

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-B011-2012-0014-CX

**A. BACKGROUND**

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

**Lease/Serial/Case File No.:** IDBL-054004

**Proposed Action Title/Type:** Idaho Power 69 kV distribution line Grandview-Oreana

**Location of Proposed Action:** T. 4 S., R. 2 E., Sections 28, 29& 30, 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 8,562 ft. long x 40 ft. wide (for a total of 7.9 acres) right-of-way (ROW) that would allow for the operation and maintenance of the following project components:

- 8,562 feet of 69-kilovolt (kV) distribution line known as Grandview-Oreana.
- Existing vehicle access within the 40-foot wide ROW for operations and maintenance activities.

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 would be 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.

**C: COMPLIANCE WITH NEPA:**

The proposed action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with **516 DM 11.9E (9)**.

**Category Description:**

“(9) Renewals and assignments of leases, permits, or rights-of-way where no additional rights are conveyed beyond those granted by the original authorizations. “

**The following list of Extraordinary Circumstances (516 DM 2, Appendix 2) were considered:**

**1. Have significant impacts on public health or safety.**

NO, does not apply.

*Comments/Explanation:* No public health or safety issues have been raised in the approximately 50-year existence of this utility line. The proposed renewal action would be identical to the existing action. The renewal of the approximately 8,562-foot long power line ROW would not be anticipated to have any adverse impacts to public health or safety.

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

**2. Have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation, or refuge lands; wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands (Executive Order 11990); floodplains (Executive Order 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; or ecologically significant or critical areas, or is not in compliance with the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act.**

NO, does not apply.

*Comments/Explanation:* The renewal of this power line ROW would not have any effect on natural resources or unique geographic characteristics such as those listed above.

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

**3. Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA Section 102(2)(E)].**

NO, does not apply.

*Comments/Explanation:* The BLM routinely grants ROW for 69 kV power lines. Controversial environmental effects from these actions have not been identified in the Boise District as a result of these grants. There is no controversy over the effect of 69 kV power lines or their rights-of-ways. BLM has permitted hundreds of these projects over the past 50 years and understands there are no unresolved impacts from this project type. This action would not preclude any alternative uses of other resources in the area.

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

**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 unsubstantial.

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 will not set a precedent or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects. Any future proposals will 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 19, 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. Funk and S. Vistine-Amdor. Potential habitat for special status plant species was located within the area of the proposed ROW renewal, but no occurrences of special status plants were located. The botanists report concluded that renewing the ROW for the existing 69 kV distribution line would not pose any adverse impacts to special status plant species or their habitat.

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

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

*Comments/Explanation:* A wildlife survey was performed for special status wildlife species and their habitat. This survey was performed in tandem with the above botanical survey by the S. Funk and S. Vistine-Amdor. Their survey report indicates that no special status wildlife species were located within the proposed action area. A survey previously performed on April 9, 2011 indicated that long-billed curlew were located in the surrounding region of the proposed action area. The report connected to the April 9 survey concluded that there would be no adverse impact to the long-billed curlew from the proposed action because the existing right-of-way vegetation would not be conducive

to long-billed curlew nesting habitat and would not interfere with foraging. However, the report noted that it would be advisable to have maintenance restriction within the ROW annually from March-June associated with curlew nesting season if the proposed action would be approved.

**Wildlife Specialist Signature/Date:**           /s/ Jill C. Holderman          6/11/2012          

*Comments/Explanation:* The renewal of this ROW would not impact any riparian or other aquatics because none exist in the area.

**Specialist Signature/Date:**           /s/ Jeremy Bluma          6/11/2012          

**9. Violate a Federal, State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.**

NO, does not apply.

*Comments/Explanation:* The proposed action would be in compliance with all laws and requirements that pertain to environmental protection in the area.

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

**10. Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898).**

NO, does not apply.

*Comments/Explanation:* There are no low income or minority populations living in the project area. Low income or minority visitors to the area would not be affected any differently by the proposed activities than any other visitor.

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

**11. Limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on Federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or significantly adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (Executive Order 13007).**

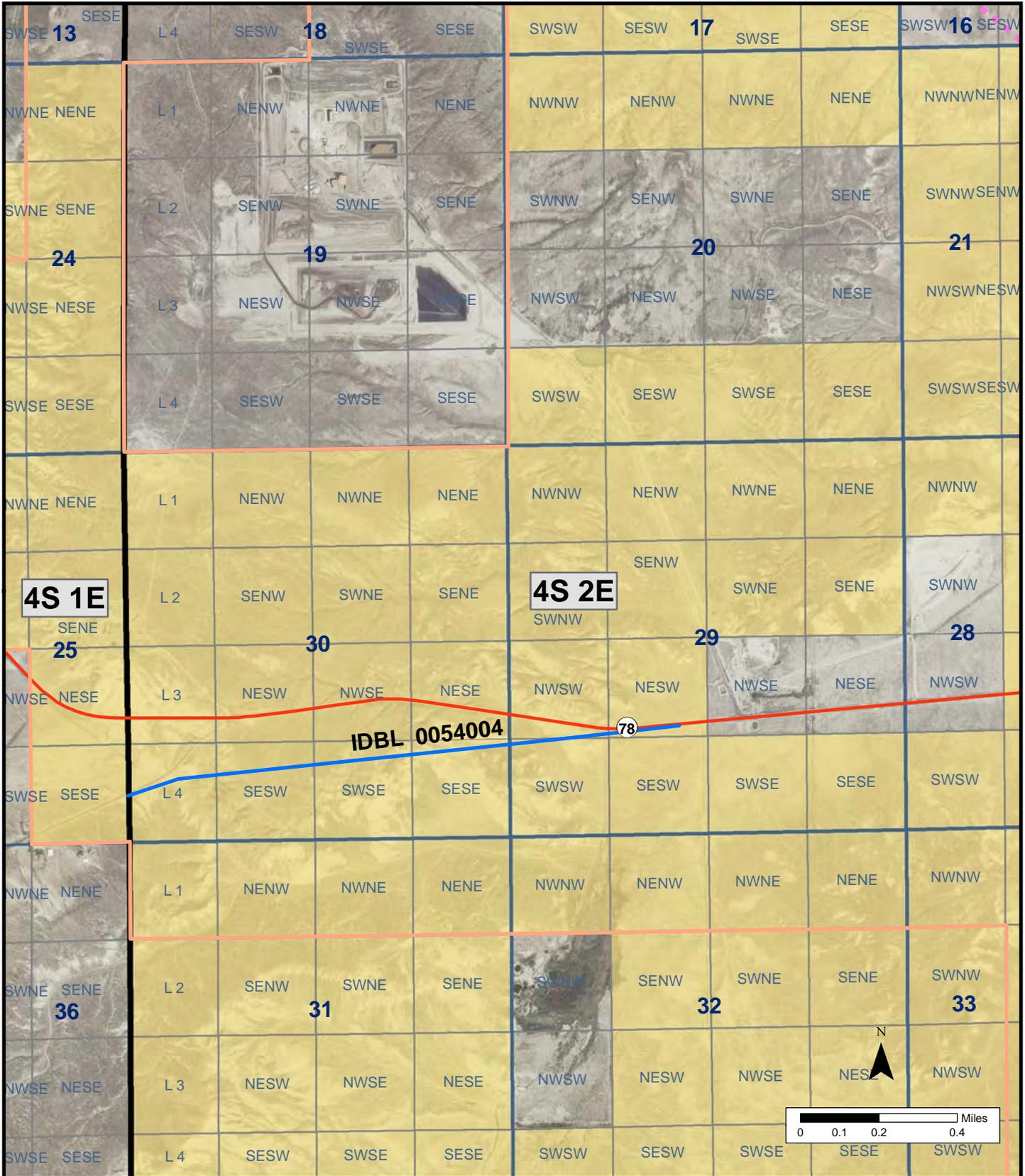
NO, does not apply.

*Comments/Explanation:* Access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on Federal lands would not be impeded by the renewal of this power line ROW. No adverse impacts are anticipated to occur to Indian ceremonial or sacred sites by the proposed action of renewing this power line ROW.

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



# IDBL-054004 IDAHO POWER 69 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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