

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
FOUR RIVERS FIELD OFFICE

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DOCUMENTATION

CX No. DOI-BLM-ID-B010-2012-0024-CX

A. BACKGROUND

BLM Office: Four Rivers Field Office

Lease/Serial/Case File No.: IDI-16260

Proposed Action Title/Type: Idaho Power 34.5 kV Bruneau Cemetary

Location of Proposed Action: T. 6 S., R. 6 E., Section 19, Boise Meridian, Owyhee County, Idaho
(See attached Exhibit A)

Description of Proposed Action:

The Proposed Action is to grant a 30-year renewal of an existing 1,617.3 ft. long x 20 ft. wide (for a total of 0.8 acres) right-of-way (ROW) that would allow for the operation and maintenance of the following project components:

- 1,617.3 feet of 34.5-kilovolt (kV) transmission line known as Bruneau Cemetary.
- Existing vehicle access within the 20-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 those stipulations attached as Exhibit B, dated April 16, 2012.

B. LAND USE PLAN CONFORMANCE

Land Use Plan Name: Jarbidge Resource Management Plan, as amended

Date Approved / Amended: 1987 / 1993

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):

Lands and Realty Management under Section II of the RMP states the following:

“The RMP makes sufficient provisions for public and private needs for rights-of-ways. Major areas are maintained for linear rights-of-ways. Nine major areas with significant public values are protected through the following special designations and are identified as avoidance areas. These are:

- 1) Wilderness Study Areas*
- 2) Wild and Scenic River designation (proposed)*
- 3) Birds of Prey (essential nesting habitat)*
- 4) Oregon Trail*
- 5) Hagerman Fossil Beds*
- 6) Sand Point Paleontologic site*

Specialist Signature/Date: /s/ Dean C. Shaw 4/22/2010

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: Over the 80 year history of this power line utility, the vegetation has consisted of big sagebrush, cheatgrass, annual forbs, and an abundance of annual grasses. A botanical survey was performed on June 2, 2011 to identify the vegetation within the ROW and vicinity and to determine if any special status plant species or their habitat exists within this area. The results of the survey did not locate any special status plants or their habitat in the immediate area. In the event that any special status plants are discovered in the project area, it is unlikely that the proposed ROW renewal would adversely impact them. It is therefore recommended that, from a botanical standpoint, the ROW be renewed as proposed.

Specialist Signature/Date: /s/ Jeremy Bluma 4/17/2012

Comments/Explanation: This electric power line was originally built in 1932 and supplies power to an irrigation pump for the Bruneau Cemetery. No special status species or their habitat was found to exist in the area surrounding the ROW. The survey performed on June 2, 2011 determined that it is unlikely that Greater Sage-grouse would occur in the vicinity of this ROW near Bruneau, Idaho. Ferruginous hawk are likely to occur in the area of this ROW but have likely adapted to the presence of the 80-year of power line and therefore would not be adversely affected by the renewal.

Specialist Signature/Date: /s/ Jeremy Bluma 4/17/2012

Comments/Explanation: Surface water was not observed along the ROW or within the immediate adjacent area during the June 2, 2011 plants/wildlife survey. It is therefore determined that the renewal of the ROW grant would not likely impact riparian or aquatics resources.

Specialist Signature/Date: /s/ Jeremy Bluma 4/17/2012

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 4/17/2012

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

NO, does not apply.

Comments/Explanation: The area of this proposed renewal is in a rural location that is lightly populated with no particular low income or minority population areas. As such, the proposed renewal of this power line ROW would not affect low income or minority populations living in the area any differently than any other citizen.

Specialist Signature/Date: /s/ Jeremy Bluma 4/17/2012

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 4/22/2010

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: A site visit to the project area was performed on 5/14/2012 and no populations of noxious weeds located in the renewal area. If noxious weeds would be encountered after the implementation of this renewal, the grant holder would be required to treat, monitor, and retreat 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.

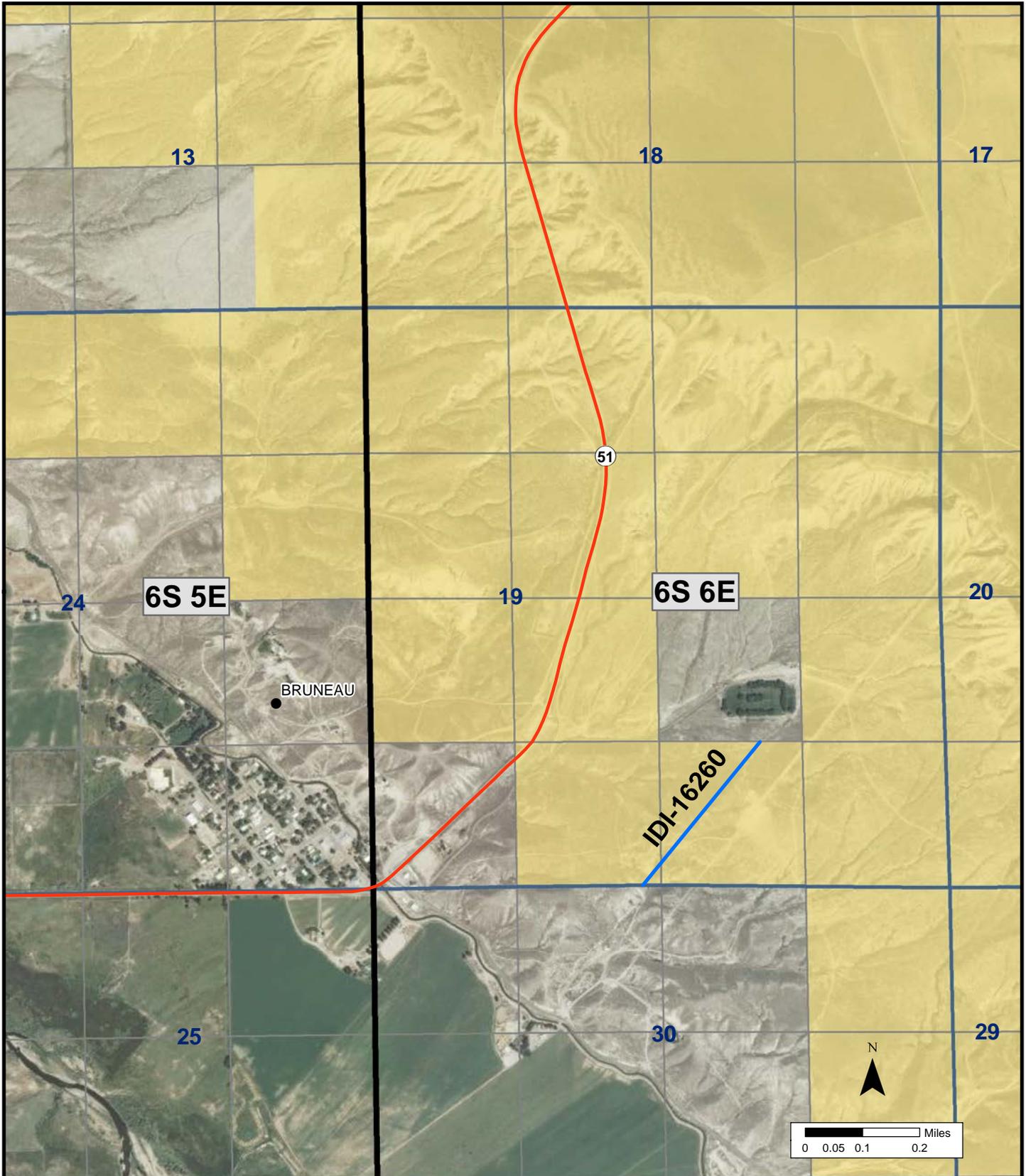
Authorizing Official: /s/ Terry A. Humphrey Date: 5/23/2012

Terry A. Humphrey
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IDI-16260
IDAHO POWER 34.5 kV POWER LINE RENEWAL



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management, Idaho
Boise District
Map date: April 16, 2012



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