## P-8G – Special Status Plant Surveys Technical Report

2011 Report



complex world

## Boardman to Hemingway Transmission Line Project

2011 Special Status Plant Surveys



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## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 **Project Overview**

Idaho Power Company (IPC) is proposing to construct and operate a new, approximately 300-mile-long, single-circuit 500-kilovolt (kV) electric transmission line between northeast Oregon and southwest Idaho referred to as the Boardman to Hemingway Transmission Line Project (Project). The overhead 500-kV transmission line will carry energy bi-directionally between a Portland General Electric (PGE) planned substation (Grassland Substation) adjacent to the Boardman generating plant near Boardman in Morrow County, Oregon, and IPC's existing Hemingway Substation in Owyhee County, Idaho. The Project will traverse federal, state, and private lands in 6 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.

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. To help determine the degree of impact that could occur from the construction of these Project components, the potential presence of Bureau of Land Management (BLM), U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), and U.S. Forest Service (USFS) listed sensitive plant species; federally listed threatened, endangered, proposed, and candidate plant species; and Oregon-state-listed threatened and endangered species, collectively referred to here as special-status plant (SSP) species, within the proposed Project right-of-way (ROW) are required to be evaluated. To accomplish this, Tetra Tech identified areas where SSP species have the potential to occur. Suitable habitat was determined and defined based on the following: 1) pre-survey vegetation mapping efforts and 2) consultation with knowledgeable local botanists.

As proposed, the Project would cross public and private lands. Public lands that would be crossed are managed, in part, with the intent of conserving populations of SSP species, and public-land managers have gathered data on lands they manage. Data for private lands, with the exception of some statewide data gathered by state agencies, are largely unavailable. Existing databases could not always be used to determine the locations of SSP species or their habitat that could be impacted by the Project. Therefore, surveys of SSP species were implemented to supplement existing data. Field surveys could not be conducted in all suitable habitats crossed by the Project because IPC does not currently have access to all private land crossed by the proposed route.

## 2.0 PROJECT AND SURVEY AREA

The Project area can be divided into 4 broad ecoregions; the Blue Mountains, the Columbia Plateau, the Snake River Plain, and small portions of the Northern Basin and Range.

The northern portion of the Project crosses through the Columbia Plateau and Blue Mountains level III ecoregions (Thorson et al. 2003). The native vegetation within the Columbia Plateau ecoregion typically consists of arid sagebrush steppe and grassland types; however, much of this ecoregion has been converted to agricultural use in the form of wheat cultivation (EPA 2011). The Blue Mountains ecoregion consists of a complex of mountain ranges generally lower and more open than neighboring ranges (e.g., the Cascades and Northern Rockies). This ecoregion typically supports mixed coniferous vegetation types; however, portions of this ecoregion are currently disturbed by cattle grazing as well as other disturbance types (EPA 2011; Powell et al. 2007).

The southern portion of the Project crosses through the Snake River Plain and the Northern Basin and Range level III ecoregions (Thorson et al. 2003). The native vegetation within the Snake River Plain ecoregion typically consists of sagebrush-grassland vegetation types. This ecoregion is considerably lower in elevation and has more gently sloping areas than the surrounding ecoregions, resulting in a greater availability of water. As a result, much of the Snake River Plain ecoregion has been converted to agricultural use, the principal crops being sugar beets, potatoes, alfalfa, and vegetables (EPA 2011). The Northern Basin and Range ecoregion contains a diverse range of landforms, including tablelands, dissected lava plains, valleys, alluvial fans, and scattered mountains. Non-mountainous areas in this ecoregion typically contain sagebrush steppe vegetation types, while mountainous areas typically contain big sagebrush (*Artemisia tridentata*), Idaho fescue (*Festuca idahoensis*), Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*), and aspen (*Populus* spp.). Portions of the Northern Basin and Range ecoregion have been converted into rangeland and agricultural uses (EPA 2011).

The survey area for SSP species (Figure 2-1) is all portions of the Project area that meet the habitat requirement for special-status species identified during Phase 1 and that are within 250 feet of the centerline proposed route and alternatives, within 100 feet of access roads, and/or within the footprint of staging and fly yards (Tetra Tech 2011). Approximately 11,466 acres of potential SSP habitat for 29 species were identified during Phase 1 pre-survey mapping.

Survey areas occurred on public and private lands. Access to these lands under the administration of the USFS, BLM, and Oregon state parks was unhindered; however, private lands were only accessible where landowners agreed to allow access for biological surveys. Approximately 4,927 acres (43%) of the SSP species habitat polygons occurred on public land. An additional 4,136 acres (36%) occurred on private land where the owners had granted right-of-entry to the survey crew. As a result access was available to approximately 9,063 acres or 79 percent of the areas identified as SSP habitat (Figure 2-2).

## 3.0 METHODS

The objective of the field survey was to identify SSP species on public (federal and state) and private lands. During Phase 1, areas of suitable habitat were identified through geographic information system (GIS) analysis of National Agriculture Imagery Program (NAIP), Northwest Regional Gap Analysis Landcover Data (NWGAP), and Oregon Biodiversity Information Center (ORBIC) known elemental occurrence data (Figures 3-1 through Figure 3-5). This methodology of habitat mapping, as well as the list of SSP species requiring consideration, was developed through discussions with land managers and biologists from the BLM, USFS, and other agencies in meetings held during summer 2008 and fall 2010 (Tetra Tech 2011). Table 3-1 lists the SSPs surveyed, the survey periods, and the portion of the ROW, by county, where the species were surveyed.

Species phenology and local climate vary along the ROW. To account for these variations, surveys were conducted in April, June, and July 2011. Botanists familiar with the SSPs performed surveys using systematic pedestrian transects. The suitable habitat polygons identified during the habitat mapping phase were located using a survey grade (1-meter [m] accuracy) global positioning system (GPS) unit; these polygons were traversed by botanists. Spacing between the individual botanists was adjusted based on habitat to achieve 100 percent visual coverage in areas with a high potential for SSP occurrences.

Daily habitat accounts were recorded to document the general habitat conditions. When an SSP was located, a GPS position was recorded (point locations for individual occurrences or communities occupying an area less than 10 m in diameter, and polygons for larger communities). Photographs were taken, and the data were recorded on the Oregon or Idaho Rare Plant Occurrence form. Field crews used GPS technology for data-collection activities.

Trimble GeoXT survey grade receivers loaded with Esri ArcPAD 10 software were used by crews conducting field surveys. Daily habitat accounts were recorded to document the general habitat conditions. When an SSP was located, a GPS position was recorded (point locations for individual occurrences or communities occupying an area less than 10 m in diameter, and polygons for larger communities). Photographs were taken, and the data were recorded on the Oregon or Idaho Rare Plant Occurrence form.

Common		Survey	Counties		_	
Name	Scientific Name	Period(s)	Surveyed	Oregon <sup>1</sup>	Idaho <sup>2</sup>	Determination
Antelop Valley	Penstemon	3	Owyhee	N/A	BLM3	No occurrence
beardtongue	janishiae					
Bigelow's four-	Mirabilis laevis	N/A	N/A	ORBIC2	NL	N/A
o'clock	var. retorsa					
Calcareous	Eriogonum	2, 3	Umatilla,	N/A	BLM3	Present
buckwheat	ochrocephalum		Union, Baker,			
	var. calcareum		Malheur,			
			Owyhee			1
Cronquist's	Hackelia	2, 3	Union, Baker,	T, BLM(Sen),	NL	No occurrence <sup>+</sup>
stickseed	cronquistii		Malheur	ORBIC1		
Cusick's false	Chaenactis	3	Baker,	ORBIC4	BLM2	No occurrence <sup>4</sup>
yarrow	cusickii		Malheur,			
			Owyhee			
Cusick's lupine	Lupinus lepidus	N/A <sup>3</sup>	N/A	E, BLM(Sen),	NL	N/A
	var. cusickii			ORBIC1		
Desert	Chaenactis	3	Owyhee	N/A	BLM4	No occurrence
pincushion	stevioides		-			
Dimeresia	Dimeresia howellii	3	Owyhee	N/A	BLM3	No occurrence <sup>4</sup>
Douglas'	Trifolium douglasii	2	Union, Baker	BLM(Sen)	NL	N/A
clover	_					
Greeley's	Cymopterus	1	Union, Baker,	BLM(Sen),	BLM3	Present
wavewing	acaulis var.		Malheur,	ORBIC1		
	greeleyorum		Owyhee			
Howell's	Thelypodium	2, 3	Union, Baker	E, T(US)	T(US)	No occurrence
spectacular	howellii ssp.					
thelypody	spectabilis					

**Table 3-1.**Summary of 2011 SSP Survey

<sup>1</sup> ORBIC1 = ORBIC List 1 Species; taxa that are threatened with extinction or presumed to be extinct throughout their entire range.

ORBIC2 = ORBIC List 2 Species; taxa that are threatened with extirpation or presumed to be extirpated from the state of Oregon.

ORBIC4 = ORBIC List 4 Species; taxa which are of conservation concern but are not currently threatened or endangered in Oregon or throughout their range.

E = Oregon state endangered species

T = Oregon state threatened species

T(US) = Federally threatened species

BLM(Sen) = Oregon BLM sensitive species

<sup>2</sup> BLM1 = Species federally identified as threatened, endangered, proposed, candidate, or designated by the BLM state director as sensitive (Idaho).

BLM2 = Species that have a high likelihood of being listed in the foreseeable future due to their global rarity and significant endangerment factors (Idaho).

BLM3 = Species globally rare or very rare in Idaho, with moderate endangerment factors. Their global or state rarity and the inherent risks associated with rarity make them imperiled species.

BLM4 = Species generally rare in Idaho with small populations or a localized distribution and currently have low threat levels. However, due to the small populations and habitat area, certain future land uses in close proximity could significantly jeopardize these species.<sup>3</sup> No habitat was identified during Phase 1 analysis

NL= Not listed as a SSP in Idaho.

<sup>4</sup>. Survey outside of the presumed flowering period.

	-					
Common		Survey	Counties			
Name	Scientific Name	Period(s)	Surveyed	Oregon	Idaho	Determination
Laurent's milkvetch	Astragalus collinus var. laurentii	2	Morrow, Umatilla, Union, Baker	T, BLM(Sen), ORBIC1	NL	Present
Malheur yellow phacelia	Phacelia lutea var. calva	3	Owyhee	N/A	BLM3	No occurrence
Many-flowered phlox	Phlox multiflora	2	Union	BLM(Sen), ORBIC2	NL	N/A
Mulford's milkvetch	Astragalus mulfordiae	3	Union, Baker, Malheur, Owyhee	E, BLM(Sen), ORBIC1	BLM2	No occurrence <sup>4</sup>
Oregon prince's plume	Stanleya confertiflora	3	Union, Baker, Malheur	BLM(Sen)	BLM2	Present
Oregon semaphore grass	Pleuropogon oregonus	2	Union, Baker	T, BLM(Sen), ORBIC1	NL	No occurrence
Owyhee Clover	Trifolium owyheense	N/A <sup>3</sup>	N/A	BLM(Sen), ORBIC1	BLM2	N/A
Packard's mentzelia	Mentzelia packardiae	N/A <sup>3</sup>	N/A	T, BLM(Sen), ORBIC1	NL	N/A
Packard's wormwood	Artemisia packardiae	N/A <sup>3</sup>	N/A	ORHHIC4	NL	N/A
Red-fruited lomatium	Lomatium erythrocarpum	N/A <sup>3</sup>	N/A	E, BLM(Sen), ORBIC1	NL	N/A
Retrorse sedge	Carex retrorsa	N/A <sup>3</sup>	N/A	BLM(Sen), ORBIC2	NL	N/A
Salt heliotrope	Heliotropium curassavicum	2, 3	Morrow, Union, Baker	BLM(Sen), ORBIC2	NL	No occurrence
Simpson's hedgehog cactus	Pediocactus simpsonii	3	Owyhee	N/A	BLM4	No occurrence <sup>4</sup>

Table 3-2.	Summary	y of 2011	SSP	Survey	y (	(cont'd)	)
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<sup>1</sup> ORBIC1 = ORBIC List 1 Species; taxa that are threatened with extinction or presumed to be extinct throughout their entire range.

ORBIC2 = ORBIC List 2 Species; taxa that are threatened with extirpation or presumed to be extirpated from the state of Oregon.

ORBIC4 = ORBIC List 4 Species; taxa which are of conservation concern but are not currently threatened or endangered in Oregon or throughout their range.

E = Oregon state endangered species

T = Oregon state threatened species

T(US) = Federally threatened species

BLM(Sen) = Oregon BLM sensitive species

<sup>2</sup> BLM1 = Species federally identified as threatened, endangered, proposed, candidate, or designated by the BLM state director as sensitive (Idaho).

BLM2 = Species that have a high likelihood of being listed in the foreseeable future due to their global rarity and significant endangerment factors (Idaho).

BLM3 = Species globally rare or very rare in Idaho, with moderate endangerment factors. Their global or state rarity and the inherent risks associated with rarity make them imperiled species.

BLM4 = Species generally rare in Idaho with small populations or a localized distribution and currently have low threat levels. However, due to the small populations and habitat area, certain future land uses in close proximity could significantly jeopardize these species.<sup>3</sup> No habitat was identified during Phase 1 analysis

NL= Not listed as a SSP in Idaho.

<sup>4</sup>. Survey outside of the presumed flowering period.

Table 3-3.	Summary of	of 2011	SSP	Survey	/ (	(cont'd)	
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Common		Survey	Counties			
Name	Scientific Name	Period(s)	Surveyed	Oregon <sup>1</sup>	Idaho <sup>2</sup>	Determination
Slickspot peppergrass	Lepidium papilliferum	N/A <sup>3</sup>	N/A	T(US)	T(US), BLM1	N/A
Smooth blazingstar	Mentzelia mollis	3	Union, Baker, Malheur, Owyhee	E, BLM(Sen), ORBIC1	BLM2	No occurrence <sup>4</sup>
Snake River goldenweed	Pyrrocoma radiata	3	Union, Baker, Malheur	E, BLM(Sen), ORBIC1	BLM3	No occurrence
Sterile milkvetch	Astragalus cusickii var. sterilis	3	Baker, Malheur	T, BLM(Sen), ORBIC1	BLM3	No occurrence
White- margined wax plant	Glyptopleura marginata	3	Owyhee	N/A	BLM4	No occurrence <sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> ORBIC1 = ORBIC List 1 Species; taxa that are threatened with extinction or presumed to be extinct throughout their entire range.

ORBIC2 = ORBIC List 2 Species; taxa that are threatened with extirpation or presumed to be extirpated from the state of Oregon.

ORBIC4 = ORBIC List 4 Species; taxa which are of conservation concern but are not currently threatened or endangered in Oregon or throughout their range.

E = Oregon state endangered species

T = Oregon state threatened species

T(US) = Federally threatened species

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<sup>2</sup> BLM1 = Species federally identified as threatened, endangered, proposed, candidate, or designated by the BLM state director as sensitive (Idaho).

BLM2 = Species that have a high likelihood of being listed in the foreseeable future due to their global rarity and significant endangerment factors (Idaho).

BLM3 = Species globally rare or very rare in Idaho, with moderate endangerment factors. Their global or state rarity and the inherent risks associated with rarity make them imperiled species.

BLM4 = Species generally rare in Idaho with small populations or a localized distribution and currently have low threat levels. However, due to the small populations and habitat area, certain future land uses in close proximity could significantly jeopardize these species.<sup>3</sup> No habitat was identified during Phase 1 analysis

NL= Not listed as a SSP in Idaho.

<sup>4</sup>. Survey outside of the presumed flowering period.

## 4.0 FINDINGS

Four SSPs were observed throughout the Project area. Greeley's wavewing (*Cymopterus acaulis* var. *greeleyorum*) was found in the southern portion of the Project area near the Idaho–Oregon border during Survey Period 1. Laurent's milkvetch (*Astragalus collinus* var. *laurentii*) was found in the vicinity of Echo, Oregon, during Survey Period 2. Populations of calcareous buckwheat (*Eriogonum ochrocephalum* var. *calcareum*) and Oregon prince's plume (*Stanleya confertiflora*) were found growing south of Baker City, Oregon, during Survey Period 3. Additional populations of calcareous buckwheat and Oregon prince's plume species were located during a wetland survey and are included in this report under Survey Period 3.

### 4.1 Survey Period 1

Survey Period 1 occurred from April 24 to May 2, 2011, between mileposts (MP) 265 and 285. These mileposts fall within the Snake River Plain ecoregion. A total of 3 SPPs were included in this survey:

- Greeley's wavewing (Cymopterus acaulis var. greeleyorum)
- Cusick's false yarrow (Chaenactis cusickii)

• Smooth mentzelia (*Mentzelia mollis*)

Temperatures in early spring 2011 were much colder than average, leading to a delay in the onset of green-up (NCDC 2011). Due to the late spring, Greeley's wavewing was determined as the most likely to be in flower and was the focus species of this survey period. Greeley's wavewing is a perennial plant belonging to the carrot (*Apiaceae*) family. Its leaves are divided into lobed leaflets. The inflorescences consist of umbels made up of many small, yellow flowers with yellow stamens. The more common variety, *acualis*, has white stamens. The flowering period for this species is March through April, with fruits maturing in early June. Previous populations of Greeley's wavewing have been found in brown or white volcanic ash soils in Wyoming big sagebrush (*Artemisia tridentata* var. *wyomingensis*), salt desert shrub plants, and bunchgrass communities (BLM 2006).

During Survey Period 1, Greeley's wavewing was found at several locations between MPs 270 and 271 (Figure 4-1) and MPs 273.5 and 274.5 (Figure 4-2). With the exception of 1 population, all were located on BLM-managed lands. The populations observed during the field survey contained between 5 and 30 individuals. The populations were spatially clustered in locations with a low vegetative cover, low slope angle, and fine-silt loam soils. The populations were often found in previously disturbed areas and/or areas with a high percentage of invasive vegetation.

### 4.2 Survey Period 2

Survey Period 2 occurred from May 31 to June 8, 2011, between MPs 21 and 150. These MPs fall within a stretch that encompasses portions of both the Columbia Plateau and Blue Mountain ecoregions. A total of 8 SSPs were included in this survey:

- Laurent's milkvetch
- Salt heliotrope (*Heliotropium curassavicum*)
- Howell's spectacular thelypody (*Thelypodium howellii* ssp. spectabilis)
- Calcareous buckwheat
- Oregon semaphore grass (*Pleuropogon oregonus*)
- Douglas' clover (*Trifolium douglasii*)
- Many-flowered phlox (*Phlox multiflora*)
- Cronquist's stickseed (Hackelia cronquistii)

Laurent's milkvetch was found during the survey near MPs 55, 57, and 58 and between MPs 63 and 64 (Figure 4-3 through Figure 4-5). Laurent's milkvetch, a perennial herb of the pea family (*Fabaceae*), has cream-to-light-yellow flowers that usually bloom between May and July. The fruit pods mature between June and early August. Habitat for this species is thought to be dry slopes in areas with loess deposits, occasionally with sandy or rocky substrates, and is a cohabitant with bluebunch wheatgrass (*Pseudoroegneria spicata*) and Idaho fescue in roadsides or adjacent to wheat lands or farmlands in the palouse grassland and canyon communities (Tetra Tech 2011).

During this survey, a population of approximately 200 individuals of Laurent's milkvetch was found located on 20 acres of moderately sloping hillside at MP 55. Other species present consisted of native and non-native bunchgrasses, grey rabbitbrush (*Ericameria nauseosa*), and perennial and annual native forbs. Most of the area surrounding this hillside had been converted to agriculture. At MP 57, 3 individuals of Laurent's milkvetch were found in a small section of grassland abutting a Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) field composed primarily of crested wheatgrass (*Agropyron cristatum*). At MP 58, a dense population of over 300 individuals was located. Five miles to the east, approximately 12 individuals were located scattered over a 0.5-acre area. The area in which all populations of Laurent's milkvetch were found can be described as low-to-moderate rolling hills of agricultural land remnant of grassland mosaic, where the species occurs on hillslopes in the remnant grassland. All populations of Laurent's milkvetch were located on private land.

### 4.3 Survey Period 3

Survey Period 3 occurred from July 5 to July 14, 2011, between MPs 298 and 150. These MPs fall within a section of the ROW that passes through the Snake River Plain and a small portion of the Northern Basin and Range before transitioning to the Blue Mountain ecoregion towards the northern reach of the proposed Project. A total of 12 SSPs were included in this survey:

- Packard's milkvetch (Astragalus cusickii var. sterillis)
- Mulford's milkvetch (Astragalus mulfordiae)
- Cusick's false yarrow
- Dimeresia (Dimeresia howellii)
- Calcareous buckwheat
- Carveseed (*Glyptopleura marginata*)
- Cronquist's stickseed
- Salt heliotrope
- Ray goldenweed (*Pyrrocoma radiata*)
- Oregon prince's plume
- Howell's spectacular thelypody
- Smooth mentzelia

Calcareous buckwheat and Oregon prince's plume were located between MPs 177 and 178 (Figure 4-6) and 181 and 181.5 (Figure 4-7). The species were found in pockets of white-clay loam or silty white-clay soils on steep, dry, south- to southwest-facing slopes where little vegetation exists. The 2 species occur either intermingled or in close proximity to each other, with calcareous buckwheat as the dominant species. The habitat surrounding these populations can generally be characterized as rangeland. Dominate species include invasive grasses, native bunchgrasses, sagebrush species, and perennial and annual native forbs on low-to-steep hills. Rocky Mountain juniper (Juniperus scopulorum) occurs in the area (MPs 177 to 178) surrounding the northern populations. At this location, approximately 100 individuals of calcareous buckwheat and 42 individuals of Oregon prince's plume were located. Further south, between MPs 181 and 181.5, approximately 50 individuals of calcareous buckwheat were found in 2 populations, with 8 individuals of Oregon prince's plume occurring intermixed with the southernmost population of calcareous buckwheat. Another population of approximately 40 individuals of calcareous buckwheat was found just outside the transmission line ROW. The northernmost population found occurred on public (BLM-managed) land. The remaining populations were on private land.

During Survey Period 3, some individuals of goldenweeds (*Pyrrocoma*) were also found. Ray goldenweed and narrowhead goldenweed (*Pyrrocoma carthamoides*) were thought to have evolved into distinct species over a phytogeographic gradient, where physiological traits of narrowhead goldenweed were strongest in the southern portion of the Snake River Canyon, with traits of ray goldenweed coming in more strongly with northward progression. After consulting with the curator of the herbarium at the College of Idaho and reviewing herbarium specimens, it was determined that although there was some genetic variation from pure narrowhead goldenweed, the specimens found during the field survey were most appropriately grouped with narrowhead goldenweed (Mansfield 2011).

## 5.0 CONCLUSIONS

Tetra Tech surveyed approximately 9,000 acres of public and private lands occurring within the ROW of the Project for the presence of SSPs. Four SSPs occurring in 3 distinct habitat types were identified:

- Populations of Laurent's milkvetch were observed in Umatilla County, Oregon, between MPs 55 and 64.
- Populations of calcareous buckwheat and Oregon prince's plume were observed in Baker County, Oregon, between MPs 177 and 182.
- Populations of Greeley's wavewing were observed in Malheur County, Oregon, along the border of Owyhee County, Idaho, between MPs 270 and 275.

## 6.0 REFERENCES

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# **FIGURES**













TRANSMISSION LINE PROJECT DECEMBER 2011

![](_page_19_Figure_0.jpeg)

![](_page_20_Figure_0.jpeg)

![](_page_21_Picture_0.jpeg)

![](_page_21_Picture_1.jpeg)

### Survey Features

Special Status Plant Survey Area Greeley's Wavewing Single Occurrence with Number of Individuals

#### **Project Features**

- 5 Milepost Label
- Milepost
- Substation

Proposed Route
 Alternative Route

#### FIGURE 4-1 2011 SURVEY RESULTS GREELEY'S WAVEWING MILEPOSTS 270 TO 271

IDAHO POWER COMPANY BOARDMAN TO HEMINGWAY TRANSMISSION LINE PROJECT

![](_page_22_Picture_0.jpeg)

![](_page_22_Picture_1.jpeg)

- Special Status Plant Survey Area
- Greeley's Wavewing Single Occurrence with Number of Individuals
- 5 Milepost Label
- Milepost
- ▲ Substation
- Proposed Route
- Alternative Route

#### FIGURE 4-2 2011 SURVEY RESULTS GREELEY'S WAVEWING MILEPOSTS 273 TO 275

IDAHO POWER COMPANY BOARDMAN TO HEMINGWAY TRANSMISSION LINE PROJECT

![](_page_23_Picture_0.jpeg)

![](_page_23_Picture_1.jpeg)

#### Survey Features Special Status Plant Survey Area Laurent's Milkvetch Population

#### Project Features

- 5 Milepost Label
- Milepost
- ▲ Substation
- Proposed Route
- Alternative Route

BOARDMAN TO HEMINGWAY TRANSMISSION LINE PROJECT

**2011 SURVEY RESULTS** 

LAURENT'S MILKVETCH

**MILEPOSTS 54 TO 56** 

**IDAHO POWER COMPANY** 

![](_page_24_Picture_0.jpeg)

![](_page_24_Picture_1.jpeg)

## Survey Features

Special Status Plant Survey Area

#### Project Features

- 5 Milepost Label
- Milepost
- ▲ Substation
- Proposed Route
  - Alternative Route

FIGURE 4-4 2011 SURVEY RESULTS LAURENT'S MILKVETCH MILEPOSTS 57 TO 59

IDAHO POWER COMPANY BOARDMAN TO HEMINGWAY TRANSMISSION LINE PROJECT

![](_page_25_Picture_0.jpeg)

![](_page_25_Picture_1.jpeg)

#### Survey Features

Special Status Plant Survey Area Laurent's Milkvetch Single Occurrence with Number of Individuals

Laurent's Milkvetch Population

### **Project Features**

- ⑤ Milepost Label
- Milepost
- Substation

Proposed Route
 Alternative Route

Alternative Route

#### FIGURE 4-5 2011 SURVEY RESULTS LAURENT'S MILKVETCH MILEPOSTS 63 TO 64

IDAHO POWER COMPANY BOARDMAN TO HEMINGWAY TRANSMISSION LINE PROJECT

![](_page_26_Picture_0.jpeg)

![](_page_26_Picture_1.jpeg)

Feet

DAHO POWER

An IDACORP C

- Proposed Route
- Alternative Route

and OREGON PRINCE'S PLUME MILEPOSTS 177 TO 178 IDAHO POWER COMPANY BOARDMAN TO HEMINGWAY TRANSMISSION LINE PROJECT

![](_page_27_Picture_0.jpeg)

![](_page_27_Picture_1.jpeg)

- Proposed Route

Alternative Route

d OREGON PRINCE'S PLUME MILEPOSTS 181 TO 183 IDAHO POWER COMPANY BOARDMAN TO HEMINGWAY TRANSMISSION LINE PROJECT

2012 Report

![](_page_29_Picture_0.jpeg)

complex world

2012 Special Status Plant Surveys

Boardman to Hemingway Transmission Line Project

![](_page_29_Picture_3.jpeg)

4348RPT.DOC December 2012

**CLEAR SOLUTIONS™** 

## **2012 Special Status Plant Surveys**

## Boardman to Hemingway Transmission Line Project

Prepared for:

### Idaho Power Company

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December 2012

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## 1 1.0 INTRODUCTION

Idaho Power Company (IPC) is proposing to construct and operate a new, approximately 2 300-mile-long, single-circuit 500-kilovolt (kV) electric transmission line between northeast 3 Oregon and southwest Idaho referred to as the Boardman to Hemingway Transmission Line 4 Project (Project). The overhead 500-kV transmission line will carry energy bi-directionally 5 between a Portland General Electric (PGE) planned substation (Grassland Substation) adjacent 6 to the Boardman generating plant near Boardman in Morrow County, Oregon, and IPC's 7 existing Hemingway Substation in Owyhee County, Idaho. The Project will traverse federal, 8 state, and private lands in 6 counties in Oregon and Idaho. Figure 1 documents the Project 9 location, proposed route and route alternatives. All figures are located at the end of this report. 10 The Project would result in disturbances related to the construction of permanent facilities, 11 12 such as transmission tower pads, substations, communication sites, and permanent access roads, as well as temporary disturbances related to multiuse areas, tensioning sites, and 13 temporary access roads. To help determine the degree of impact that could occur from the 14 construction of these Project components, the presence of Bureau of Land Management (BLM) 15 and U.S. Forest Service (USFS) listed sensitive plant species; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 16 17 (USFWS) listed threatened, endangered, proposed, and candidate plant species; and Oregonstate-listed threatened and endangered species, collectively referred to here as special-status 18 plant (SSP) species, within the proposed Project right-of-way (ROW) are required to be 19 evaluated. Nomenclature for SSP species in this report first follows Oregon BLM special status 20 21 species list (BLM 2011a), then the Idaho BLM SSP list (BLM 2011b); NRCS PLANTS database (USDA, NRCS 2012) is used for all other species. 22 23 As proposed, the Project would cross public and private lands. Public lands that would be

crossed are managed, in part, with the intent of conserving populations of SSP species, and 24 public-land managers have gathered data on some of the lands they manage. Data for private 25 26 lands, with the exception of some statewide data gathered by state agencies, are largely unavailable. As a result, existing databases cannot be relied on to comprehensively evaluate 27 habitat that could be impacted by the Project. Therefore, surveys of SSP species were 28 29 implemented to supplement existing data. Field surveys could not be conducted in all suitable habitats crossed by the Project because IPC does not currently have access to all private land 30 31 crossed by the proposed route.

## 32 **2.0 SURVEY AREA**

The Project area can be divided into 4 broad ecoregions; the Blue Mountains, the Columbia Plateau, the Snake River Plain, and small portions of the Northern Basin and Range.

The northern portion of the Project crosses through the Columbia Plateau and Blue Mountains level III ecoregions (Thorson et al. 2003). The native vegetation within the Columbia Plateau ecoregion typically consists of arid sagebrush steppe and grassland types; however, much of

this ecoregion has been converted to agricultural use in the form of wheat cultivation

39 (EPA 2011). The Blue Mountain ecoregion consists of a complex of mountain ranges generally

lower and more open than neighboring ranges (e.g., the Cascades and Northern Rockies). This
 ecoregion typically supports mixed coniferous vegetation types; however, portions of this

42 ecoregion are currently disturbed by cattle grazing as well as other disturbance types

43 (EPA 2011; Powell et al. 2007).

The southern portion of the Project crosses through the Snake River Plain and the Northern
Basin and Range level III ecoregions (Thorson et al. 2003). The native vegetation within the
Snake River Plain ecoregion typically consists of sagebrush-grassland vegetation types. This
ecoregion is considerably lower in elevation and has more gently sloping areas than the

1 surrounding ecoregions, resulting in a greater availability of water. As a result, much of the Snake River Plain ecoregion has been converted to agricultural use, the principal crops being 2 3 sugar beets, potatoes, alfalfa, and vegetables (EPA 2011). The Northern Basin and Range ecoregion contains a diverse range of landforms, including tablelands, dissected lava plains, 4 valleys, alluvial fans, and scattered mountains. Non-mountainous areas in this ecoregion 5 6 typically contain sagebrush steppe vegetation types, while mountainous areas typically contain 7 big sagebrush (Artemisia tridentata), Idaho fescue (Festuca idahoensis), Douglas-fir 8 (Pseudotsuga menziesii), and quaking aspen (Populus tremulodies). Portions of the Northern Basin and Range ecoregion have been converted into rangeland and agricultural uses (EPA 9 2011).

10

11 Preliminary surveys began in 2011 and results are reported in the 2011 technical report (Tetra

Tech 2011a). This report documents results from 2012 surveys, with mention of some 2011 12

13 results where appropriate. The 2012 SSP survey area was updated from 2011 to include

additional survey areas resulting from changes in ROW alignment and survey methodology. The 14

2012 SSP survey area (Figures 2 through 28) included all portions of the Project area that are 15 16 within 250 feet of the proposed route centerline, the Double Mountain, Glass Hill, Malheur S,

17 and Willow Creek alternatives and the 138/69kV rebuild (the Longhorn and Flagstaff alternatives

were not included in the survey area because access to private land along those routes had not 18

vet been requested). Access roads were included out to 30, 50 or 100 feet on either side of the 19

centerline, depending on the level of disturbances expected. The footprints of staging and fly 20

vards were also included (Tetra Tech 2011b). 21

22 The survey area crossed public and private lands. Lands under the administration of the USFS,

23 BLM, and Oregon state parks were surveyed in their entirety, except where access restrictions

on adjacent private land prevented reasonable access or where terrain was prohibitive. Private 24

25 lands were accessed where landowners agreed to allow access for biological surveys. Approximately 15,250 acres (48%) of the SSP species survey area occurred on public land. An 26

additional 11,625 acres (37%) occurred on private land where the owners had granted right-of-27

entry for biological surveys. Accordingly, access was available to approximately 26,875 acres or 28

85% of the 2012 survey area (Figures 2 through 28). 29

#### **METHODS** 30 3.0

31 The 2012 survey included 4 survey periods. These survey periods took place between April and July of 2012. Surveys were conducted within the proposed ROW and alternatives, buffers to 32 access roads, and associated disturbance areas (survey area). The timing and breadth of the 33 34 SSP surveys conducted in 2011 (Tetra Tech 2011a) were not ideal for the identification of some SSP species. The objective of the 2012 survey was to gather data not captured during the 2011 35 SSP survey, and to address agency comments on those results. Forty-four SSP species were 36 included in the 2012 survey, which was an increase from the 2011 survey. The list was revised 37 to accommodate recent revisions to both the Oregon and Idaho BLM SSP lists (BLM 2011a and 38 39 BLM 2011b), as well as to include species deemed overlooked during initial SSP list development with federal agencies, prior to 2011 surveys (Appendix A). The 2012 SSP list was 40 updated from the 2011 SSP list to include 5 species recently added to the Oregon and Idaho 41 BLM SSP lists (BLM 2011a and BLM 2011b), as well as 5 additional species that were 42 overlooked prior to 2011 surveys. 43

44 The 2011 survey took a 2 phase approach: Phase 1 identified areas of suitable habitat through geographic information system (GIS) analysis of National Agriculture Imagery Program (NAIP), 45 46 Northwest Regional Gap Analysis Landcover Data (NWGAP), and Oregon Biodiversity 47 Information Center and Idaho Department of Fish and Game known elemental occurrence data. In Phase 2, biologists surveyed the identified suitable habitat polygons. This methodology of 48

habitat mapping was developed through discussions with land managers and biologists from the 49

- 1 BLM, USFS, and other agencies in meetings held prior to the 2011 field surveys. During the
- 2 2011 survey, SSPs were found in areas where suitable habitat had not been identified.
- 3 Additionally, habitat classifications were often inaccurate when compared to field observed
- 4 habitat type, suggesting the accuracy of this method did not justify carrying it forth. Utilization of
- 5 this method was not continued in to the 2012 survey season.
- 6 During 2012 surveys, biologist familiar with the SSPs and their associated habitats traversed 7 representative cross sections of accessible portions of the study area to identify locations with
- high potential for SSP occurrence. Habitat for SSPs was defined from Oregon Department of
- Agriculture (ODA) Plant Conservation program guidelines, BLM field guides, descriptions
- 10 associated with herbarium species at the College of Idaho and entries in *Flora of the Pacific*
- 11 *Northwest* (Hitchcock and Cronquist 1973). When potential habitat was identified, a complete
- 12 visual survey was performed by systematically walking transects across the identified area at a
- 13 distance adjusted to accommodate for variations in terrain, vegetation and species likely to
- 14 occur.
- 15 Surveys were conducted in late April, early May, late May to early June, and mid-July; within the
- agency recommended survey window for the species, and when species phenology was
- 17 conducive to identification. The survey area was located using either a Trimble GeoXT 6000,
- 18 global positioning system (GPS) unit, or a Juniper Systems Mesa notepad (Mesa). Both types of
- 19 GPS units were equipped with Esri ArcPAD 10 field mapping and data collection software.
- 20 Species identification was verified using *Flora of the Pacific Northwest* by Hitchcock and 21 Cronguist (1973) and *Intermountain Flora* (Cronguist et al. 1972). When necessary, species
- 22 were compared to herbarium specimens held in the College of Idaho herbarium. When a SSP
- was located, a GPS position was recorded, along with associated data consistent with the
- 24 Oregon Rare Plant Field Survey Form and Idaho Rare Plant Report Form (survey
- 25 geodatabase). Point locations were recorded for SSP occurrences occupying an area less than
- 100 meters in diameter, the approximate area occupied by the occurrence was then noted in the
- SSP survey geodatabase. Polygons were walked around larger occurrences, where possible, or
- boundaries were delineated by taking several GPS points. In addition to GPS location and area
   occupied by a SSP occurrence, the following information was recorded in the SSP survey
- 30 geodatabase:
- 31 Aspect of slope
- 32 Slope angle
- 33 Associated plant species
- 34 County
- 35 Elevation range
- 36 General plant community/habitat
- 37 Light available
- 38 Number of species found
- 39 Phenological phase
- 40 Soil type
- 41 Soil moisture
- 42 Topographic position
- 43 Vigor
- 44 Visible threats

- 1 A geotagged photo of the SSP was also taken at each location using the built in camera on the
- 2 GPS unit. Photos are included in Appendix B. A "tracklog" file of continuously collected GPS
- points was collected and used to document the area covered by the survey teams. This data
- 4 was then used determine the total area covered during the 2012 SSP surveys (Figures 2
- 5 through 28).
- 6 Appendix A summarizes the species included in the 2012 SSP survey, the survey period for
- each species, the spatial extent (by county) in which each species was surveyed, and thesurvey results.

## 9 **4.0 RESULTS**

- 10 9 SSPs were observed within the survey area during 2012 surveys. They are as follows:
- 11 Biennial stanleya (*Stanleya confertiflora*)
- 12 Calcareous buckwheat (*Eriogonum ochrocephalum* var. *calcareum*)
- 13 Cronquist's stickseed (*Hackelia cronquistii*)
- 14 Cusick's false yarrow (Chaenactis cusickii)
- 15 Douglas' clover (*Trifolium douglasii*)
- 16 Janish's penstemon (*Penstemon janishiae*)
- 17 Malheur cryptantha (*Crypthantha propria*)
- 18 Smooth mentzelia (Mentzelia mollis)
- 19 Snake River goldenweed (*Pyrrocoma radiata*)

Cronquist's stickseed, Cusick's false yarrow, Malheur cryptantha, and Janish's penstemon were
found in Malheur County during the early May field survey period. Smooth mentzelia and
Cusick's false yarrow were also found in Owyhee County during this survey period. Calcareous
buckwheat, biennial stanleya and Snake River goldenweed were found in Baker County during
the June survey period. Douglas's clover was found in Union County during a Terrestrial and
Visual Encounter Survey (TVES) and during a wetland survey. No SSPs where found in
Umatilla or Morrow counties.

### 27 4.1 Survey Period 1- April

Survey Period 1 took place on April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2012 in Malheur County between mileposts 271 and
277 of the proposed route, and mileposts 32 to 34 of the Malheur S alternative. This survey area
consisted of low density sagebrush shrubland with an understory dominated by cheatgrass
(*Bromus tectorum*). Temperature in March was slightly below average, temperatures for April
were near average. Precipitation for March was 100 mm above average, while April precipitation
was 25 mm above average (NOAA/CPC, 2012).

- 34 This survey period was specific to Greeley's cymopterus (*Cymopterus acaulis* var.
- 35 greeleyorum). Greeley's cymopterus is an early (March-April) flowering perennial of the carrot
- family (Apiaceae), endemic to the Owyhee uplands and foothills. It is distinguished from the
- 37 more common variety plains springparsely (*Cymopterus acaulis* var. *acaulis*) by its yellow
- 38 (versus white) flowers and stamens. Greeley's cymopterus was found within the survey area
- during 2011 surveys; however it was not observed during the 2012 surveys. Populations of a
- variety of plains springparsley (*Cymopterus acaulis*) were found in close proximity to the survey
- area; however identification to variety could not be made due to the lack of flowers. No
- 42 Greeley's cymopterus was observed within the survey area in 2012.
## 1 4.2 Survey Period 2- May

Survey Period 2 occurred between April 30<sup>th</sup> and May 9<sup>th</sup> of 2012. This survey took place in 2 Owyhee and Malheur counties between mileposts 205 and 300 of the proposed route. The 3 Malheur S, the Double Mountain Alternative, and portions of the Willow Creek Alternative were 4 also surveyed during this period, within Malheur County. This area is part of the Snake River 5 Plain ecoregion and consists of basalt canyons, hills and plains. The native upland vegetation 6 consists of a big sagebrush steppe and desert scrub with an understory of native grasses, such 7 as bluebunch wheatgrass (Pseudoroegneria spicata) and Sandberg bluegrass (Poa secunda), 8 which have largely given way to cheatgrass. Predominant land use is cattle grazing; recreational 9 use of off-road-vehicles (ORVs) is also common in this area. The following species were 10 included in this survey: 11

- 12 Biennial stanleya
- 13 Bigelow's four-o'clock (*Mirabilis laevis* var. retorsa)
- 14 Calcareous buckwheat
- 15 Cronquist's stickseed
- 16 Cusick's lupine (Lupinus lepidus var. cusickii)
- 17 Cusick's false yarrow
- 18 Davis' peppergrass (Lepidium davisii)
- 19 Desert pincushion (Chaenatcis stevoidies)
- 20 Doublet (Dimeresia howellii)
- 21 Golden buckwheat (*Eriogonum chrysops*)
- Howell's spectacular thelypody (*Thelypodium howellii* ssp. spectabilis)
- 23 Janish's penstemon
- 24 Least phacelia (*Phacelia minutissima*)
- 25 Least snapdragon (Sairocarpus kingii)
- 26 Malheur cryptantha
- Malheur yellow phacelia (*Phacelia lutea* var. *calva*)
- Mulford's milk-vetch (Astragalus mulfordiae)
- 29 Owyhee clover (*Trifolium owyheense*)
- 30 Packard's desert parsley (*Lomatium packardiae*)
- 31 Packard's mentzelia (Mentzelia packardiae)
- 32 Packard's wormwood (Artemisia packardiae)
- 33 Rigid threadbush (*Nemacladus rigidus*)
- 34 Rose's lomatium (*Lomatium roseanum*)
- 35 Salt heliotrope (*Heliotropium curassavicum*)
- 36 Simpon's hedgehog cactus (*Pediocactus simpsonii*)
- 37 Slickspot peppergrass (Lepidium papilliferum)
- 38 Smooth mentzelia
- 39 Snake River goldenweed

- 1 Snake River milkvetch (Astragalus purshii var. ophinogenes)
- 2 • Sterile milk-vetch (Astragalus cusickii var. sterilis)
- Stiff milkvetch (Astragalus conjunctus) 3
- Turtleback (Psathyrotes annua) 4 •

6

- White false tickhead (Eatonella nivea) 5
  - White-margined wax plant (*Glyptopleura marginata*)

7 Precipitation for early winter 2011 was below average, late winter and spring 2012 precipitation levels were normal to slightly above normal (NOAA/CPC 2012). Temperatures for the same 8 period ranged from slightly below to slightly above normal. Species phenology was predicted to 9 be within normal range; surveys were timed to accommodate the recommended survey period 10 of all the above listed species. Cronquist's stickseed. Cusick's false varrow. Janish's 11 penstemon, and smooth mentzelia were located during this survey period. All SSPs identified 12 during this survey period were in flower at the time of the survey. 13

14 Cronquist's stickseed is a perennial forb of the borage family (Boraginaceae). It can be readily differentiated from similar, more common species of stickseed (Hackelia) by its sparsely 15 strigose to glabrous stem. The populations found during this survey period were located in 16 Malheur County, south of highway 20, along the proposed route by milepost 269.5 and along 17 18 the Malheur S alternative by mileposts 1.6 and 0 (at the north terminus of the alternative where it meets the proposed route). All populations observed where on the north facing aspects of 19 20 moderate slopes, in moist, shaded understories of sagebrush between 3,000 and 3,500 feet. 21 Associated species included: Indian ricegrass (Achnatherum hymenoides), Wyoming big 22 sagebrush (Artemesia tridentata var. wyomingensis), bluebunch wheatgrass, yellow rabbitbrush (Chrysothamnus viscidiflorus), Sandberg bluegrass and various forbs. Approximately 600 23 individuals were found in the northern population, the southern population was smaller, 24 25 consisting of roughly 200 individuals. All populations were located on BLM managed land (Figures 22 and 26). 26

27 Cusick's false varrow is an annual forb of the aster family (Asteraceae) endemic to Malheur and

Owyhee counties. It is easily identified by its small size and unique leaf structure. Cusick's false 28

- yarrow was found in 4 separate locations within both Malheur and Owyhee County. One 29
- 30 population was encountered along the southern portion of the Malheur S alternative by milepost
- 31 in Malheur County (Figure 26). An estimated 2,000 individuals occurred over a third of a mile 31 stretch along a proposed access road. Additional populations occurred by milepost 7.5 of the
- 32 33 Malheur S alternative (Figure 23), where 15 individuals were located, and along an access road
- near milepost 238.5, where a population of 20 individuals was located (Figure 22). A small 34
- population of 15 individuals was found growing adjacent to smooth mentzelia in Owyhee County 35
- near milepost 291 (Figure 27). In all instances, the habitat was open, sparsely vegetated to 36
- barren flat to moderate slopes of gravelly or white clay soils at 2,500 to 3,000 feet in elevation. 37
- Associated species included: shadscale (Atriplex confertifolia), cheatgrass, squirreltail (Elymus 38
- elymoides), and Sandberg bluegrass. Uses of this area include livestock grazing and 39
- recreational ORV use. Populations were located on BLM managed land. 40
- 41 Janish's penstemon is a perennial forb of the figwort family (Scrophulariaceae); it is
- distinguishable by its exerted, coiled staminoide. Approximately 16 individuals were found 42
- during the survey located along proposed access roads by milepost 277.5 of the proposed 43
- route, in Owyhee County (Figure 26). Another population of 5 individuals was located by 44
- 45 milepost 11.5 of the Willow Creek alternative, in Malheur County (Figure 19). The species was
- 46 found in loose, dry, light colored sandy loam soils at the bottom of sparsely vegetated drainages
- or low rolling hill slopes. Associated species included: yellow rabbitbrush, broom snakeweed 47

- 1 (*Gutierrezia sarothrae*), shadscale, and Wyoming big sagebrush. Populations were located on 2 BLM managed land in a popular ORV recreational use area.
- 2 BLM managed land in a popular ORV recreational use area.
- 3 Malheur cryptantha is a perennial plant of the borage family (Boraginaceae). It can be
- 4 distinguished from other similar species by its gray leaves and nutlets. Malheur cryptantha was
- 5 found in Malheur County along the proposed route near mileposts 270 (Figure 26). It was also
- 6 located along the Malheur S alternative near mileposts 20 and 21 (Figure 24). Approximately
- 7 100 individuals were found near milepost 270; approximately 200 individuals were located by
- 8 mileposts 20 and 21 of the Malheur S alternative. All populations were located on flat to
- 9 moderate terrain in open areas on fine loam or desert pavement between 2,500 and 3,000 feet,
- in dry habitats with Sandberg bluegrass, squirreltail, yellow rabbitbrush, Indian ricegrass,
- spineless horsesbrush (*Tetradymia canescens*), broom snakeweed, and Wyoming big
- 12 sagebrush. All populations were located on BLM managed land.
- 13 Smooth mentzelia is a small annual forb of the blazing star family (Loasaceae) which can be
- 14 distinguished from similar species by is absent basal rosette and stoutness of stem. It was
- 15 found in Owyhee County by milepost 292.5 of the proposed route (Figures 27 and 28).
- 16 Approximately 200 individuals were located growing in fine sandy clay soils on a moderate,
- open, south facing slope in between 2,500 and 3,000 feet. Another smaller population was
- 18 found near milepost 291, also in Owyhee County (Figure 27). The smaller population had
- 19 approximately 50 individuals growing adjacent to Cusick's false yarrow on a relatively flat area
- 20 with barren gravelly brownish to off-white tuff soils. Populations were located on BLM managed
- 21 land in areas where the primary land uses are grazing and ORV recreation.

## 22 4.3 Survey Period 3- June

Survey Period 3 occurred from May 29<sup>th</sup> to June 7<sup>th</sup> of 2012. This survey took place in Baker
and Malheur Counties between mileposts 240 and 135. The remaining portion of the Willow
Creek alternative (milepost 0-16) was also visited during this survey period, in Baker County.
The primary ecoregion for this portion of the survey area is the Snake River Plain ecoregion,
transitioning to the foothills of the Blue Mountains in Baker County. The following species were

- 28 included in this survey period:
- 29 Biennial stanleya
- 30 Calcereous buckwheat
- 31 Cronquist's stickseed
- 32 Cusick's false yarrow
- 33 Cusick's lupine
- 34 Davis' peppergrass
- 35 Doublet
- 36 Douglas' clover
- 37 Golden buckwheat
- 38 Howell's spectacular thelopody
- 39 Least phacelia
- 40 Least snapdragon
- 41 Liverwort (Lophozia gillmanii)
- 42 Mountain grape-fern (*Botrychium montanum*)
- 43 Oregon semaphoregrass (*Pleuropogon oregonus*)

- Red-fruit lomatium (Lomatium erythrocarpum)
- 2 Retrorse sedge (*Carex retrorsa*)
- 3 Salt heliotrope

1

- 4 Simpson's hedgehog cactus
- 5 Snake River goldenweed
- 6 Stiff milkvetch
- 7 Western moonwort (*Botrychium hesperium*)

Precipitation levels for late spring of 2012 were within normal range, temperatures were 0-2.5
degrees Celsius below normal (NOAA/CPC 2012). Calcareous buckwheat, biennial stanleya
and Snake River goldenweed were found during this survey period. Surveys were timed to
accommodate the recommended survey period of all the above listed species and account for
varying species phenology. Calcareous buckwheat and Snake River goldenweed were in partial

to full flower at the time of the survey. Biennial stanleya was in bud to partial flower.

14 3 populations of calcareous buckwheat, roughly 200 individuals in total, were found near

milepost 184 of the proposed route (Figure 15). An additional population, previously identified in

16 2011, was located near milepost 180 of the proposed route (Figure 15). Roughly 120 individuals

were found at this location in 2012, an increase from what was observed in 2011. All

18 populations occurred on open, semi-barren hillsides in tan to white colored calcareous soils.

19 This species was distinguished from golden buckwheat, another SSP included in this survey, by

20 the number of involucres of the inflorescence and the number of involucre teeth. Associated

21 species included: biennial stanleya, Wyoming big sage, yellow rabbitbrush, Sandberg's

bluegrass, and Great Basin buckwheat (*Eriogonum microthecum*). Due to a change in the ROW

alignment between 2011 and 2012, populations found at mileposts 177-178 in 2011 (roughly
 mileposts 181-182 in 2012), were no longer located within the 2012 survey area. All populations

25 observed were located on private land.

Biennial stanleya was located near milepost 184.5, adjacent to a population of calcareous

27 buckwheat, in similar habitat (Figure 15). This species was distinguished from similar species

based primarily on its biennial growth form. 10 individuals were found with flowering stalks, with

at least a dozen more individuals displaying only the basal rosette of the first year growth. This population is on private land, located on hillsides above a pasture; it was previously located

31 during the 2011 survey.

32 Snake River goldenweed is a perennial species of the aster family (Asteraceae). It is similar to the more common largeflower goldenweed (*Pyrrocoma carthamoides*), but is set apart by its 33 wider leaves and stems which are glabrous throughout. Several broadly scattered populations 34 of goldenweed (Pyrrocoma spp.) were found between mileposts 187 and 195.5 of the proposed 35 36 route, and by mileposts 2 and 4 of the proposed 138/69kV rebuild, both in Baker County (Figures 16 and 17). Characteristics varied by individual, however most had leaf widths 37 38 averaging 5 cm and glabrous stems. Snake River goldenweed has leaf widths of 5 cm and over: 39 largeflower goldenweed has leaf widths between 0.5 to 4 cm and its stems are glabrate to canescent-villous. Physiological differences between largeflower goldenweed and Snake River 40 41 goldenweed are thought to have evolved along a phytogeographic gradient; physiological traits of largeflower goldenweed are strongest in the southern portion of the Snake River Canyon, 42 with traits of Snake River goldenweed coming in more strongly with northward progression 43 44 (Mansfield 2011). During the 2011 SSP surveys, some individuals of goldenweeds were also found in this area; however, these congeners appeared to be most appropriately grouped with 45 largeflower goldenweed. The 2012 survey found a broader population distribution and a larger 46 47 number of specimens, most, though not all of which, appear to display traits more consistent

48 with Snake River goldenweed. Populations occurred on both public (BLM) and private lands.

### 1 4.4 Survey Period 4 - July

Survey period 4 took place between July 9<sup>th</sup> and July 18<sup>th</sup> of 2012 in Morrow, Umatilla, and 2 Union counties. The higher elevation portion of the survey area included the Blue Mountains 3 and its foothills. Spruce-fir forests and mountain mixed shrub ecosystems are common in this 4 region. The predominant land types at lower elevations were agricultural, Conservation Reserve 5 Program (CRP) and range lands, with small inclusions of remnant native sagebrush and 6 grassland ecosystems, often containing a high component of noxious or invasive weeds. 7 Previous month's temperature were approximately 1°C below average, precipitation was within 8 normal range. July temperatures were approximately 1.5°C above average, with precipitation 9 levels at average to slightly above (NOAA/CPC 2012). Species phenology was predicted to be 10 within normal range. The following species were included in this survey: 11

- 12 Calcareous buckwheat
- 13 Douglas' clover
- 14 Howell's spectacular thelopody
- 15 Least phacelia
- 16 Liverwort
- 17 Many-flowered phlox
- 18 Mountain grape-fern
- 19 Oregon semaphoregrass
- 20 Retrorse sedge
- Salt heliotrope
- Simpson's hedgehog cactus
- Snake River goldenweed
- Stiff milkvetch
- 25 Western moonwort
- 26 No SSPs were located during this survey period.

#### 27 4.5 Non-targeted Survey

4 SSPs were observed during biological surveys were SSPs were not the target of the survey,
 mostly during TVES surveys or during wetland surveys. Species observed during these surveys
 included Cronquist's stickseed, Snake River goldenweed, and Douglas' clover.

- 5 individuals of Douglas' clover were found in Union County during a TVES survey on July 15th
- near milepost 130. Twelve individuals were also found near milepost 127 during a wetland survey on July 30<sup>th</sup> (Figure 10). Douglas' clover is a perennial clover endemic to the Blue
- Mountains and near-by areas. It was identified based on its 3 parted leaves and the downward
- 35 curve of its calyx teeth.
- 36 Several locations of Snake River goldenweed were observed during TVES surveys on June 9,
- 10, 11, and 13, 2012 in Baker County. These observations were summarized within Survey
- 38 Period 3 above.
- An additional location of Cronquist's stickseed was observed in Malheur County on May 20,
- 40 2012 during a TVES survey; this observation was summarized within Survey Period 2 above.

# 1 5.0 CONCLUSIONS

Tetra Tech surveyed approximately 18,330 acres of public and private land within fly yards and 2 3 staging areas, along with buffered areas of the proposed route, alternatives, and access roads, for the presence of SSPs. Of the total 31,638 acres of survey area, 57% were surveyed for the 4 presence of SSPs; 3,252 acres were not accessible due to access restrictions on private land. 5 An additional 3,686 acres of private land and approximately 6,370 acres of federal and state 6 land were not accessible due inability to access parcels without crossing restricted private land 7 and/or terrain restrictions. Nine SSPs were found within the survey area and an additional SSP, 8 stiff milkvetch, was observed just outside of the survey area. Two species, biennial stanleya and 9 calcareous buckwheat, were previously found during the 2011 surveys. Greeley's cymopterus 10 was found in the survey area during the 2011 surveys but was not identified in 2012 surveys. 11 12 Laurent's milkvetch (Astragalus collinus var. laurentii) was found in the survey area during the 2011 surveys, but is no longer considered a sensitive species, so it was not included in the 2012 13 survey. The following species were found within the survey area during the 2012 surveys: 14

Approximately 270 individuals of calcareous buckwheat were observed in Baker County near
 mileposts 180 and 184.5.

17 Cronquist's stickseed was found in Malheur County. Roughly 200 individuals were located along

the proposed route by milepost 269.5, with an additional 600 located along the Malheur S alternative by mileposts 1.6 and 0.

20 Populations of Cusick's false yarrow were observed in Malheur County near milepost 31 of the

21 Malheur S alternative and in Owyhee County near milepost 291 of the proposed route.

17 individuals of Douglas' clover were found in Union County near milepost 127 and 130.

A population of 16 Janish's penstemon individuals was found in Owyhee County by milepost

24 277.5 of the proposed route. An additional population of 5 was located near milepost 11.5 of the

25 Willow Creek alternative in Malheur County.

Approximately 250 Malheur cryptantha individuals were observed in Malheur County between near milepost 1 and 20 of the Malheur S alternative, and by milepost 270 of the proposed route.

Biennial stanleya was located near milepost 184.5, in Baker County. 10 individuals were found with a flowering stalk and an additional dozen were found with only the basal rosette present.

30 Scattered populations of over 600 individuals of goldenweed, where traits of Snake River

31 goldenweed were the most dominant, were located between mileposts 187 and 195.5 of the 32 proposed route in Baker County.

33 Approximately 200 individuals of smooth mentzelia were found in Owyhee County by milepost

292.5 of the proposed route. An additional 50 individuals were found near milepost 291 of the

35 proposed route, also in Owyhee County.

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**FIGURES** 



















FIGURE 6 SPECIAL STATUS PLANT SURVEY RESULTS DRAFT 2012 SPECIAL STATUS PLANT SURVEY TECHNICAL REPORT			Special Status Plants Observed				Land Ownership			
		Surveyed Area		Calcareous buckwheat		Malheur cryptantha		Bureau of Land Management		Other F
		Unsurveyed Area		Cronquist's stickseed		Biennial stanleya		Bureau of Reclamation		Private
BOARDMAN TO HEMINGWAY		<sup>52</sup> Milepost		Cusick's false yarrow	$\star$	Smooth mentzelia		Department of Defense		State
500kV TRANSMISSION LINE PROJECT OREGON-IDAHO		County Boundary	$\star$	Douglas' clover	•	Snake River goldenweed		CTUIR Lands		U.S. Fis
NOVEMBER 2012	An IDACORP Company	State Boundary	•	Janish's penstemon				National Park Service		U.S. Fo





Land Ownership					
Management	Other F				
mation	Private				
efense	State				
	U.S. Fis				
ervice	U.S. Fo				





Land Ownership				
Land Management		Other F		
Reclamation		Private		
nt of Defense		State		
ds		U.S. Fis		
ark Service		U.S. Fo		





Land Ownership				
I Management	Other F			
amation	Private			
Defense	State			
	U.S. Fis			
Service	U.S. Fo			





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FIGURE 15 SPECIAL STATUS PLANT SURVEY RESULTS DRAFT 2012 SPECIAL STATUS PLANT SURVEY TECHNICAL REPORT		Special Status Plants Observed					Land Ownership			
		Surveyed Area		Calcareous buckwheat		Malheur cryptantha		Bureau of Land Management		Other
		Unsurveyed Area		Cronquist's stickseed		Biennial stanleya		Bureau of Reclamation		Private
BOARDMAN TO HEMINGWAY		52 Milepost		Cusick's false yarrow	$\star$	Smooth mentzelia		Department of Defense		State
500kV TRANSMISSION LINE PROJECT		County Boundary	$\star$	Douglas' clover		Snake River goldenweed		CTUIR Lands		U.S. Fi
NOVEMBER 2012	An IDACORP Company	State Boundary	•	Janish's penstemon				National Park Service		U.S. Fo





artment of Defense	
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onal Park Service	











Land Ownership					
nd Management		Other F			
clamation		Private			
f Defense		State			
		U.S. Fis			
Service		U.S. Fo			











VEMBER	2012		









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Land Ownership				
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of Reclamation		Private		
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ands		U.S. Fi		
I Park Service		U.S. Fo		
## APPENDIX A SPECIAL STATUS PLANT SPECIES INCLUDED IN 2012 SURVEYS

Special Status Plant Species Included in 2012 Surveys													
Scientific Name	Common Name	Bloom/Survey Period					Counties						
		Survey 1 April	Survey 2 May	Survey 3 June	Survey 4 July	Non- targeted Survey (TVES or Wetland)	Owyhee	Malheur	Baker	Union	Umatilla	Morrow	
Artemisia packardiae <sup>a</sup>	Packard's wormwood	No Survey	Not Found	No Survey	No Survey	-	Surveyed	Surveyed	No Survey	No Survey	No Survey	No Survey	
Astragalus conjunctus <sup>b</sup>	Stiff milkvetch	No Survey	Not Found	Not Found	Not Found	-	Surveyed	Surveyed	Surveyed	Surveyed	Surveyed	Surveyed	
Astragalus cusickii var. sterilis <sup>c,d</sup>	Sterile milk-vetch	No Survey	Not Found	No Survey	No Survey	-	Surveyed	Surveyed	No Survey	No Survey	No Survey	No Survey	
Astragalus mulfordiae <sup>b,c,e</sup>	Mulford's milk-vetch	No Survey	Not Found	No Survey	No Survey	-	Surveyed	Surveyed	No Survey	No Survey	No Survey	No Survey	
Astragalus purshii var. ophinogenes <sup>b</sup>	Snake River milkvetch	No Survey	Not Found	No Survey	No Survey	-	Surveyed	Surveyed	No Survey	No Survey	No Survey	No Survey	
Botrychium hesperium <sup>c,t</sup>	Western moonwort	No Survey	No Survey	Not Found	Not Found	-	No Survey	No Survey	Surveyed	Surveyed	Surveyed	No Survey	
Botrychium montanum <sup>c,f</sup>	Mountain grape-fern	No Survey	No Survey	Not Found	Not Found	-	No Survey	No Survey	Surveyed	Surveyed	Surveyed	No Survey	
Carex retrorsa <sup>c,f</sup>	Retrorse sedge	No Survey	No Survey	Not Found	Not Found	-	No Survey	No Survey	Surveyed	Surveyed	Surveyed	No Survey	
Chaenactis cusickii <sup>b</sup>	Cusick's false yarrow	No Survey	Found	Not Found	No Survey	-	Surveyed- Found	Surveyed- Found	Surveyed	No Survey	No Survey	No Survey	
Chaenactis stevioides <sup>b</sup>	Desert pincushion	No Survey	Not Found	No Survey	No Survey	-	Surveyed	Surveyed	No Survey	No Survey	No Survey	No Survey	
Cryptantha propria <sup>b</sup>	Malheur cryptantha	No Survey	Found	Not Found	No Survey	-	Surveyed	Surveyed- Found	Surveyed	No Survey	No Survey	No Survey	
Cymopteris acaulis var. greeleyorum <sup>b,c</sup>	Greeley's cymopterus	Not Found	No Survey	No Survey	No Survey	-	No Survey	Surveyed	No Survey	No Survey	No Survey	No Survey	
Dimeresia howellii <sup>b</sup>	Doublet	No Survey	Not Found	Not Found	No Survey	-	Surveyed	Surveyed	Surveyed	No Survey	No Survey	No Survey	
Eatonella nivea <sup>a</sup>	White false tickhead	No Survey	Not Found	No Survey	No Survey	-	Surveyed	Surveyed	No Survey	No Survey	No Survey	No Survey	
Eriogonum chrysops <sup>b,d</sup>	Golden buckwheat	No Survey	Not Found	Not Found	No Survey	-	Surveyed	Surveyed	Surveyed	No Survey	No Survey	No Survey	
Eriogonum ochrocephalum var. calcareum <sup>b</sup>	Calcareous buckwheat	No Survey	Not Found	Found	Not Found	-	Surveyed	Surveyed	Surveyed- Found	Surveyed	No Survey	No Survey	
Glyptopleura marginata <sup>b</sup>	White-margined wax plant	No Survey	Not Found	No Survey	No Survey	-	Surveyed	Surveyed	No Survey	No Survey	No Survey	No Survey	
Hackelia cronquistii <sup>b,c,d</sup>	Cronquist's stickseed	No Survey	Found	Not Found	No Survey	Found	Surveyed	Surveyed- Found	Surveyed	No Survey	No Survey	No Survey	
Heliotropium curvassavicum <sup>c,f</sup>	Salt heliotrope	No Survey	Not Found	Not Found	Not Found	-	Surveyed	Surveyed	Surveyed	Surveyed	Surveyed	Surveyed	
Lepidium davisii <sup>b.c.d</sup>	Davis' peppergrass	No Survey	Not Found	Not Found	No Survey	-	Surveyed	Surveyed	Surveyed	No Survey	No Survey	No Survey	
Lepidium papilliferum <sup>b,g</sup>	Slickspot peppergrass	No Survey	Not Found	No Survey	No Survey	-	Surveyed	Surveyed	No Survey	No Survey	No Survey	No Survey	
Lomatium erythrocarpum <sup>c,e,f</sup>	Red-fruited lomatium	No Survey	No Survey	Not Found	No Survey	-	No Survey	No Survey	Surveyed	No Survey	No Survey	No Survey	
Lomatium packardiae <sup>b</sup>	Packard's desert parsley	No Survey	Not Found	No Survey	No Survey	-	Surveyed	Surveyed	No Survey	No Survey	No Survey	No Survey	
Lomatium roseanum <sup>c</sup>	Rose's lomatium	No Survey	Not Found	No Survey	No Survey	-	Surveyed	Surveyed	No Survey	No Survey	No Survey	No Survey	
Lophozia gillmanii <sup>c,f</sup>	Liverwort	No Survey	No Survey	Not Found	Not Found	-	No Survey	No Survey	Surveyed	Surveyed	Surveyed	Surveyed	
Lupinus lepidus var. cusickii <sup>c,e</sup>	Cusick's lupine	No Survey	Not Found	Not Found	Not Found	-	Surveyed	Surveyed	Surveyed	Surveyed	Surveyed	No Survey	
Mentzelia mollis <sup>b,c,e</sup>	Smooth mentzelia	No Survey	Found	No Survey	No Survey	-	Surveyed- Found	Surveyed	No Survey	No Survey	No Survey	No Survey	
Mentzelia packardiae <sup>h</sup>	Packard's mentzelia	No Survey	Not Found	No Survey	No Survey	-	Surveyed	Surveyed	No Survey	No Survey	No Survey	No Survey	
Mirabilis laevis var. retorsa	Bigelow's four-o'clock	No Survey	Not found	No Survey	No Survey	-	Surveyed	Surveyed	No Survey	No Survey	No Survey	No Survey	

	Common Name	Bloom/Survey Period						Counties						
Scientific Name		Survey 1 April	Survey 2 May	Survey 3 June	Survey 4 July	Non- targeted Survey (TVES or Wetland)	Owyhee	Malheur	Baker	Union	Umatilla	Morrow		
Nemacladus rigidus <sup>b</sup>	Rigid threadbush	No Survey	Not Found	No Survey	No Survey	-	Surveyed	Surveyed	No Survey	No Survey	No Survey	No Survey		
Pediocactus simpsonil <sup>b</sup>	Simpson's hedgehog cactus	No Survey	Not Found	Not Found	Not Found	-	Surveyed	Surveyed	Surveyed	Surveyed	Surveyed	Surveyed		
Penstemon janishiae <sup>b</sup>	Janish's penstemon	No Survey	Found	No Survey	No Survey	-	Surveyed- Found	Surveyed- Found	No Survey	No Survey	No Survey	No Survey		
Phacelia lutea var. calva <sup>b</sup>	Malheur yellow phacelia	No Survey	Not Found	No Survey	No Survey	-	Surveyed	Surveyed	No Survey	No Survey	No Survey	No Survey		
Phacelia minutissima <sup>b</sup>	Least phacelia	No Survey	Not Found	Not Found	Not Found	-	Surveyed	Surveyed	Surveyed	Surveyed	No Survey	No Survey		
Phlox multiflora <sup>c,f</sup>	Many-flowered phlox	No Survey	No Survey	Not Found	Not Found	-	No Survey	No Survey	Surveyed	Surveyed	Surveyed	Surveyed		
Pleuropogon oregonus <sup>c,d,f</sup>	Oregon semaphoregrass	No Survey	No Survey	Not Found	Not Found	-	No Survey	No Survey	Surveyed	Surveyed	Surveyed	No Survey		
Psathyrotes annua <sup>b</sup>	Turtleback	No Survey	Not Found	No Survey	No Survey	-	Surveyed	Surveyed	No Survey	No Survey	No Survey	No Survey		
Pyrrocoma radiata <sup>b,c,e</sup>	Snake River goldenweed	No Survey	Not Found	Found	Not Found	Found	Surveyed	Surveyed	Surveyed- Found	Surveyed	Surveyed	No Survey		
Pyrrocoma scaberula <sup>*,c</sup>	Rough goldenweed	No Survey	No Survey	No Survey	No Survey	-	See Footnote	See Footnote	See Footnote	See Footnote	See Footnote	See Footnote		
Sairocarpus kingii	Least snapdragon	No Survey	Not Found	Not Found	No Survey	-	Surveyed	Surveyed	No Survey	No Survey	No Survey	No Survey		
Stanleya confertifolia <sup>b,c</sup>	Biennial stanleya	No Survey	Not Found	Found	No Survey	-	Surveyed	Surveyed	Surveyed- Found	No Survey	No Survey	No Survey		
Thelypodium howellii ssp. spectabilis <sup>c,e,g,h</sup>	Howell's spectacular thelopody	No Survey	Not Found	Not Found	Not Found	-	No Survey	Surveyed	Surveyed	Surveyed	Surveyed	Surveyed		
Trifolium douglasii <sup>b,c,f</sup>	Douglas' clover	No Survey	No Survey	Not Found	Not Found	Found	No Survey	No Survey	Surveyed	Found during Non-targeted Survey	Surveyed	Surveyed		
Trifolium owyheense <sup>b,c,e</sup>	Owyhee clover	No Survey	Not Found	No Survey	No Survey	-	Surveyed	Surveyed	No Survey	No Survey	No Survey	No Survey		

## Special Status Plant Species Included in 2012 Surveys

\*According to Mark Darrach, Threatened & Endangered Plant Species Program Manager for the Umatilla National Forest, co-author of An investigation of morphological evidence supports the resurrection of Pyrrocoma scaberula (Björk, C. R., and M. Darrach. 2009. Journal of the Botanical Research Institute of Texas 3:231-238.), the species would not occur anywhere near the project area.

<sup>a</sup>This species is not a federal- or state-listed species or a BLM/USFS sensitive species. It has been included at the request of the BLM. <sup>b</sup>Idaho BLM sensitive <sup>c</sup>Oregon BLM sensitive <sup>d</sup>Oregon state threatened <sup>e</sup>Oregon state endangered <sup>f</sup>USFS sensitive <sup>g</sup>Federally listed threatened <sup>h</sup>Oregon strategic species

## APPENDIX B PHOTOGRAPHS OF SPECIAL STATUS PLANT SPECIES IDENTIFIED IN 2012 SURVEYS



Chaenactis cusickii-Malheur S MP 7.4



Cryptantha propria-MP 269.2



Cryptatha propria-Malhuer S MP 1.1



Chaenactis cusickii-Malheur S MP 31.1



Cryptantha propria-MP MP 270



Cryptatha propria-Malhuer S MP 20.3







Crytantha propria- Malheur S MP 21



Eriogonum ochrocephalum var. calcareum–MP 184.3



Eriogonum ochrocephalum var. calcareum-MP 184.5



Hackelia cronquistii-Malheur S MP 1.2



Penstemon janishiae-MP 277.5 (Access Road)



Hackelia cronquistii-Malheur S MP 0.2



Mentzellia mollis-MP 292.5



Penstemon janishiae-MP 277.5 (Access Road)



Pyrrocoma radiata-MP 187.1



Pyrrocoma radiata-MP 193.6



Pyrrocoma radiata-MP 191.2



Pyrrocoma radiata-MP 193.9



Pyrrocoma radiata-138/69kV Rebuild MP 4.3



