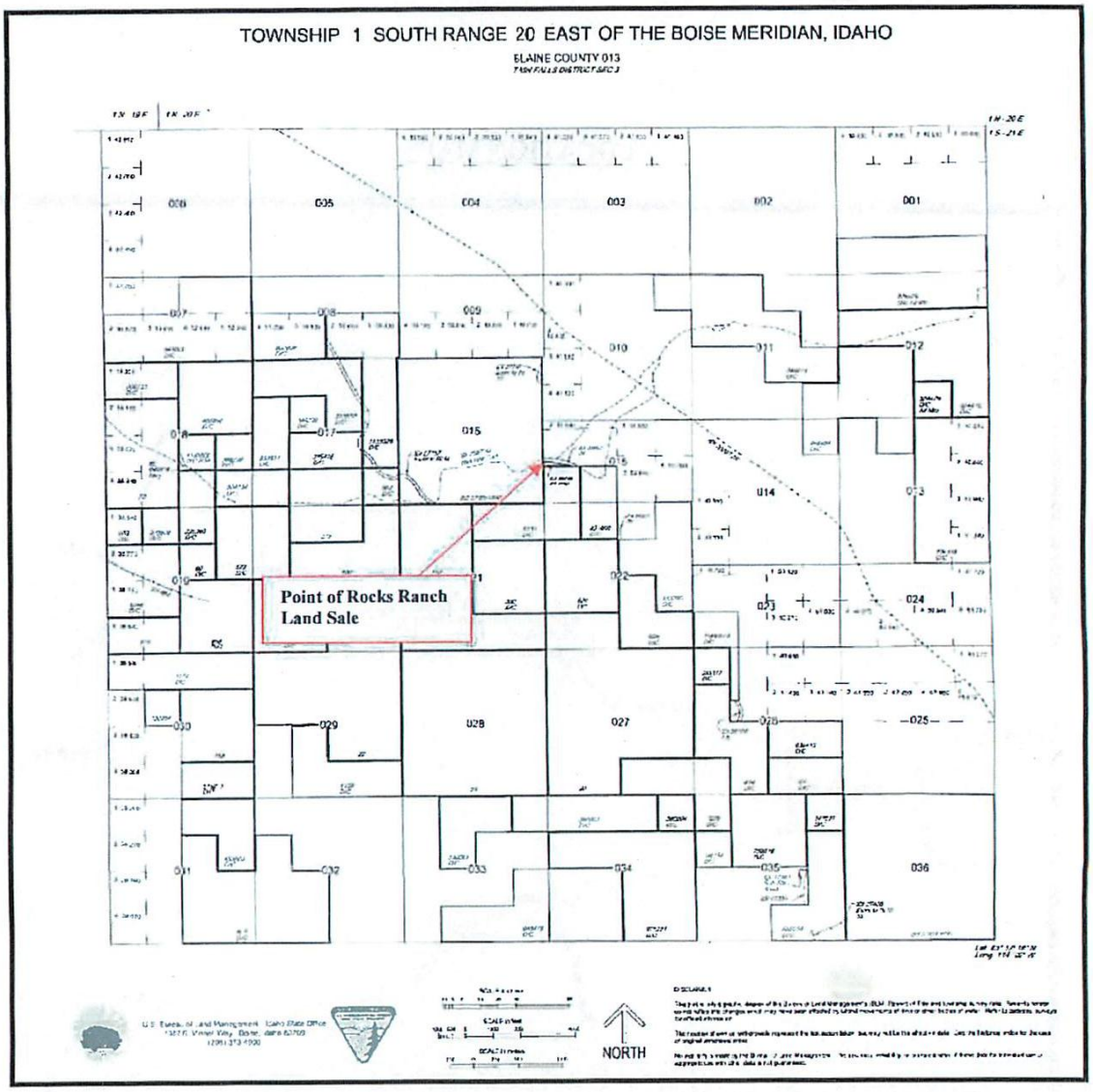
APPENDICES

Map 1 - Regional Map:

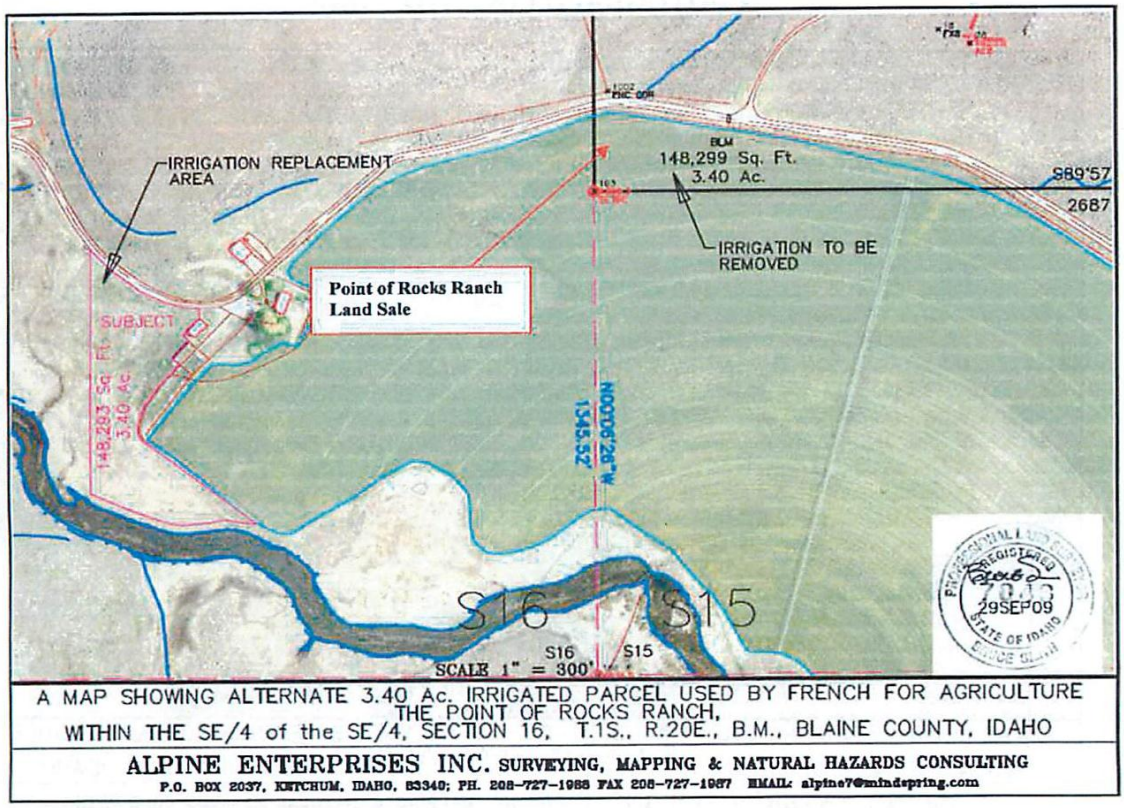


Map 2 - BLM Map:


TOWNSHIP 1 SOUTH RANGE 20 EAST OF THE BOISE MERIDIAN, IDAHO
BLAINE COUNTY 013
Point of Rocks Ranch
Land Sale
NORTH

Map 3 - Site Map:

SITE MAP

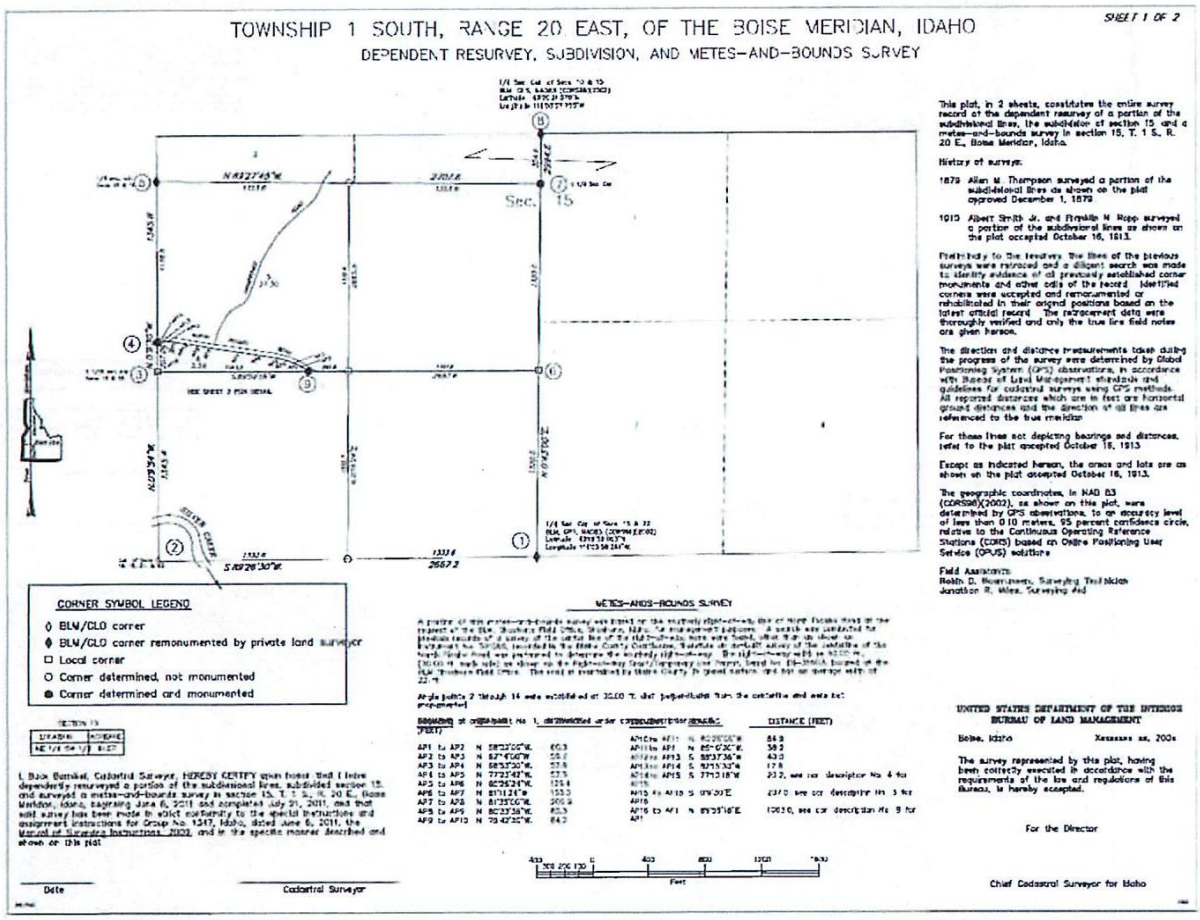


A MAP SHOWING ALTERNATE 3.40 Ac. IRRIGATED PARCEL USED BY FRENCH FOR AGRICULTURE
THE POINT OF ROCKS RANCH,
WITHIN THE SE/4 of the SE/4, SECTION 16, T.1S., R.20E., B.M., BLAINE COUNTY, IDAHO

ALPINE ENTERPRISES INC. SURVEYING, MAPPING & NATURAL HAZARDS CONSULTING
P.O. BOX 2037, KETCHUM, IDAHO, 83340; PH. 208-727-1988 FAX 208-727-1987 EMAIL: alpine7@mindspring.com

Map 4 - Ownership Map (1 of 2):

SITE MAPS



Map 5 - Ownership Map (2 of 2):