pardman to Hemingway Transmission Line Project	Exhibit I
-8B – 2011 Northern Goshawk and Three-Toed Woodp	ecker Surveys
Technical Report	

Boardman	to	Hemingway	Transmission	Line	Project
Jour arriarr	··	1 IOIIIII gway	i i di ioi i ilocito i	_,,,,	, , 0,000

Exhibit P

2011 Report



Boardman to Hemingway Transmission Line Project

2011 Northern Goshawk and Three-Toed Woodpecker Surveys



4289RPT.DOC December 2011

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.0		DDUCTION1
0.0		FX AREA
2.0 3.0		EY AREA
3.0 4.0		
4.0		LTS
		Survey Period 25
		Survey Period 3
5.0		CLUSION8
6.0		RENCES9
		LIST OF TABLES
Table		Survey Period, Survey Date, and Species Surveyed4
Table	4-1.	Summary of 2011 Three-Toed Woodpecker and Northern Goshawk Survey
		Calling Station Access5
Table	e 4-2.	Summary of 2011 Woodpecker and Goshawk Responses and Observations6
		LIST OF FIGURES
Figur	e 1-1.	Idaho Power Proposed Route And Alternative Routes
Figur	e 2-1.	2011 Northern Goshawk/Three-Toed Woodpecker Survey Area
Figur	e 2-2.	Right Of Entry Status
Figur	e 3-1.	Oregon Biodiversity Center Data
Figur	e 4-1.	2011 Northern Goshawk/Three-Toed Woodpecker Mileposts 85 To 89
Figur	e 4-2.	2011 Northern Goshawk/Three-Toed Woodpecker Mileposts 88 To 95
Figur	e 4-3.	2011 Northern Goshawk/Three-Toed Woodpecker Mileposts 96 To 103
Figur	e 4-4.	2011 Northern Goshawk/Three-Toed Woodpecker Mileposts 101 To 108
Figur	e 4-5.	2011 Northern Goshawk/Three-Toed Woodpecker Mileposts 109 To 116
Figur	e 4-6.	2011 Northern Goshawk/Three-Toed Woodpecker Mileposts 118 To 125

1 1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 2 Idaho Power Company (IPC) is proposing to construct and operate a new, approximately 300-
- 3 mile-long, single-circuit 500-kilovolt (500kV) electric transmission line between northeast
- 4 Oregon and southwest Idaho, known as the Boardman to Hemingway Transmission Line
- 5 Project (Project). The overhead, 500-kV transmission line will carry energy bi-directionally
- 6 between a Portland General Electric planned substation (Grassland Substation) adjacent to the
- 7 Boardman Generating Plant, near Boardman in Morrow County, Oregon, and IPC's existing
- 8 Hemingway Substation, located in Owyhee County, Idaho. The Project will traverse federal,
- 9 state, and private lands in six counties in Oregon and Idaho Figure 1-1 documents the Project
- location, proposed route and route alternatives. All figures are located at the end of this report.
- 11 The Project would result in disturbances related to the construction of permanent facilities such
- as transmission tower pads, substations, regeneration stations, and permanent access roads,
- as well as temporary disturbances related to fly yards, laydown areas, tensioning sites, and
- temporary access roads. In addition, the Project would include the initial construction clearing
- and continued maintenance of tree heights located near the transmission line, resulting in
- 16 permanent impacts to some forested areas. To help determine the degree of impact that could
- 17 occur due to the construction and operation of these Project components, the location of
- occupied territories and nests for three-toed woodpeckers (*Picoides tridactylus*) and northern
- 19 goshawks (Accipiter gentilis) that occur along the Project needs to be determined.
- 20 The Project, as proposed, would cross both public and private lands. Public lands that would be
- crossed are managed, in part, with the intent of conserving and improving wildlife populations,
- 22 and public land managers have gathered data on lands they manage over the years. Data for
- 23 private lands, with the exception of some statewide data gathered by state fish and game
- 24 agencies, are largely unavailable. This means that existing databases could not always be used
- 25 to determine the locations of three-toed woodpeckers and northern goshawks and their habitats,
- territories, and nests that could be impacted by the Project. Therefore, surveys for these two
- 27 species were implemented to supplement existing data. However, landowner permission is
- 28 required prior to surveying private lands, and many private landowners have declined access to
- 29 their lands for surveys. The result is that field surveys could not be conducted in all suitable
- 30 habitat crossed by the Project.
- 31 This report describes the survey area and the process implemented to delineate the survey area
- for 2011, as well as the protocols used to conduct the surveys. The goal of this survey effort
- 33 was to identify previously unknown territories or nesting pair locations for northern goshawks
- 34 and three-toed woodpeckers.

35

1.1 Target Species

- 36 American three-toed woodpeckers are largely restricted to high-elevation conifer forests and are
- 37 therefore distributed in a mosaic pattern (mirroring the pattern of high-elevation mountains).
- 38 They occur in dense coniferous forests, and are associated with subalpine fir and Engelmann
- 39 spruce at higher elevations; they occur mainly in lodgepole pine forests or in mixed-conifer
- 40 forests with a lodgepole component at lower elevations (Leonard 2001), and seem to prefer
- 41 disturbed coniferous forests with trees that exhibit thin, flaky bark such as spruce and lodgepole
- 42 pine. However, areas of disturbed forests (e.g., recent burns, beetle infestations) have also
- been widely cited as important habitat. It is a relatively specialized species, feeding primarily on
- beetles within decaying and dead trees and occurring in low densities throughout its range.

- 1 Seventy-five percent of its diet consists of wood-boring beetles and caterpillars that attack dead
- 2 or dying conifers (Wiggins 2004).
- 3 The northern goshawk is found throughout the northern hemisphere near the northern
- 4 timberlines to the southern sub-tropical regions. Birds in the northern regions migrate during the
- 5 winter. The northern goshawk occupies dense coniferous and deciduous forests. During its
- 6 nesting period, it prefers mature forests consisting of a combination of old, tall trees with
- 7 intermediate canopy coverage and open areas within the forest for foraging (Woodbridge and
- 8 Hargis 2006). High canopy closure also appears to be an important habitat characteristic for the
- 9 species. Nests are typically constructed into a large bowl of thin sticks lined with bark and
- 10 greenery, placed in large trees. Within its home range, the northern goshawk uses a diverse
- array of habitats for foraging, both in terms of vegetation type and the degree of openness
- 12 (Woodbridge and Hargis 2006). It typically perches silently, waiting and watching for prey,
- switching perches after brief periods. It descends on prey rapidly, maneuvering through forest
- vegetation or willingly crashing through it, taking prey as small as squirrels and as large as
- 15 grouse, crows, and snowshoe hare.

2.0 SURVEY AREA

- 17 The survey area for three-toed woodpeckers and northern goshawks is all areas within 0.5 mile
- of the proposed route and alternatives, access roads, and associated facilities that meet habitat
- requirements for these species. The survey area generally occurs in the Blue Mountains,
- 20 outside of La Grande, Oregon, from mileposts (MPs) 85 to 125 of the proposed transmission
- 21 line (Figure 2-1).

16

39

- 22 Under the Oregon Department of Energy's Energy Facility Siting Council process, the applicant
- describes a "site boundary" within which the facility will be permitted by the Department of
- Energy. In 2011, that boundary varied in width from 500 to 1,000 feet through the range of the
- 25 three-toed woodpeckers and northern goshawks on the proposed route. In 2011, the variable
- site boundary along the proposed route was used to guide the establishment of the appropriate
- 27 survey area to meet the standards imposed by the Energy Facility Siting Council guidelines. The
- site boundary along the proposed route passes through a variety of ownerships (U.S. Forest
- 29 Service [USFS], Bureau of Land Management [BLM], state, county, and private). However,
- 30 three-toed woodpecker and northern goshawk habitat is only located in lands under the
- administration of the USFS, Oregon State Parks, and lands under private ownership.
- In general, access to the lands under the administration of the USFS and Oregon State Parks
- was only limited by logistical constraints, primarily road coverage and conditions, and weather-
- related issues (e.g., storms and snow accumulations). However, private lands were only
- 35 accessible where landowners had provided access for the purposes of the survey. At the time of
- the 2011 survey, access was available to approximately 64 percent of the private land within the
- 37 survey area for three-toed woodpeckers and northern goshawks. When added to the USFS-
- 38 managed lands, a total 68 percent of the survey area was accessible for the survey (Figure 2-2).

3.0 METHODS

- 40 There were two main components to the three-toed woodpecker and northern goshawk survey.
- 41 The first was prefield survey data collection, which was conducted to establish survey areas and
- 42 identified calling station locations. The second was field surveys that consisted of daytime
- broadcast acoustical surveys, which were conducted at the established calling stations. Nest
- searches were conducted immediately following the call-back survey if a three-toed woodpecker

- or northern goshawk was detected (audio or visual) during the survey, to identify nesting
- 2 locations and territories. Field survey methods used for this study were based on Dudley and
- 3 Saab (2003) for three-toed woodpeckers, and Woodbridge and Hargis (2006) for northern
- 4 goshawks.
- 5 Final survey methods were reviewed and finalized once all suitable three-toed woodpecker and
- 6 northern goshawk habitat within the survey area was identified. Approximately 44,169 acres of
- 7 three-toed woodpecker and northern goshawk habitat was determined present within the survey
- 8 area. Information about historical and known three-toed woodpecker and northern goshawk
- 9 observations and locations was incorporated from available resources. All of this information
- was coordinated into an overall survey plan to provide appropriate coverage of accessible lands
- 11 within the survey area that were deemed to meet the standard for suitable three-toed
- woodpecker and northern goshawk habitat (Tetra Tech 2011). This resulted in the
- establishment of 870 calling stations along roads, two-tracks, and other easily accessed routes.
- 14 Tetra Tech conducted a data review of known three-toed woodpecker and northern goshawk
- 15 locations in the vicinity of the Project. This review included multiple meetings with BLM, USFS,
- 16 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, and Idaho Department
- of Fish and Game biologists during which location information and habitat information was
- requested along the proposed route. Oregon Natural Heritage Information Center (ORNHIC)
- 19 data were reviewed and existing occurrences for northern goshawk locations in the vicinity of
- 20 the established survey area were found (Figure 3-1).
- 21 Visual observation with callback surveys is the recommended practice for cavity-nesting birds,
- 22 especially those species that are rare or have large home ranges, as with the three-toed
- 23 woodpecker (Dudley and Saab 2003). Acoustical survey for northern goshawks is currently the
- 24 standard method used by the USFS and many others. The efficacy of this method has been
- evaluated in terms of response rates at known successful nests and at territories occupied by
- 26 non-breeding goshawks (Woodbridge and Hargis 2006).
- Northern goshawk response calls are typically heard within 650 feet; similarly, females and
- 28 juveniles will respond if they are located within 650 feet of the nest (Woodbridge and Hargis
- 29 2006). Within the established survey area for three-toed woodpeckers and northern goshawks,
- 30 calling stations were placed at approximately 0.1-mile (528-foot) intervals. This spacing varied
- 31 based on topography and habitat, while trying to establish stations at useful geographic features
- to ensure complete coverage of habitat. Some stations may have been dropped if they were in
- 33 steep or unsafe terrain or if access was denied by landowners. Calling stations were identified
- by a unique number, and Universal Transverse Mercator geographic coordinates for each point
- 35 were recorded.
- 36 Both species were surveyed twice in the 2011 field survey season during three unique survey
- periods. The first survey period was for three-toed woodpeckers, designed to correspond with
- 38 their nesting stage (late April). The second survey period was for three-toed woodpeckers and
- 39 northern goshawks, designed to correspond with the fledging period for three-toed woodpeckers
- and nesting period for northern goshawks (mid-June). The third survey period was for northern
- 41 goshawks, intended to correspond with their fledging period (late July). Survey period, survey
- 42 dates, and species detected during each survey period are presented in Table 3-1.
- A total of 818 calling stations were established within the survey area prior to the initiation of the
- 44 first survey period. Between the first and second survey period, IPC requested modifications to
- 45 the survey area due to changes to the proposed transmission line route and to allow flexibility in
- siting of the proposed route. These modifications resulted in the removal of 51 calling stations
- 47 that were no longer within the survey area, and the addition of 52 calling stations to ensure

- 1 complete coverage of the survey area. As a result, a total of 819 calling stations were
- 2 established for the second and third survey periods. There were a total of 870 unique calling
- 3 stations over the course of the three survey periods.

Table 3-1. Survey Period, Survey Date, and Species Surveyed

Survey Period	Survey Dates	Species Detected
1	April 19–27	Three-toed woodpecker
2	June 7-14	Three-toed woodpecker and northern goshawk
3	July 1925	Northern goshawk

- 5 Northern goshawk surveys were conducted following the methods outlined by Woodbridge and
- 6 Hargis (2006) and three-toed woodpecker surveys followed the methods outlined by Dudley and
- 7 Saab (2003). During this time, surveyors alternated digital broadcasts of three-toed
- 8 woodpeckers and northern goshawks calls with listening periods. Surveyors listened quietly for
- 9 3 minutes after arriving at a calling station, and then proceeded with calling. The calls consisted
- of 10 seconds of calling followed by 30 seconds of listening for a reply and watching for
- individuals to fly into the area. Binoculars were used while watching for three-toed woodpeckers.
- 12 This pattern was repeated three times, directing calls in three directions, 120 degrees apart. If a
- reply was heard or an individual was observed, surveyors tried to locate the bird and any nests
- in the immediate area. The male territorial call was used for the three-toed woodpecker during
- both survey periods for this species. The adult alarm call was used for the northern goshawk
- during the second survey period and the juvenile wail call was used during the third survey
- period. Calls were broadcast using Edge® digital game callers made by Expedite, Inc., or MP3
- players with amplifiers.

4

- 19 Field crews used global positioning system technology for data collection activities. Trimble
- 20 GeoXT survey grade receivers loaded with Esri ArcPAD 10 software were used by crews
- 21 conducting field surveys.
- 22 Survey data forms were completed for each calling station whether or not three-toed
- 23 woodpeckers or northern goshawks were detected. Each survey data form recorded the date; a
- 24 description of the survey route with an accompanying map; survey start and stop time, and time
- 25 spent calling between stations; and weather conditions. Responses from three-toed
- 26 woodpeckers and northern goshawks as well as other woodpecker and raptor species were
- 27 recorded with the following information: compass bearing and approximate distance; sex and
- age, if known; time of first response; and type of detection (audio, visual, or both).

4.0 RESULTS

- 30 Surveys on the proposed route included 2,178 surveys, across three survey periods for both
- 31 species, at 618 of the 870 unique established call stations (Table 4-1). A total of three three-
- 32 toed woodpecker and one northern goshawk detections were logged during all survey efforts
- between April 19 and July 25, 2011. Nest searches for these four detections did not result in
- 34 additional detections (audio or visual) of the birds, and no nests were found.
- 35 The 618 call stations surveyed in 2011 represented 71 percent of the total established call
- 36 stations within the three-toed woodpecker and northern goshawk survey area (Figures 4-1
- through 4-6). Call stations were not surveyed because access was denied by the landowner,
- access was blocked, or reaching the call station would have proven unsafe to the surveyor.

39

Table 4-1. Summary of 2011 Three-Toed Woodpecker and Northern Goshawk Survey Calling Station Access

Survey period	Total calling stations established	Survey completed	Nest search completed	Access denied ¹	Access blocked ²
1	818	481 ³	3	222	116
2	819	578 ³	1	Not available ⁴	250
3	819	541	0	252	26
Total	870 unique	2,178 surveys at 618 stations	4	n/a	n/a

¹ Survey not conducted. Property owner denied access and/or biological surveys.

4.1 Survey Period 1

Three three-toed woodpeckers were detected during surveys conducted at the established calling stations during survey period 1.

- At calling station 394 (MP 1A State Park, Figure 4-3, Table 4-2), an adult male three-toed woodpecker was both heard and seen. After an extensive search, a nest was not found. Habitat in the area included high canopy cover, predominantly conifers, with only one thin snag as a possible nesting location.
- At calling station 526 (MP 98; Figure 4-3, Table 4-2), an adult female three-toed woodpecker was both heard and seen. A nest search was conducted, but no nest (appropriate cavity) was found.
- At calling station 516 (MP 98; Figure 4-3, Table 4-2), an adult female three-toed woodpecker was both heard and seen. Observers noted that this was potentially the same individual observed at calling station 526, observed approximately 1 hour earlier. Again, a nest search was conducted, but was not successful in finding a nest.

4.2 Survey Period 2

During survey period 2 only one northern goshawk was detected during surveys conducted at the established calling stations. No three-toed woodpeckers were detected.

 At calling station 115 (MP 119; Figure 4-6, Table 4-2), one goshawk responded with a single call. The individual was seen just briefly as the observers were looking for a nest. No nest was found in the surrounding area. This calling station was not revisited during the second survey period because the landowner revoked access between the first and second survey period.

² Survey not conducted. Blocked access includes: 1) physical constraints limiting access to the site that may include: a) steep slopes, b) impassable roads or streams, c) terrain and weather conditions; 2) access blocked by surrounding properties that had access denied; 3) unable to access due to time constraints, or 4) background noise at the survey location was sufficiently high to potentially prevent surveyor from hearing bird responses. Noise sources included wind, inclement weather, streams, highway, and trains.

³ Survey stations were inadvertently surveyed two times, at one calling station during survey period 1, and at nine calling stations during period 2.

⁴ Field notes were not recorded determining access denied versus access blocked. All calling stations not surveyed are compiled under access blocked.

1 4.3 Survey Period 3

- 2 No northern goshawks were positively detected during surveys conducted at the established
- 3 calling stations in survey period 3.
- 4 During the course of the three survey periods, several additional woodpecker and raptor species
- 5 were heard or seen, including American kestrel (Falco sparverius), black-backed woodpecker
- 6 (Picoides arcticus), Cooper's hawk (Accipiter cooperii), downy woodpecker (Picoides
- 7 pubescens), hairy woodpecker (*Picoides villosus*), pileated woodpecker (*Dryocopus pileatus*),
- 8 red-tailed hawk (Buteo jamaicensis), and turkey vulture (Cathartes aura). Additionally, a great
- 9 gray owl (Strix nebulosa) was observed. A followup to this observation was conducted by the
- great gray and flammulated owl (Otus flammeolus) survey crew but no nest was found (Tetra
- Tech 2011). These observations are noted on Figures 4-1 through Figure 4-6 and summarized
- 12 in Table 4-2.

13 **Table 4-2.** Summary of 2011 Woodpecker and Goshawk Responses and Observations

		Calling	Heard, seen,	Age	Sex	Nest detected?
Detection	Date	station	or both?	(A/J/U)	(M/F/U)	Yes/No
American kestrel	4/22/2011	95	Seen	U	U	No
American kestrel (4)	7/24/2011	582	Seen	U	U	No
Black-backed	7/20/2011	404.1	Both	U	U	No
woodpecker (2)						
Cooper's hawk	6/11/2011	483	Not recorded	U	U	No
Cooper's hawk	7/22/2011	451.1	Seen	Α	М	No
Cooper's hawk	7/22/2011	485	Seen	J	U	No
Downy woodpecker	4/21/2011	774	Seen	U	F	No
Great gray owl	6/9/2011	21	Seen	Α	U	No
Hairy woodpecker	4/19/2011	24	Both	U	M/F	No
Hairy woodpecker	4/20/2011	11	Seen	U	F	No
Hairy woodpecker	4/20/2011	51	Seen	U	F	No
Hairy woodpecker	4/23/2011	80	Seen	U	U	No
Hairy woodpecker	4/23/2011	89	Seen	U	M	No
Hairy woodpecker	4/23/2011	96	Seen	U	M	No
Hairy woodpecker	6/7/2011	494	Not recorded	U	U	No
Hairy woodpecker (2)	6/10/2011	523	Not recorded	U	U	No
Hairy woodpecker	6/12/2011	539	Not recorded	U	U	No
Hairy woodpecker	6/12/2011	552	Not recorded	U	U	No
Nest (unidentified species)	4/19/2011	504	Seen	U	U	Yes
Nest (unidentified species)	4/19/2011	514	Seen	U	U	Yes
Northern goshawk						
Pileated woodpecker (2)	4/19/2011	385	Seen	U	U	No
Pileated woodpecker	4/20/2011	32	Seen (responded)	U	U	No
Pileated woodpecker (2)	4/21/2011	42	Heard (response and drumming)	U	U	No

Table 4-2. Summary of 2011 Woodpecker and Goshawk Responses and Observations (continued)

						Nest
Detection	Date	Calling station	Heard, seen, or both?	Age (A/J/U)	Sex (M/F/U)	detected? Yes/No
Pileated woodpecker	4/22/2011	59	both	Ù Ú	` U ´	No
Pileated woodpecker	4/22/2011	64	Heard (drumming)	U	U	No
Pileated woodpecker	4/22/2011	65	Heard (fly-by response)	U	U	No
Pileated woodpecker	4/23/2011	700	possibly seen	U	U	No
Pileated woodpecker	4/24/2011	41	Heard (drumming response)	U	U	No
Pileated woodpecker	4/26/2011	203	Heard	U	U	No
Pileated woodpecker	6/12/2011	531	Not recorded	U	U	No
Pileated woodpecker	6/12/2011	533	Not recorded	U	U	No
Red-tailed hawk	4/22/2011	55	Heard	U	U	No
Red-tailed hawk	4/22/2011	58	Seen	U	U	No
Red-tailed hawk	6/7/2011	58	Both	Α	M/F	Yes
Red-tailed hawk	6/7/2011	387	Not recorded	U	U	No
Red-tailed hawk (2)	6/7/2011	391	Not recorded	U	U	No
Red-tailed hawk	6/7/2011	423	Not recorded	U	U	No
Red-tailed hawk	6/7/2011	430	Not recorded	U	U	No
Red-tailed hawk	6/7/2011	441	Not recorded	U	U	No
Red-tailed hawk	6/8/2011	439	Not recorded	U	U	No
Red-tailed hawk	6/8/2011	445.1	Not recorded	U	U	No
Red-tailed hawk	6/9/2011	347.1	Not recorded	U	U	No
Red-tailed hawk	6/11/2011	514	Not recorded	U	U	No
Red-tailed hawk (2)	6/12/2011	685	Seen	J	U	Yes
Red-tailed hawk	7/19/2011	347	Not recorded	U	U	No
Red-tailed hawk	7/20/2011	427	Not recorded	U	U	No
Red-tailed hawk	7/20/2011	770	Both	Α	U	No
Red-tailed hawk (2)	7/21/2011	321	Both	U	U	No
Red-tailed hawk	7/21/2011	330	Seen	U	U	No
Red-tailed hawk (2)	7/21/2011	387	Both	J	U	No
Red-tailed hawk	7/22/2011	5	Heard	U	U	No
Red-tailed hawk	7/22/2011	697	Both	A/J	U	No
Red-tailed hawk	7/23/2011	502	Not recorded	U	U	No
Red-tailed hawk	7/23/2011	515	Not recorded	U	U	No
Red-tailed hawk	7/24/2011	562	Not recorded	U	U	No
Three-toed woodpecker	4/19/2011	394	Both	A	M	No
Three-toed woodpecker	4/22/2011	516	Both	А	F	No
Three-toed woodpecker	4/22/2011	526	Both	А	F	No

3

Table 4-2. Summary of 2011 Woodpecker and Goshawk Responses and Observations (continued)

Detection	Date	Calling station	Heard, seen, or both?	Age (A/J/U)	Sex (M/F/ U)	Nest detected? Yes/No
Turkey vulture	4/22/2011	54	Seen	U	Ú	No
Unidentified owl	4/19/2011	34	U	U	U	No
Unidentified raptor (2)	7/20/2011	785	Seen	U	U	No
Unidentified woodpecker	4/20/2011	39	Heard (drumming)	U	U	No
Unidentified woodpecker	4/24/2011	37	Heard	U	U	No
Unidentified woodpecker	4/25/2011	314	Heard	U	U	No
Unidentified woodpecker; red- tailed hawk	4/24/2011	2	Heard; heard	U	U	No
Unidentified woodpeckers (2)	6/12/2011	551	Not recorded	U	U	No
Unidentified woodpeckers (medium sized)	4/23/2011	713	Seen	U	U	No

5.0 CONCLUSION

1

- 4 The objective of the three-toed woodpecker and northern goshawk surveys was to identify
- 5 territories within or overlapping the proposed route and alternatives and to identify all nesting
- 6 pairs of these two species. The 2011 survey effort used the best available data and the
- 7 appropriate recommended procedures for identifying the locations of the two species that may
- 8 be affected by the Project. However, no territories or nesting pairs of either species were
- 9 positively identified during this survey effort.
- 10 A total of three three-toed woodpecker detections and one northern goshawk detection were
- obtained during the 2011 survey effort. Several additional woodpecker and raptor species were
- heard or seen, including American kestrel, black-backed woodpecker, Cooper's hawk, downy
- woodpecker, hairy woodpecker, pileated woodpecker, red-tailed hawk, and turkey vulture.
- 14 Three-toed woodpecker and northern goshawk detections were low during the 2011 survey
- season. Surveying for the presence of three-toed woodpeckers and northern goshawks can be
- challenging. This is due to a number of factors including the time year when the species is most
- vocal (and fledging season), the difficulty of access in early spring, and the fact that neither
- species "sings," so surveyors cannot depend on stereotyped behavioral responses to territorial
- 19 calls. Broadcast calling methods for the two species depend on eliciting defensive responses
- 20 from adults or food-begging responses from fledglings or the adult female. Compared with
- 21 territorial song responses, these responses vary much more and depend highly on reproductive
- 22 chronology and status.
- 23 Appropriate field surveys to close data gaps where access was previously denied will be
- 24 conducted once right of access has been obtained to private property.

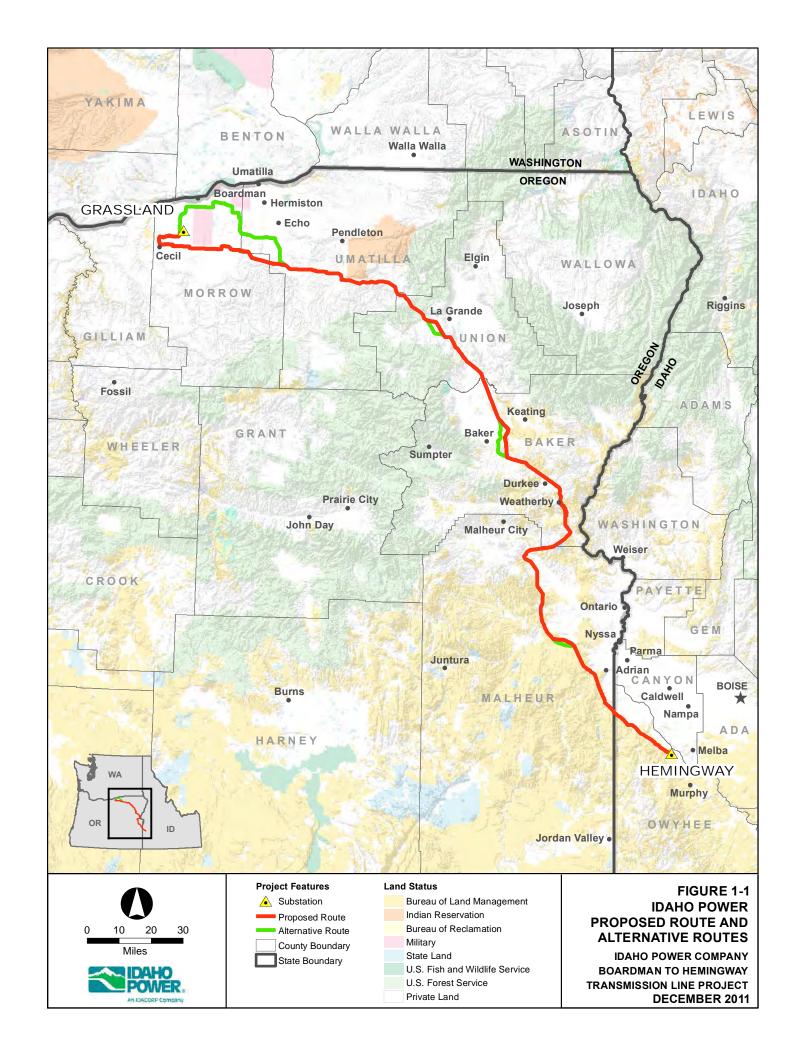
6.0 REFERENCES

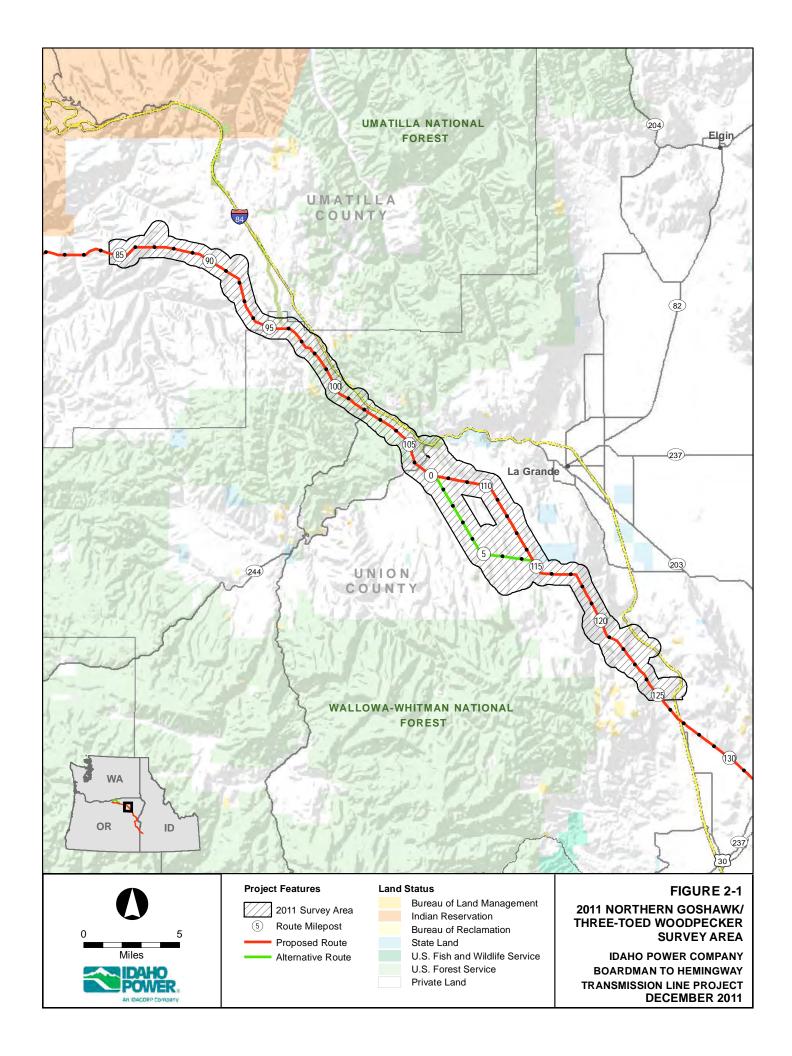
2	Dudley, J., and V. Saab. 2003. A Field Protocol to Monitor Cavity-nesting Birds. Res. Pap.
3	RMRS-RP-44. U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Rocky Mountain
4	Research Station. Fort Collins, CO.

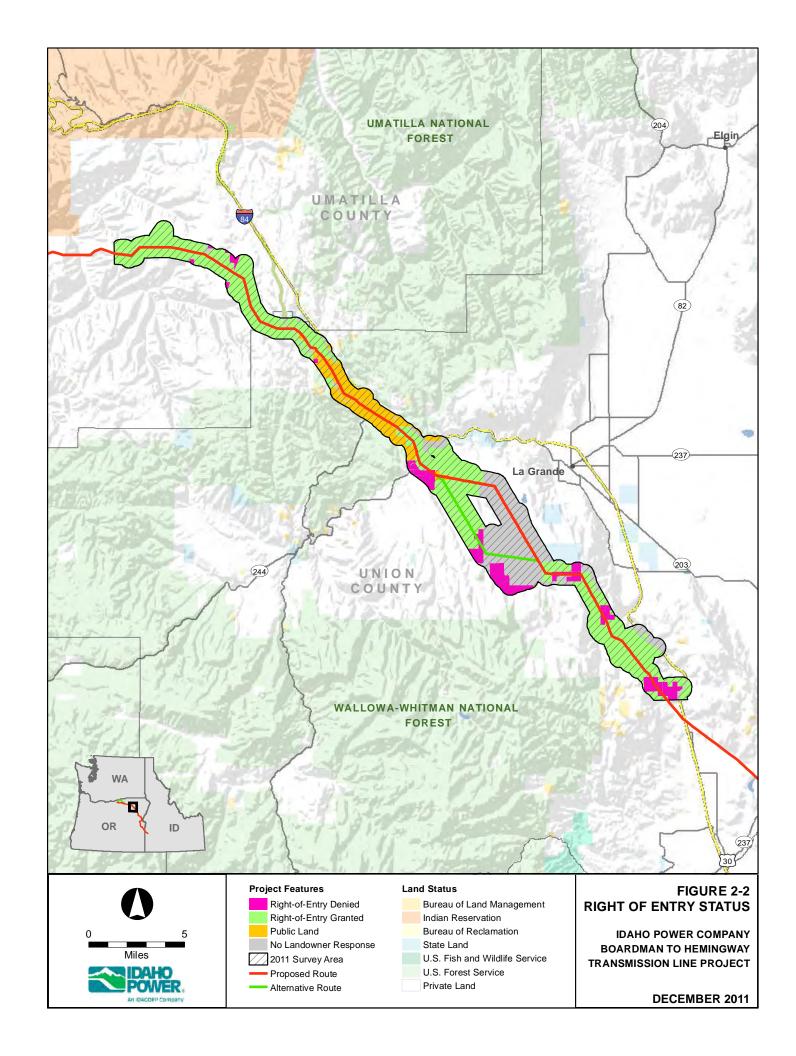
- Leonard, D.L., Jr. 2001. Three-toed Woodpecker (*Picoides tridactylus*). In: The Birds of North
 America, No. 588, A. Poole and F. Gill (editors). The Birds of North America, Inc.,
 Philadelphia, PA.
- Tetra Tech. 2011. Revised Final Biological Survey Work Plan Volume I Boardman to Hemingway Transmission Line Project. Prepared for Idaho Power. Boise, ID.
- Wiggins, D. 2004. American Three-toed Woodpecker (*Picoides dorsalis*): A Technical
 Conservation Assessment. Prepared for the USDA Forest Service, Rocky Mountain
 Region, Species Conservation Project. July 1.
- Woodbridge, B., and C.D. Hargis. 2006. Northern Goshawk Inventory and Monitoring Technical
 Guide. Gen. Tech. Rep. WO-71. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Agriculture,
 Forest Service.

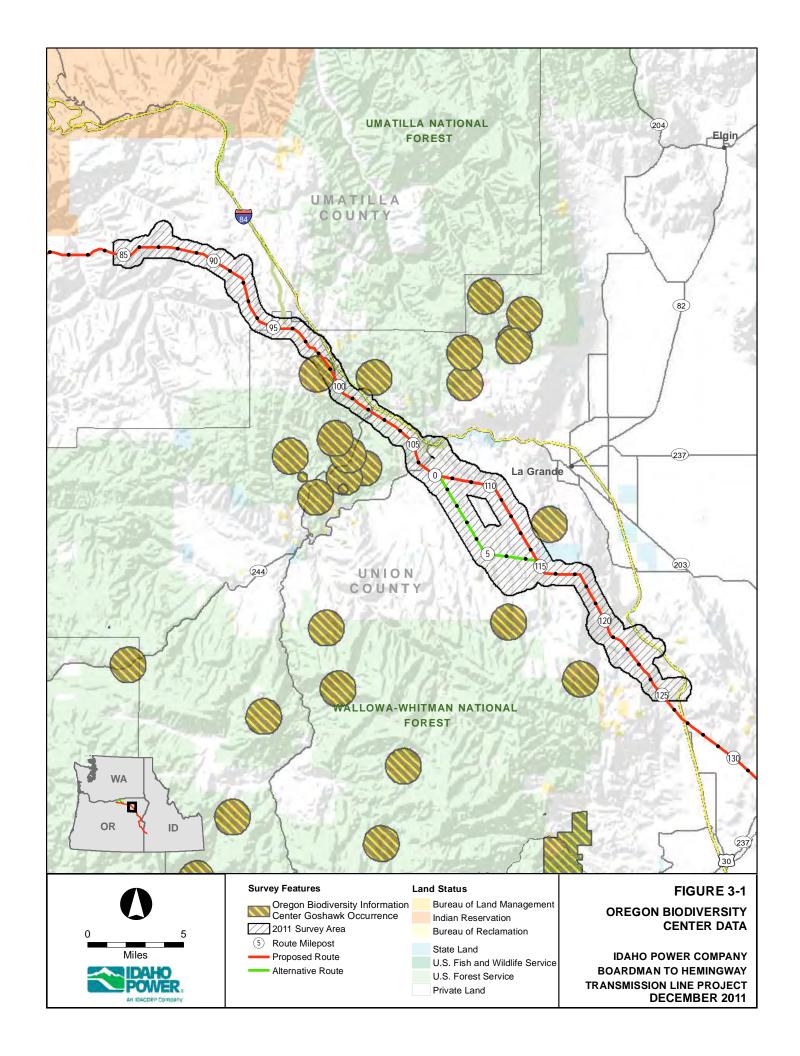
FIGURES

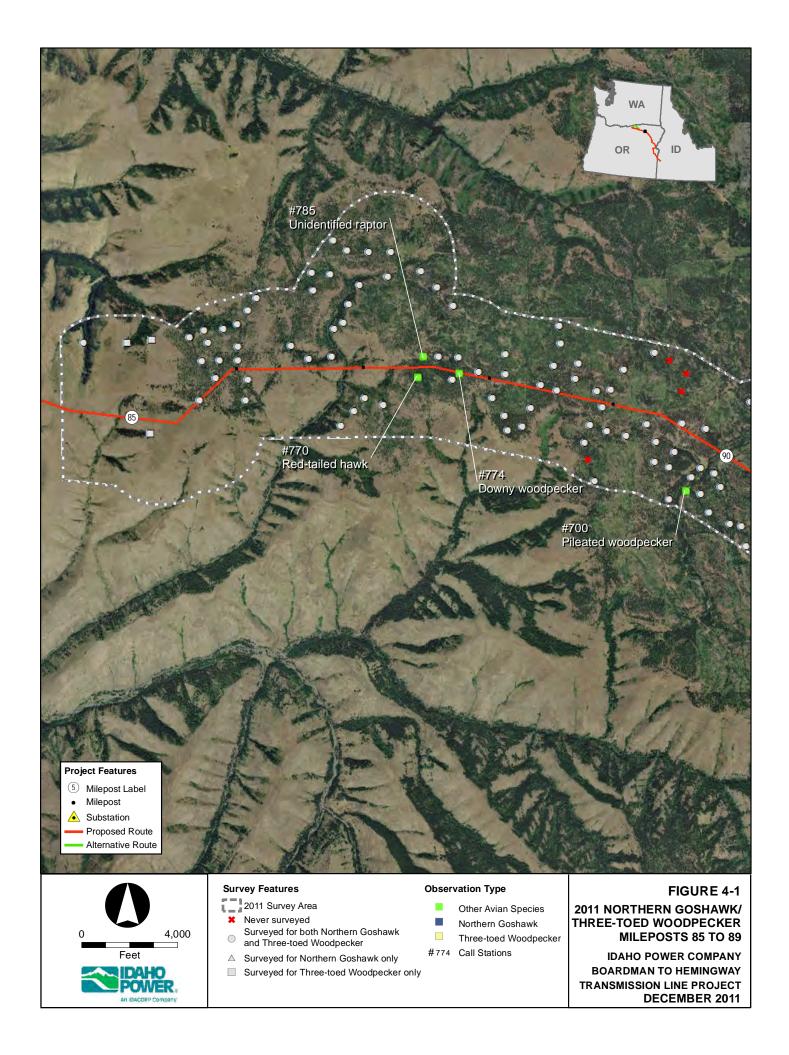
Tetra Tech October 2011

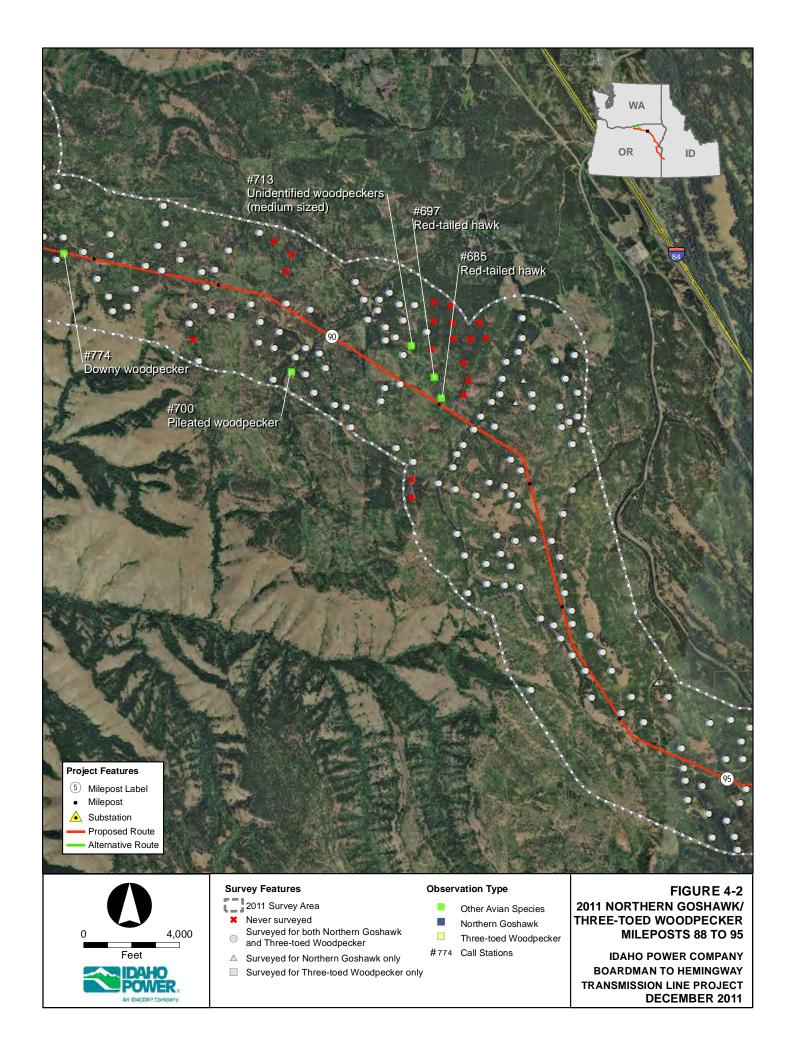


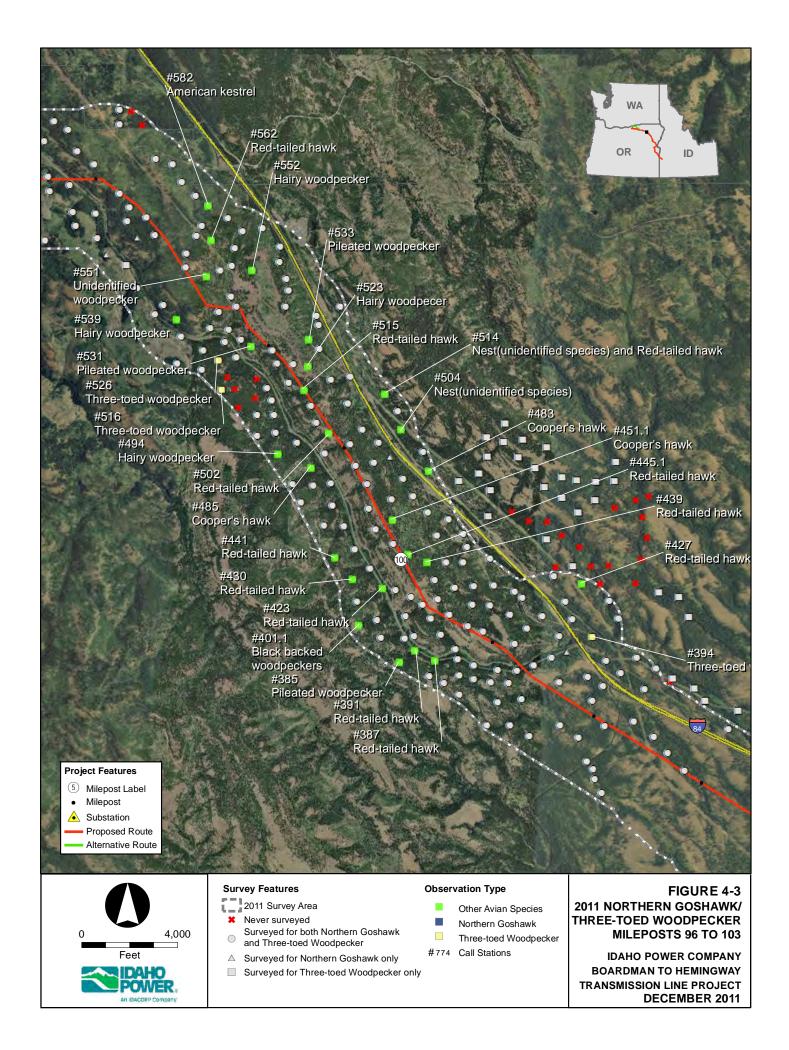


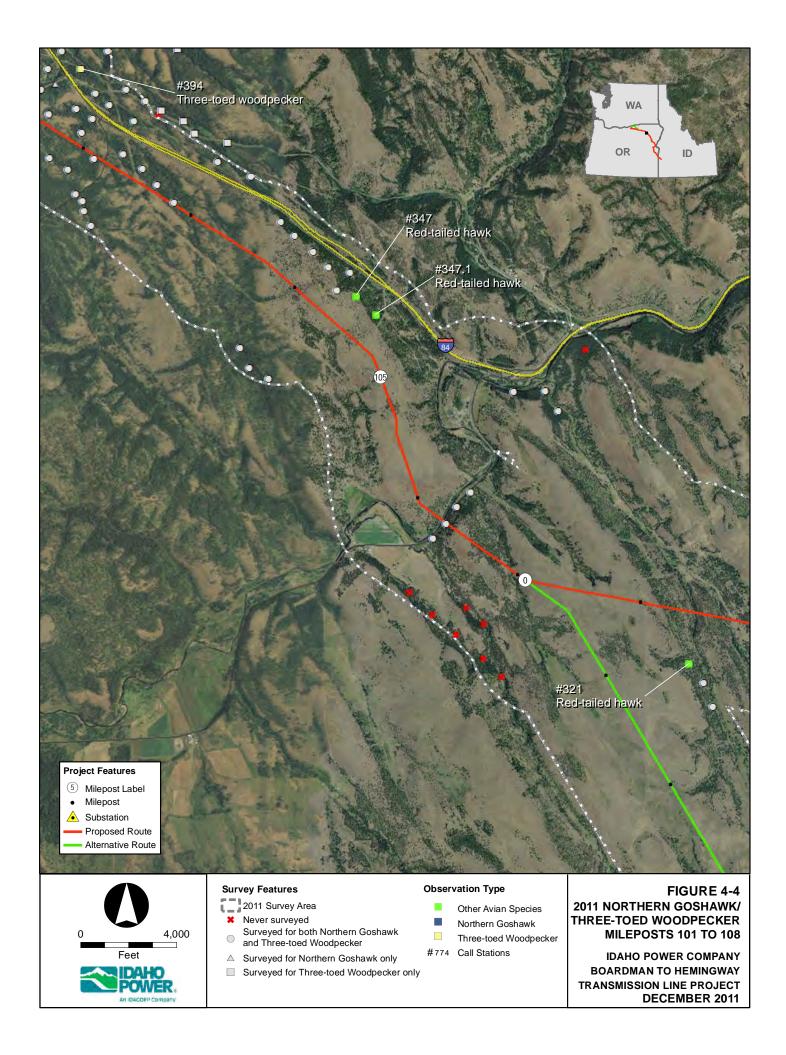


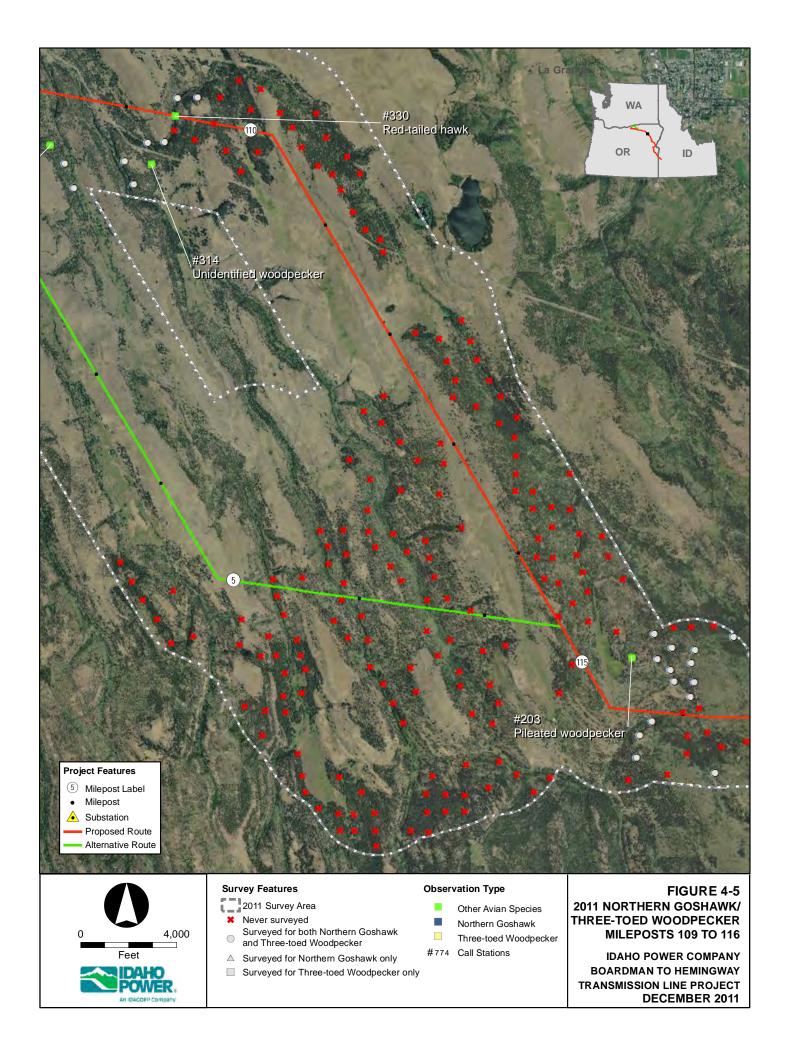


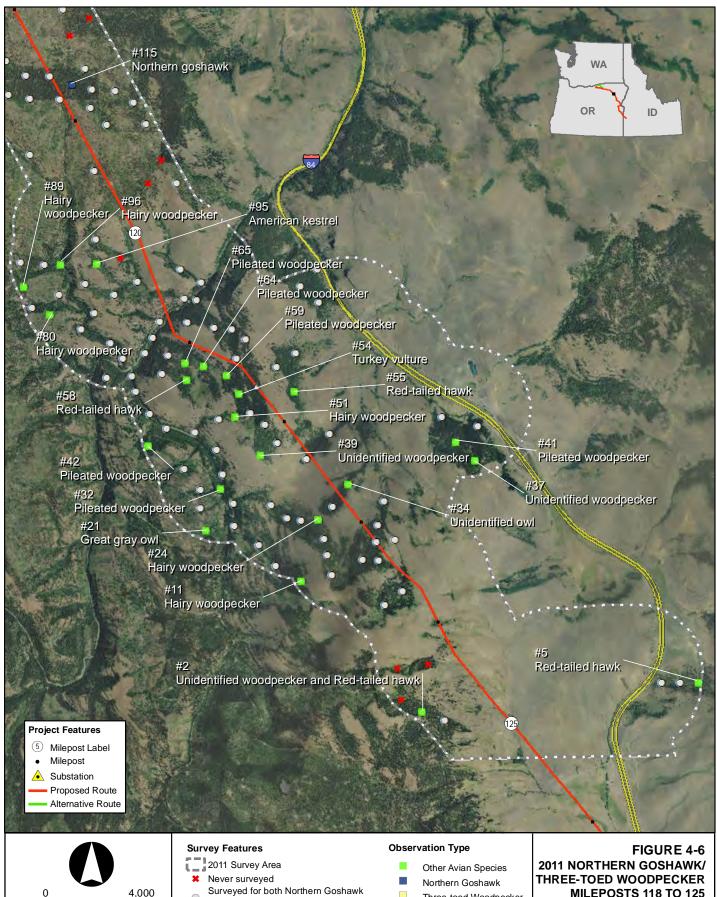














and Three-toed Woodpecker

△ Surveyed for Northern Goshawk only ■ Surveyed for Three-toed Woodpecker only Three-toed Woodpecker

#774 Call Stations

MILEPOSTS 118 TO 125

IDAHO POWER COMPANY BOARDMAN TO HEMINGWAY TRANSMISSION LINE PROJECT **DECEMBER 2011**



Exhibit P

2012 Report



Boardman to Hemingway Transmission Line Project

2012 Northern Goshawk and Three-Toed Woodpecker Surveys



4355RPT.DOC January 2013

Boardman to Hemingway Transmission Line Project

2012 Northern Goshawk and Three-Toed Woodpecker Surveys

Prepared for:

Idaho Power Company

1221 W. Idaho St. Boise, Idaho 83702

Prepared by:

Tetra Tech

3380 Americana Terrace, Suite 201 Boise, Idaho 83706 114-540315AX.005.003.03

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.0 INTRO	DDUCTION	1
1.1 Proje	ject Overview	1
1.2 Targ	get Species	1
2.0 SURVI	YEY AREA	2
3.0 METH	IODS	2
4.0 RESUI	LTS	4
4.1 Surv	vey Period 1	4
	vey Period 2	
4.3 Surv	vey Period 3	5
5.0 CONC	CLUSION	6
	RENCES	
O.O INCI EI		······································
	LIST OF	TABLES
		., ., .,
Table 1.	Survey Period, Survey Date, and Species Surveyed	3
Table 2.	Summary of 2011 & 2012 Survey Calling Station Access	
Table 3.	Summary of 2012 Survey Observations	5
	LIST OF	FIGURES
Figure 1.	Project Overview	
Figure 2.	Survey Area	
Figure 3.	Right Of Entry Status	
Figure 4.	Oregon Biodiversity Information Center (ORBIC) - Existing Data	
Figure 5.	Survey Results - Mileposts 85 To 89	
Figure 6.	Survey Results - Mileposts 88 To 95	
Figure 7.	Survey Results - Mileposts 96 To 103	
Figure 8.	Survey Results - Mileposts 101 To 108	
Figure 9.	Survey Results - Mileposts 109 To 116	
Figure 10.	Survey Results - Mileposts 114 To 119	
Figure 11.	Survey Results - Mileposts 119 To 125	
Figure 12.	Survey Results - Mileposts 124 To 127	

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1

2 1.1 Project Overview

- 3 Idaho Power Company (IPC) is proposing to construct and operate a new, approximately 300-
- 4 mile-long, single-circuit 500-kilovolt (500kV) electric transmission line between northeast
- 5 Oregon and southwest Idaho, known as the Boardman to Hemingway Transmission Line
- 6 Project (Project). The overhead, 500-kV transmission line will carry energy bi-directionally
- 7 between a Portland General Electric planned substation (Grassland Substation) adjacent to the
- 8 Boardman Generating Plant, near Boardman in Morrow County, Oregon, and IPC's existing
- 9 Hemingway Substation, located in Owyhee County, Idaho. The Project will traverse federal,
- state, and private lands in six counties in Oregon and Idaho. Figure 1 documents the Project
- location, proposed route and route alternatives. All figures are located at the end of this report.
- 12 The Project would result in disturbances related to the construction of permanent facilities such
- as transmission tower pads, substations, regeneration stations, and permanent access roads,
- as well as temporary disturbances related to fly yards, laydown areas, tensioning sites, and
- temporary access roads. In addition, the Project would include the initial construction clearing
- and continued maintenance of tree heights located near the transmission line, resulting in
- 17 permanent impacts to some forested areas. To help determine the degree of impact that could
- 18 occur due to the construction and operation of these Project components, the location of
- occupied territories and nests for northern goshawks (Accipiter gentilis) and American three-
- 20 toed woodpeckers (three-toed woodpecker) (Picoides dorsalis) that occur along the Project
- 21 needs to be determined.
- 22 The Project, as proposed, would cross both public and private lands. Public lands that would be
- crossed are managed, in part, with the intent of conserving and improving wildlife populations,
- 24 and public land managers have gathered data on lands they manage over the years. Data for
- 25 private lands, with the exception of some statewide data gathered by state fish and game
- 26 agencies, are largely unavailable. This means that existing databases could not always be used
- to determine the locations of northern goshawks and three-toed woodpeckers and their habitats,
- 28 territories, and nests that could be impacted by the Project. Therefore, surveys for these two
- 29 species were implemented to supplement existing data. However, landowner permission is
- 30 required prior to surveying private lands, and many private landowners have declined access to
- 31 their lands for surveys. The result is that field surveys could not be conducted in all suitable
- 32 habitat crossed by the Project.
- 33 The objective of these surveys was to identify the presence and/or absence of northern
- 34 goshawks and three-toed woodpeckers in the vicinity of the proposed and alternate Project
- corridors so that Project impacts to these species may be avoided and/or minimized. Surveys
- were conducted in 2011 and 2012. This report summarizes the findings of the 2012 surveys.
- 37 Findings of the 2011 surveys are presented in the 2011 technical report 2011 Northern
- 38 Goshawk and Three-toed Woodpecker Surveys (Tetra Tech 2011a).

1.2 Target Species

- 40 American three-toed woodpeckers are largely restricted to high-elevation conifer forests and are
- 41 therefore distributed in a mosaic pattern (mirroring the pattern of high-elevation mountains).
- 42 They occur in dense coniferous forests, and are associated with subalpine fir and Engelmann
- 43 spruce at higher elevations; they occur mainly in lodgepole pine forests or in mixed-conifer
- 44 forests with a lodgepole component at lower elevations (Leonard 2001), and seem to prefer
- 45 disturbed coniferous forests with trees that exhibit thin, flaky bark such as spruce and lodgepole
- 46 pine. However, areas of disturbed forests (e.g., recent burns, beetle infestations) have also

- been widely cited as important habitat. It is a relatively specialized species, feeding primarily on
- 2 beetles within decaying and dead trees and occurring in low densities throughout its range.
- 3 Seventy-five percent of its diet consists of wood-boring beetles and caterpillars that attack dead
- 4 or dying conifers (Wiggins 2004).
- 5 The northern goshawk is found throughout the northern hemisphere near the northern
- 6 timberlines to the southern sub-tropical regions. Birds in the northern regions migrate during the
- 7 winter. The northern goshawk occupies dense coniferous and deciduous forests. During its
- 8 nesting period, it prefers mature forests consisting of a combination of old, tall trees with
- 9 intermediate to high canopy coverage and open understories within the forest for foraging
- 10 (Woodbridge and Hargis 2006). High canopy closure appears to be an important habitat
- characteristic for the species. Nests are typically constructed into a large bowl of thin sticks lined
- with bark and greenery, placed in large trees. Within its home range, the northern goshawk uses
- 13 a diverse array of habitats for foraging, both in terms of vegetation type and the degree of
- openness (Woodbridge and Hargis 2006). It typically perches silently, waiting and watching for
- prey, switching perches after brief periods. It descends on prey rapidly, maneuvering through
- 16 forest vegetation or willingly crashing through it, taking prey as small as squirrels and as large
- 17 as grouse, crows, and snowshoe hare.

18 2.0 SURVEY AREA

- 19 Under the Oregon Department of Energy's Energy Facility Siting Council process, the applicant
- 20 describes a site boundary within which the facility will be permitted by the Department of
- 21 Energy. The site boundary was used to guide the establishment of the appropriate survey area
- 22 for northern goshawks and three-toed woodpeckers. The site boundary along the proposed
- route passes through a variety of ownerships including U.S. Forest Service (USFS), Bureau of
- Land Management (BLM), state, and private lands. Northern goshawk and three-toed
- 25 woodpecker habitat is located in lands under the administration of all the aforementioned
- 26 entities.

39

- 27 In general, access to the lands under the administration of the USFS, BLM, and State of Oregon
- 28 was only limited by logistical constraints, primarily road coverage and conditions, and weather-
- 29 related issues (e.g., storms and snow accumulations). In contrast, private lands were only
- 30 accessible where landowners had provided access for the purposes of the survey. At the time of
- the 2012 survey, access was available to approximately 70 percent of the lands within the
- 32 survey area (Figure 3).
- 33 The survey area generally occurs in the Blue Mountains, outside of La Grande, Oregon, from
- 34 mileposts (MPs) 85 to 127 of the proposed transmission line (Figure 2). The survey area for
- 35 northern goshawks and three-toed woodpeckers is all areas within 0.5 mile of the site boundary
- 36 between MPs 85 and 127 and encompasses 44,285 acres. While not all of the survey area is
- 37 suitable nesting habitat for either species, this entire area was considered during placement of
- 38 calling stations (Section 3.0).

3.0 METHODS

- 40 There were two main components to the northern goshawk and three-toed woodpecker survey.
- 41 The first was a pre-field survey data collection, which was conducted in 2010 and early 2011 to
- 42 establish survey areas and identify calling station locations prior to the 2011 northern goshawk
- and three-toed woodpecker surveys (Tetra Tech 2011a). Both the 2011 northern goshawk and
- 44 three-toed woodpecker report (Tetra Tech 2011a) and the survey work plan (Tetra Tech 2011b)
- 45 for the Project describe in more detail the data review process and agency coordination that
- 46 occurred prior to the start of the 2011 field survey. Oregon Biodiversity Information Center

- 1 (ORBIC 2012) data were reviewed and existing occurrences for both species were identified in
- the Blue Mountains (Figure 4). The second component was field surveys that consisted of
- 3 daytime acoustical callback surveys for both species at the established calling stations. Field
- 4 survey methods used for this study were adapted from Woodbridge and Hargis (2006) for
- 5 northern goshawks and Dudley and Saab (2003) for three-toed woodpeckers.
- 6 Visual observation with acoustical callback surveys is the recommended method of survey for
- 7 cavity-nesting birds that are rare or have large home ranges, as with the three-toed woodpecker
- 8 (Dudley and Saab 2003). Acoustical callback surveys for northern goshawks is currently the
- 9 standard method used by the USFS and many others. The efficacy of this method has been
- 10 evaluated in terms of response rates at known successful nests and at territories occupied by
- 11 non-breeding goshawks (Woodbridge and Hargis 2006).
- 12 Calling stations were placed approximately 650 feet apart (200m) (Woodbridge and Hargis
- 13 2006) in areas that had moderate to high conifer canopy cover within fairly contiguous stands of
- forest. This spacing varied based on topography and habitat, while trying to establish stations at
- useful geographic features to ensure complete coverage of habitat. Some stations may have
- been dropped if they were in steep or unsafe terrain or if access was denied by landowners.
- 17 Calling stations were identified by a unique number, and Universal Transverse Mercator
- 18 geographic coordinates for each point were recorded. This resulted in the establishment of 808
- 19 calling stations within the survey area for 2012.
- 20 2012 survey efforts focused on finishing protocol survey methods for calling stations that were
- 21 deemed incomplete during the 2011 surveys, where right of entry to calling stations was granted
- between the 2011 and 2012 surveys, and where modifications of the site boundary between
- 23 2011 and 2012 shifted the survey area.
- 24 Two calling station visits for both species, within the same year during unique survey periods, is
- 25 required for a station to be considered complete for this report. The first survey period was for
- three-toed woodpeckers, designed to correspond with their nesting stage (late April). The
- 27 second survey period was for both northern goshawks and three-toed woodpeckers, designed
- 28 to correspond with the fledging period for three-toed woodpeckers and nesting period for
- 29 northern goshawks (mid-June). The third survey period was for northern goshawks, intended to
- 30 correspond with their fledging period (July). Survey period, survey dates, and species surveyed
- 31 during each period are presented in Table 1.

32

Table 1. Survey Period, Survey Date, and Species Surveyed

Survey Period	Survey Dates	Species Surveyed
1	April 24 – 29	Three-toed woodpecker
2	June 5 – 10	Northern goshawk and three-toed woodpecker.
3	July 10 – 14	Northern goshawk

While in the field, surveyors listened quietly for 3 minutes after arriving at a calling station, and

then proceeded with calling. The calls consisted of 10 seconds of calling followed by 30

seconds of listening for a reply and watching for individuals to fly into the area. Binoculars were

- used while watching for three-toed woodpeckers. This pattern was repeated three times,
- 37 directing calls in three directions, 120 degrees apart. If a reply was heard or an individual was
- observed, surveyors tried to locate the bird and any nests in the immediate area. The male
- 39 territorial call was used for the three-toed woodpecker during both survey periods for this
- 40 species. The adult alarm call was used for the northern goshawk during the second survey
- 41 period and the juvenile wail call was used during the third survey period. Calls were broadcast
- using Edge® digital game callers made by Expedite, Inc., or MP3 players with amplifiers.

- 1 Field crews used global positioning system technology for data collection activities. Trimble
- 2 GeoXT survey grade receivers loaded with Esri ArcPAD 10 software were used by crews
- 3 conducting field surveys.
- 4 Survey data forms were completed for each calling station whether or not three-toed
- 5 woodpeckers or northern goshawks were detected. Each survey data form recorded the date; a
- 6 description of the survey route with an accompanying map; survey start and stop time, and time
- 7 spent calling between stations; and weather conditions. Responses from northern goshawks
- 8 and three-toed woodpeckers as well as other woodpecker and raptor species were recorded.

4.0 RESULTS

9

25

26

27

34

36

- 10 Of the 808 calling stations within the 2012 survey area, 420 were completed in 2011. Of the
- 11 remaining 388 calling stations, 274 needed to be surveyed for both species; 15 needed to be
- surveyed for northern goshawk only (2011 surveys met protocol for three-toed woodpeckers);
- and 99 needed to be surveyed for three-toed woodpecker only (2011 surveys met protocol for
- northern goshawk). A single three-toed woodpecker detection was logged during all survey
- efforts for 2012, no northern goshawks were identified during surveys. Nest searches for this
- detection did not result in additional detections (audio or visual) of the woodpecker, and no
- 17 nests were found.
- Of the 388 calling stations that required survey in 2012, a total of 189 were completed.
- 19 Combined with the 2011 effort, 609 out of the 808 calling stations have been completed (Table
- 20 2). The 609 calling stations surveyed in 2011 and 2012 represent 75 percent of the total
- 21 established calling stations within the northern goshawk and three-toed woodpecker survey
- area (Figures 5 through 12). The remaining call stations were not surveyed because access
- was denied by the landowner, access was blocked, or reaching the call station would have been
- 24 unsafe to the surveyor.

Table 2. Summary of 2011 & 2012 Survey Calling Station Access

Survey year	Total calling stations established	Survey completed	Target Species Observed	Access denied or blocked ¹
2011	NA ²	420	4	NA ²
2012	808	189	1	199
Total	808	609	5	199

¹ Survey not conducted. Property owner denied access and/or access was blocked. Blocked access includes: 1) physical constraints limiting access to the site that may include: a) steep slopes, b) impassable roads or streams, c) terrain and weather conditions; 2) access blocked by surrounding

impassable roads or streams, c) terrain and weather conditions; 2) access blocked by surrounding properties that had access denied; 3) unable to access due to time constraints, or 4) background noise at

the survey location was sufficiently high to potentially prevent surveyor from hearing bird responses.

31 Noise sources included wind, inclement weather, streams, highway, and trains.

² Because of the shift in the site boundary, the survey area changed and the number and locations of calling stations changed between 2011 and 2012. Therefore, the total number of stations established in

2011 and the total number that were not accessed in 2011 are not applicable to the 2012 survey effort.

These numbers are available in the 2011 report (Tetra Tech 2011a).

4.1 Survey Period 1

- 37 The single observation of a three-toed woodpecker occurred on April 27th, 2012 at calling station
- 38 405.1 (Figure 7 and Figure 8). The observation was an adult female and was both seen and
- 39 heard calling in response to the playback.

1 4.2 Survey Period 2

2 No target species were observed during Survey Period 2.

4.3 Survey Period 3

- 4 No target species were observed during Survey Period 2.
- 5 During the course of the three survey periods, several additional woodpecker and raptor species
- 6 were heard or seen, including American kestrel (Falco sparverius), black-backed woodpecker
- 7 (Picoides arcticus), Cooper's hawk (Accipiter cooperii), downy woodpecker (Picoides
- 8 pubescens), hairy woodpecker (Picoides villosus), pileated woodpecker (Dryocopus pileatus),
- 9 red-tailed hawk (Buteo jamaicensis), and Swainson's hawk (Buteo swainsonii). All observations
- are displayed on Figure 5 through Figure 12 and summarized in Table 3.

Table 3. Summary of 2012 Survey Observations

Detection	D-4-	Calling	Nest detected?
Detection	Date	station	Yes/No
Pileated Woodpecker	4/24/2012	757	No
Hairy Woodpecker	4/25/2012	108	No
Black-backed Woodpecker	4/25/2012	121.1	No
Pileated Woodpecker	4/25/2012	148	No
Hairy Woodpecker	4/25/2012	152	No
Northern Flicker	4/25/2012	678	No
Hairy Woodpecker	4/25/2012	685	No
Northern Flicker	4/25/2012	697	No
Red-naped Sapsucker	4/25/2012	748	No
Three-toed Woodpecker	4/27/2012	405.1	No
Northern Flicker	4/27/2012	470	No
Pileated Woodpecker	4/28/2012	602	No
Pileated Woodpecker	6/5/2012	108	No
Northern Flicker	6/5/2012	875	No
Red-tailed Hawk	6/6/2012	347.1	No
Williamson's Sapsucker	6/6/2012	685	No
Northern Flicker	6/6/2012	697	No
Red-tailed Hawk	6/6/2012	742	No
Northern Flicker	6/6/2012	757	No
Pileated Woodpecker	6/6/2012	777	No
Red-tailed Hawk	6/7/2012	107	Yes
Williamson's Sapsucker	6/7/2012	153	No
Swainson's Hawk	6/7/2012	153	Yes
Pileated woodpecker	6/7/2012	686	No
Northern Flicker	6/7/2012	720	No
Unknown Woodpecker	6/7/2012	838	No
Hairy Woodpecker	6/8/2012	363	No
Pileated woodpecker	6/8/2012	363.1	No
Hairy Woodpecker	6/8/2012	873	No
Hairy Woodpecker	6/10/2012	371	No
Hairy Woodpecker	6/10/2012	568.1	No
Northern Flicker	6/10/2012	595	No
Hairy Woodpecker	6/10/2012	612	No

Table 3. Summary of 2012 Survey Observations

Detection	Date	Calling station	Nest detected? Yes/No
Northern Flicker	6/10/2012	613	No
Northern Flicker	6/10/2012	865	No
Red-tailed Hawk	7/10/2012	103	No
Red-tailed hawk	7/10/2012	874	No
Cooper's Hawk	7/12/2012	615	No
Red-tailed Hawk	7/14/2012	612	No

5.0 CONCLUSION

1

- 2 The objective of the northern goshawk and three-toed woodpecker surveys was to identify
- 3 territories within or overlapping the proposed route and alternatives and to identify any nesting
- 4 pairs of these two species. The 2012 survey effort used the best available data and the
- 5 appropriate recommended procedures for identifying the locations of the two species that may
- 6 be affected by the Project. However, no territories or nesting pairs of either species were
- 7 positively identified during this survey effort.
- 8 A single three-toed woodpecker detection was obtained during the 2012 survey effort. In 2011,
- 9 3 three-toed woodpecker and 1 northern goshawk detections were obtained. Several additional
- woodpecker and raptor species have been heard or seen over the two survey seasons,
- including American kestrel, black-backed woodpecker, Cooper's hawk, downy woodpecker,
- hairy woodpecker, northern flicker, pileated woodpecker, red-naped sapsucker, red-tailed hawk,
- Williamson's sapsucker, and turkey vulture.
- 14 Northern goshawk and three-toed woodpecker detections were uncommon during the 2011 and
- 15 2012 survey seasons. This is due to a number of factors including the species' habitat
- 16 requirements, habitat quality within the survey area, difficult access, and the relatively low
- densities of both species on the landscape. In addition, broadcast calling methods for the two
- 18 species depend on eliciting defensive responses from adults or food-begging responses from
- 19 fledglings or the adult female. Compared with territorial song responses, these responses vary
- 20 much more and depend highly on reproductive chronology and status.
- 21 Appropriate field surveys to close data gaps where access was previously denied will be
- conducted once right of access has been obtained to private property.

Prepared by: Reviewed by:

Matt Cambier Aaron English

Wildlife Biologist Supervising Scientist

6.0 REFERENCES

2 3 4	Dudley, J., and V. Saab. 2003. A Field Protocol to Monitor Cavity-nesting Birds. Res. Pap. RMRS-RP-44. U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Research Station. Fort Collins, CO.
5	Leonard, D.L., Jr. 2001. Three-toed Woodpecker (<i>Picoides tridactylus</i>). In: The Birds of No

- Leonard, D.L., Jr. 2001. Three-toed Woodpecker (*Picoides tridactylus*). In: The Birds of North
 America, No. 588, A. Poole and F. Gill (editors). The Birds of North America, Inc.,
 Philadelphia, PA.
- ORBIC 2012. GIS data file containing locational information on rare, threatened or endangered species for the state of Oregon. Oregon Biodiversity Information Center, Institute for Natural Resources, Portland State University. Portland, OR.
- Tetra Tech. 2011a. 2011 Northern Goshawk and Three-toed Woodpecker Surveys. Boardman to Hemingway Transmission Line Project. Prepared for Idaho Power. Boise, ID.
- Tetra Tech. 2011b. Revised Final Biological Survey Work Plan Volume I Boardman to Hemingway Transmission Line Project. Prepared for Idaho Power. Boise, ID.
- Wiggins, D. 2004. American Three-toed Woodpecker (*Picoides dorsalis*): A Technical
 Conservation Assessment. Prepared for the USDA Forest Service, Rocky Mountain
 Region, Species Conservation Project. July 1.
- Woodbridge, B., and C.D. Hargis. 2006. Northern Goshawk Inventory and Monitoring Technical
 Guide. Gen. Tech. Rep. WO-71. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Agriculture,
 Forest Service.

FIGURES

