Riggins Shooting Range
Land Conveyance

Environmental Assessment

DOI-BLM-ID-C020-2015-0006-EA

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Cottonwood Field Office
1 Butte Drive
Cottonwood, Idaho 83522

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View of the proposed Riggins Shooting Range site.

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Background:

Section 3007 of the Fiscal Year 2015 Defense Authorization Act requires that the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) convey a 36-acre parcel of federal land to Idaho County (the County). This parcel is located approximately one mile north of Riggins, Idaho (see Map 1 at Appendix A). The Act specifies that the land shall be used only as a shooting range or for other public purposes. It also specifies that the County shall agree to release and indemnify the U.S. from any claims or liabilities from past uses of the land and to accept such reasonable terms and conditions as the Secretary [of the Interior – delegated to the BLM] determines necessary. In addition the law states that, if the land ceases to be used for a public purpose, then it would revert to federal ownership at the discretion of the Secretary [of the Interior]. Appendix E contains a copy of the text of Section 3007.

1.2 Proposed action summary:

The BLM proposes to convey a parcel of BLM-managed public land (BLM land) to Idaho County for use as a shooting range, to comply with Section 3007 of the Fiscal Year 2015 Defense Authorization Act (the Act). The patent for the conveyance would include terms and conditions, some of which are required by the Act and others that were determined appropriate by the BLM. Along with the conveyance, the BLM would retain an easement to access adjacent BLM land and grant a right-of-way to the County to provide access to the conveyed parcel

1.3 Location:

The parcel is located approximately 1 mile north of Riggins, ID. The legal description of the location is:

T. 24 N., R. 1 E., Boise Meridian, section 2, lots 11-13

2.0 Purpose and Need

2.1 Need:

As described above, the Act requires that the BLM convey the subject parcel to the County for use as a shooting range, and specifies that the BLM may identify terms and conditions for the conveyance. The parcel contains a decommissioned landfill with an earthen cover, which, if disturbed, could result in hazardous materials from the landfill being exposed. The BLM has also determined that the most practical means for motorized and non-motorized access to adjacent BLM lands is via a road that runs through the parcel. In addition, the primary access road to the parcel from U.S. Highway 95 crosses BLM land that will not be conveyed.

2.2 Purpose:

The purpose of the proposed action is to comply with the Defense Appropriation Act by conveying the subject parcel to the County for use as a shooting range, with appropriate terms and conditions for public interests and safety; to retain public access to adjacent BLM lands; and to provide the County with access to the conveyed parcel.

3.0 BLM Decision to be Made

Although conveyance of the parcel is already specified by the Act, the BLM Cottonwood Field Manager has the discretion to decide whether or not to include terms and conditions, specify an easement for the BLM, and/or grant a right-of-way to the County (to include terms and conditions for the right-of-way).

4.0 Land Use Plan Conformance

The conveyance of the specified parcel is required by the Act, which supersedes the BLM's land use plans. However, the proposed terms and conditions, easement, and right-of-way are discretionary BLM actions and must therefore comply with the applicable land use plan - the Cottonwood Resource Management Plan (RMP) (BLM 2009). The BLM has determined that these discretionary actions are in compliance with the following applicable decisions in Cottonwood RMP:

> **Objective VR-1** – Manage activities to protect scenic quality in accordance with the VRM [visual resource management] class guidelines.
>
> **Action RC-1.2.2** – Designate and manage Salmon River Recreational SRMA [special recreation management area] (6,700 acres) as a community recreation-tourism market.
>
> **Recreation Niche:** Manage this area for general water-based river recreation, including swimming, fishing, whitewater float boating (summer) and motorized/nonmotorized anadromous fishing (spring/fall) experiences in a scenic, accessible, and developed river canyon.
>
> **Action LR-1.1.5** – Retain public access across public lands that are transferred from public ownership, as needed.
>
> **Objective LR-1.2** – Consider all requests for Rights-of-Way, Land Use Permits, and Leases.
>
> **Action LR-1.2.3** – Areas where realty authorizations should be avoided, or where specific requirements and special mitigation measures must be met, include ACECs [areas of critical environmental concern], RNAs [research natural areas], wild and scenic rivers (either designated or proposed), SRMAs [special recreation

management areas], administrative sites, and areas with special or sensitive resource values.

Objective WR-1.1 – Manage the Salmon River from Long Tom Bar to the Snake River (112 miles) to protect its identified outstandingly remarkable values and free-flowing condition until redirected by Congress.

Action WR-1.1.4 – The 112-mile segment of the Lower Salmon River, Long Tom Bar to the confluence of the Snake River was recommended to Congress for inclusion in the NWSRS [National Wild and Scenic River System] as Recreational (59 miles Long Tom Bar to Hammer Creek) and Scenic (53 miles Hammer Creek to the Snake River Confluence). BLM management actions will not alter free flowing nature, measurably diminish outstandingly remarkable values, or modify the setting or level of development that will change its identified Scenic or Recreational classification.

Objective AR-1.10 – Protect and conserve scenic values, cultural resources, and ESA-listed and sensitive fish, wildlife, and plants by designating the Upper Salmon River as an ACEC [area of critical environmental concern] (White Bird Creek to French Creek) (5,141 acres).

5.0 Scoping and Issues

5.1 Public Involvement:

The BLM invited public comment on the proposal from May 4 to June 15, 2015. The public was notified of the proposal and comment period through a BLM news release, notices mailed to interested parties, and information published on the BLM's website. During the comment period the BLM received 5 comment emails and letters. The BLM used these comments to help identify the issues for analysis listed below.

5.2 Issues:

5.2.1. *Public Safety*: A portion of the subject parcel contains an old municipal landfill that was decommissioned and covered over in 1975. Exposure of hazardous materials within the landfill could adversely affect public safety and pose environmental concerns. In addition, the proposed shooting range would include the use of lead shot and bullets, which may contribute hazardous materials to the area.

5.2.2. *Wild and Scenic River*: The Parcel for conveyance is within the specified management corridor for a segment of the Salmon River that has been determined suitable for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System (NWSRS). Development and use of a shooting range could affect NWSRS-related values.

5.2.3. *Sensitive wildlife, aquatic, and plant species*: Development and use of a shooting range could adversely affect BLM designated sensitive wildlife, aquatic, and plant species.

5.2.4. *Wildlife species and habitats:* Development and use of a shooting range could adversely affect big game, upland game, and other non-game species and habitats.

5.2.4. *Cultural Resources*: Conveyance of the parcel out of federal ownership and development of a shooting range could result in loss or damage to cultural or historic resources.

5.2.5. *Noxious Weeds and Invasive Species*: Development and use of the shooting range could result in the spread of noxious weeds or invasive species.

5.2.6. *Recreation*: Potential uses – Conveyance of the parcel out of federal ownership and development of a shooting range could limit or otherwise affect other recreational uses such as hiking and hunting. It may also limit access to popular viewpoints from which the public watches annual jet-boat races on the Salmon River.

5.2.7. *Wildland Fire* – Use of the shooting range could result in wildland fire.

5.2.8. *Social and Economic Conditions*: The parcel, in conjunction with adjacent BLM and private land is used for livestock grazing. Conveyance of the parcel out of federal ownership and development of a shooting range could limit or reduce opportunities for grazing. Also, development and use of the shooting range could result in economic benefits for Riggins. Thirdly, development of the shooting range will likely increase use of the site for shooting, thereby increasing the noise from gun shots heard by adjacent residents.

5.3 Issues Eliminated from Further Analysis:

5.3.1. *Visual Resources*. The BLM initially considered the potential for impacts to visual resources. However, preliminary analysis revealed that it is unlikely that there would be any effect. This preliminary analysis involved identification of two potential key observation points (KOPs or sites where changes would be most likely to be seen from), and visiting these points to observe whether potential changes in the view of the landscape would result from the proposed action. The first KOP is a pull-off on the west side of U.S. Highway 95, near the Salmon River, approximately 400 feet north of the parcel. The second is on Rapid View Rd. in north Riggins, about 600 feet southwest of the parcel. The potential shooting range area and proposed easement were not visible from either KOP. The right-of-way was visible only from the first KOP, but, as proposed, it would follow an existing road and there would be no changes to the landscape.

5.3.2. *Threatened and Endangered Species*. The BLM initially considered potential impacts to Endangered Species Act (ESA)-listed as a preliminary issue. However, no listed or candidate wildlife species or their habitats occur in the conveyance parcel and none would be affected by the proposed action. Potentially suitable habitats for two ESA-listed (threatened) plant species (Spalding's catchfly - *Silene spaldingii* and MacFarlane's four-o'clock - *Mirabilis macfarlanei*) occur on the parcel, but a BLM survey found that none of the plants present. Hence neither of these species will be affected by the proposed action. Therefore this issue was eliminated from further analysis.

6.0 Alternatives

6.1 Alternative A (Proposed Action):

The BLM would convey the 36-acre parcel of federal land to the County. Conveyance would be subject to the reservations, conditions, and limitations specified in the Act and:

- No portion of the land would, under any circumstances, revert to federal ownership.
- The County would be made aware of the potential hazards from the landfill and lead resulting from use of the shooting range. The BLM would also recommend that the integrity of the landfill cover be protected. No excavation should be allowed over the landfill, including water wells. In addition, no enclosed structures should be placed over the landfill unless testing is performed for methane gas.
- The mineral estate will remain in federal ownership.
- Other terms and conditions specified in Appendix B.

Prior to conveyance to the County, the BLM would reserve a public access easement (exclusive road easement) along the existing road through the parcel to preserve access to adjoining BLM-administered public lands (see Map 1 at Appendix A). The road within this easement would be designated as open to all motorized vehicles year-round, and will be referred to as the Shooting Range Road throughout this document.

The BLM would reserve a separate easement along a historical trail located at the southern end of the shooting range road (also depicted on Map 2 at Appendix A). The purpose of this second reservation is to give the BLM absolute control over the historic trail to prevent future damage or obliteration, and to provide non-motorized access to BLM land south of the conveyance parcel. The trail would be designated as closed to all motorized vehicles year-round and open to non-motorized travel (e.g. foot or horse), and will be referred to as the historic trail throughout this document.

In addition, the BLM would grant a right-of-way to the County for access to the conveyed parcel from U.S. Highway 95, subject to standard terms and conditions (see Appendix C). The road within this right-of-way would also be designated as open to all motorized vehicles year-round and is referred to as the access road throughout this document.

The conveyance parcel is currently with a BLM livestock grazing allotment and would be removed from the existing grazing lease.

6.2 Alternative B (No Action):

The BLM would not convey the parcel to the County. The BLM recognizes that this alternative would be in violation of the Act, but consideration of no action to provide a baseline for comparison is required by Federal Regulations (40 CFR 1502.14(d)). Neither an easement nor a right-of-way would be considered under this alternative since there would be no need.

6.3 Connected Action:

While the BLM has no jurisdiction over development of the shooting range by the County, this development would be a result of the BLM's conveyance of the parcel. Therefore, the BLM must consider and disclose the environmental effects of this connected action in its analysis. The Riggins Gun Club is developing its plan for the shooting range. Although the plan has not been completed, it will likely be similar to the plan that the County submitted with their R&PP application in 2010 as shown in Appendix D. Appendix D also contains rules that will likely be implemented.

6.3 Alternative Considered but Eliminated from Detailed Analysis:

The BLM considered an alternative that would convey the parcel to the County with no additional terms and conditions on the patent other than the reservations, conditions, and limitations specified in in the Act. The patent would contain no easement for the BLM, but the BLM would grant a right-of-way for the access road, with standard terms and conditions. The lack of an easement would mean that neither the BLM nor the public would have guaranteed access across the parcel to adjacent BLM land. Therefore, this alternative does not meet the purpose and need and was eliminated from detailed analysis.

7.0 Affected Environment and Environmental Effects

7.1 Scope of Analysis

7.1.1 *General Setting*

The conveyance parcel occurs at approximately 1500 feet above sea level in a Salmon River-facing drainage at the lower portion of steep mountain break-lands, draining west towards the River. There is an alluvial fan and a natural bench area surrounded on three sides by steep slopes. A partially graveled, steep, and heavily rutted road provides access to the parcel from the highway and runs across the bench. U.S. Highway 95 runs between the parcel and the Salmon River.

The parcel is surrounded by steep slopes and rugged topography; with scattered rock outcrops. The area was previously used as a dump site and has more recently been used by the public for shooting, hunting and hiking recreational activities. There are also roads, a highway and private property and house located close by the parcel.

Figure 7.1: View of part of the Shooting Range Road with U.S. Highway 95 and the Salmon River in the background.

7.1.2 *Related Past, Present, and Reasonably Foreseeable Actions*

As previously mentioned, the parcel contains a decommissioned landfill that may contain hazardous materials. The landfill was covered over with soil when it was decommissioned in 1975.

In addition, BLM records indicate the parcel and adjacent public land has been used for livestock grazing since 1977, affecting the soil and vegetation over time.

The Salmon River segment nearest to the conveyance parcel was found suitable for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System (NWSRS) by a USDA Forest Service study completed in 1973 (FS 1973). Subsequently the Secretary of the Interior withdrew public lands and minerals adjacent to the river from settlement, sale, location, and entry under the general land laws, including mining laws, but not from leasing under the mineral leasing laws. The withdrawal will expire on March 31, 2028 unless it is renewed. Because the mineral estate would stay under Federal ownership, the mineral withdrawal would remain in place and may be renewed.

To control the spread of noxious weeds and invasive species the County and the BLM have implemented, and will continue to implement integrated weed management (IWM) strategies throughout the Salmon River Weed Management Area, which includes the conveyance parcel and adjacent lands.

It is foreseeable that a portion of the access road and the shooting range road would be realigned to allow for safer travel from the property line to the developed shooting range.

7.1.3 *Analytical Assumptions*

- The County will develop the shooting range in a manner similar to the plan depicted in Appendix D.
- The County will enforce rules similar to those specified in Appendix D on users of the shooting range.
- Development of the shooting range will result in an increase in use and duration of shooting activities compared to current use.
- The public will continue to use the access road and shooting range road to access the parcel with motorized vehicles under both alternatives.
- The Shooting Range facilities and construction will be limited to a 5-10 acre area within the parcel as depicted on Map 2 in Appendix A.
- Development of the shooting range will include revegetation of areas disturbed by construction activities.
- Shooting range targets and support facilities, such as shooting stations and toilet facilities, will be placed in a manner that will protect adjacent residential properties and trail users.

7.2. Public Safety:

7.2.1 Affected Environment:

Two separate issues were identified regarding human health and safety on the parcel: Potential exposure to contaminants associated with an old, buried landfill; and potential exposure to lead associated with past unregulated, dispersed recreational shooting.

Referring to the aerial photos and the topographic map in the Appendix, the subject parcel is semi-rectangular, situated at the lower portion of steep mountain breaklands draining west towards the Salmon River. The elevation of the subject parcel is approximately 1500 feet above sea level. The parcel includes a colluvial fan and a natural bench area surrounded on three sides by steep slopes. An old decommissioned and buried landfill, approximately 3 acres in area, is located on the bench area. Average annual precipitation is about 16.8 inches in Riggins. Average annual snowfall is 6.9 inches, though it tends to not persist very long. Snow depth in January, the month with the highest average, is only 1 inch.

Soils on the subject property are dominantly well-drained very gravelly loams. Parent material is loess and colluvium derived from igneous rock (USDA, 2014). In addition, the steeper portions of the site (over 40 percent slope) contain up to 60 percent rock outcrop.

An ephemeral stream, with a contributing drainage area of about one quarter-square mile, flows NW through the alluvial fan towards the Salmon River. Referring to the aerial and site photos in the Appendix, the former landfill area is located slightly to the south of the edge of the alluvial fan. There are no visible drainage features across the buried landfill.

Landfill

According to government records and historical sources, the Riggins community landfill operated from 1966 to 1972 on about 3 acres of a portion of the conveyance parcel. The waste material was household garbage and no hazardous waste from a population of about 200. However, it is likely that small, but unknown, quantities of hazardous wastes and substances wastes (such as household pesticides or solvents) could have been dumped there. Interviews of the regulatory agency personnel in charge of inspecting the landfill did not reveal knowledge of any hazardous wastes or substances disposed at the landfill prior to its closure.

The waste was burned, and then compacted by tracking over it with a bulldozer. Afterwards a layer of clean dirt was spread over the top and, upon its closure in late 1974 or early 1975, the landfill was covered with a deeper layer of earthen material. This has been undisturbed since then. Average annual precipitation is relatively low and there is no evidence of surface flow or ponding over the buried landfill. Depth to groundwater is unknown and the likely direction of movement, based on topography, is west towards the Salmon River. No residences are located near the landfill. The BLM's site reconnaissance was limited to direct observations. There are no wells on or reasonably close to the conveyance parcel. No groundwater study or sampling of soil, surface water or groundwater was performed.

Lead Exposure

Expended ordnance (used bullets) from past recreational shooting has introduced hazardous materials (lead) to the site. However, given the low frequency of this activity it is unlikely that there is any resulting measurable amount of lead on site. Since there is low precipitation and little drainage from the site, it is unlikely that this negligible amount of lead would leave the site through runoff. Since there are no wells in the vicinity and the water table is likely deep at this location, there is little to no potential for groundwater contamination.

7.2.2 Environmental Effects from Alternative A (Proposed Action):

Landfill

The BLM would inform the County about the potential hazards from the closed landfill.

The BLM would also recommend that the integrity of the landfill cover be protected. No excavation should be allowed over the landfill, including water wells. In addition, no enclosed structures should be placed over the landfill unless testing is performed for methane gas. If these measures are followed, implementation of the proposed action would not appreciably increase the overall risk of exposure to hazardous materials buried in the landfill.

Lead exposure

The BLM would inform the County about the potential hazards from dispersed lead from previous unregulated shooting on the site.

Expended ordnance (used bullets) from the proposed shooting range would introduce more lead at the 36-acre parcel. Lead can introduce environmental concern if topographical and surrounding area conditions (e.g., proximity to wetlands) and hydrologic setting enable leaching or streaming of lead shot, pellets, or bullets. As described in the site setting above, the analysis area contains no wetlands or surface water features. The proposed shooting range shotfall area would be relatively flat to prevent rainfall water accumulation from forming down-gradient sheet flow.

Typically, there would be four potential movement pathways where lead that has been deposited on the proposed shooting range may introduce a risk to human health: as airborne particulate matter; as waterborne particles in suspension in storm runoff; in solution in stormwater runoff; and in solution in groundwater. Site drainage characteristics at the proposed shooting range allow for effective control of runoff. The relatively low precipitation and assumed deep water table at the site would help reduce the risk of groundwater contamination. There are no wells in the vicinity.

The attached Appendix D lists safety precautions, including a hand washing station to remove particulate lead after shooting. It is not known if the applicants would collect and recycle the spent ordnance (lead) as is common on many shooting ranges (see recommended mitigation below). Recycling of spent ordnance would reduce the potential for exposure.

7.2.3 Environmental Effects from Alternative B (No Action):

The existing risk to human health and safety hazards from the buried landfill would remain low due to the existing earthen cover depth, site drainage characteristics and the topographic setting. There would be no additional risk of exposure to lead.

7.2.4 Cumulative Effects:

There would be no cumulative human health and safety effects from lead or landfill exposure since no other projects would intersect with the proposed shooting range. Also, it is assumed the County would manage the accumulated lead during the operation of the proposed shooting range in accordance with federal, state, and local law.

Other than the existing lead on the site from past dispersed recreational shooting discussed above, there would be no other substantial source of lead than that associated with the proposed shooting range. Although there would still be little risk of exposure, the accumulation of lead from past shooting and from use of the newly developed shooting range would result in more total lead at the site and more risk of exposure.

Recommended Mitigation for Human Health and Safety

The County should adopt a lead recycling program for the used bullets. Implementation of effective lead management practices would further reduce the potential for lead contamination. The Resource Conservation and Recovery Act provides the framework for the EPA's solid and hazardous waste management program, including lead. The EPA's Best Management Practices for Lead at Outdoor Ranges (2005) provides best management practices for the management, remediation, and maintenance of potential lead accumulations at shooting ranges. This plan includes protocols and directives for managing human health and safety of employees and customers of the proposed shooting range (including gun safety, lead safety, emergency procedures, etc.).

7.3. Wild and Scenic River:

7.3.1 Affected Environment:

In the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968, Congress designated the Salmon River, from the town of North Fork to its confluence with the Snake River, as a Study River for consideration for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System (NWSRS). The USDA Forest Service completed this study in 1973 and found that a portion of the Salmon River, which runs within 200 feet from the conveyance parcel, was suitable for a inclusion in the NWSRS with a Recreation River classification; however this portion has not been designated by Congress as a Wild and Scenic River. According to BLM policy (BLM Manual 6400 – Wild and Scenic Rivers), the BLM must protect the free-flowing character, water quality, preliminary classification, and ORVs of eligible and suitable segments. The study determined that the outstanding remarkable values (ORV's) for the Salmon River are: fish and wildlife, archeological and historical, and recreation in a scenic mountainous canyon.

7.3.2 Environmental Effects from Alternative A (Proposed Action):

Fish and Wildlife ORV

Localized soil and vegetation disturbance would result in no adverse effect to water quality, the free-flowing nature of the river or the special status fish in the Salmon River. Minor wildlife habitat disturbance would occur from construction of the shooting range facility and potential realignment of the road. Increased human activity and noise will disturb and displace wildlife in the localized area with effects occurring beyond perimeter of 36-acre parcel (e.g., adjacent habitats). Displaced wildlife are expected to

use available suitable habitats with less disturbance elsewhere in the canyon and adverse impacts would be low to moderate. Overall, effects would not measurably diminish the fish and wildlife ORVs within this segment of the Salmon River. See section 7.5.2 and 7.6.2 for a more detailed description of the effects on fish and wildlife.

Archeological and Historical ORV

The Archeological and Historical ORVs will not be affected by the proposed action. See section 7.7.2 for a more detailed description of the effects on archeological and historical resources.

Recreation in a Scenic Mountainous Canyon ORV

Recreation, administrative, and river access facilities may be located in close proximity to the river and the recreational classification does not require or exclude extensive recreation development. The scenic value of the canyon must be protected where development does occur in the canyon. All facilities should be located and designated to harmonize with the natural and cultural settings, protect identified values including water quality, and limit visual impacts from the river to the extent possible. The proposed project will not affect visual resources (See section 5.1.3) or measurably diminish the recreation in a scenic mountainous canyon ORV (see section 7.9.2).

7.3.3 Environmental Effects from Alternative B (No Action):

No impacts to Wild and Scenic River Salmon River ORV's would be expected because there would be no change to current conditions.

7.3.4 Cumulative Effects:

Since the ORVs of the Salmon River would not be measurably affected, the proposed action would not contribute to cumulative impacts to these values.

7.4. Upper Salmon River Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC)

7.4.1 Affected Environment

The conveyance parcel is part of the Upper Salmon River ACEC, which includes BLM lands contiguous to the Salmon River from White Bird Creek to French Creek and totals 5,141 acres. The analysis area includes a portion of the designated ACEC that is immediately upstream from Time Zone Bridge and other private and public lands in the general area which occur within the Salmon River canyon. The ACEC encompasses primarily canyon grasslands; with riparian habitats along streams and the Salmon River, and scattered trees and shrubs. The important and relevant values of the Lower ACEC are scenic, cultural, fisheries, botanical, and wildlife resources. The primary issue for analysis is how the proposed action would affect these values. As described in Section 5.3, scenic quality would not be affected by the proposed action and therefore this value will not be addressed in the analysis of effects to the ACEC.

The vegetation on the conveyance parcel is currently in poor to good ecological condition and recent plant surveys of the area documented the occurrence of one special status plant, which is green-band mariposa lily (*Calochortus macrocarpus* var. *maculosus*). The parcel also provides suitable habitat for BLM sensitive wildlife species. Refer to Section 7.5 for additional affected environment information regarding BLM sensitive species.

The parcel (36 acres) occurs in a Salmon River facing drainage and includes a steep access road to a small basin and draw which is surrounded by steep slopes and rugged topography; with scattered rock outcrops. A moderately sloped basin area (5 – 10 acres) where the shooting range development would occur has been impacted by past land uses (e.g., landfill, recreation, livestock grazing, roads, etc.) and is in poor ecological condition. The site is in close proximity to Highway 95, Time Zone Bridge, and private land development on the south side of the bridge.

7.4.2 Environmental Effects from Alternative A (Proposed Action):

Varying levels of impacts would occur from the conveyance of a 36-acre parcel of BLM lands to Idaho County to be used as a shooting range. The County would be made aware of the potential hazards from the landfill and lead resulting from the use of the shooting range. Localized disturbance of soils and vegetation would occur from development of shooting range facilities and vehicle access route realignment. Implementation of the proposed action would not appreciably change the overall quality or condition of ACEC values as a whole. In relation to the general area of the proposed action, there would be minimal localized change in the amount of poor quality vegetation on the area disturbed by the shooting range facility construction, operation of the shooting range, and road realignment work. An adverse localized low to moderate change in the quality of the area for wildlife presence would be expected to occur with more human activity, higher use periods, and for longer duration. While development of the site will result in some increased soil and vegetation disturbance of approximately 5 – 10 acres within the 36-acre parcel, such impacts would be minimal within the 5,141 acre ACEC. It is acknowledged that some of the wildlife disturbance effects or aesthetic quality (e.g., noise) would extend beyond the 36-acre parcel. Further analysis on the direct and indirect effects on the ACEC's important and relevant values can be found in the Wild and Scenic River, Salmon River Recreational SRMA, Wildlife, Fisheries, Cultural and Visual Resource sections of this EA.

7.4.3 Environmental Effects from Alternative B (No Action):

No additional soil and vegetation disturbance would occur in a small localized area. Existing land uses such as livestock grazing, recreation use, and incidental target shooting would continue in the area that would have been used for the shooting range. Existing conditions and trends for the outstanding ACEC resource values will continue. No additional potential for adverse effects will occur to ACEC resource values on 36 acres of BLM lands and adjacent private land from the proposed shooting range.

7.4.4 *Cumulative Effects:*

Development and use of 36-acres for a shooting range will result in overall negligible effects to the high ACEC resource values. Other land uses such as increased private land development, road use and maintenance, livestock grazing, residences, recreational use, and other private land uses will have varying levels of impacts on ACEC resource values.

7.5. Wildlife Species, Habitat, and BLM Sensitive Wildlife and Plant Species:

7.5.1 Affected Environment:

Habitat

The conveyance parcel occurs in a Salmon River face drainage and includes a steep access road to a small basin and draw which is surrounded by steep slopes and rugged topography; with scattered rock outcrops. The parcel is comprised of plant communities that primarily include canyon grasslands with scattered shrubs. Common vegetation includes bluebunch wheatgrass (*Pseudoroegneria spicata*), sand dropseed (*Sporobolus cryptandrus*), Jim Hill mustard (*Sisymbrium altissimum*), chicory (*Cichorium intybus*), annual grasses (*Bromus* sp.), and scattered netleaf hackberry (*Celtis reticulata*) and rabbit-brush (Chrysothamnus nauseosus). Dependent on range site; ecological condition ranges from poor condition (< 25% native vegetation) to good and excellent condition (> 50-75% native vegetation) within the parcel.

Figure 7.5: Habitats on the conveyed parcel.

Wildlife Species

The parcel and surrounding area provides seasonal or yearlong habitats for a variety of big game, upland game, and non-game species which would use canyon grassland habitats. The area is used yearlong or seasonally by mule deer, elk, white-tailed deer, and mountain lion. Elk and deer utilize the area for winter and spring range or seasonally during deer fawning and elk calving periods. The area provides suitable habitat for bighorn sheep and incidental use by bighorn sheep may occur. Common upland game species that may use the area include Chukar Partridge, Gray Partridge and Mourning Dove. Incidental use by Mountain Quail may also occur. A variety of non-game birds, mammals, and reptiles use the area. Common raptors include Red-tailed Hawk, Northern Harrier, American Kestrel, Golden Eagle, and Prairie Falcon.

BLM Sensitive Wildlife and Plant Species

Table 7.5.1 below summarizes Idaho BLM sensitive species and suitable habitat that are potentially present within the parcel and whether the species would potentially be affected by project implementation.

Table 7.5.1. Potentially Affected BLM Sensitive Wildlife Species

Species	Occurrence in the Conveyance Parcel				Determination[1]
	Potentially Present		Potentially Affected		
	Species	Habitat	Species	Habitat	
Mammals					
Bighorn Sheep *Ovis canadensis spp.*	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	MI
Gray Wolf *Canis lupus*	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	MI
Big Brown Bat *Eptesicus fuscus*	Yes	Yes	No	No	NI
California Myotis *Myotis californicas*	Yes	Yes	No	No	NI
Canyon Bat *Parastrellus hesperus*	Yes	Yes	No	No	NI
Fringed Myotis *Myotis thysanoides*	Yes	Yes	No	No	NI
Pallid Bat *Antrozous pallidus*	Yes	Yes	No	No	NI
Townsend's Big-eared Bat *Corynorhinus townsendii*	Yes	Yes	No	No	NI
Western Small-footed Myotis *Myotis cillolabrum*	Yes	Yes	No	No	NI
Yuma Myotis	Yes	Yes	No	No	NI

Species	Occurrence in the Conveyance Parcel				Determination[1]
	Potentially Present		Potentially Affected		
	Species	Habitat	Species	Habitat	
Myotis yumanensis					
Birds					
Bald Eagle *Haliaeetus leucocephalus*	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	MI
Golden Eagle *Aquila chrysaetos*	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	MI
Short-eared Owl *Asio flammeus*	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	MI
Brewer's Sparrow *Spizella breweri*	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	MI
Cassin's Finch *Carpodacus cassinii*	Yes	Yes	No	No	NI
Grasshopper Sparrow *Ammodramus savannarum*	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	MI
Mountain Quail *Oreortyx pictus*	Yes	Yes	No	No	NI
Invertebrates					
Boulder Pile Mountainsnail *Oreohelix jugalis*	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	MI
Idaho Banded Mountainsnail *Orfeohelix idahoensis idahoensis*	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	MI
Lava Rock Mountainsnail *Oreohelix waltoni*	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	MI
Whorled Mountainsnail *Oreohelix vortex*	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	MI

[1]*NI = No Impact*; *MI = May impact individuals or habitat but not likely to cause trend toward federal listing or reduce viability for the population or species*.

Table 7.5.2 describes the habitats of BLM sensitive species that may be impacted by the proposed action. Sensitive species with a no impact will determination will not be further addressed.

Table 7.5.2. BLM Sensitive Wildlife Species/Habitat Which May Be Impacted

Species Name	Habitat
Bighorn Sheep *Ovis canadensis spp.*	Populations occupy rugged canyons, foothills, and mountainous terrain at elevations ranging from 450-3300 m (1450-10,500 ft.). Key habitat features include steep, rugged "escape" terrain, grasses and forbs for forage, and a limited amount of tall vegetation. Populations in dry areas require perennial water sources, such as streams and springs, during the summer.
Gray Wolf *Canis lupus*	Key components of wolf habitats are sufficient year-round prey base of ungulates and alternative prey, suitable and semi-secluded denning and rendezvous sites, and sufficient seasonal habitats with minimal exposure to humans. The gray wolf was delisted as an ESA-listed species in 2011.
Bald Eagle *Haliaeetus leucocephalus*	Migratory. Winter habitat for the bald eagle is primarily associated with the larger rivers and corridors, such as the Salmon River. Bald eagles will also utilize lower elevation uplands and prairie areas during winter periods, particularly if carrion is available. Winter habitat for bald eagles is a function of perch and roost site availability, as well as access to fish, waterfowl, and ungulate carrion as forage/prey. A nest site has been documented along the Salmon River in the vicinity of Slate Creek. The bald eagle was delisted as an ESA-listed species in 2007.
Golden Eagle *Aquila chrysaetos*	Resident, but populations in the northern parts of the breeding range migrate south for winter. Found in open country, especially in mountainous regions.
Short-eared Owl *Asio flammeus*	Resident/Nomadic/Migratory. Usually found in grasslands, shrublands, and other open habitats. In general, any area that is large enough, has low vegetation with some dry upland for nesting, and that supports suitable prey may be considered potential breeding habitat.
Brewer's Sparrow *Spizella breweri*	Lowest elevations to highest (8,000 feet or more) in sagebrush valleys, dry grassy ridges of foothills, brushy plains to tree line, cultivated areas with brushy fence rows or patches. Nest is cup of grass and twigs usually in sagebrush or other shrubs. Foods are insects and seeds.
Grasshopper Sparrow *Ammodramus savannarum*	Migratory. A shy bird, it can be found in prairies, old fields, open grasslands, cultivated fields, and savannas. Appears to prefer moderately open grasslands and prairies with patchy bare ground, occupying lusher areas with shrub cover in arid grasslands of the west.
Idaho Banded Mountainsnail *Oreohelix idahoensis idahoensis*	Occurs in low-middle elevation limestone and calcareous schist outcrops and talus. Typically in rather dry and open terrain associated with canyon grasslands and shrubs. Original distribution was a small area on both sides of the Salmon River from the mouth of China Creek (near Lucile) to Race Creek. Occurs within the Lucile Caves RNA/ACEC.

Species Name	Habitat
Whorled Mountainsnail *Oreohelix vortex*	The species occurs in low to mid elevations in the Salmon River drainage, from Rock Creek to Riggins. Restricted to large-scale taluses. Sites are typically rather dry and open. Grasses common at preferred sites, with some forbs and shrubs.
Boulder Pile Mountainsnail *Oreohelix jugalis*	Found in lower elevation areas in the Salmon River canyon, from river mile 20 to Riggins. Occurs in rock taluses and boulder piles. Sites generally open and can be seasonally dry. Plant associates include hackberry, shrubs, and grasses.
Lava Rock Mountainsnail *Oreohelix waltoni*	Found in dry open areas occurring in the Lower Salmon River. Occurs between White Bird and Riggins, primarily in the Lucile and John Day Creek area. Associated with basalts and mixed schist/alluvium sites. Common plants found at sites are grasses and shrubs.

The BLM conducted vegetation surveys have of the various habitats occurring within the parcel. Green-band mariposa lily (*Calochortus macrocarpus* var. *maculosus*) a BLM sensitive plant was found in the south portion of the conveyance parcel. Preferred habitats for green-band mariposa lily are bluebunch wheatgrass communities and the plant occurs primarily on dry, warm, south-facing slopes.

Migratory Bird Species

Refer to *Habitat* and *Wildlife Species* sections above for a general description of habitats found within the project and analysis area. The most common vegetation type found within the parcel is canyon grasslands and shrub/grassland sites.

All migratory birds are protected under the 1918 Migratory Bird Treaty Act (16 USC 703), as well as the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act (16 USC Chapter 80). Executive Order 13186, *Responsibilities of Federal Agencies to Protect Migratory Birds* requires the BLM and other federal agencies to work with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to improve protection for migratory birds. Migratory birds occur within the parcel and surrounding analysis area.

Idaho Partners in Flight (IPIF) has identified 243 species of birds that breed in the State of Idaho. Of these species, 119 are considered Neotropical migrants. Neotropical migrant birds utilize various habitats of the U.S. during the spring and summer breeding seasons, but migrate to southern latitudes to spend winters as far south as Mexico and South America.

Idaho Partners in Flight (2000) also identified four high-priority habitats in Idaho that are important habitats for migratory birds and include riparian, low-elevation mixed conifer, grasslands, and ponderosa pine. The dominant habitat found within the parcel is grasslands with scattered shrubs. Several migratory bird species addressed by this analysis are also BLM sensitive species (see above).

7.5.2 Environmental Effects from Alternative A (Proposed Action):

Habitat

Varying levels of impacts would occur from the proposed action. The County would be made aware of the potential hazards from the landfill and lead resulting from the use of the shooting range. Localized disturbance of soils and vegetation would occur from development of shooting range facilities and vehicle access route realignment. Primary impacts from the shooting range development are expected to occur in an area comprising approximately 5–10 acres. Increased human use and activity associated with a developed shooting range would also result in localized adverse impacts (e.g., noise, human activity, habitat alteration) to habitat quality and could impact adjacent habitats. Removal of the 36-acre parcel from the existing livestock grazing lease would result in elimination of minor and localized impacts from grazing on soils, vegetation, and habitats.

Wildlife Species

Impacts to BLM wildlife species would be localized. However, such effects would extend beyond the perimeter of the parcel (e.g., within 0.5 – 1.0 mile). Impacts to wildlife species would primarily occur from increased human activities and shooting noise. Displaced wildlife would move to other available suitable habitats with less potential for disturbance. Displacement of elk and deer utilizing the area for winter and spring range or seasonally during deer fawning and elk calving periods is of primary concern. Nesting birds may also be displaced from increased shooting range activities during the spring. Varying levels of impacts to big game, upland game, and other non-game species would occur. It is expected that shooting range activities would potentially result in periods of greater disturbance and longer duration than incidental recreational activities which have occurred in the past (e.g., recreation, target shooting, hunting, hiking, etc.). Overall, impacts are considered low to moderate and would vary by wildlife species and season.

BLM Sensitive Wildlife and Plant Species

The primary potential for impacts to BLM sensitive wildlife species and habitats would be localized and similar to the above general discussion for wildlife species. Direct habitat alteration/disturbance would be expected to occur to the moderate sloped basin area (e.g., 5 – 10 acres); which has been impacted by past land uses (e.g., landfill, recreation, livestock grazing, roads, etc.). The primary impacts would result from increased shooting range activities and shooting noise, displacing BLM sensitive wildlife and birds (see Table 7.5.2 above) that use the parcel and adjacent habitats. Displaced wildlife would be prone to move to other available suitable habitats not within the immediate area of the shooting range.

Land snails are less mobile BLM sensitive species and are more prone to injury or mortality from construction activities (e.g., shooting range facilities and road realignment work) and soil and vegetation disturbance. Overall, potential for occurrence of BLM

sensitive snails is considered low, however, potential for impacts does exist for these species from project implementation.

Because of potential for disturbance or displacement of BLM sensitive wildlife species (see Table 7.5.2 above) utilizing habitats within or adjacent to the parcel may occur from construction and operation of the shooting range or realignment of the road, it has been determined that the proposed action may impact individuals or habitat but not likely to cause trend toward federal listing or reduce viability for the population or species.

BLM plant surveys have not found any BLM sensitive plants that are expected to be impacted by shooting range facility construction, operation, road realignment, and other related activities (e.g., 5 – 10 acre). However, green-band mariposa lily (*Calochortus macrocarpus* var. *maculosus*), a BLM sensitive plant was found in the south portion of the parcel. Initial analysis concluded that because of the slope and location where the plant was found, no development activities are expected to impact the plant. However, because the plant does occur in the conveyance parcel, which would no longer be managed by the BLM, it has been determined that indirect activities associated with the proposed action (e.g., weed spraying or unforeseen shooting range development actions) may impact individuals or habitat but not likely to cause trend toward federal listing or reduce viability for the population or species.

Migratory Bird Species

Canyon grassland habitats provide suitable habitats for migratory birds. Potential for disturbance or displacement of migratory birds utilizing habitats within or adjacent to the parcel may occur from construction and operation of the shooting range or realignment of the road. Displaced birds would utilize other available suitable habitats with less potential for disturbance. The primary period of concern would be during nesting and young rearing periods (April 1 – July 15). Overall, low to moderate localized adverse impacts are expected to occur to migratory birds that prefer canyon grassland habitats. No adverse effects would occur to range-wide populations of migratory bird species that are dependent on low elevation canyon grasslands.

7.5.3 Environmental Effects from Alternative B (No Action):

Habitat

Existing levels of recreational use would be expected to continue within the parcel. No direct or indirect short term effects to wildlife habitats would occur. Existing habitat conditions and trends would be expected to continue in the long term. No additional impacts to soil or vegetation (e.g., habitat) would occur from construction and the operation of the shooting range facilities or realignment of the access road.

Wildlife Species

The tract of land would continue to be used on occasion for target shooting. Short term disturbance of wildlife species would occur from incidental human activities, to include recreational shooting. Existing habitats conditions and trends would be expected to

continue. Existing wildlife population levels and trends would be expected to continue in the long term. The increase in disturbance or displacement to wildlife from the proposed action would not occur.

BLM Sensitive Wildlife and Plant Species

The tract of land would continue to be used on occasion for various recreational activities and recreational shooting. Short term disturbance of wildlife species would occur from incidental human activities. Existing habitats conditions and trends would be expected to continue. Existing population levels and trends would be expected to continue in the long term for sensitive species. No additional adverse impacts to sensitive plants are expected to occur. Consequently, current conditions and trends for green-band mariposa lily populations would be expected to occur. The increase in disturbance or displacement to wildlife from the proposed action (shooting range development and operation) would not occur.

Migratory Bird Species

The tract of land would continue to be used on occasion for recreation and target shooting. Short term disturbance of migratory bird species may occur from incidental human activities. Existing habitats conditions and trends would be expected to continue. Existing population levels and trends would be expected to continue in the long term for migratory birds. No adverse effects would occur to range-wide populations of migratory bird species dependent on low elevation canyon grasslands. The increase in disturbance or displacement to migratory birds from the proposed action would not occur.

7.5.4 Cumulative Effects:

The cumulative effects analysis area is the Salmon River – Fiddle Creek 6th code HUC (Hydrologic Unit Code), which totals 24,676 acres and includes Salmon River tributary streams and face drainages. Past and present actions have impacted upland and riparian wildlife habitats to varying levels. The primary effects to wildlife habitats and species has occurred from livestock grazing, road and trail construction and uses, recreation, timber harvest, wildfires, prescribed burning, and rural development.

The contribution to cumulative impacts to wildlife, BLM sensitive species, and migratory birds, from the small localized impacts of the proposed action alternative would be negligible.

7.6. Fish Species, Aquatic Habitats, and Special Status Fish Species:

7.6.1 Affected Environment:

The conveyance parcel occurs upslope and on the east side of the Salmon River, within the Lower Salmon River subbasin. The conveyance parcel is in a Salmon River facing drainage and includes a steep access road to a small basin and draw which is

surrounded by steep slopes and rugged topography. The basin/draw where the parcel occurs has no distinct flow channel and may on occasion experience ephemeral flows. A small seep/wetland area occurs in the road cut/ditch adjacent to Highway 95, which is downslope from the parcel. A portion of the small basin was used as a landfill in the past. The steep access road to the parcel occurs in the Salmon River Riparian Area Conservation Area (RCA), because the lower segment of the road is within 300 feet of the Salmon River. The Salmon River provides important aquatic habitat for Endangered Species Act (ESA)-listed fish, BLM sensitive fish, other native fish, and non-native fish. The Lower Salmon River subbasin and the Salmon River provides designated *Essential Fish Habitat* (EFH) for Chinook salmon (Section 305(b)(2) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act).

ESA-Listed Fish

The Salmon River is used by the following ESA-listed fish: sockeye salmon, fall Chinook salmon, spring/summer Chinook salmon, steelhead trout, and bull trout.

Sockeye Salmon: Sockeye salmon (ESA-listed endangered) use the Salmon River for upriver and downriver migration. The Salmon River is designated as critical habitat for sockeye salmon. No spawning or early rearing for sockeye salmon occurs in the Lower Salmon River subbasin. Sockeye salmon spawning and early rearing occurs in the headwater areas of the Salmon River.

Fall Chinook Salmon: Fall Chinook salmon (ESA-listed threatened) use the Salmon River for upstream and downstream passage, spawning and early rearing. The Salmon River from the mouth (river mile 0.0) to French Creek (river mile 104.8), is designated as critical habitat for fall Chinook salmon. The conveyance parcel is adjacent to the Salmon River (approximately river mile 84).

Spring/Summer Chinook Salmon: Spring/summer Chinook salmon (ESA-listed threatened) use the Salmon River for upstream and downstream passage and is used on a limited basis for juvenile rearing. Spawning and juvenile rearing occurs in accessible Salmon River tributaries providing suitable habitat. The entire Salmon River is designated critical habitat for spring/summer Chinook salmon.

Steelhead Trout: Steelhead trout (ESA-listed threatened) use the Salmon River for upstream and downstream passage and is also used for adult over-wintering, and juvenile rearing. Juvenile steelhead trout use the Salmon River on a limited basis for juvenile rearing. Primary juvenile rearing occurs in tributary streams to the Salmon River where spawning occurred. Spawning occurs in accessible Salmon River tributaries providing suitable habitat. The entire Salmon River is designated as critical habitat for steelhead trout.

Bull Trout: The Salmon River is used by bull trout (ESA-listed threatened) for upstream and downstream passage, and subadult and adult foraging. Bull trout will use some of the larger tributaries for subadult and adult foraging, and a few tributary

drainages in the Lower Salmon River subbasin are also used for spawning and early rearing habitat. The Salmon River is designated as critical habitat for bull trout.

BLM Sensitive Fish

The Salmon River provides habitat for the following BLM Idaho designated sensitive species: westslope cutthroat trout, redband trout, and Pacific lamprey. The Salmon River is used primarily as a migration corridor by these species. Westslope cutthroat trout and redband trout use accessible tributary streams for spawning and rearing. The Salmon River and suitable tributary streams are used by Pacific lamprey for spawning and rearing habitats.

7.6.2 Environmental Effects from Alternative A (Proposed Action):

Varying levels of impacts to soils and vegetation would occur from the proposed action. Localized disturbance of soils and vegetation would occur from development of shooting range facilities and vehicle access route realignment. The County would be made aware of the potential hazards from the landfill and lead resulting from the use of the shooting range. Primary areas that would be impacted from shooting range development are expected to occur in an area comprising approximately 5–10 acres and include realignment of the over-steepened access road and construction of shooting range facilities. The action that would have the highest potential for soil disturbance and erosion is the road realignment. Overall, minor long-term benefits would occur from reduced erosion attributed to the road realignment and road improvements.

Discountable or no effects are expected to occur to water quality and aquatic habitats from project implementation. No disturbance of riparian or wetland habitat would occur from project implementation. No measurable increases in erosion/sediment delivery to the Salmon River are expected to occur from project implementation. The BLM has determined that implementation of the proposed action would have a "*no effect*" for ESA-listed fish, designated critical habitat, and EFH; and "*no impact*" for BLM sensitive fish species.

7.6.3 Environmental Effects from Alternative B (No Action):

Existing levels of livestock grazing and recreational use would be expected to continue within the parcel. No direct or indirect short term effects to aquatic habitats and special status fish is expected to occur. Existing fish habitat and water quality conditions and trends would be expected to continue in the long term. No additional impacts to soil or vegetation (e.g., habitat) would occur from construction of shooting range facilities and modification and realignment of the steep access road.

7.6.4 Cumulative Effects:

Since the proposed action would have no effect and no impact on ESA-listed and BLM sensitive fish species, respectively, there would be no contribution to cumulative effects on these species.

7.7. Cultural Resources:

7.7.1 Affected Environment:

The BLM conducted a cultural resource inventory of the conveyance parcel, and for 100 feet on both sides of the proposed right-of-way to the County (the access road). No cultural sites were located along the proposed right-of-way. Four cultural resources were located in the area of the land conveyance.

The first located resource, Site CDA-498, is a vertical rock face with a small rock alignment at its base. Adjacent to this is a mining adit identified as CDA-499 with associated waste rock pile. No historic artifacts are associated with either of these sites. A third resource, 10IH3576, is the approximate area of the now buried landfill used in the 1960s to early 1970s. None of these sites are considered to have characteristics that make them eligible to the National Register of Historic Places. Since CDA-498, CDA-499, and 10IH3576 are not eligible to the National Register of Historic Places they will not be discussed further.

The fourth resource, CDA-513 is a trail used by Native Americans and also associated with early settlement. The Nez Perce people used this trail to access various resources in the canyon and the uplands as well as a route to access other surrounding areas. The trail is referenced in the early 1900s as a pack trail and or wagon road and led to a ferry crossing directly across from the current town of Riggins. It would have been used to carry goods both up and down the river and was the main north-south route to do so during that time period. This trail would be eligible to the National Register of Historic Places because it represents significant events and uses through time.

7.7.2 Environmental Effects from Alternative A (Proposed Action):

There would be no effect to site CDA-513. The trail is considered significant but the BLM would reserve a public access easement (exclusive road easement) through the parcel to preserve access to adjoining BLM-administered public lands (see Map 2 at Appendix A) prior to conveyance to the County. The southern end of the roadway and the historic trail would also be retained by the BLM as a separate reservation in the patent. The purpose of this second reservation is to give the BLM absolute control over the historic trail to prevent future damage or obliteration. Because of this action there will be no effect to this resource.

7.7.3 Environmental Effects from Alternative B (No Action):

If the land is not conveyed, neither an easement nor a right-of-way would be considered under this alternative since there would be no need. Site CDA-513 would still remain in the same condition with no changes anticipated. Neither Alternative A nor B would affect CDA-513.

7.7.4. Cumulative Effects:

Since there would be no direct or indirect effects, there would be no cumulative effects to cultural resources.

7.8. Noxious Weeds and Invasive Species:

7.8.1 Affected Environment:

The conveyance parcel is primarily vegetated by a mixture of native vegetation and exotic annual grasses. Areas of steeper topography have a higher composition of native plants. Areas of more gentle topography, such as the site where the shooting range will be developed, is highly disturbed and no longer supports an in-tact native plant community. Dense populations of weeds are not present in the area, although scattered individual plants and small infestations of both non-native invasive plants and those listed as noxious are within and around the parcel. Noxious weeds known to be present include spotted knapweed, dalmation toadflax, and rush skeletonweed.

Ongoing disturbance factors include livestock grazing, vehicle use and user generated impacts as people move around the site to place and retrieve targets. All of these activities have the potential to crush or remove vegetation and disturb the soil surface creating open sites for invasive plants to become established and potentially increase in density. New species of invasive plants may also be introduced to the area by people, animals, and vehicles, primarily through introduction of seeds from equipment, vehicles or animal fur.

7.8.2 Environmental Effects from Alternative A (Proposed Action):

As the site is developed and used, vegetation disturbance is likely to provide an opportunity for invasive plants to colonize and persist. Implementing integrated weed management (IWM) practices such as revegetation of disturbed sites and control of established weeds can limit or fully negate impacts in relation to invasive plants.

The parcel is within the Salmon River Weed Management area which is coordinated by the Idaho County Weed Supervisor. IWM actions are being implemented in the parcel and surrounding area and would continue as described in annual operating plans of the cooperators. The county would be responsible for implementing weed management actions on the area when they assume ownership. Although there may be in increase in visitor use and an associated increase in the potential for introduction of weeds under this alternative, inventory of the site for weed establishment and implementation of control actions as necessary, should negate the potential for the introduction of additional weed species.

7.8.3 Environmental Effects from Alternative B (No Action):

There would be no increase in disturbance generated opportunities for invasive weed colonization and persistence. Impacts associated with vegetation disturbance from recreational shooting, livestock use and vehicle use as described in the affected

environment would continue. The BLM would continue to implement IWM activities on the parcel.

7.8.4 Cumulative Effects:

Since there would be no related direct or indirect impacts from the proposed action, there would be no contribution to cumulative spread of invasive species or noxious weeds.

7.9. Recreation and Salmon River Recreational SRMA:

7.9.1 Affected Environment:

River recreation activities, shooting, hunting and hiking all take place in the general area of the conveyance parcel, which is located less than 200 feet from the Salmon River. U.S. Highway 95 runs between the river and the parcel.

The Cottonwood Resource Management Plan (RMP) (BLM 2009) designated the 6,700-acre Salmon River Recreational Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA), which includes the conveyance parcel, access road, and adjacent BLM lands, to be managed for a community recreation-tourism market. The RMP also directed the BLM to manage this area for general water-based river recreation, including swimming, fishing, whitewater float boating, (summer) and motorized/nonmotorized anadromous fishing (spring/fall) experiences in a scenic, accessible, and developed river canyon.

7.9.2 Environmental Effects from Alternative A (Proposed Action):

The proposed action would not likely impact management of the SRMA for a community recreation-tourism market; it might actually promote the recreation-tourism market by creating a new shooting at the location.

The increased sound of gunfire from the new shooting range could reduce the river-based recreational experience.

The proposed action could also impact the recreating public hunting and hiking in the area if the active use of the shooting range prevents access to the historic trail. The recreating public might also be impacted by the sound of gunfire from the shooting range.

7.9.3 Environmental Effects from Alternative B (No Action):

No new impacts to recreation would be expected because there would be no change to current conditions.

7.9.4 Cumulative Effects:

The cumulative effects analysis area is the Salmon River Recreational SRMA. Past, present and future actions, such as private development, and the development and use

of highways/roads adjacent to the river have impacted the Salmon River Recreational SRMA. The proposed action would contribute to a reduction in the river-based recreational experience.

7.10. Wildland Fire:

7.10.1 Affected Environment:

The conveyance parcel is located in the Salmon Fire Management Unit (FMU), which is rated high priority for allocating suppression resources due to wildland urban interface (WUI) areas, and high concentration of sensitive species and cultural sites. Historically, approximately 25 percent of fire starts in the Salmon FMU have been human caused, with a high percentage on BLM land. Approximately 8% of the Salmon FMU is BLM land. The BLM land is located along the river corridor, where human activity is concentrated, which increases the risk of human-caused fires on those parcels. The Forest Service has fire protection responsibilities for all FS, BLM, State and private property in this part of the Salmon River corridor. The fire management objective for these lands is to minimize fire size.

Fuels in and adjacent to the proposed shooting range consist of grass and brush, with some timber at higher elevations. Fires that start along the river corridor have a tendency to get large quickly due to the flashy nature of the fuels and steep rugged terrain which hinders suppression actions.

Across the west, target shooting activities have been blamed for starting many wildfires. Sparks from bullets ricocheting off of rock can ignite dry flashy fuels, such as those fuels present at the Riggins shooting range. Exploding targets have become available to the public and have been known to cause a number of wildfires. The BLM prohibits the use of exploding targets and incendiary or tracer ammunition on public lands.

7.10.2 Environmental Effects from Alternative A (Proposed Action):

The proposed conveyance of the shooting range to the county would transfer the management of activities on this property from the BLM to Idaho County. Risks associated with human-caused wildfire would become the responsibility of the county to manage. Fire protection would remain the responsibility of the Forest Service. Federal orders prohibiting the use of incendiary or tracer ammunition or exploding targets would not apply to activities on county property. This, combined with the expected increased use would increase the potential for fire starts at this site.

7.10.3 Environmental Effects from Alternative B (No Action):

The parcel and associated activities would remain under BLM management. Federal orders prohibiting activities known to cause wildfires would continue to apply to activities on the shooting range. No increase in use of the site for shooting would occur. Hence, the potential for a fire start would remain unchanged.

7.10.4 Cumulative Effects:

The proposed conveyance of this small parcel of land would result in negligible contribution to cumulative wildfire effects that would result from factors such as human uses on adjacent lands, accumulation of fuels, and drought.

7.11. Social and Economic Conditions:

7.11.1 Affected Environment:

Livestock grazing.

The subject property is included in the BLM's Lucile Bar Grazing Allotment #36266 which is administered under section 15 of the Taylor Grazing Act of 1934. The current grazing lease expires in 2022 and the current lessee has held a grazing lease for the allotment since 1977. The allotment was first used for domestic sheep grazing until 1979 when conversion to cattle use began. Complete conversion to cattle occurred by 1985. The allotment includes 1,166 acres with a grazing preference of 101 animal unit months (AUMs). The season of use for livestock grazing as depicted on the current lease is a split season, with a spring use period of April 1 to June 15, and a fall use period from November 1 to February 15. The conveyance parcel contains approximately 36 acres and is estimated to support approximately three animal unit months (AUM) of forage.

Local Economy.

The economy of Idaho County is heavily dependent on natural resources, including forest products and agriculture. Hence the economy, and jobs, fluctuate with markets for these resources. The county also has abundant recreational opportunities and natural beauty, and tourism is a growing contributor to the local economy (Idaho Department of Labor 2015). River-related recreation (such as whitewater rafting, kayaking, jet boating, and fishing for steelhead, salmon, trout and sturgeon) is an important part of this tourism, especially for the town of Riggins which is located at the confluence of the Little Salmon and Main Salmon Rivers. The importance of tourism is reflected by the fact that nearly half of the jobs in Riggins are in recreation, lodging, food and beverage, and retail (Birdsall and Associates et al 2006).

Noise.

Gunfire noise from the proposed shooting range is a concern identified by nearby residents, and may also affect people recreating on the river. Residences are located less than ½ mile southwest of the parcel and the proposed shooting range. The closest of these, Rapid View Road, is only about 1,500 feet away. In public scoping comments, some of these residents reported that they have heard gun shots from past recreational shooting on the parcel. The Salmon River and U.S. Highway 95 run between the residences and the parcel.

On June 26, 2015 the BLM used a sound meter to measure sounds and noises from two locations. The first location was south of the Time Zone Bridge, near the residences that are nearest to the conveyance parcel. The background noise from this location, which includes the sound of flowing water from the river, measured approximately 50 decibels (dB(A)). The sound from cars and trucks from the nearby highway measured 60-84 dB(A).

The second test location was near the Salmon River, on the north side of Time Zone Bridge, near the point where the access road intersects U.S. Highway 95. The background noise from this location was nearly identical to that measured at the first point.

Figure 7.11: View of Time Zone Bridge and nearby residences from the southwest corner of the conveyance parcel.

7.11.2 Environmental Effects from Alternative A (Proposed Action):

Livestock Grazing.

Conveyance of the parcel will include a grazing lessee decision which removes the parcel from his BLM grazing allotment and reduces his active AUMs by three to reflect the loss in forage arising from the conveyance of the Federal Lands.

The conveyance would represent a 1% reduction in AUMs. This reduction in forage availability is minor in comparison to the forage harvested from the lessees private,

State of Idaho and remaining BLM lands. Within 1.5 miles of the subject parcel, approximately 2,800 acres of land producing an estimated 243 AUMs remain available for harvest.

Local Economy.

Development of the shooting range would provide a limited temporary opportunity for the construction business and associated labor. Also, the retention of public access across the conveyed parcel would provide for continued enjoyment of attractions such as jet boat races on the Salmon River.

Noise.

To estimate the effects of the sound of gunfire from the proposed shooting range, a BLM employee performed a sound test from the same two locations describe above while another BLM employee fired 3-4 rounds each from three different firearms at the site of the proposed shooting range. The fire arms used in the test were a Sig Saur .40 caliber pistol, a Colt AR-15-.223 5.56 mm rifle, and a Remington Ultra Max .300 hunting rifle.

From the point south of the conveyance parcel, near the residences, none of the gunfire registered on the sound meter, indicating that, from this location, it was below or within the range of the ambient sounds (50-84 dB(A)). The BLM employee reported that he could not hear the sound from the pistol or the AR-15, but could hear the sound from the .300 rifle.

From the second location, near the river, again the sound from gunfire did not register on the sound meter. However, the BLM employee reported that he could hear the sound from all three firearms.

These tests indicate that the sound of gunfire from the proposed shooting range will be audible from the residences to the south and from the nearby section of the Salmon River. Depending on the type of firearm used, and the frequency of fire, this would potentially result in distracting noise to residents and those recreating on the river, even with the ambient noise level.

Use of the shooting range would most likely be sporadic in nature, with the highest use occurring during hunting season or during organized events, and occasional use occurring at other times. The level of noise would vary with the level of use.

7.11.3 Environmental Effects from Alternative B (No Action):

There would be no change to the affected environment from this alternative.

7.11.4 Cumulative Effects:

Livestock Grazing.

The largest recent reduction in domestic livestock grazing resulted from a decision by the Forest Service (FS 2010) to close almost 70,000 acres of federal land south of Riggins to domestic sheep grazing to protect bighorn sheep. The BLM has proposed to make another 15,000 acres unavailable for domestic sheep grazing for the same reason. The effects of the proposed action are negligible in comparison and contribution. Conversion of lands for development have also contributed to loss of lands available for grazing in the area, and recent wildland fires have temporarily reduced available forage.

Local Economy.

The *Riggins & Salmon River Canyon Economic Development Strategy* (Birdsall and Associates et al 2006) identifies a strategy to develop the local economy. Although minor, the conveyance, development of a shooting range, and retention for public access would complement this strategy's focus on tourism and outdoor recreation, potentially contributing to the growing local tourism market.

Noise.

As mentioned above, from both tested locations, the sound of the river and vehicles on the highway can be heard. Sounds from recreational users of the river and highway traffic will likely increase during summer months and in the fall during hunting season, corresponding with the likely high use periods of the shooting range. In addition, there are occasional events, such as jet boat races on the river, that would add additional sounds, not measured in the test. Thus, the sounds from the shooting range will be heard, but will be within the context of sound from multiple other sources, and all sounds will vary with the seasons.

8.0 Tribes, Individuals, Organizations, or Agencies Consulted

The BLM consulted with the Nez Perce Tribe and the Idaho State Historic Preservation Office while preparing this EA. The Tribe identified a concern about protection of the historical trail. The BLM addressed this issue by proposing the BLM easement to reserve federal ownership of the trail. The State Historic Preservation Office did not identify any concerns.

9.0 List of Preparers

Name	Title
Jeff Cartwright	Realty Specialist
Judy Culver	Outdoor Recreation Planner
Lynn Danly	Rangeland Management Specialist
Craig Johnson	Wildlife/Fisheries Biologist
Joe O'Neill	Outdoor Recreation Planner
Scott Pavey	Planning and Environmental Coordinator
David Sisson	Cultural Resources Specialist
Mike Stevenson	Physical Scientist

10.0 References Cited

BLM (US Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management). 2009. Record of Decision and Approved Cottonwood Resource Management Plan. Cottonwood, Idaho.

Birdsall and Associates et al 2006. Riggins & Salmon River Canyon Economic Development Strategy (Final Draft) Prepared for the City of Riggins. Retrieved from http://www.rigginsidaho.org/finance.html.

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Idaho Department of Labor. 2015. Idaho County Workforce Trends. Retrieved from http://labor.idaho.gov/dnn/StatisticsResearch/WorkForceTrendProfiles.aspx.

11.0 Appendices

A. Maps

B. Patent Terms and Conditions

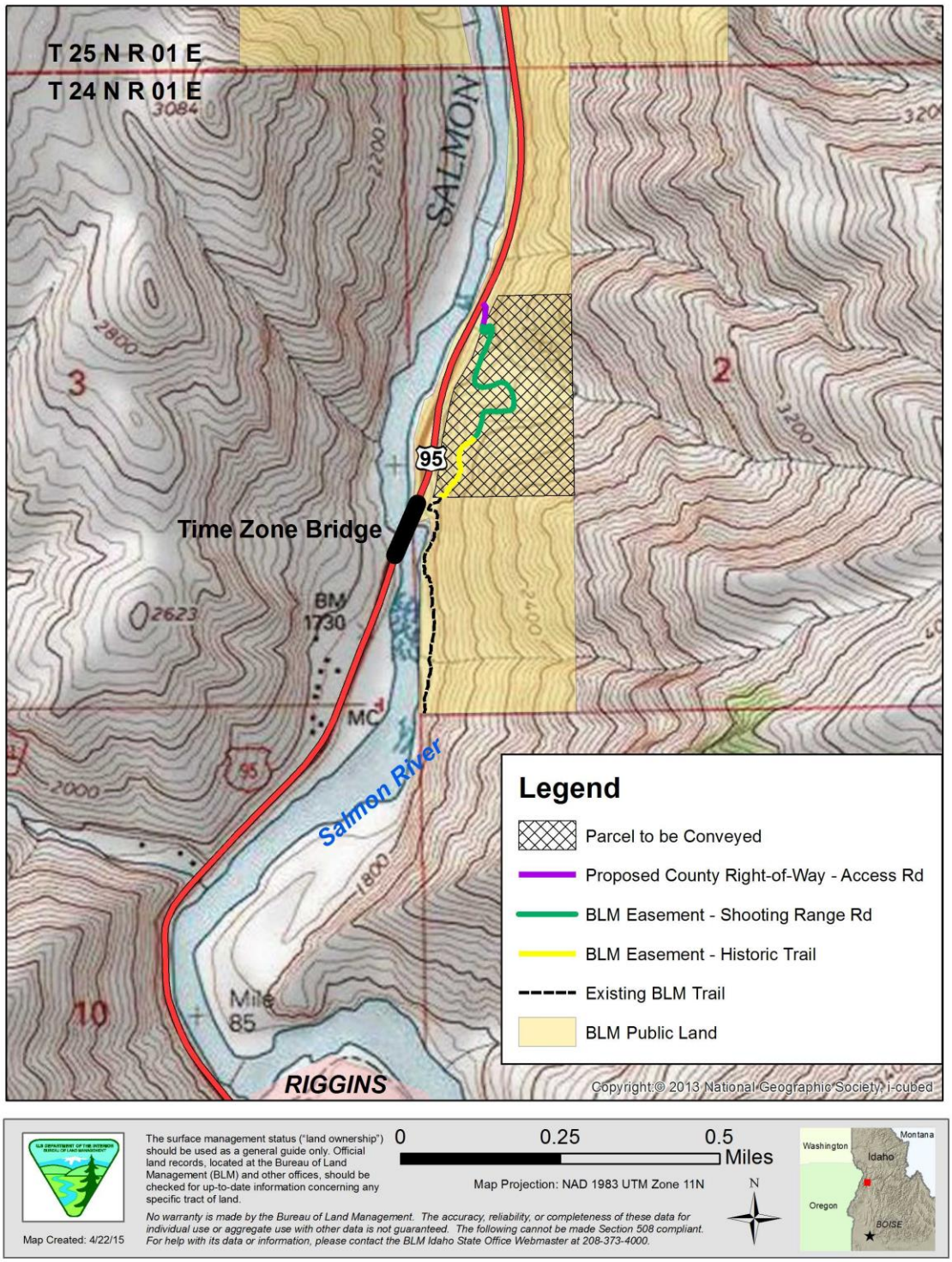
C. BLM Right-of-Way Standard Terms and Conditions

D. Example Shooting Range Facilities Plan and Rules

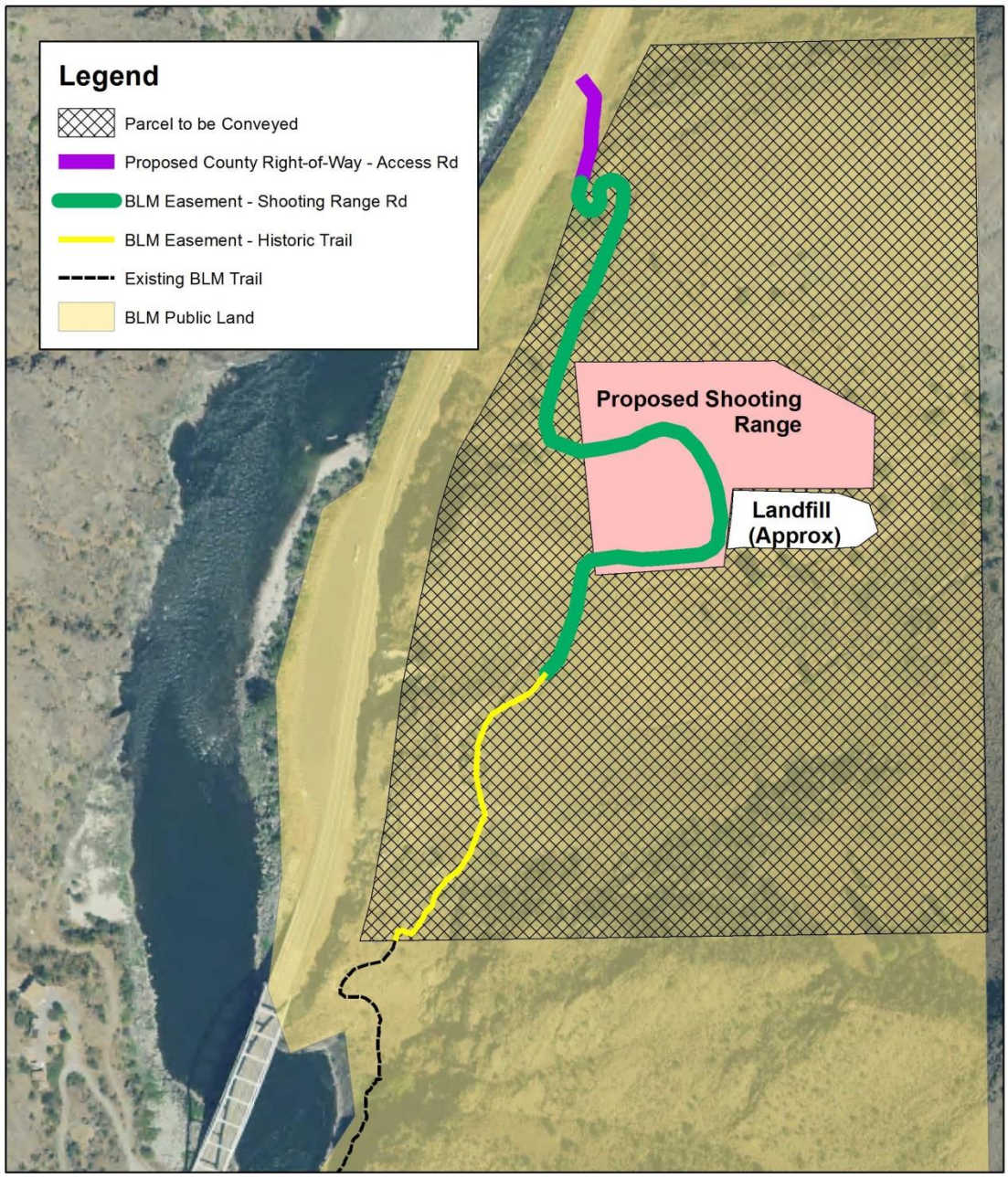
E. Section 3007 of the Fiscal Year 2015 Defense Authorization Act

Appendix A: Maps

Map 1: Riggins Shooting Range Conveyance Proposal



Map 2: Proposal Detail



The surface management status ("land ownership") should be used as a general guide only. Official land records, located at the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and other offices, should be checked for up-to-date information concerning any specific tract of land.

0 250 500 Feet

Map Projection: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 11N

N

Washington Montana Idaho Oregon BOISE

Map Created: 4/22/15

No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management. The accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual use or aggregate use with other data is not guaranteed. The following cannot be made Section 508 compliant. For help with its data or information, please contact the BLM Idaho State Office Webmaster at 208-373-4000.

Appendix B: Proposed Terms and Conditions of the Patent

EXCEPTING AND RESERVING TO THE UNITED STATES

1. A right-of-way thereon for ditches and canals constructed by the authority of the United States pursuant to the Act of August 30, 1890 (43 U.S.C. 945).

2. All mineral deposits in the land so patented, and to it, or persons authorized by it, the right to prospect for, mine, and remove such deposits from the same under applicable law and regulations to be established by the Secretary of the Interior.

3. A public trail right-of-way reservation as recorded in the Idaho County, Idaho Recorders office as Instrument No. [Insert Instrument No.] (IDI-38003).

SUBJECT TO:

1. The above described land has been conveyed for continued use as a shooting range. A portion of the above described land had also been used for a municipal solid waste disposal site. Records describing the status of the site at the time of patent issuance are available from the Bureau of Land Management (past use) and the patentee (past and continued use). Solid waste at shooting ranges commonly includes munitions and discharged materials. Additional solid waste associated with the municipal landfill commonly includes small quantities of commercial and household hazardous waste. Said solid wastes are as determined in the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act of 1976, as amended (42 U.S.C. 6901), and defined in 40 CFR 261.4 and 261.5. Although there is no indication these materials pose any significant risk to human health or the environment, future land users should be aware of these uses.

2. Idaho County, its successors or assigns, shall comply with all Federal and State laws applicable to the disposal, placement, or release of hazardous substances (substance as defined in 40 CFR Part 302).

3. This property is subject to the requirements of section 120(h) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act, 42 U.S.C. 9620(h) (CERCLA), as amended by the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986, (100 Stat. 1670). The patentee, its successors or assigns, by accepting a patent, agrees to indemnify, defend, and hold harmless the United States, its officers, agents, representatives, and employees (hereinafter “United States”) from any costs, damages, claims, causes of action in connection with the patentee’s use, occupancy, or operations on the patented real property. This agreement includes, but is not limited to, acts or omissions of the patentee and its employees, agents, contractors, lessees, or any third party arising out of, or in connection with, the patentee’s use, occupancy, or operations on the patented real property which cause or give rise to, in whole or in part: (1)

Violations of Federal, state, and local laws and regulations that are now, or may in the future become, applicable to the real property and/or applicable to the use, occupancy, and/or operations thereon; (2) Judgments, claims, or demands of any kind assessed against the United States; (3) Costs, expenses, or damages of any kind incurred by the United States; (4) Releases or threatened releases of solid or hazardous waste(s) and/or hazardous substances(s), pollutant(s), or contaminants(s), and/or petroleum product(s) or derivative(s) of a petroleum product, as defined by Federal or state environmental laws; of, on, into, or under land, property, and other interests of the United States; (5) other activities by which solid or hazardous substance(s) or waste(s), pollutant(s) or contaminant(s), or petroleum product(s) or derivative(s) of a petroleum product as defined by Federal or state environmental laws are generated, stored, used, or otherwise disposed of on the patented real property, and any cleanup response, remedial action, or other actions related in any manner to the said solid or hazardous substance(s) or waste(s) or contaminant(s), or petroleum product(s) or derivative(s) of a petroleum product as defined by Federal or state laws. Patentee shall stipulate that it will be solely responsible for compliance with all applicable Federal, state, and local environmental laws and regulatory provisions, throughout the life of the facility, including any closure and/or post-closure requirements that may be imposed with respect to any physical plant and or facility upon the real property under any Federal, state, or local environmental laws or regulatory provisions. This covenant shall be construed as running with patented real property and may be enforced by the United States in a court of competent jurisdiction.

4. No portion of the land covered by this patent shall under any circumstances revert to the United States.

5. If, at any time, the patentee; 1) transfers to another party ownership of any portion of the land not used for the purpose(s) specified in Section 3007 of Public Law 113-291; or 2) uses any portion of the land for purpose(s) not specified in Section 3007 of Public Law 113-291, the patentee shall pay the Bureau of Land Management the fair market value, as determined by the authorized officer, of the transferred portion, or portion used for purpose(s) not authorized by the Act, as of the date of transfer or change in use.

6. Those rights for public road purposes granted to the United States of America (through the Bureau of Land Management), its heirs or assigns, by specified easement, as recorded in the Idaho County, Idaho Recorders office as Instrument No. [Insert Instrument No.] (IDI-38001).

In addition to the items listed above, the grant of the herein described land is subject to the following reservations, conditions, and limitations:

7. The patentee or its successor in interest shall comply with and shall not violate any of the terms or provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (78 Stat. 241), and requirements of the regulations, as modified or amended, of the

Secretary of the Interior issued pursuant thereto (43 CFR 17) for the period that the lands conveyed herein are used for the purpose for which the grant was made pursuant to the Act cited above, or for another purpose involving the provision of similar services or benefits.

8. The United States shall have the right to seek judicial enforcement of the requirements of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and the terms and conditions of the regulations, as modified or amended, of the Secretary of the Interior issued pursuant to said Title VI, in the event of their violation by the patentee.

9. The patentee or its successors or assigns in interest will, upon request of the Secretary of the Interior or his delegate, post and maintain on the property conveyed by this document signs and posters bearing a legend concerning the applicability of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 to the area or facility conveyed.

10. The reservations, conditions, and limitations contained in paragraphs 7 through 9 above shall constitute a covenant running with the land, binding on the patentee and its successors in interest for the period for which the land described herein is used for the purpose for which this grant was made, or for another purpose involving the provision of similar services or benefits.

11. The assurances and covenant required by paragraphs 7 through 10 above shall not apply to ultimate beneficiaries under the program for which this grant is made. “Ultimate beneficiaries” are identified in 43 CFR 17.12(h).

Appendix C: BLM Right-of-Way Standard Terms and Conditions

1. This grant or permit is issued subject to the holder's compliance with all applicable regulations contained in Title 43 Code of Federal Regulations part 2800 and 2880.

2. Upon grant termination by the authorized officer, all improvements shall be removed from the public lands within 90 days as directed by the authorized officer.

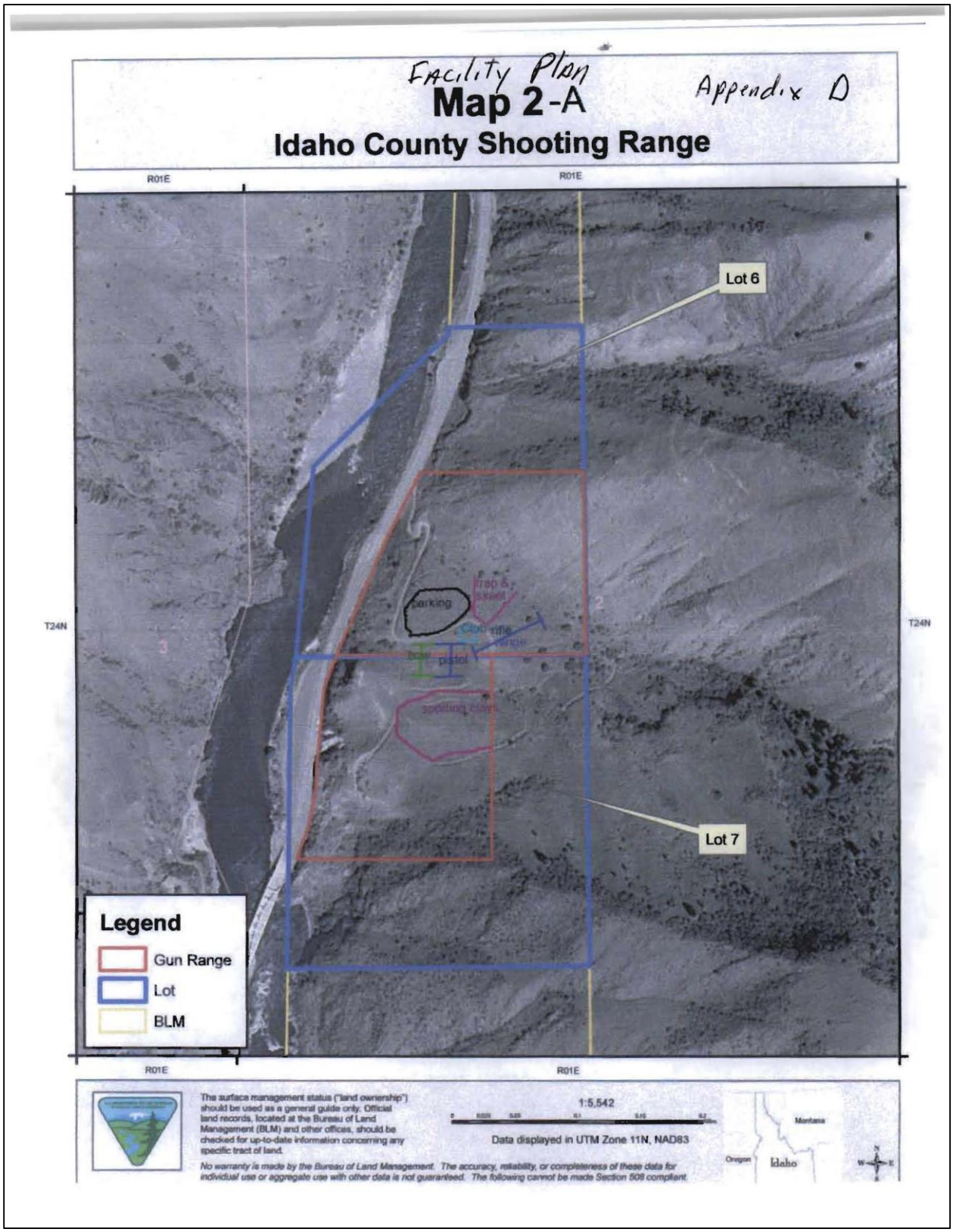
3. Each grant issued pursuant to the authority of Title V of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of October 21, 2976 (90 Stat. 2776; 43 U.S.C. 1761) for a term of 20 years or more shall, at a minimum, be reviewed by the authorized officer at the end of the 20th year and at regular intervals thereafter not to exceed 10 years. Provided, however, that a right-of-way or permit granted herin may be reviewed at any time deemed necessary by the authorized officer.

4. The stipulations, plans, maps, or designs set forth in Exhibit(s) attached hereto, are incorporated into and made a part of this grant instrument as fully and effectively as if they were set forth herin in their entirety.

5. Failure of the holder to comply with applicable law or any provision of this right-of-way grant or permit shall constitute grounds for suspension or termination thereof.

6. The holder shall perform all operations in a good and workmanlike manner so as to ensure protection of the environment and the health and safety of the public.

Appendix D: Example Shooting Range Facilities Plan and Rules



Montgomery Citizens

A Not For Profit Public Educational Project
Of Grassroots Maryland Citizens

NRA Range Operational Rules

Note: While the actual range you select may not be the NRA Range in Fairfax, VA, its safety rules and regulations are a standard nationwide. It is a good idea to familiarize yourself with these rules, especially if you will be taking the NRA Range test.

---

1. All Federal, state, and local firearm laws must be obeyed.

2. All firearms not on the firing line must be holstered, or unloaded with their action open and the magazine removed, or unloaded and encased.

3. All shooters must pass the NRA RANGE TEST, and complete and sign the NRA RANGE RELEASE, WAIVER, HOLD HARMLESS, INDEMNIFICATION AND ASSUMPTION OF RISK AGREEMENT before using the NRA Range.

4. Owners of Class III firearms must be in possession of any special permits or paperwork required by law.

5. Food, beverages, and smoking are prohibited on the range. (Smoking is prohibited throughout the building.)

6. No muzzleloading firearms may be fired on the NRA Range.

7. All calibers of pistols may be fired.

8. Rifles up to and including .460 Weatherby Magnum caliber may be fired.

9. Shotgun slugs may be fired. No buckshot or birdshot may be fired unless authorized by the Range Officer for a specific course.

10. Tracer, armor piercing, and steel core ammunition are prohibited.

11. Commands issued by Range Officers and Range Personnel must be obeyed immediately and without question.

12. When the command "Cease Fire" is given:

- Stop shooting IMMEDIATELY
- Remove your finger from the trigger
- Keep the gun pointed in a safe direction
- Wait for further instructions from the Range Officer

13. No one other than NRA Range personnel may go forward of the firing line unless authorized or instructed to do so by the Range Officer.

14. When the line is declared "CLEAR":

- All firearms must be holstered; or unloaded and benched or grounded, with the muzzle pointed down range, with the action open, ejection port or cylinder up, and magazine removed.
- Everyone must step back from the firing line.
- No firearms may be handled while the line is "CLEAR"

15. Only NRA approved paper targets may be used.

16. Use the appropriate size target, placed at eye level, to ensure that your shots strike the backstop and not the floor, ceiling or target holder. Firing a shot on the NRA Range that results in the bullet striking anything other than the target and/or backstop, may result in a damage or repair fine and/or your removal from the range.

17. Cross firing of targets is prohibited.

18. All firing from the 50 yard line (i.e. from within the shooting booths) must be aimed fire.

19. If you are going to draw from a holster and fire (unless authorized to do otherwise by the Range Officer), you MUST:

- Remove the shooting table from the shooting booth
- Stay within the shooting booth
- Keep your finger off the trigger until ready to shoot

20. Only belt holsters, placed on the same hip as the shooting hand, may be used on the NRA Range. Shoulder holsters and cross-draw holsters may not be used unless authorized by the Range Officer during designated training courses.

21. You may collect your own brass that is on or behind the firing line. Brass from other shooters and all brass that falls in front of the firing line may not be collected unless authorized by the Range Officer.

22. Competitions held on the NRA Range will be conducted in accordance with official NRA rules or by the rules of the sanctioning body of the match.

23. Always wash your hands and face immediately after shooting and/or cleaning your firearm. Sinks are located directly opposite the range exit door.

24. NRA Range Officers reserve the right to inspect any firearms or ammunition for safety considerations.

FAILURE TO ABIDE BY THESE RULES MAY RESULT IN A REPRIMAND OR YOUR REMOVAL FROM THE NRA RANGE.

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Most recent revision July 1999

Accessed online April 29, 2015 at: http://www.mcsm.org/rngrules.html

Appendix E: Section 3007 of the FY 2015 Defense Authorization Act

SEC. 3007. IDAHO COUNTY, IDAHO, SHOOTING RANGE LAND CONVEYANCE.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) COUNTY.—The term ‘‘County’’ means Idaho County in the State of Idaho.

(2) MAP.—The term ‘‘map’’ means the map entitled ‘‘Idaho County Land Conveyance’’ and dated April 11, 2014.

(3) SECRETARY.—The term ‘‘Secretary’’ means the Secretary of the Interior.

(b) CONVEYANCE OF LAND TO IDAHO COUNTY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—As soon as practicable after notification by the County and subject to valid existing rights, the Secretary shall convey to the County, without consideration, all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the land described in paragraph (2).

(2) DESCRIPTION OF LAND.—The land referred to in paragraph (1) consists of approximately 31 acres of land managed by the Bureau of Land Management and generally depicted on the map as ‘‘ConveyancelArea’’.

(3) MAP AND LEGAL DESCRIPTION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—As soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall finalize the legal description of the parcel to be conveyed under this section.

(B) MINOR ERRORS.—The Secretary may correct any minor error in—

(i) the map; or

(ii) the legal description.

(C) AVAILABILITY.—The map and legal description shall be on file and available for public inspection in the appropriate offices of the Bureau of Land Management.

(4) USE OF CONVEYED LAND.—The land conveyed under this section shall be used only—

(A) as a shooting range; or

(B) for any other public purpose consistent with uses allowed under the Act of June 14, 1926 (commonly known as the ‘‘Recreation and Public Purposes Act’’) (43 U.S.C. 869 et seq.).

(5) ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—The Secretary shall require the County to pay all survey costs and other administrative costs necessary for the preparation and completion of any patents for, and transfers of title to, the land described in paragraph (2).

(6) CONDITIONS.—As a condition of the conveyance under paragraph (1), the County shall agree—

(A) to pay any administrative costs associated with the conveyance including the costs of any environmental, wildlife, cultural, or historical resources studies;

(B) to release and indemnify the United States from any claims or liabilities that may arise from uses carried out on the land described in paragraph (2) on or before the date of the enactment of this Act by the United States or any person; and

(C) to accept such reasonable terms and conditions as the Secretary determines necessary.

(7) REVERSION.—If the land conveyed under this section ceases to be used for a public purpose in accordance with paragraph (4), the land shall, at the discretion of the Secretary, revert to the United States.