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Bureau of Land Management**

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**Environmental Assessment
DOI-BLM-ID-T010-2012-EA**

**Northwest Pipeline GP, Cathodic Protection Site 1915
IDI-36807
Idaho Power Company ROW
IDI-36816**

Applicants: Northwest Pipeline GP and Idaho Power Company

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INTRODUCTION

Background

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Jarbidge Field Office has received an application from Northwest Pipeline GP (Northwest) requesting a right-of-way for the construction of a cathodic protection site on public lands along an existing natural gas pipeline owned and operated by Northwest. The existing pipeline traverses several western states and runs from Ignacio, Colorado to Sumas, Washington where it serves both residential and commercial customers. Northwest is requesting a 20-foot by 500-foot right-of-way for the installation of the cathodic protection site. Additionally, approximately 1.6 acres of space is requested for temporary use during construction to allow for the operation of the drill rig, equipment staging, and maneuvering.

The Jarbidge Field Office has also received an application from Idaho Power Company (Idaho Power) requesting a right-of-way for an overhead 7.5 kilovolt (kV) distribution line to supply power to the cathodic protection site. Idaho Power is requesting a 20-foot by 2,178 foot right-of-way for the installation of the distribution line totaling 0.99 acres.

Location of Proposal

The project area is on parcels of land located in the Boise Meridian, Township 8 South, Range 14 East, Section 30, SWSW and Township 8 South, Range 13 East, Section 25, S2SE that generally runs parallel to the Magic Waters Road. The distribution line extension lies to the west and the cathodic protection site lies to the east of Northwest's Ignacio-Sumas 1400 Pipeline corridor (Figures 1 and 2, Appendix A). The lands associated with this action are administered by the Bureau of Land Management, Twin Falls District, Jarbidge Field Office, and are managed under the 1987 Jarbidge Resource Management Plan.

Purpose and Need for Action

The Bureau of Land Management's purpose and need in proposing a right-of-way is to respond to applications from Northwest and Idaho Power for a cathodic protection site and a distribution line extension. Bureau of Land Management regulations at 43 Code of Federal Regulations 2800 require that applications be processed.

Northwest's purpose for requesting the right-of-way is to construct a cathodic protection site on the Ignacio-Sumas 1400 Pipeline as part of their pipeline integrity management program. Cathodic protection protects the steel pipe from the detrimental effects of corrosion. Additionally, it is required to comply with U.S. Department of Transportation regulations. Northwest is proposing to construct the cathodic protection site in an area where a portion of the pipeline is not currently receiving adequate cathodic protection. The Proposed Action is needed because a new cathodic protection facility and its associated overhead distribution line extension are necessary to mitigate any active corrosion to the pipeline and ensure compliance with federal pipeline safety regulations.

Conformance with Applicable Land Use Plan

The Bureau of Land Management’s planning regulations state that the term “conformity” or “conformance” means that “...a resource management action shall be specifically provided for in the plan, or if not specifically mentioned, shall be clearly consistent with the terms, conditions, and decisions of the approved plan or amendment” (43 CFR 1601.0-5(b)). The construction and operation of the cathodic protection site is not specifically provided for in the 1987 Jarbidge Resource Management Plan (1987). However, the 1987 Resource Management Plan states, “Generally, public lands may be considered for the installation of public utilities, except where expressly closed by law or regulation. Project approval will be subject to preparation of an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement (Jarbidge Resource Management Plan, 1987, p II-94)”. Therefore, review of the existing Jarbidge Resource Management Plan led to the conclusion that the proposed action is not inconsistent with the goals and objectives of the Resource Management Plan, and hence it can be considered to be in conformance. No specific limitations or restriction on the type or intensity of resource use was identified for the project area.

Relationships to Statutes, Regulations, or Other Plans

In addition to the relationships with statutes, regulations, and plans described above, procedures for construction of distribution lines in Idaho Statute, Title 61, Public Utility Regulation, Chapter 17, Siting of Certain Electrical Distribution Facilities, would be adhered to, and a permit for construction of the proposed distribution line would be obtained from the Idaho Public Utilities Commission. No National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Construction General Permit for small construction activity would be required from Region 10 of the Environmental Protection Agency because ground disturbance is less than 1.0 acre for the distribution line, and oil and gas construction activities are exempt. Any required Twin Falls County construction permits would be obtained before the project is implemented.

SCOPING, PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT, AND ISSUES

This project has been listed on the Idaho NEPA Database since July 26, 2012. A scoping information package was sent out to interested parties on September 17, 2012 and no responses were received.

PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVE(S)

Proposed Action

The Bureau of Land Management is proposing to issue two individual rights-of-way; one would be issued to Northwest for the installation of a cathodic protection site on public lands along an existing authorized natural gas pipeline, and the second would be issued to Idaho Power for the installation of an overhead distribution line extension that would supply power to the cathodic protection site. Northwest is requesting a right-of-way for a

0.23 acre (20 feet by 500 feet) parcel for the installation and operation of the cathodic protection site and Idaho Power is requesting an additional 0.99 acres (20 feet by 2178 feet) for the installation of an overhead power line to supply power for the operation of the facility.

The proposed project includes installation of a new deep well anode ground bed and a 2,178 foot long (0.41 mile) overhead power line extension. The ground bed would be installed at the far end of the 20-foot by 500-foot right-of-way easement from the pipeline. A concrete pad approximately 3-feet by 3-feet would be constructed on top of the 10-inch diameter deep well hole. A one-foot by one-foot metal junction box would rest on top of the pad. The concrete pad and junction box would be enclosed by a metal guard rail. A narrow (less than 2-feet wide), shallow (less than 1-foot deep) trench approximately 500 feet long would be dug to install the cable connecting the deep well anode bed to the rectifier adjacent to the pipeline. A two-foot by two-foot rectifier box would be installed on a pole on the existing pipeline right-of-way. The existing pipeline right-of-way would be used for access, and temporary extra workspace areas (20 feet by 356 feet, 150 feet by 150 feet, and 85 feet wide by 470 feet) totaling 1.60 acres would be used to support construction activities (see Figure 2 in Appendix A).

To supply power to the facility, Idaho Power would tap into their existing authorized 7.5 kilovolt (kV) overhead power line and construct an additional 2,178 feet of new overhead line to the cathodic protection site (Figure 1, Appendix A). Seven wood poles, 40-50-feet tall and spaced on average approximately 300 feet apart, would be directly imbedded into the ground. There would be a minimum of 18-foot vertical clearance from ground to conductor at lowest sag point. The new power line extension would be situated on 0.99 acres with access and construction activities confined to Idaho Power's requested new 20-foot right-of-way width.

Between both components of the project, easements totaling 1.22 acres have been requested, with an additional 1.60 acres requested for temporary workspace during construction. However, it is anticipated that ground disturbing activities will temporarily impact less than 20% (about 0.2 acres) of the total easement acreage requested.

Construction activities would generally follow the sequence of: 1) survey and stake the project area; 2) work area preparation; 3) excavation and installation of facilities; and 4) site clean-up and restoration. The distribution line is being permitted separately (IDI-36816) from the cathodic protection site (IDI-36807). The proposed schedule for the project is fall 2012 and it would take approximately two to three weeks to complete.

No Action Alternative

Under this alternative, no rights-of-way would be granted to Northwest or Idaho Power, and the cathodic protection site would not be constructed as part of Northwest's pipeline integrity management program.

Alternatives Considered But Eliminated from Detailed Study

Alternative A would require recoating approximately 1,000 feet of the existing pipeline to accomplish a similar desired result as cathodic protection would provide. Recoating the pipe inhibits corrosion by providing an insulating barrier over the steel pipe and prevents an electro-chemical reaction from occurring. An excavation approximately 30 feet wide by 1050 feet long (approximately 0.73 acres) would be required to expose the pipeline and create a safe trench with required egress. The excavation width could vary depending on how deep the pipe is buried and soil type. A temporary extra work space 50-feet wide by 1050-feet long (1.21 acres) would also be required outside the existing pipeline right-of-way easement for spoil, equipment, staging, etc. The existing pipeline right-of-way easement would also be used during construction activities (approximately another 1.2 acres). The excavation would include trenching across Magic Waters Road. A recoating project as described is estimated to take three weeks of construction time to complete. The required excavation through Magic Waters Road and overall degree of ground disturbance in Alternative A result in a greater degree of resource impact, as it requires more significant ground disturbance, the project requires more extensive construction equipment on site, as well as a longer construction period. Alternative A was thus eliminated from a more detailed analysis, or further consideration.

AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

General Setting

The project area is located south of Interstate 84/U.S. Highway 30, approximately 28 miles northwest of Twin Falls, Idaho, directly off the paved Magic Waters Road (Figures 1 and 2, Appendix A). The project area is located within the Western Snake River Plain approximately one-mile from the junction of Salmon Falls Creek and the Snake River. The project area is made up of approximately 1.2 acres of new rights-of-way and 1.60 acres of temporary extra work space on public land consisting of upland rolling hills south of the Snake River. The area has been previously disturbed from pipeline construction and maintenance and a modern highway is adjacent to the project area. Elevation in the project area is 3,200 ft and the geology of the area consists of superficial lacustrine layers overlying a basement volcanic layer (Gehr 1982). The project area was inspected during a field reconnaissance on May 13, 2011 and on April 30, 2012. There is no surface water present within or adjacent to the parcels.

Resources Considered in the Analysis

During the analysis process, a Bureau of Land Management interdisciplinary team considered several resources that would be affected by the proposed action and the no action alternative. The project file contains a complete list of the resources that were considered and the supplemental authorities that were consulted, as well as reasons why some resources were not analyzed in this Environmental Assessment. The interdisciplinary team determined that the resources present in or near the project area that had the potential to be affected by the alternatives included: soils; vegetation; wetlands; wildlife; existing land uses; cultural resources; visual resources; and hazardous materials. Each of these resources is discussed below.

Soils

There are three soil types that may be found within the project area. These include Bluegulch gravelly loam (2-12% slopes), Kudlac silty clay (4-30% slopes), and Rakane-Blacknest complex (1-4% slopes; NRCS 2012). Bluegulch soils are derived from parent materials of colluvium over bedrock derived from welded tuff, Kudlac soils are derived from parent materials of lacustrine deposits, and Rakane-Blacknest complex soils are derived from parent materials of mixed alluvium. All three soils are classified as well drained. The Bluegulch soils are classified as prime farmland when irrigated, and the Kudlac and Rakane-Blacknest complex soils are not classified as prime farmland.

Vegetation

Biological resource surveys were conducted along the Northwest Pipeline and Idaho Power project areas (Burrus, Jim and Jean Findley. 2012; and Vistine-Amdor, S. and Sara Funk. 2011). Prior to field visits, online resources, field guides, and agency publications were reviewed and consultation with agency personnel was conducted as necessary to identify U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Threatened, Endangered, Candidate and Proposed species and Bureau of Land Management Special Status Species having the potential to occur within the project area based on existing habitat. Field visits occurred in April 2012 and May 2011 respectively.

There are no Threatened, Endangered, Candidate and Proposed plant species with the potential to occur in Twin Falls County, Idaho, and 13 of 17 plant Special Status Species identified with the potential to occur within the Jarbidge Field Office District were found not likely to occur within the project area. The four plant Special Status Species that were identified as having a low likelihood of occurrence within the project area include calcareous buckwheat (*Eriogonum ochrocephalum* var. *calcareum*), Greeley's wavewing (*Cymopterus acaulis* var. *greeleyorum*), Janish's penstemon (*Penstemon janishiae*), and Shockley's matted buckwheat (*Eriogonum shockleyi* var. *shockleyi*). However, the fairly deep soils and lack of ash substrate indicated a lack of suitable habitat for these plant species. Surveys were conducted to determine the presence of these species within the project area, and no individuals or remnant of individuals of any of these species was observed.

The current condition of the vegetation in the project area is illustrated in the photos (Figures 3-6) in Appendix A.

Plant species observed during the April 2012 survey at the cathodic protection site were dominated by exotic species, particularly crested wheatgrass (*Agropyron cristatum*), cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum*), bulbous bluegrass (*Poa bulbosa*), and redstem stork's bill (*Erodium cicutarium*), although some pockets of relatively undisturbed native vegetation can be found adjacent to the highway and right-of-way fence at the north end of the cathodic protection site work area. Native species include bitterbrush, (*Purshia tridentata*), gray rabbitbrush (*Ericameria nauseosa*), and basin wildrye (*Leymus cinerus*). Scattered native forb species include western hawksbeard (*Crepis occidentalis*), desert princesplume (*Stanleya pinnata*), biscuitroot (*Lomatium* spp.), and mariposa lily

(*Calochortus* spp.). Portions of native rangeland in Idaho including the project area have been affected by the introduction of non-native, invasive plants. Although native plant species exist at the cathodic protection site, exotic species are dominant and thus no Special Status Species plant habitat was observed.

Vegetation observed during the May 2011 survey along the proposed overhead distribution line extension right-of-way route was dominated by Wyoming big sagebrush (*Artemisia tridentata* ssp. *wyomingensis*) and cheatgrass. Although the location of the right-of-way is near the roadway, the vegetation community contains many healthy (and abundant) native shrubs and a few native forbs and grasses. Native shrubs observed include Wyoming big sagebrush, gray rabbitbrush, and a few remnant basin big sagebrush (*Artemisia tridentata* ssp. *tridentata*) and antelope bitterbrush. Sagebrush seedlings are evident throughout the project area. Cheatgrass is abundant in the understory, covering most of the ground.

Invasive species may include both noxious weeds and other introduced, non-native plants that often have no natural enemies to limit their reproduction and expansion. Noxious weeds and other invasive species may affect the environment by altering soil properties, depleting soil nutrients, altering the composition of native cover types, and by altering historical disturbance cycles, including wildfire. As these species become established, the number and cover of native species can be reduced and wildlife and bird habitat can be reduced. It should be emphasized that no noxious weeds were documented in the project area, and while cheatgrass is an invasive species it is not a noxious weed that would require further intervention to prevent its expansion. Although many native shrubs were observed, the understory was heavily infested with cheatgrass and no Special Status Species or suitable habitat was observed.

Wetlands

The project area is situated on relatively flat ground with arid shrub and grass vegetation and no surface water, seeps or springs. No U.S. Army Corps of Engineers jurisdictional wetland or Waters of the U.S. was identified within the project area during the field surveys.

Wildlife

Biological resource surveys were conducted along the Northwest Pipeline and Idaho Power project areas (Burrus, Jim and Jean Findley. 2012; and Vistine-Amdor, S. and Sara Funk. 2011). Prior to field visits, online resources, field guides, and agency publications were reviewed and consultation with agency personnel was conducted as necessary to identify U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Threatened, Endangered, Candidate and Proposed species and Bureau of Land Management Special Status Species having the potential to occur within the project area based on existing habitat. Field visits occurred in April 2012 and May 2011 respectively.

Eight Threatened, Endangered, Candidate and Proposed wildlife species are listed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as occurring in Twin Falls County, Idaho. Based upon the

results of the pre-field survey review, all but one (greater sage-grouse, *Centrocercus urophasianus*), was eliminated from consideration based upon the lack of suitable habitat within the project area. There are forty-five Bureau of Land Management Type 1-5 wildlife Special Status Species identified as having the potential to occur within the Twin Falls Bureau of Land Management District, Jarbidge Field Office. Eight of these are the Threatened, Endangered, Candidate and Proposed species, one of which (greater sage-grouse) shares U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Special Status Species status. Fourteen wildlife Threatened, Endangered, Candidate and Proposed species and Special Status Species (including greater sage-grouse) were identified as having a low or moderate likelihood of occurrence within the project area.

The field surveys concluded that no Threatened, Endangered, Candidate and Proposed species or Special Status Species were observed within the project area. Additionally, there is no suitable habitat for Threatened, Endangered, Candidate and Proposed species except for the greater sage-grouse. The project area does contain basin big sagebrush and Wyoming big sagebrush in the highway right-of-way, but this would not provide suitable breeding habitat for greater sage-grouse, as there is a low probability of individuals using the project area. The nearest occupied greater sage-grouse lek is over 17 miles southwest of the project area. This lek and the surrounding area have burned several times in large wildfires since 2005 and no greater sage-grouse have been observed in the lek since 2008.

Suitable habitat for foraging or hunting is present in the project area for some Special Status Species, including five mammal species: Piute ground squirrel (*Spermophilus mollis*), pygmy rabbit (*Brachylagus idahoensis*), spotted bat (*Euderma maculatum*), and Townsend's big-eared bat (*Plecotus townsendii*), as well as four raptor species: western burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia hypugaea*), peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus anatum*), prairie falcon (*Falco mexicanus*), and ferruginous hawk (*Buteo regalis*). Prairie falcon and ferruginous hawk could use the project area but are more likely to occasionally fly over the site. None of these species is known to nest within 1.0 mile of the project site. Animal burrows that could provide habitat for burrowing owls were observed but no evidence of burrowing owl use was found. Peregrine falcons are rare within the Jarbidge Field Office.

There are no records of pygmy rabbit observations close to the project area. Both spotted bat and Townsend big-eared bat have been documented in Salmon Falls Creek Canyon and both species may forage over the project area. Piute ground squirrels are relatively widespread and common in the lands within the Jarbidge Field Office. However, this species would be aestivating during project implementation.

Bald eagles (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) are present in the winter along the Snake River and may fly over the project area. Habitat in the project area is not suitable as a winter roost site for bald eagles. Limited breeding habitat is present for four bird species: loggerhead shrike (*Lanius ludovicianis*), sage sparrow (*Amphispiza belli*), Brewer's sparrow (*Spizella breweri*), and black-throated sparrow (*Amphispiza bilineata*). According to Bureau of Land Management information, sage sparrow and loggerhead

shrike have been observed roughly 3.5 miles west of the project area in mature sagebrush/steppe habitats. Brewer's sparrows have been seen in sagebrush steppe a little over 1.0 mile from the project area. Potential breeding and nesting areas within the project area include limited small shrubs that offer minimal habitat for nesting species protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. Russian olive is present both north and south of the project area within 0.5 miles and may provide suitable nesting substrate for raptors and other avifauna.

Existing Land Uses

There is evidence of past grazing within the project area. The project is located just outside the southern boundary of the Lower Salmon Falls grazing allotment (Allotment # 01141). The Lower Salmon Falls allotment encompasses 1,793 acres and in 2009 (BLM Rangeland Administration System) was permitted for 127 animal unit months (AUMs). It is unknown whether the overhead distribution line associated with the project may at certain points intersect the grazing allotment.

There is one existing right-of-way issued within the project area. Northwest holds a right-of-way permit IDI-006421 for the natural gas pipeline that runs through the site.

Additional use of the project area by the general public is anticipated to be minimal with activities such as hunting, hiking, and sightseeing being hindered by absence of attractions that would promote these activities in the area.

Cultural Resources

A cultural inventory of the project area was completed in July 2012. The Kelton Road/Oregon Trail, and the Toana Road are major historic supply and travel routes in the area (e.g. Clementz and Valentine 2011). The Oregon Trail/Kelton Road (Site 10TF463) is approximately 4,051 feet east of the project area. The Toana Road did not show up on the Class I file search conducted through the Idaho State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) but according to Clementz and Valentine (2011), it is 0.5 miles north of the project area. Created in the 1870s as a freighters road, it was used to haul materials from the newly constructed Transcontinental Railroad into the Boise area (Clementz and Valentine 2011). The Salmon Falls Creek Bridge (ISHI Site 83-19128) is located 3,117 feet to the southeast of the project area. Previously recorded prehistoric sites near the project area include Site 10TF442, which is a lithic scatter consisting of a variety of stone tools including scrapers, bifaces, projectile points and ground stone. This site was evaluated as significant and eligible for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). Two rock overhangs (Site 10TF119) were also recorded south of the project area. None of these previously recorded sites would be affected by the project and none of these sites are within the proposed project area. No sites within the bounds of the parcel were found eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

The potential always exists for the discovery of cultural resources. This is especially true when the project area is relatively close to significant resources like the Oregon Trail and the Snake River. However, given the small inventory area and the results of the previous

inventories (Harris 2010; Clementz and Valentine 2011), the chances of encountering cultural resources at the project site are small.

Visual Resources

The Visual Resource Management (VRM) system developed by the Bureau of Land Management evaluates the human perceptions and expectations that combine to form personal assessments embedded within the context of a landscape. The Bureau of Land Management has developed the Visual Resource Management system to meet its expectation of maintaining the scenic value associated with the public lands it manages. The project lies within a Visual Resource Management Class III area with an existing overhead power line. As noted in the Bureau of Land Management Visual Resource Management guidelines (1985; p. 1), “The objective of this class is to partially retain the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape should be moderate. Management activities may attract attention but should not dominate the view of the casual observer. Changes should repeat the basic elements found in the predominant natural features of the characteristic landscape. New projects can be approved that are not large scale, dominating features (i.e., geothermal power plant or major mining operation would not be approved).” The project site has been classified as a Class III Objective.

Hazardous Materials

Database searches with the Environmental Protection Agency and Idaho Department of Environmental Quality did not identify any known hazardous waste sites within the bounds of the project or within a one-mile buffer around the project area. The natural gas transported in Northwest’s natural gas transmission line may be considered a hazardous material; however, the pipeline is routinely maintained and monitored to prevent leaks or releases to the environment.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

The no action alternative reflects the current situation within the project area and serves as the baseline for comparing the environmental effects of the proposed action. Under the No Action Alternative the right-of-way grants would not be granted to Northwest or to Idaho Power.

Soils

No Action

Under the No Action alternative, the project would not be constructed and there would be no disturbance to or alteration of the soils present within the project area. There would be no direct impact to the soils within the 1.83 acre cathodic protection site work area or within the 0.99 acre right-of-way corridor proposed for the overhead distribution line extension. No ground-disturbing activities would occur. Vegetation would remain intact and the soil would not be exposed to the risk of erosion associated with clearing.

Proposed Action

Project area soils would be impacted by construction activities associated with the construction of the project. The area of direct impact would be the narrow trench dug to install the cable connecting the anode bed to the rectifier (6" wide x 500' long), a small excavation to expose the top of the natural gas transmission pipeline (2'x2') for connection of the rectifier cable, and the area disturbed for activities associated with the drill (12" diameter hole to install anode bed, and 10'x10' pit for temporary storage of drill cuttings). There would be no soil disturbance within the temporary extra workspace identified in Figure 2. Temporary extra workspace will be primarily used for equipment, material laydown and vehicle movement and parking. The impacts to soils associated with the installation of the overhead distribution line would be isolated to only the pole locations (6-foot radius around each of 7 poles) as well as along the right-of-way access routes, as the line would be constructed overhead and not require trenching. Construction activities associated with the overhead distribution line would be confined to Idaho Power's requested 20-foot right-of-way width.

Once construction has been completed, only minimal sporadic impact to soils is expected from vehicles traveling to the area to conduct inspection and maintenance activities along each corridor. These activities may result in soil compaction within the right-of-ways, as well as the mixing of soil horizons as the surface layer is disturbed, wind and water erosion of soils is possible after vegetation is removed.

Vegetation

No Action

Under the No Action alternative, the project would not be constructed and there would be no disturbance to or alteration of the vegetation present within the proposed project area. There would be no direct impact to the vegetation within the 1.83 acre cathodic protection site work area or within the 0.99 acre right-of-way corridor proposed for the overhead distribution line extension. The existing vegetation would be unaffected and the vegetation community would continue on its current trajectory. Due to the invasive nature of cheatgrass, this species would remain present within the area and native grasses may struggle to compete.

Proposed Action

Prior to construction, vegetation within the 1.83 acre cathodic protection site work area would be mowed. Additionally, workspace in the vicinity of the deepwell drill and the 500-foot cable trench will be bladed to temporarily clear vegetation prior to construction activities. While the size of the area bladed in the vicinity of the deep well varies depending on conditions at the time of construction, it is generally estimated that less than 0.17 acres would be cleared. This is done due to the nature of the construction activities as well as to minimize fire hazard, as there will be some welding in the area. Vegetation would also be temporarily impacted during installation of the proposed overhead distribution extension. The impacts to vegetation would be isolated to the pole locations as well as along the right-of-way access routes. Tall vegetation might be cut

back to allow access to work areas; however, it is anticipated that most vegetation would be crushed and not require removal or ground disturbance.

The existing vegetation within the parcel consists largely of invasive and non-native species. The disturbed areas are at risk of infestation by invasive or non-native vegetation species such as cheatgrass which often out-compete native grasses and shrub species. In the project area, cheatgrass and non-native vegetation are already dominant. Upon completion of construction, the project area would be re-vegetated with approved seed mixtures. Generally, the best time to seed is in the fall (September-November). If seeding cannot be done then, spring seeding would take place as conditions dictate. The area would be restored according to specifications mutually agreed upon with the Bureau of Land Management for site rehabilitation.

Only minimal sporadic impact to vegetation is expected from post-construction inspection and maintenance activities. These activities would be limited to minor vegetation disturbance or removal and soil compaction within the right-of-way locations.

Because no Threatened, Endangered, Candidate and Proposed or Bureau of Land Management Special Status plants are present within the project area, the project is not expected to result in any beneficial or adverse impacts to the life cycle needs of Threatened, Endangered, Candidate and Proposed or Bureau of Land Management Special Status Species plant species.

Wetlands

No Action

No U.S. Corps of Engineers jurisdictional wetland or wetlands of the U.S. were identified within the project area. Under the No Action alternative, the project would not be constructed and there would be no disturbance.

Proposed Action

No U.S. Corps of Engineers jurisdictional wetland or wetlands of the U.S. were identified within the project area. As there are no wetlands present in the project area, there would be no impacts to wetland resources.

Wildlife

No Action

Under the No Action alternative, the project would not be constructed and there would be no disturbance to or alteration of the wildlife habitat present within the project area. Current wildlife use within the project area would not be impacted. The Magic Waters Road would continue to fragment habitat by separating sagebrush habitat located north of the road from the area south of the road but there would be no additional habitat fragmentation associated with this alternative.

Proposed Action

Construction of the project would result in a short-term increase in human presence during the construction phase of the project. It is anticipated that wildlife that may be present in surrounding areas would avoid project areas where work is occurring.

The vegetative community (1.83 acres) within the cathodic protection site would be mowed, and the workspace in the vicinity of the deepwell drill and the 500-foot cable trench will be bladed to temporarily clear vegetation prior to construction activities. Mowing facilitates mobility of equipment and personnel in the construction area, and enhances visibility of work activities, personnel, and topographical obstacles in the area. Ground will be bladed or cleared in the area of the deep well and for the length of the cable trench. This would temporarily disturb and displace the limited existing wildlife habitat from the 1.83 acre parcel in the general proximity of Magic Waters Road. However, the disturbed area is small relative to the surrounding area, and it is anticipated that wildlife would return upon completion of construction activities and as vegetation reestablishes. The area would be restored to pre-construction conditions.

Installation of the distribution line would result in disruption of small patches of vegetation (habitat) associated with the placement of the power poles. No permanent alteration of vegetation communities would occur in areas where access routes are located. Disturbance in these areas would generally be limited to trampling of vegetation by equipment and personnel, although in some areas vegetation may need to be cut. Vegetation around the power poles would be cleared in the immediate vicinity of the base of the poles to protect the wooden poles during a wildfire event.

After construction, accessing the distribution line or pipeline right-of-ways for routine or emergency maintenance may also temporarily impact individuals. These impacts could include disruption of burrows and disturbance of vegetation used for cover or forage. These impacts are anticipated to be isolated to areas associated with maintenance activities (i.e. along the right-of-way). These impacts are expected to be small and immeasurable resulting in no discernible reduction in the regional population of animal species. Bird species would be able to avoid impacts by flying away from the area during maintenance activities, returning after activities are complete.

Increased human activity associated with construction activities and routine maintenance can also disrupt individuals during mating, nesting, and brood-rearing seasons. To mitigate these impacts, construction activities would be scheduled to occur in late fall of 2012, after the conclusion of the migratory bird and raptor nesting season. If construction would be postponed, it would not be scheduled during the migratory bird and raptor nesting and rearing season without Bureau of Land Management consent. The breeding and nesting season for sage grouse in Idaho extends from March 1 to July 15. However, the biological field surveys concluded that no Threatened, Endangered, Candidate and Proposed species or Special Status Species were observed nor was suitable habitat observed within the project area, except for the greater sage-grouse. The project area does contain basin big sagebrush and Wyoming big sagebrush in the highway right-of-way, but this would not provide suitable breeding habitat for greater sage-grouse, as there is a

low probability of individuals using the project area. The nearest occupied greater sage-grouse lek is over 17 miles southwest of the project area.

Installation of the overhead distribution line has the potential to impact raptors and other bird species. These species tend to roost and perch on power poles increasing the risk of electrocution. Avian-safe construction standards would be followed as well as a variety of mitigation methods and practices, such as industry guidelines included in Suggested Practices for Raptor Protection on Power Lines (APLIC 2006). Inclusion of APLIC avian-safe construction standards and abidance to Idaho Power's bird management guidelines would decrease potential impacts to any raptor or avian species (see APLIC 2006).

Given the small disturbance area for the cathodic protection site and distribution line, as well as the current condition of the project area, it is expected that animal species currently using the site would be temporarily displaced or unaffected by project construction. As shown in the tables included in Appendix B, the project area contains limited habitat for foraging, hunting and breeding for one Threatened, Endangered, Candidate and Proposed and 13 Bureau of Land Management Special Status Species. Upon completion of construction, the project area would be re-vegetated with approved seed mixtures, and wildlife would return to the area and resume present-day use within a reasonable time span. Because of the limited size, time of year and current habitat condition, the project should have no adverse effect on any Special Status Species or their habitats.

Existing Land Uses

No Action

Under the No Action alternative, the project would not be constructed and there would be no disturbance to or alteration of the grazing activities that may occur within the project area. Livestock grazing would continue to occur within the project area with no alterations to the grazing rates or frequency within the Lower Salmon Falls grazing allotment. There would be no changes to the access routes for grazing permit holders. Northwest would retain its current right-of-way for the existing natural gas line that is located within the project area.

Proposed Action

No changes to existing land uses are anticipated. As the project lies just outside the Lower Salmon Falls grazing allotment, the construction and operation of the project would not result in the loss of animal unit months within the allotment. Continued access to the area by the grazing permit holder and the general public would be unaffected. If the overhead distribution line extension associated with the project at any point crosses into the Lower Salmon Falls allotment, it would not result in impacts to the current land uses due to it being an overhead line. The natural gas pipeline would remain in place. Northwest would retain their existing right-of-way permit for the natural gas pipeline and

obtain a new right-of-way easement associated with the cathodic protection site; and Idaho Power would obtain a new right-of-way easement for its power line extension.

Cultural Resources

No Action

Under the No Action alternative, the project would not be constructed and there would be no disturbance to or alteration of cultural resources that may be present within the project area. There would be no impacts to cultural resources.

Proposed Action

There are no known cultural resources located within the project area. All work associated with the installation and operation of the project would occur within the bounds of the 1.83 acre cathodic protection site work area and 20 foot wide overhead distribution line right-of-way corridor, and would not affect nearby known cultural sites. There are no cultural sites located within the project parcel and those that occur in close proximity (within 0.5 mile) to the project would not be impacted. No further cultural resource inventory work is recommended for the project. However, if during the construction activities any cultural resources are found, the Bureau of Land Management should be notified immediately.

Visual Resources

No Action

Under the No Action alternative, the project would not be constructed and there would be no disturbance to or alteration of visual resources that may be present within the project area. There would be no additional impacts to visual resources.

Proposed Action

The project lies within a Visual Resource Management Class III area with an existing overhead power line. As noted in the Bureau of Land Management Visual Resource Management guidelines (1985; p. 1), "The objective of this class is to partially retain the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape should be moderate. Management activities may attract attention but should not dominate the view of the casual observer. Changes should repeat the basic elements found in the predominant natural features of the characteristic landscape. New projects can be approved that are not large scale, dominating features (i.e., geothermal power plant or major mining operation would not be approved)."

Above ground appurtenances associated with the cathodic protection site include a two-foot by two-foot rectifier box installed on a pole on the existing pipeline right-of-way, and a three-foot by three-foot concrete pad with a one-foot by one-foot junction box on top of the pad at the drill location. The pad and junction box will be enclosed with a five-foot by five-foot guard rail. The overhead distribution line and above ground appurtenances required by the project fall into Visual Resource Management Class III, and have thus been determined to be within the definition of acceptable visual impacts.

Hazardous Materials

No Action

Under the No Action alternative, the project would not be constructed and there would be a safety risk presented by active corrosion of the steel pipeline. Northwest is required to comply with U.S. Department of Transportation pipeline safety regulations. To minimize risk, federal pipeline safety regulations would require Northwest to reduce the pipeline's maximum allowable operation pressure. This would restrict gas delivery to commercial and residential customers dependent on natural gas for fuel.

Proposed Action

Construction of the cathodic protection site would take place in the vicinity of the natural gas transmission line present within the project site. As mentioned earlier, the new cathodic protection facility is necessary to mitigate any active corrosion to the pipeline, prevent future leaks or releases to the environment, and ensure compliance with federal pipeline safety regulations. There is a risk of hazardous material contamination on the project site related to materials found in and on machinery used during construction. There is no other hazardous material risk associated with the cathodic protection site or the overhead distribution line.

Cumulative Impacts

There are currently no actions proposed to occur within the general geographic area that would affect the resources found within or adjacent to the project area associated with the proposed action. Authorization of the project would not result in any cumulative impacts or additional resource impacts.

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Thomas Stewart	Botanist

Non-BLM Preparers (Cardno ENTRIX)	
Name	Title
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APPENDIX A
FIGURES

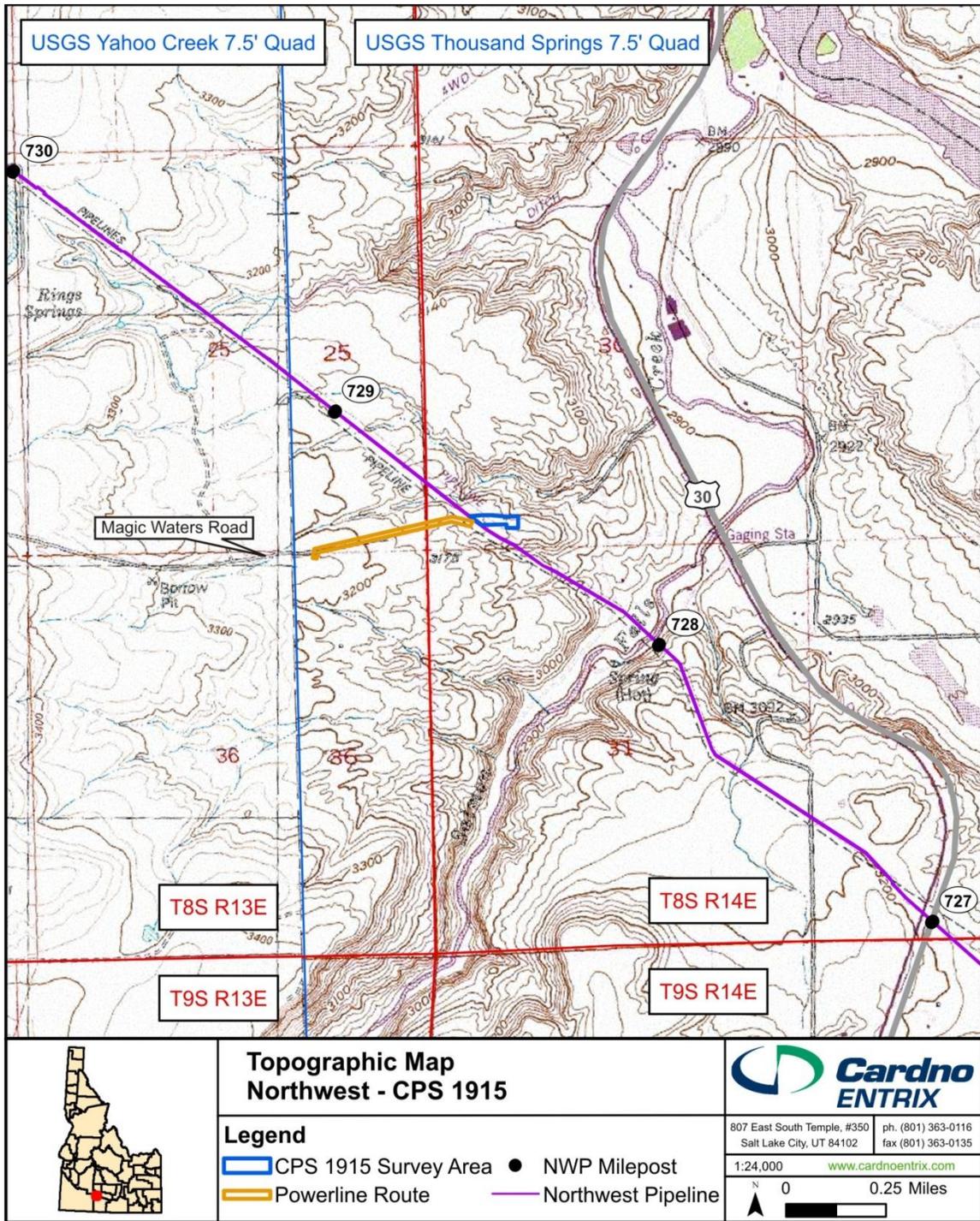


Figure 1. Topographic Map Showing Locations of Cathodic Protection Site 1915 Project and Distribution Line Extension. Base Map Taken from USGS Yahoo Creek and Thousand Springs, Idaho 7.5' Quadrangles.

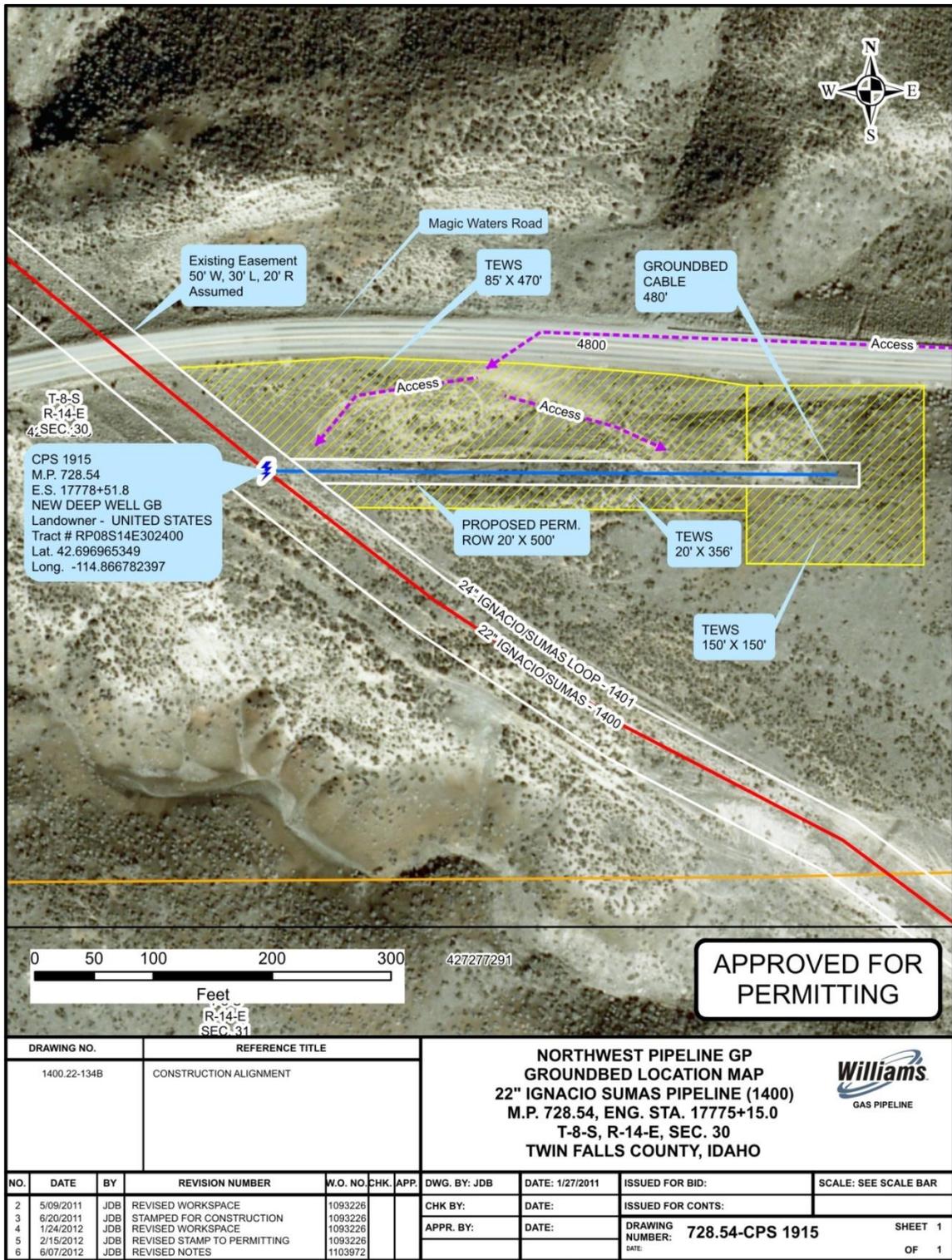


Figure 2. Aerial Photograph of Parcel Showing Proposed Cathodic Protection Site 1915 Construction Area.



Figure 3. Photo of Cathodic Protection Site 1915 Site Looking North.



Figure 4. Photo of Cathodic Protection Site 1915 Site Looking South.



Figure 5. General Overview of the ROW Area for the Proposed Distribution Line Extension.



Figure 6. Photo of Roadway and Disturbed Roadside Vegetation Near the Proposed Distribution Line Extension.

APPENDIX B

SUMMARY OF USFWS TECP AND BLM SPECIAL STATUS SPECIES AND THEIR LIKELIHOOD OF OCCURRENCE WITHIN THE PROJECT AREA

Summary of USFWS TECP and BLM Special Status Species and their Likelihood of Occurrence within the Project Area in the Twin Falls BLM District Jarbidge Field Office, Twin Falls County, Idaho.

Species	USFWS/BLM Designation	Habitat Description	Likelihood of Occurrence
USFWS TECP Species			
Mammal			
North American wolverine (<i>Gulo gulo luscus</i>)	C	The primary habitat during winter is mid-elevation conifer forest, and summer habitat is subalpine areas associated with high-elevation cirques.	None: no alpine or coniferous forest habitat.
Bird			
Greater Sage-grouse (<i>Centrocercus urophasianus</i>)	C	Sagebrush-dominated habitats with succulent forbs and insects.	Low: Limited suitable sagebrush habitat found within Project area. Nearest occupied lek is over 17 miles to the southwest.
Yellow-billed Cuckoo (<i>Coccyzus americanus</i>)	C	This riparian obligate species is usually found in large tracts of cottonwood and willow habitats with dense sub-canopies.	None: no riparian habitat present.
Amphibian			
Columbia spotted frog (<i>Rana luteiventris</i>)	C	Highly aquatic; rarely found far from permanent quiet water; usually occurs along the grassy margins of streams, lakes, ponds, springs, and may disperse into forested grassland during wet weather. Uses stream-side small mammal burrows as shelter.	None: no riparian habitat. Nearest occupied habitat > 45 miles to the south.
Fish			
Bull Trout (<i>Salvelinus confluentus</i>)	T	Requires temperatures <16 C. Juveniles use runs, riffles and pocket water but fish >1 year use deeper pools while resting.	None: no suitable habitat. Nearest occupied habit about 50 miles southwest in Jarbidge River.
Invertebrate			
Banbury Springs lanx (<i>Lanx sp.</i>)	E	Only known from spring run habitats with well oxygenated water on boulder or cobble substrates.	None: no aquatic habitat.
Bliss Rapids snail (<i>Talorconcha serpenticola</i>)	T	Inhabits springs and spring-influenced river reaches having coarse, stable substrates and excellent water quality. Water temperatures generally range from 15 to 16°C.	None: no aquatic habitat. Found only in main stem of the Snake River between Bliss Dam and King Hill.

Summary of USFWS TECP and BLM Special Status Species and their Likelihood of Occurrence within the Project Area in the Twin Falls BLM District Jarbidge Field Office, Twin Falls County, Idaho.

Species	USFWS/BLM Designation	Habitat Description	Likelihood of Occurrence
Snake River Physa snail (<i>Physa natricinia</i>)	E	In the Snake River, inhabiting areas of swift current on sand to boulder-sized substrate.	None: no aquatic habitat. Found only in main stem of the Snake River between Bliss Dam and King Hill.
BLM Special Status Species			
Mammal			
California Bighorn Sheep (<i>Ovis canadensis californiana</i>)	S3	Alpine meadows, grassy mountain slopes and dry foothill country near rugged, rocky cliffs and bluffs.	None: no suitable habitat. Nearest occupied habitat in the Jarbidge River Canyon about 48 miles to the southwest
Kit Fox (<i>Vulpes velox</i>)	S4	Desert shrub and shrubsteppe habitats. Shadscale, black greasewood, and big sagebrush are often dominant plants in occupied habitat.	None: suitable habitat present within Project area. Outside the range of the species in the planning area
Pygmy Rabbit (<i>Brachylagus idahoensis</i>)	S2	This sagebrush obligate inhabits areas characterized by cold winters, warm summers, scant precipitation. Elevations range from 900-2380 m (2800- 7800 ft). Habitat comprises dense, tall stands of big sagebrush growing on deep, friable soils that allow the rabbits to dig rather extensive burrow systems.	Low: no suitable sagebrush habitat found within Project area
Spotted Bat (<i>Euderma maculatum</i>)	S3	Occurs in xeric and riparian habitats in deep, narrow canyons with massive cliffs. Vegetation includes sagebrush, juniper, mountain mahogany, and cottonwood. In Idaho, known to occur primarily in the southwestern portion of state in Owyhee and Twin Falls counties.	Low: could fly over Project area but no suitable roosting site on site. Roosting habitat in cliffs about 0.5 miles south of project
Townsend's Big-eared Bat (<i>Plecotus townsendii</i>)	S3	Occur throughout Idaho, uses rock formations and historic mining districts with suitable cavities for roosting sites.	Low: could fly over Project area but no suitable roosting site on site. Roosting habitat in cliffs about 0.5 miles south of project
Wyoming Ground Squirrel (<i>Spermophilus elegans nevadensis</i>)	S4	Shrubland and grassland habitats across its range in southern Idaho, often in relatively mesic sites, including mid- to high elevation montane meadows and valley bottoms.	None: outside of predicted range, but documented within 10 miles of Project area

Summary of USFWS TECP and BLM Special Status Species and their Likelihood of Occurrence within the Project Area in the Twin Falls BLM District Jarbidge Field Office, Twin Falls County, Idaho.

Species	USFWS/BLM Designation	Habitat Description	Likelihood of Occurrence
Piute Ground Squirrel (<i>Spermophilus mollis</i>)	S3	Sagebrush steppe and grassland habitat	Moderate: suitable habitat and are relatively widespread and common in the Jarbidge Field Office
Bird			
American White Pelican (<i>Pelecanus erythrorhynchos</i>)	S2	Breed mainly on isolated islands in freshwater lakes or reservoirs and forage on inland marshes, lakes, or rivers.	None: no suitable habitat. Observed along Snake River in summer. About 1.3 miles from project area
Bald Eagle (<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>)	S	Associated with aquatic ecosystems, including lakes, rivers, coastlines, marshes, and reservoirs with forested habitat for breeding.	Low: no suitable habitat. May winter along the Snake River and fly over the Project area.
Black-throated Sparrow (<i>Amphispiza bilineata</i>)	S4	Frequents the arid, hot deserts of southern Idaho, favors sparsely vegetated desert scrub. Most often found on desert uplands, alluvial fans, and hillsides with thorny xeric brush, but avoids desert valley floors.	Low: could be present in Project area during summer. Nearest record of this species is about 20 miles northwest of the Project area.
Brewer's Sparrow (<i>Spizella breweri</i>)	S3	Closely associated with big sagebrush. Can also be found in shrubby openings of piñon-juniper and mountain mahogany woodlands.	Moderate: near edge of predicted range, but no suitable habitat or observations documented in the Project area.
Calliope Hummingbird (<i>Stellula calliope</i>)	S3	Mountains; along meadows, canyons and streams. Open montane forest, mountain meadows, and willow and alder thickets, gardens; in migration and winter also in chaparral, lowland brushy areas, deserts.	None: no suitable habitat.
Columbian Sharp-tailed Grouse (<i>Tympanuchus phasianellus columbianus</i>)	S3	A variety of habitats generally characterized by dense stands of herbaceous cover and a mixture of shrubs.	None: outside of known range
Ferruginous Hawk (<i>Buteo regalis</i>)	S3	Occurs in flat and rolling terrain in grasslands, sagebrush country, saltbrush-greasewood shrub lands, and the periphery of pinyon-juniper and other forests typically avoiding high elevation, forest interior, and narrow canyons.	Low: habitat suitable for hunting, but no roosting or nesting habitat in or near Project area

Summary of USFWS TECP and BLM Special Status Species and their Likelihood of Occurrence within the Project Area in the Twin Falls BLM District Jarbidge Field Office, Twin Falls County, Idaho.

Species	USFWS/BLM Designation	Habitat Description	Likelihood of Occurrence
Lewis' Woodpecker (<i>Melanerpes lewis</i>)	S3	Breeding sites generally occur in burned ponderosa pine forests, riparian forests, aspen groves, and oak woodlands in large diameter snags in relatively open forests with a well developed understory.	None: no suitable habitat.
Loggerhead Shrike (<i>Lanius ludovicianus</i>)	S3	Open country with scattered trees and shrubs, savanna, desert scrub, and, occasionally, open woodland; often perches on poles, wires or fenceposts.	Low: suitable habitat for hunting and nesting.
Mountain Quail (<i>Oreortyx pictus</i>)	S3	Communities vary from manzanita and oak-dominated areas in more coastal habitats to riparian areas of hawthorn, willow, and chokecherry in the Intermountain West.	None: no suitable riparian zone habitat, outside of known range
Northern Goshawk (<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>)	S3	Nests in a wide variety of forest types including deciduous, coniferous, and mixed forests; typically old-growth.	None: no suitable habitat.
Peregrine Falcon (<i>Falco peregrinus anatum</i>)	S3	Inhabits various landscapes, including mountains, river corridors, marshes, lakes, coastlines, and cities.	Low: habitat suitable for hunting in Project area
Prairie Falcon (<i>Falco mexicanus</i>)	S3	Primarily open situations, especially in mountainous areas, steppe, plains or prairies.	Low: habitat suitable for hunting in Project area
Sage Sparrow (<i>Amphispiza belli</i>)	S3	Found from sea level to 2000 meters; strongly associated with sagebrush for breeding. Also found in salt-bush brushland, shadscale, antelope bitterbrush, rabbitbrush, black greasewood, mesquite, and chaparral.	Low: limited suitable habitat in Project area
Trumpeter Swan (<i>Cygnus buccinator</i>)	S3	Found on lakes and rivers often located within wooded areas. Nests on marshy shores of ponds and lakes. In southwestern Idaho, sometimes present during winter.	None: no suitable habitat.
Western burrowing owl (<i>Athene cunicularia hypugaea</i>)	S5	Occurs in short vegetation and presence of fresh small mammal burrows. Found in open grasslands, especially prairie, plains, and savanna, sometimes in open areas such as vacant lots near human habitation.	Low: burrows that could provide habitat for burrowing owls were observed near the site. No evidence of burrowing owl presence (scat, pellets, whitewash)

Summary of USFWS TECP and BLM Special Status Species and their Likelihood of Occurrence within the Project Area in the Twin Falls BLM District Jarbidge Field Office, Twin Falls County, Idaho.

Species	USFWS/BLM Designation	Habitat Description	Likelihood of Occurrence
White-faced Ibis (<i>Plegadis chihi</i>)	S4	Summer range in southern Idaho, where it forages for aquatic prey in marshes.	None: no suitable habitat.
Willow Flycatcher (<i>Empidonax traillii</i>)	S3	Strongly tied to brushy areas of willow and similar shrubs. Found in thickets, open second growth with brush, swamps, wetlands, streamsides, and open woodland.	None: no suitable habitat.
Amphibian			
Northern Leopard Frog (<i>Rana pipiens</i>)	S2	Associated with permanent water sources during all life stages including marshes, pond margins, and slow moving sections of streams and rivers	None: no aquatic habitat. This species has not been recently documented in the planning area
Western Toad (<i>Bufo boreas</i>) - (Northern Rocky Mountain Group only)	S3	Found in a wide variety of habitats ranging from desert springs to mountain wetlands, and it ranges into various uplands habitats around ponds, lakes, reservoirs, and slow-moving rivers and streams.	None: no suitable habitat. Historically found in Yahoo Creek over 4.5 miles to the northwest
Woodhouse Toad (<i>Bufo woodhousei</i>)	S3	Occurs primarily in moderately xeric to somewhat mesic grassland and shrubland environments, often in washes or floodplains or in riparian habitat.	None: outside of known predicted range
Fish			
Redband Trout (<i>Oncorhynchus mykiss gibbsi</i>)	S2	Winter habitat includes deep pools with extensive amounts of cover in third-order mountain streams. Summer surveys indicated that low-gradient, medium-elevation reaches with an abundance of complex pools are critical areas for production	None: no aquatic habitat. Occasionally found in Salmon Falls Creek in fall and winter when temperatures are colder.
Invertebrate			
Bruneau Dunes Tiger Beetle (<i>Cicindela waynei waynei</i>)	S2	Occurs in the sparsely vegetated margins of sand dunes.	None: no suitable habitat.
California floater (<i>Anodonta californiensis</i>)	S3	This is a low elevation species that is found in both lakes and lake-like stream environments.	None: no suitable habitat. Found in Snake and Bruneau Rivers

Summary of USFWS TECP and BLM Special Status Species and their Likelihood of Occurrence within the Project Area in the Twin Falls BLM District Jarbidge Field Office, Twin Falls County, Idaho.

Species	USFWS/BLM Designation	Habitat Description	Likelihood of Occurrence
Columbia Pebblesnail (<i>Fluminicola fuscus</i>)	S3	Occurs in large rivers, historically in the Columbia, Snake, and lower Payette rivers, however only has been documented between Lower Salmon Dam and the tail waters of Bliss Dam in the 1980s.	None: no suitable habitat.
Shortface Lanx (<i>Fisherola nuttalli</i>)	S2	Found in streams and rivers, at least 30 meters wide, up to 100 meters wide. Waters are unpolluted, cold, well-oxygenated, with a permanent flow and cobble-boulder substrate.	None: no aquatic habitat.
Reptiles			
Common Garter Snake (<i>Thamnophis sirtalis</i>)	S3	Inhabits a very wide range of aquatic, wetland, and upland habitats.	None: potentially suitable habitat. Species has not been documented in Jarbidge Field Office
Longnose Snake (<i>Rhinocheilus lecontei</i>)	S3	Occurs in xeric habitats, particularly in shrub-dominated areas having plentiful rodent burrows in southwestern Idaho along the Snake River basin.	None: unsuitable habitat Found near Bruneau Dunes State Park to the west
Mojave Black-collared Lizard (<i>Crotaphytus bicinctores</i>)	S3	Occurs in rocky, sparsely vegetated habitat with vegetation including sagebrush, saltbush, and bunchgrasses.	None: no suitable habitat, outside predicted range
Western Ground Snake (<i>Sonora semiannulata</i>)	S3	Xeric habitat characterized by sandy or loose soil textures, talus slopes, and boulder fields. Vegetation is characteristically sparse, comprised of shrubs, such as saltbush, sagebrush, greasewood, bunchgrasses and annual grasses.	None: unsuitable habitat. Found near Bruneau Dunes State Park.
Plant			
Bacigalupi's Downingia (<i>Downingia bacigalupii</i>)	S4	Drying mud of vernal pools, muddy margins of lakes, wet meadows, roadsides, irrigation ditches, and streambanks, 900-1900 m elevations. Not known to occur in Twin Falls	None: no suitable habitat; outside distribution range.
Bruneau River prickly phlox (<i>Leptodactylon glabrum</i>)	S3	Vertical or under-hanging rhyolitic canyon walls, rock ledges and cliffs at 864 to 1,444 meters elevation in Bruneau and Jarbidge drainages. Not known to occur in Twin Falls County.	None: no suitable habitat; outside distribution range. Species is found in portions of the Bruneau and Jarbidge River canyons.
Calcareous buckwheat (<i>Eriogonum ochrocephalum</i>)	S3	Barren white volcanic ash-clay; associates include <i>Artemisia arbuscula</i> , <i>Chrysothammus nauseosus</i> , <i>Sitanion spp.</i>	Low: no volcanic ash-clay in Project area. Historically, found in the Yahoo Creek drainage

Summary of USFWS TECP and BLM Special Status Species and their Likelihood of Occurrence within the Project Area in the Twin Falls BLM District Jarbidge Field Office, Twin Falls County, Idaho.

Species	USFWS/BLM Designation	Habitat Description	Likelihood of Occurrence
var. <i>Calcareum</i>)			about 4.5 miles northwest of the project area.
Chatterbox orchid (<i>Epipactis gigantea</i>)	S3	In general, occurs in moist areas along streambanks, lake margins, seeps and springs. In calcareous hot or cold springs from 800-2000 m elevation in Bruneau and Jarbidge drainages in the JRA	None: no suitable habitat; outside distribution range.
Davis peppergrass (<i>Lepidium davisii</i>)	S3	Barren and internally-drained hard-bottom vernaly inundated playas from 800 to 1,600 meters elevation with surrounding saltbush or sagebrush..	None: no suitable habitat; outside distribution range.
Desert pincushion (<i>Chaenactis stevioides</i>)	S4	Found in open, usually sandy sites in salt desert shrub, primarily, Wyoming sagebrush, horsebrush, four-wing salt brush and Indian ricegrass communities up to 1200 m elevation, not known to occur in Twin Falls County	None: no suitable habitat; outside distribution range. Found about 40 miles west near the Bruneau River Canyon.
Greeley's wavewing (<i>Cymopterus acaulis</i> var. <i>greeleyorum</i>)	S3	Sandy loam or clay soils, or in brown and white volcanic ash; associated with Wyoming sagebrush, desert shrub and Indian ricegrass communities.	Low: Suitable habitat and known population within 5 miles of Project area
Janish penstemon (<i>Penstemon janishiae</i>)	S3	Occurs on clay soils derived from volcanic rock in loosely vegetated sagebrush, juniper, and pinyon-juniper habitats from 800 to 1300 meters elevation.	Low: no suitable habitat; Found in Yahoo Creek drainage about 4.5 miles to the northwest.
Mudflat milkvetch (<i>Astragalus yoder-williamsii</i>)	S3	Mountain big sagebrush, Low sagebrush, cindery, silt loams.	None: no suitable habitat; outside distribution range
Newberry's milkvetch (<i>Astragalus newberryi</i>)	S4	Foothills, bluffs, and badlands within sagebrush and pinyon-juniper communities of the Great Basin 1250-2400 m elevations.	None: no suitable habitat; Found about 34 miles southeast.
Packard's buckwheat (<i>Eriogonum shockleyi</i> var. <i>packardiae</i>)	S4	Limestone outcrops, sandy loess over basalt, and on lake sediments in shadscale, mixed desert shrub and sagebrush communities, 760-1300 m elevation. Not known to occur in Twin Falls County	None: no suitable habitat; outside distribution range.

Summary of USFWS TECP and BLM Special Status Species and their Likelihood of Occurrence within the Project Area in the Twin Falls BLM District Jarbidge Field Office, Twin Falls County, Idaho.

Species	USFWS/BLM Designation	Habitat Description	Likelihood of Occurrence
Shockley's matted buckwheat (<i>Eriogonum shockleyi</i> var. <i>shockleyi</i>)	S4	Occurs in sparsely vegetated sandy loams, gravelly flats, washes, and slopes, with saltbush, mixed desert shrub, and sagebrush from 760 – 1300 m. Found along northern central and northeastern portion of JRA and in Twin Falls County.	Low: Low suitability habitat; within distribution range.
Slickspot peppergrass (<i>Lepidium papilliferum</i>)	S1	Semi-arid, sagebrush-steppe habitats of the Snake River Plain and Owyhee Plateau and adjacent foothills of southern Idaho. Occurs only in microsites, variously termed "slickspots," mini-playas, or natric sites, which have soils much higher in clay content and significantly higher in sodium than adjacent areas.	None: no suitable habitat found within Project area
Spreading gilia (<i>Ipomopsis potycladon</i>)	S3	Dry open areas in desert shrub communities, in silt, sand, and clay soils or on gravelly exposures that are flat to gently sloping at elevations from 800 to 1,500 meters. Not known to occur in Twin Falls County.	None: no suitable habitat; outside distribution range. Nearest documented population is about 40 miles to the west.
Twisted/Alkali cleomella (<i>Cleomella plocasperma</i>)	S3	Wet alkaline soils such as those around hot springs. Found in the <u>Bruneau Valley</u> .	None: no suitable habitat; outside distribution range.
Two-headed onion (<i>Allium anceps</i>)	S4	Heavy barren soils of volcanic origin in or around seasonally wet playas, swales, and other low places, or thin, rocky soil in the sagebrush zone; sites are usually flat to gently sloping, and sparsely vegetated; 1500-1600 m elevations.	None: no suitable habitat; outside distribution range. Nearest population is about 40 miles southeast.
White eatonella (<i>Eatonella nivea</i>)	S4	Dry desert areas with sandy or volcanic soils, often in open sagebrush communities, 763 – 1900 m elevation not known to occur in Twin Falls County	None: no suitable habitat; outside distribution range.

E - Federal Endangered; T - Federal Threatened; C - Federal Candidate Species; P – Proposed; S – 2011, 2003 BLM. Idaho State Director Special Status Species Type 1-4 List for the Twin Falls BLM District Jarbidge Field Office.