

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
IDAHO FALLS DISTRICT  
SALMON FIELD OFFICE  
Categorical Exclusion**

CE Number: DOI-BLM-ID-I040-2012-0035-CX

Title of Action: IDI-37290 – Communication Site Right-of-Way

Location: T. 18 N., R. 24 E., section 23, NESW, BM.

Preparer: Scott Feldhausen, Supervisory Natural Resource Specialist

Date of Preparation: October 2012

**BACKGROUND:**

The applicant has applied to construct a new communication site facility on Ramsey Mountain to meet the growing needs of the surrounding communities in the Salmon River corridor and the Lemhi Valley (Figure 1). The authorization would be made under the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) 1976, as amended.

Ramsey Mountain is an established communication site with characteristics desired by wireless carriers and other communication providers. The Ramsey Mountain Communication Site Plan was approved in September 2003. The site plan was developed to document and evaluate the existing communication site and facilities located on the mountain. The plan also provides an outline for orderly future development of the communication site in accordance with the Salmon Field Office's current land use planning document, the Lemhi Resource Management Plan (RMP), approved in 1987, as amended. There are plans to update the Ramsey Mountain Communication Plan in 2012-2013.

The first communication site right-of-way issued on Ramsey Mountain was to the Salmon River Translator District in 1978 (Figure 2). Commercial power was provided to the site in 1984. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Salmon Field Office, owns the building which houses a communication facility on Ramsey Mountain which accommodates several local governmental entities. They include the South Lemhi School District, Lemhi County Fire Protection, and Lemhi County Sheriff. Edge Wireless/AT&T also has a communication facility on Ramsey Mountain. In 2009, the BLM constructed a new communication site facility on Ramsey Mountain, located east of the Edge Wireless/AT&T site.

**DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION:**

The proposed action is to construct a new communication site on Ramsey Mountain. Area would be 50' by 50' area with a 100' communication tower and a 12' by 26' equipment shelter with a generator. The shelter would house a diesel generator and batteries. There would be six (6), eight foot (8') panel antennas on the tower and two microwave dishes would be located on the tower. The 50' by 50' area would be graded to the ground and covered with weed barrier fabric and approximately 6" of 3/4" washed gravel. The footings and the foundation for the tower would be placed approximately 3' deep in the ground on a concrete slab 4" thick that will be approximately 12' by 26'. The equipment shelter will be either a prefabricated or stick built shelter which measures approximately 12' by 26' which will house the equipment, a HVAC and a generator.

The construction time would be approximately 60-90 days. The shelter would be unmanned and used year round. The existing BLM road to the site would be used to access the area for construction and



documents are filed in this office. If you request a stay, you have the burden of proof to demonstrate that a stay should be granted.

#### Standards for Obtaining a Stay

Except as otherwise provided by law or other pertinent regulations, a petition for a stay of a decision pending appeal shall show sufficient justification based on the following standards:

- (1) The relative harm to the parties if the stay is granted or denied,
- (2) The likelihood of the appellant's success on the merits,
- (3) The likelihood of immediate and irreparable harm if the stay is not granted, and
- (4) Whether the public interest favors granting the stay.

# Verizon Wireless Communication Site - IDI-37290

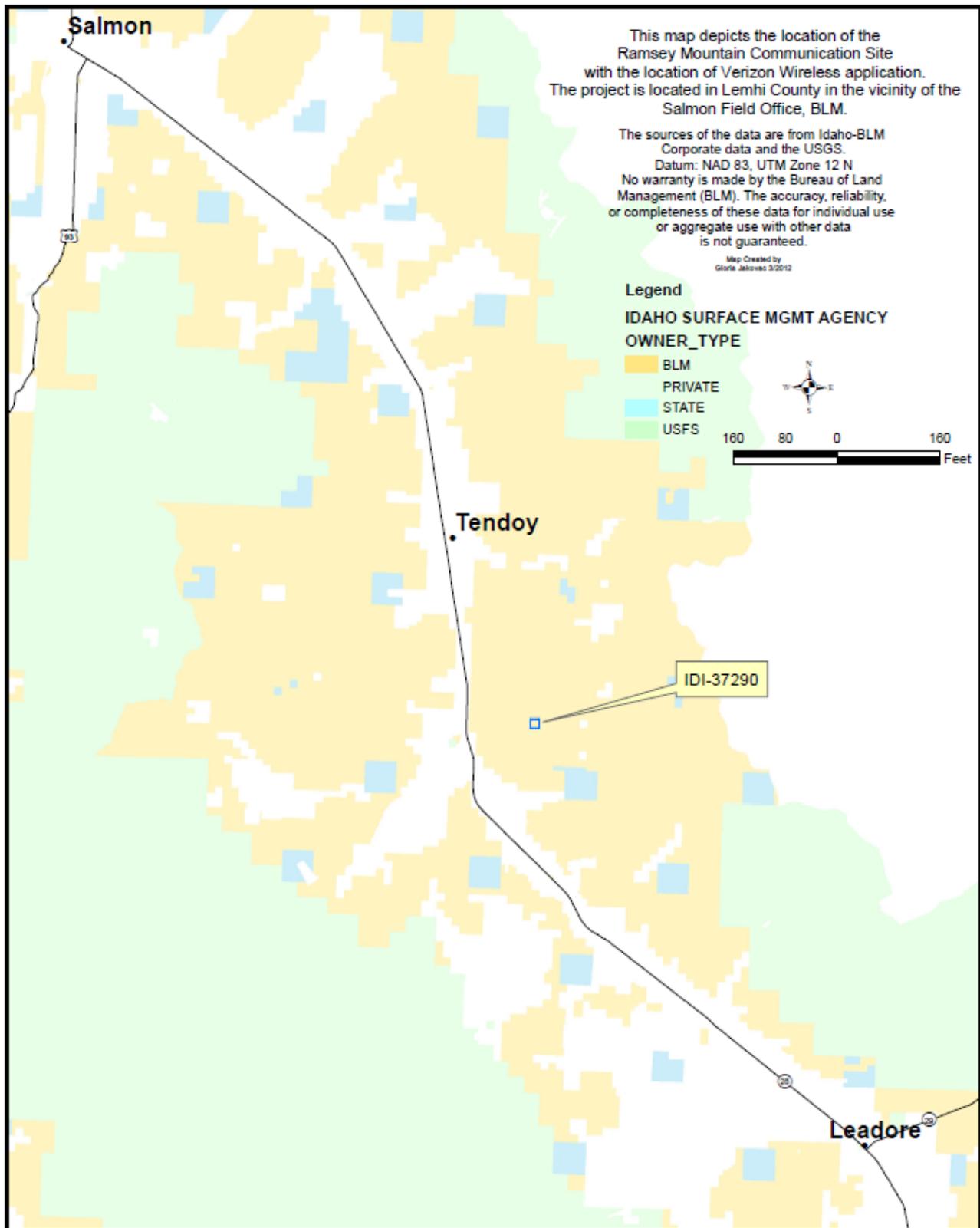
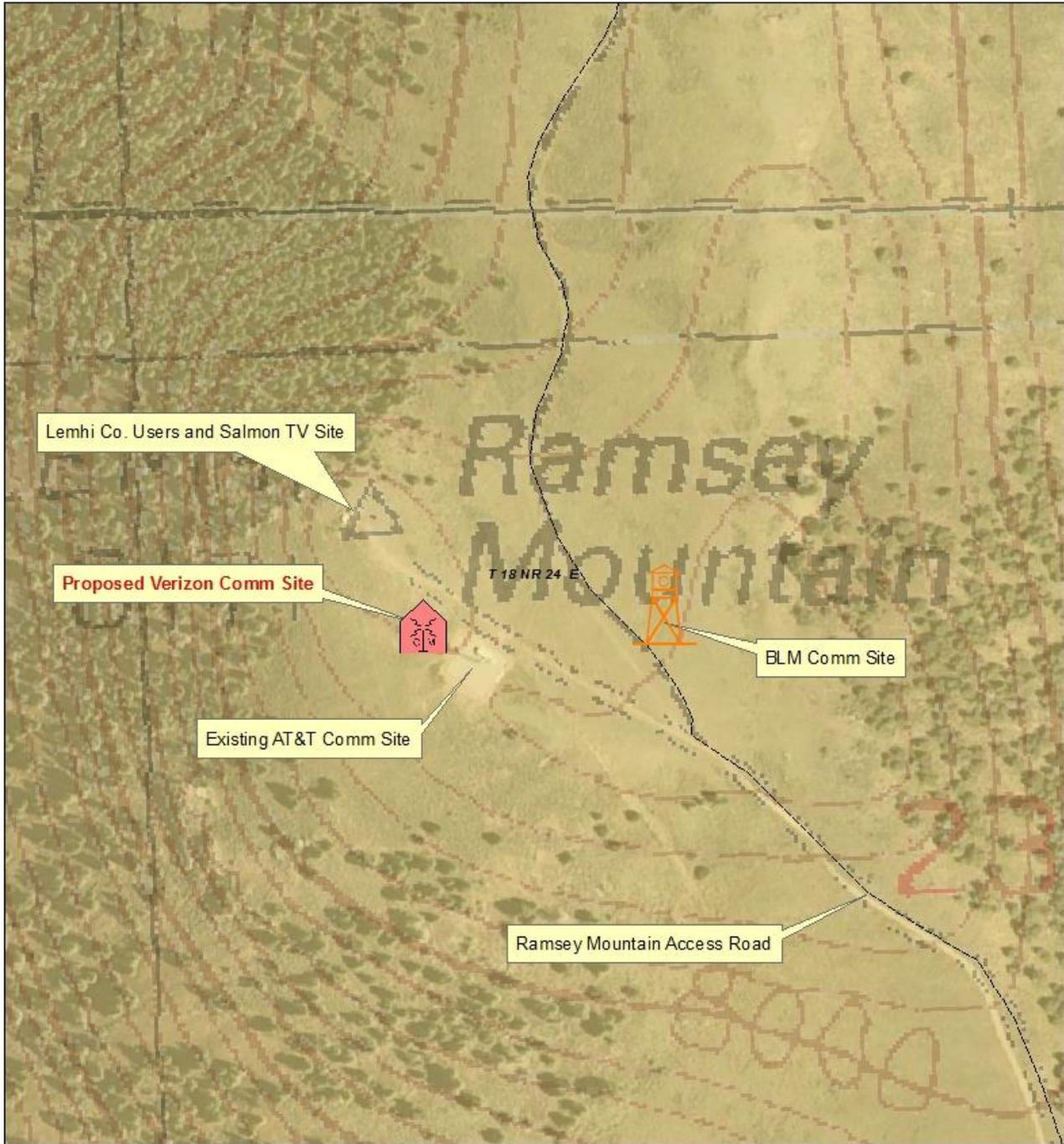


Figure 1

# Verizon Wireless Communication Site - IDI-37920



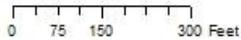
This map depicts the location of the Ramsey Mountain Communication Site with the location of the Verizon Wireless application in T18N, R24E, Section 23. The project is located in Lemhi County, ID within the Salmon Field Office, BLM.

**Legend**

**SURFACE MGMT AGENCY**

**OWNER\_TYPE**

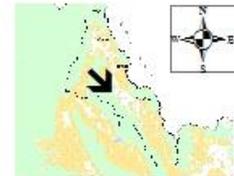
- BLM
- USPS
- STATE
- PRIVATE



No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). The accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual use or aggregate use with other data is not guaranteed.



Figure 2



**Attachment A**  
**Extraordinary Circumstances Requiring Preparation of an EA or EIS**

(516 DM 2, Appendix 2)

The action described in categorical exclusion (CX) # DOI-BLM-ID-I040-2012-0035-CX has been reviewed to determine that none of the extraordinary circumstances listed below pertain to the proposed action.

DM #                      Extraordinary Circumstance

Have significant impacts on public health or safety

- 2.1 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; and other ecologically significant or critical areas.
- 2.2 Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA section 102(2)(E)].
- 2.3 Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.
- 2.4 Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.
- 2.5 Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.
- 2.6 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.
- 2.7 Have significant impacts on species listed or proposed to be listed on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have significant impacts on designated critical habitat for these species.
- 2.8 Violate a Federal law, or a State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.
- 2.9 Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898).
- 2.10 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).
- 2.11 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).