

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
Morley Nelson Snake River Birds of Prey  
National Conservation Area

**CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION REVIEW**

**CX No.** DOI-BLM-ID-B011-2012-0011-CX

**A. BACKGROUND**

**BLM Office:** Morley Nelson Snake River Birds of Prey/NCA

**Lease/Serial/Case File No.:** IDI-0011478

**Proposed Action Title/Type:** Idaho Power 12.5 kV service for Grandview-Titan Base

**Location of Proposed Action:** T. 4 S., R. 2 E., Sections 20, 29, Boise Meridian, Owyhee County  
(See attached Exhibit A)

**Description of Proposed Action:**

The Proposed Action is to grant a 30-year renewal of an existing 4,352.7 ft. long x 40 ft. wide (for a total of 4.2 acres) right-of-way (ROW) that would allow for the operation and maintenance of the following project components:

- 4,352.7 feet of 12.5-kilovolt (kV) transmission line that services the mining facility that was formerly known as Grandview-Titan Base.
- Existing vehicle access within the 40-foot wide ROW for operations and maintenance activities.

This action would be administrative in nature and will not require any construction or groundwork activities other than periodic maintenance or the existing facilities.

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is authorized under Title V of the Federal Land Management and Policy Act (FLPMA) of October 21, 1976: 43 CFR § 2802 to issue a FLPMA ROW grant.

This grant will be subject to the terms and conditions found at 43 CFR § 2800, as well as the terms, conditions and/or stipulations that would be incorporated into the ROW grant.

**B. LAND USE PLAN CONFORMANCE**

**Land Use Plan Name:**

Snake River Birds of Prey, NCA Resource Management Plan (Sept. 2008)

**The proposed action is in conformance with the LUP, even though it is not specifically provided for, because it is clearly consistent with the following LUP decision(s) (objectives, terms, and conditions):**

Section 2.11 Lands and Realty

*“All lands and realty proposals undergo site-specific NEPA analysis, and must be compatible with the purposes for which the NCA was established.”* and *“Meet the needs of the public in a manner that minimizes impacts on resources consistent with NCA legislative requirements.”* The renewal of this ROW would meet the objective of continued energy transportation and, if approved, would not likely cause any major or long-term, adverse effects to other resource management objectives.



**4. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.**

NO, does not apply.

*Comments/Explanation:* The BLM has extensive experience in power line rights-of-way. The potential impacts associated with the activities themselves are well known and generally negligible.

Specialist Signature/Date:           /s/ Jeremy Bluma          4/16/2012          

**5. Establish a precedent for future actions or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.**

NO, does not apply.

*Comments/Explanation:* This proposal would not set a precedent or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects. Any future proposals would be analyzed on its own merits based on law, federal regulations, and BLM policy.

Specialist Signature/Date:           /s/ Jeremy Bluma          4/16/2012          

**6. Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant, but cumulatively significant environmental effects.**

NO, does not apply.

*Comments/Explanation:* The structure has been in place for over 50 years via a previous BLM ROW authorization. This authorization would not cause any additional impact or be directly related to any other future actions which would produce significant cumulative environmental effects.

Specialist Signature/Date:           /s/ Jeremy Bluma          4/16/2012          

**7. Have significant impacts on properties listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places as determined by either the bureau or office.**

NO, does not apply.

*Comments/Explanation:* A Class III Cultural Resource Survey was performed on June 9, 2011 along the area of potential effect (APE) for this transmission line. Shaw concluded that the renewal and continued maintenance of the existing transmission line would result in “no-effect” to historic properties because none were located within the APE. Idaho State Historic Preservation Office supports Shaw’s findings of no effect to historic properties.

Specialist Signature/Date:           /s/ Dean C. Shaw          10/26/2011          

**8. Have significant impacts on species listed or proposed to be listed on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or on designated Critical Habitat for these species.**

NO, does not apply.

*Comments/Explanation:* On April 9, 2011, two biologists (S. Funk & K. Wilde) performed a wandering transect of the proposed action area. A follow-up survey was performed on May 12, 2011 by S. Vistine-Amdor. No special status plant species were located within the ROW area. Therefore, the proposed action would not pose adverse impacts to any special status plant species.

Botany Specialist Signature/Date:           /s/ Mark Steiger          6/11/2012          

Botany Specialist Signature/Date:           /s/ Holly Beck          6/12/2012



**12. Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species (Federal Noxious Weed Control Act and Executive Order 13112).**

NO, does not apply.

*Comments/Explanation:* There are no known populations of noxious weeds located in the renewal area. Any noxious weeds encountered after the implementation of this renewal would be treated, monitored, and retreated as necessary, consistent with established BLM procedures, to prevent infestations from establishing and spreading in the project area.

Specialist Signature/Date:                     /s/ Lonnie R. Huter                    5/3/2012                    

**D: SIGNATURE**

I certify that none of the Departmental exceptions (Extraordinary Circumstances) listed in the above Part II (516 DM 2, Appendix 2) apply to this action; therefore, this categorical exclusion is appropriate for this situation.

Authorizing Official:

Date:

*/s/ Patricia Roller*

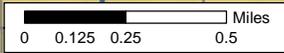
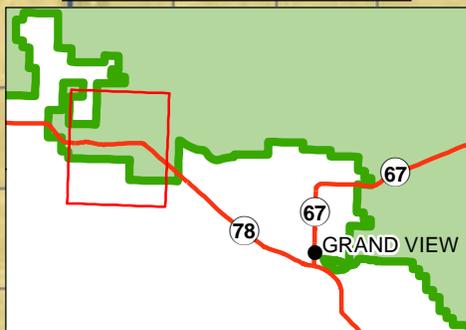
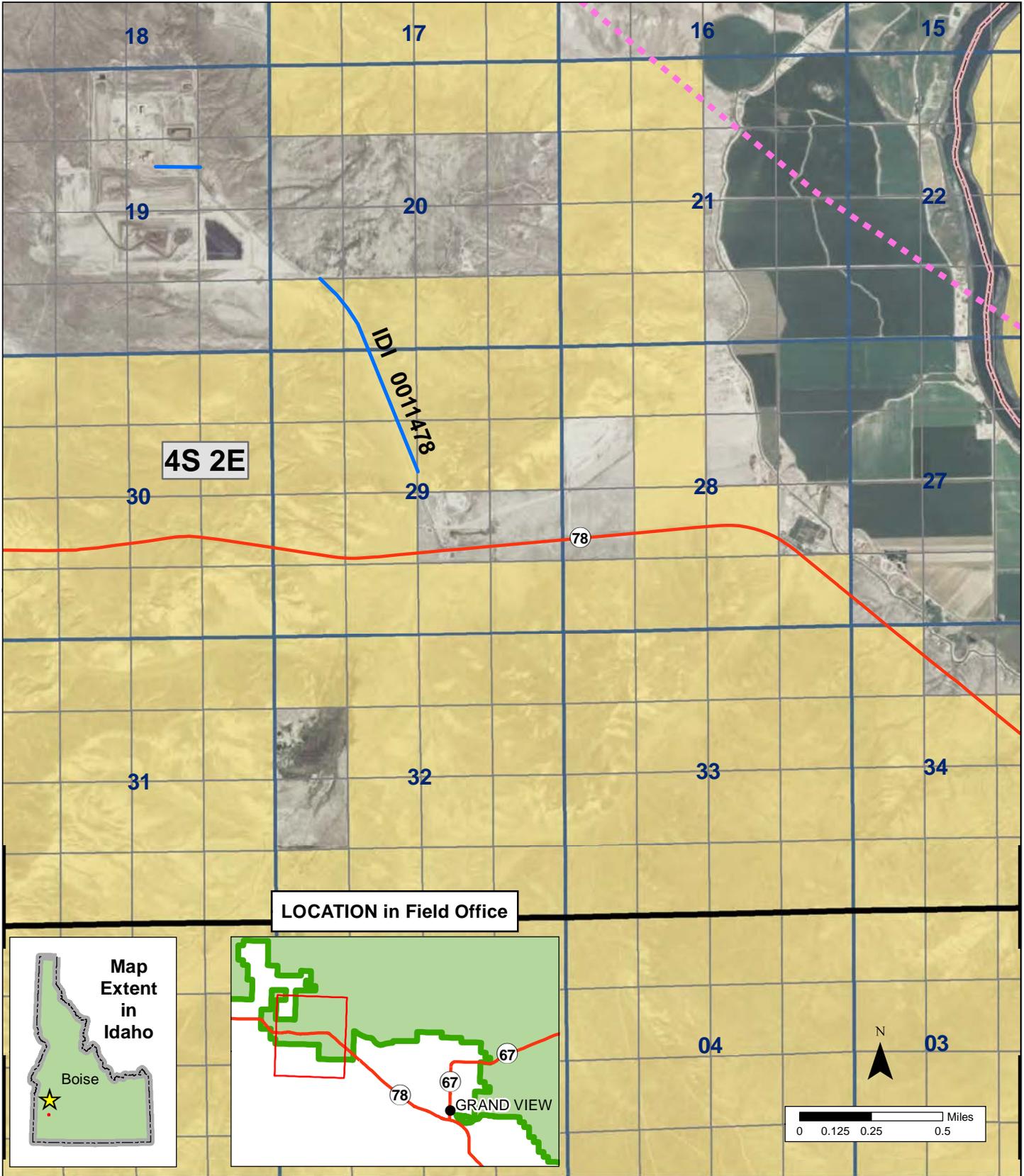
*6/28/2012*

Patricia Roller  
Manager  
Snake River Birds of Prey, NCA

**Prepared By/Contact Person:**

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# IDI-011478 IDAHO POWER 12.5 kV POWER LINE RENEWAL



U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management, Idaho  
Boise District  
Map date: April 12, 2012



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